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OR Airmen train in Hawaii for Sentry Aloha: Page 8

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Soldiers from 249 RTI participate in joint, multi-national training as part of State Partnership Program initiative

Oregon Guard at Shanti-Doot Exercise in Bangladesh



Story and photos by Master Sgt. Jonathan Dyer, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

DAHAKA, BANGLADESH--Two Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers participated in Exercise Shanti Doot 3, a multi-national training exercise outside Dhaka, Bangladesh, from March 4-21.

Staff Sgt. Tyson Pardun and Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp, medics from the 249 Regional Training Institute located in Monmouth, Ore., joined members of the Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program as subject matter experts in basic self aid and lifesaving techniques.

"Working in a multi-national environment, it was a great opportunity to see some things we've never seen before, and to help our fellow Soldiers with a critical skill set," said Culp.

The exercise, a Bangladesh armed forces-hosted, and U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) supported joint multi-national exercise is designed to give operations, logistics, planning, and tactical peace-keeping training to members of 13 different countries in preparation for United Nations Peace-keeping operations.

Of the many obstacles they faced, both Pardun and Culp agreed the biggest challenge was the language barrier.

"Not the language per se, but the concepts," explained Culp. "When you are talking in concepts (it is hard) getting

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Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp, of the 249th Regiment Training Institute in Monmouth, Ore., oversees two Nepalese soldiers as they tend to their role-playing comrade during a medical emergency scenario on the first day of Exercise Shanti Doot 3, in Bangladesh March 9. Culp and his fellow Soldiers were invited to participate as a battlefield lifesaving technique instructors through the State Partnership Program between Oregon and Bangladesh. Exercise Shanti Doot 3 is a Bangladesh armed forces-hosted and U.S. Pacific Command Global Peace Operations Initiative supported joint multi-national exercise designed to give operations, logistics, planning and tactical peace-keeping training to members of 13 different countries in preparation for United Nations Peace-keeping Operations.

Oregon "Volunteers" increase role in Exercise Cobra Gold training

Story and photos by Sgt. Armondo Borboa, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP FRIENDSHIP, KORAT, Kingdom of Thailand – Having recently come back from a successful combat tour in Iraq, Oregon's foremost National Guard infantry organization, 2-162 Infantry Battalion "Volunteers", has once again been called to lend a hand with military commitments around the world.

Cobra Gold, which took place in the Kingdom of Thailand in February 2012, is the largest multinational exercise in the Asia-Pacific region, say organizers.

Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 includes partner nations such as Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. The multinational force trains together on medical and civil affairs, and in combined naval, amphibious, land and air combat operations.

For the National Guard Soldiers on the ground, the training provides squad and team leaders the opportunity to sharpen their fieldcraft skills and to re-learn tactics, methods of nonverbal communication and small unit teamwork that might have been forgotten on their high-tech assignment in Iraq.

This is possible because the Royal Thai Army currently operates out of the old U.S. Army playbook, the Field Manual 7-8 for The Infantry Rifle Platoon and Squad.

Oregon troopers such as platoon leader



The commander of Task Force Volunteer, Lt. Col Eric Riley, salutes Maj. Gen Tacvat Sukpang, Commander of 3rd Infantry Division, Royal Thai Army prior to the Cobra Gold opening ceremonies in Thailand, Feb. 6.

2nd Lt. Ryon Skiles are helping to forge lasting bonds of friendship and mutual respect with their counterparts in the Royal Thai Army during bilateral training.

"We are practicing clearing buildings together," said the Junction City, Ore., resident. "There is really no difference (between us) in training," Skiles added.

Military Operations on Urban Terrain, or MOUT, is a fundamental skill essential when conducting operations in an urban environment, Skiles said.

Although language and cultural differences are difficult barriers to

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COMMAND

The Oregon National Guard: Our Nation's 'best value'



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

For the past few years we all have worked continuously to spread the word about the amazing fiscal value of our citizen Soldiers and Airmen. There is truly no discounting the economic significance/savings comparing the Guard and Active Duty. The cost to maintain the entire National Guard as an operational force works out to a ratio of 25:1. It is an amazing talking point.

However, I think the one thing that may sometimes get lost in translation, which really needs to be highlighted, is not just this financial value. The true value doesn't rest with saving money alone. The absolute value is our Guard members themselves.

I can honestly tell each of you, and readily discuss with my active duty counter parts, that our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen are not only the best financial value for our nation, but are without a doubt, themselves,

a national treasure. If it is training that comes into question, know that you Oregon Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are among the best trained in our military.

I was able to view this first hand while visiting members of the 1-82 CAV in Oman. Omani General Officers told me directly how impressed they were with training and professionalism of these Citizen-Soldiers. Also, in Thailand this past month Col. Edwards, 41 IBCT commander, received similar kudos about 2-162, while training alongside the Thai military. It was reported that these Citizen-Soldiers were some of the most extraordinarily capable military men and women they had ever worked with.

Today we have more than 225 Oregon Guard members mobilized supporting federal overseas and domestic operations, each of them successfully holding the line every day.

Just returning this March, Citizen-Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing's Security Force Squadron, who were forward deployed to Afghanistan, successfully defended their operating base during recent perimeter attacks.

Sustaining only minor injuries, they effectively and professionally held the line. No value can ever be placed on holding the line in a time of war. Well done!

If it's being recognized for accomplishments, Oregon is well represented; Maj. Gen. David. B. Enyeart

is now officially the Chief of Staff, United States Forces Korea. Brig. Gen. Julie Bentz is assigned as the Director, Strategic Capabilities Policy, National Security Council in Washington, D.C.; Maj. Shaun Martin, is among 93,000 federally employed engineers recently recognized as Federal Engineer of the Year for the Army Corps of Engineers; Capt. Richard Hosmer, Nuclear Medicine Science Officer (NMSO) for the 102 Civil Support Team, was selected for the Einstein Award—the only officer from Oregon to be selected twice for this prestigious award.

This is to only name a few events and successes in the past month. You, Oregon Guard members, are the greatest value the United States has at its fingertips. You accomplish and receive world-wide recognition all while still providing for your families and communities as fire fighters, doctors, police officers, lawyers, teachers, business owners and more.

You bring the best experience from the military into your civilian jobs and bring the best experience from civilian life into the military. Hold your heads high; you are our nation's best value! Spread the word.

Always Ready! Always There!

Raymond F. Rees

Warrant Officer recognition process depends YOU

In this issue I am addressing the Warrant Officer Federal Recognition process, whether for initial appointment or promotion. This process begins with **YOU**.

The first step is identifying who your Brigade Officer Personnel Manager (OPM) is. Currently for JFHQ, your OPMs are; WO1 Jamie Rogers, 82 BDE – CW2 James Swift, and 41 BDE – WO1 Thomas Golden. Then you need to find out from them when the board will meet.

Your completed packet can be boarded 90 days prior to your time in grade eligibility date, with all other criteria met. Prior to this date you must have all the documents required for your packet to be put together and handed over to your OPM, for them to ensure everything is perfect. You must account for administrative delays such as people taking leave, missing or outdated documents, or anything not up to the standards commensurate for the promotion or appointment to be approved. This means you need to plan ahead.

Are you being proactive in regards to your annual/change of rater/change of duty OERs? The force is downsizing. This means the Army wants to keep only the best. Does your OER reflect that? The board has to rely on your packet to tell them how good of a Soldier you are, since you don't personally appear before them.

Is your Security Clearance current? The current requirement is that your clearance needs to be renewed every 10 years for a Secret Clearance and every five years for a Top Secret clearance. The updating process can be very time consuming. Have your form filled out completely and submit it exactly 30 days prior to your

current clearance expiration date. You will then have ongoing eligibility until the investigation process is completed. Important: the days of providing interim clearances are over.

Finally, the days of the old Form 2-1 for your military records are gone. Sorry fellow old timers! Officer Record Briefs (ORB) and iPERMS are the new requirement for Soldier records. Has your 2-1 been converted over yet? Are your records accurate and complete? If your 2-1 was not current and accurate, your ORB is not going to be either.

Bottom line is this; now more than ever, **you** are personally responsible for maintaining your own career and advancement. As each of these periodic requirements come due, step up and take pride and ownership of your military career. This is not the time to exercise the motto "Quiet Professional."

For the Corps



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

Joint Operations Center: the 'nexus' of our domestic operations

As we transition from a nation at war over the past decade, we turn our attention to, and continue to have concerned about our own domestic security and safety throughout the country, and here at home in Oregon.

There has been a shift in emphasis toward Domestic Operations, with the Department of Homeland Security in the national lead. Here in the National Guard Civil Support office, or the Joint Operations Center (JOC) as it is commonly known, we have always been proactive.

We conduct daily monitoring of situations which occur within our national borders and are aligned with the National Guard Bureau Joint Operations Coordination Center and 54 JOCs throughout the country.

We receive and disseminate general information, requests for information and action from the various agencies on a daily basis through the Joint Information Exchange Environment (JIEE)—a system solely dedicated to domestic operations; reporting to our commander; the Joint Director of Military Support (JDOMS) and the J3/G3 State Operations Officer.

Our mission statement; "The Oregon Joint Operations Center provides management, situational awareness, tracking, historical documentation, and serves as the focal command and control center for the Oregon Military Department," sums up our steadfast duty to the Oregon National Guard and the state of Oregon.

We also have an alliance and direct link to the Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) for all state emergencies, such as floods, wild fires, wind storms, tsunamis, earthquakes and even tornados.

We are always on alert and operating on a 24/7 basis and ever vigilant.

One noteworthy state mission is our newly-assigned Search and Rescue (SAR) assignment. While SARs are overseen by the OEM during the day, jurisdiction over SAR missions is given to the JOC after-hours and on weekends.

It gives us direct control of determining, accepting and assigning SAR missions to either our Oregon Army Aviation assets, or



Sgt. Maj. Scott M. Lucas,
Oregon National Guard
Joint Operations Center
Sergeant Major

directing them to civilian agencies such as the Civil Air Patrol.

The Joint Operations Center is the nexus of the Oregon Military Department for Domestic Operations. We are willing and able to assist the community with an array of dedicated and experienced Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen on a moment's notice, to anywhere in Oregon or the confines of our national borders; with courage and commitment.

FEATURES

Hollywood producer making a difference for Oregon Guard Soldiers

Story and photo by Spc. Cory Grogan,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Hollywood has produced a plethora of big-screen films, made-for-television movies, short films and shows about the nation's men and women in uniform.

But few Hollywood insiders really take to heart the stories behind the real lives of America's military members.

For Suzanne DeLaurentiis, an accomplished writer, producer and director of short-films, commercials and music videos, the devotion to the nation's uniformed service members comes from a genuine appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

"Nobody knows what our soldiers go through in Iraq or any other global confrontation – nobody other than the men and women who are on the front lines," she said.

In 2007, DeLaurentiis was preparing for her annual Cinema City International Film Festival when a movie called "This Is War: Memories of Iraq" was submitted for competition. The film had a tremendous impact on DeLaurentiis, who has devoted much of her time and energy to philanthropic ventures.

The movie "This is War: Memories of Iraq" is based on the intense combat experiences of the 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment of the Oregon National Guard. It documents their quest to return to normal life following a year of duty in Iraq.

Directed by Gary Mortensen, the film is one of many documentaries about America's involvement in the Iraq War. However, it is one which moved DeLaurentiis to help veterans and their cause, said freelance writer Chris Hlad.

DeLaurentiis formed a special bond with one of the Soldiers in the film, who witnessed the death of one of his Soldiers during an IED attack.

Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques, who was himself wounded along with two others, used his tragic experience as motivation to help start a reintegration program in

Oregon. The program now leads the nation in the support of service members, veterans and their families, according to veterans advocates.

An account of Jacques' experience written by Kim Lippert, of the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, paints a vivid picture of the incident and how it inspired Jacques to start the program;

Sergeant 1st Class Vince Jacques dangled upside down with his legs trapped under the dashboard of the Humvee in which he'd been riding. The vehicle was a mangled mess after running over an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

Jacques' gunner, Pfc. Ben Ring, was seriously wounded. His driver, Pfc. Kenny Leisten, was dead.

But on that fateful day, July 28, 2004, despite his own injuries, Jacques had only one thing on his mind, his Soldiers, "his boys," he said.

Jacques survived the blast, but his injuries prevented him from returning to Iraq with his unit, the 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry.

"Knowing they were over there, and I wasn't, was really hard," said Jacques.

After struggling to find Ring a doctor for his injuries, Jacques noticed many resources for veterans were going unseen by those who needed them the most. Jacques gathered influential members from the Oregon National Guard and started a groundbreaking reintegration program.

The team now includes 16 team members placed strategically throughout the state of Oregon that constantly networks with other veteran health groups in the state focusing on health care, education and employment, he said. The team, sponsored by the Oregon National Guard, and called the Joint Transition Assistance Program, now has the ability to serve any service member, veteran and their family members across the state of Oregon.

Jacques has been amazed with the

number of organizations and individuals like DeLaurentiis who are motivated to help veterans. The biggest issue, he said, is helping people find out where to focus their resources and energy.

"I look forward to working with these people—it's like a family reunion," he said.

After hearing Jacques story and meeting him in person, DeLaurentiis turned her inspiration into action to help with the struggle many veterans face upon return from deployment.

DeLaurentiis has staged five events focusing on Veteran's charities, including the Marine Corp Association and the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

She then opened her home to numerous gifting suites in order to raise awareness for the cause, and has attended numerous job fairs to Veterans.

"She's made it a priority to pick up the phone and call her celebrity friends to get them involved too," Hlad said. "If you have a conversation with Ms. DeLaurentiis, you're going to hear about the Reintegration Team, guaranteed."

DeLaurentiis invited Oregon Soldiers to attend her Cinema International Film Festival in 2007, where she held a fundraiser for burn victims in Iraq, Afghanistan and public service workers when she showed the film. In 2008, she brought troops to the Oscars and introduced them to Ed McMahon.

For her work, DeLaurentiis was recently presented with the Oregon Commendation Medal by the Adjutant General, Oregon, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, for devotion to Oregon's troops. It is an honor rarely bestowed to civilians, Jacques said.

She continues to visit Oregon to promote the reintegration program. On her recent visit for a Career and Benefits fair March 10, DeLaurentiis helped secure a \$10,000 donation for the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund.

She is also scheduled to hire two female veterans who recently returned from duty in Afghanistan to work as medics



Filmmaker Suzanne DeLaurentiis poses with members of the Oregon National Guard's 1249th Engineer Company who recently returned from Afghanistan, March 10, in Salem, Ore., at a career and benefits fair for veterans.

on her movie sets—and she is looking to help another Soldier get into the acting business.

"It was a pleasure and an honor meeting and talking with these brave men and women." I had a few Soldiers, in particular, that I'm taking under my wing. I feel like I'm not even making a dent, but I know every little bit helps," DeLaurentiis said.

While the toll of deployments has been high on service members, veterans and their families since 9/11 (there have been more than 13,000 individual deployments in Oregon alone), the perception about veterans in the U.S. has changed since the Vietnam War, said Jacques.

"Thanks to people like Suzanne, we won't have to struggle in some of the ways veterans have in the past," he said.

When asked what inspires her to help military members in the Oregon National Guard, DeLaurentiis answered, "Simply put, I love them."

Oregon National Guard officer recognized with USACE Federal Engineer of the Year Award

Story by J.C. Delgadillo,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education creates critical thinkers, increases science literacy, and enables the next generation of innovators.

Perhaps no one knows that better than Oregon Army National Guard Soldier Maj. Shaun P. Martin, winner of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Federal Engineer of the Year Award (Military). Martin is currently on assignment in California, serving the San Francisco District.

As a little boy growing up in a family of chicken farmers in rural Oregon, Martin was astounded by Star Trek, the original television series which ran from 1966-1969.

As much as his parents wanted to send their intelligent, creative son to college, their simply was no money available for tuition. So Martin's father suggested his son enlist in the Army.

Martin had planned to serve a four-year stint, but four years gave way to 14 as an infantry paratrooper. His fascination with the futurist gadgets Gene Rodenberry had conjured never dissipated.

From the Enterprise's transporter console which could pinpoint the exact location of crewmembers to the handheld communicators which allowed crew to converse over distances long and short, to the holodeck which created computer-simulated environments complete with tastes, smells, sights and sounds, Star Trek's imagined tools have influenced modern technology.

"Just think about the things that were common in Star Trek. Many of those things



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Shaun Martin (right), recipient of the Federal Engineer of the Year award for the Army Corps of Engineers, speaks with Maj. Gen. Merdith W. B. (Bo) Temple, acting chief of engineers and acting commanding general for the Army Corps of Engineers (left foreground), at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., Feb. 23.

didn't exist in the sixties, but they do now (GPS, mobile phones, virtual reality to name a few).

That's what engineers do. We think about things that haven't been created yet, and we figure out how to make them," said the self-proclaimed geek.

After 30 years of military service, deployments to war zones, dozens of awards including jump wings with a mustard stain signifying a combat jump, nobody would dare call this leader of war fighters a geek. Yet his five degrees including a doctorate, two masters, and numerous credentials and certifications might tempt you.

Considering the sheer volume of advanced education and highly-acclaimed work Martin has accomplished, it may strike some as surprising that it was not until the bright-eyed, youthful forty-nine year old was in his mid thirties that he graduated from college. Martin transitioned out of active duty Army into the Oregon Army National Guard and enrolled in Clackamas County Community College.

"Clackamas has a great two year pre-engineering program so after I finished there, I applied and got accepted into Oregon State," said the husband and father of five.

Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering as well as completing officer candidate school, Martin was commissioned as a second lieutenant and also accepted a full-time position with the Oregon Army National Guard. Along the way he earned a master's degree in engineering and another master in military arts and science.

After serving as a task force engineer during Hurricane Katrina response and recovery, Martin became fascinated with reducing the nation's vulnerability to disaster so he pursued a doctorate in public policy and administration with an emphasis in homeland security.

No stranger to personal sacrifice, Martin continues to work hard to build awareness and excitement about the power of engineering by speaking at local schools and through his affiliation with the Society of American Military Engineers where he most recently served as the San Francisco chapter president, said Maj. David Kaulfers, P.E., assistant to the chief of Programs and Project Management Division for the San Francisco District. Kaulfers nominated

Martin for the Engineer of the Year award which is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Nation's premier public engineering agency.

"Time and again, Major Martin has provided leadership, accountability, problem-solving and responsiveness," said Kaulfers.

Martin provided management and oversight on numerous projects, among the most challenging was The San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program, said Kaulfers. This multi-phased project whose purpose was to facilitate the increased use of recycled water for such things as irrigating landscaping instead of using potable water, had run into some frustrating delays.

Through his savvy problem-solving skills and uncanny ability to marshal cooperation, Martin got the job done to the satisfaction of both the Corps of Engineers and most importantly the residents the project served.

During his two-year stint with the San Francisco District, Martin earned a project management professional certification as well as a Level III facilities engineer one. He has also worked on armed forces reserve center projects which seek to provide sufficient space and up-to-date facilities and equipment to support the activities of citizen-soldiers.

Martin currently serves as the chief of the Hydrographic Surveying Section and along with his team, is responsible for collecting, processing, and mapping hydrographic survey data for federally authorized civil and military navigation channels throughout the San Francisco District's area of responsibility.

NEWS

Camp Withycombe continues with environmental cleanup



Jason Kanski, UXO Team Leader/UXO Technician III for contractor AMEC Earth & Environmental, uses a metal detector to locate buried material in test pits at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., as part of the ongoing environmental cleanup effort there.

Story and photo by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The Oregon Military Department, working in conjunction with a contractor, completed an excavation project at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., in late February.

Workers from AMEC Earth & Environmental, an environmental consultant, were looking for the presence of suspected waste and discarded munitions in disposal areas on the edge of the property boundaries.

"These environmental investigations are important in order to evaluate and, when necessary, remediate the environmental hazards associated with our past operations as required by Military Munitions Response Program," said Jim Arnold, Environmental Restoration Manager, with the Oregon Military Department.

Test pits were located approximately 3-5 feet from the fence line on Camp Withycombe property. Residents who lived along the fence line were asked to temporarily relocate from their homes while the work was done.

"Material identified in the test pits included metal, wood, vehicle parts, and chemical drums," said Arnold. "We found munitions debris in other areas of the hillside, but not in the test pits," he added.

Arnold said the site investigation was a huge success, with the neighbors being responsive and willing to leave their homes for the day while the work was done.

"The neighbors were positive and cooperative," said Arnold. "They were informed about our project, understood our goals, and cooperated with the voluntary relocation during our test pit activities adjoining their properties," he said.

The next phase of the project will be to conduct a Remedial Investigation Phase that will determine the nature and extent of munitions and wastes on site.

"Our work goes beyond just meeting the requirements of the Military Munitions Response Program, we want to do it in a way that meets the Army Sustainability Goals and demonstrate stewardship," said Arnold.

New security official settles into duties at Kabul base

Story by Erika Stetson, U.S. Forces Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan—Just two months into the job, the top enlisted security official at the New Kabul Compound has overseen an upgrade of communications technology, supervised scores of missions and helped manage an analysis of the installation's vulnerabilities.

"I would say between the foot and driving patrols ... we've been doing a lot — even out in the snow," said Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Curtis Sanders of the 1186th Military Police, the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of force protection at the coalition base.

Sanders, 33, lives in Vancouver, Wash., and works in Portland as a corrections deputy for Multnomah County.

Overseas, he is responsible for dozens of U.S. troops, local security contractors and interpreters. He noted the similarity between his work back home and in Afghanistan, since both involve managing threats.

"At home I supervise inmates," he added.

"My job back there is to keep bad guys in. My job out here is to keep bad guys out."

The troops under Sanders run the Base Defense Operations Center, conduct convoys, staff guard posts and conduct "presence patrols" of the area surrounding the installation.

While on patrol, they often donate items, such as clothes, candy and school supplies, sent from friends and relatives in the U.S. He said his team also hopes to supply blankets to refugee camps in Kabul.

Sanders, originally from Elora, Tenn., said he once considered leaving the military, but now plans to stay in "for the long haul" if he's able to advance in the ranks. This is his second deployment.

His first was to Hawaii from February 2004 to May 2005 as a law and order military policeman.

The toughest part of being away, he added, is separation from friends and family back home.

He is due to return in the fall.

"I'm here to make sure my 37 guys get home safe," he said. "That's the only reward I want."



Photo by Sgt. Catherine Threat, U.S. Forces Afghanistan

Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Curtis Sanders of the 1186th Military Police, the non-commissioned officer in charge of force protection at the New Kabul Compound, participates in a patrol recently near the facility. Sanders, 33, lives in Vancouver, Wash., and works in Portland as a corrections deputy for Multnomah County.

WWE Divas Champion, Oregon Guard visit Scappoose high school

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SCAPPOOSE, Ore.—The Oregon Army National Guard's Physical Health and Adventure Training (PHAT) Team hosted WWE Divas Champion and Champion Women's Wrestling star Beth Phoenix, aka "The Glamazon", at Scappoose High School, Feb. 27.

The visit was to highlight the importance of physical fitness and education. Phoenix signed autographs and talked with students during the event.

Phoenix is a member of the WWE "Big Guns" Team, which tours the country speaking to students about fitness and career goals.

"Whether it's a team sport, pursuing a crazy dream like being a professional wrestler, or being a part of one of the country's greatest occupations—the military—physical fitness is very important," Phoenix said.

Phoenix, who has a degree in physical fitness, wrestled on her high school wrestling team. She noted that today's generation of students have more distractions which keep them from staying physically fit.

"You can spend a lot of time indoors playing videogames or spending time on the computer," she said. "Our team wants to help children achieve their fitness dreams, whatever they may be."



The Oregon Army National Guard's Physical Health and Adventure Training (PHAT) Team poses with WWE Divas Champion and Champion Women's Wrestling star Beth Phoenix, aka "The Glamazon," at Scappoose High School, in Scappoose, Ore., Feb. 27.

Phoenix also uses her larger, voluptuous frame to debunk the message promoted by Hollywood and mainstream media that you must be thin to be beautiful.

"You can be healthy at any shape and size, just as long as you remain active,"

Phoenix said.

Learning discipline is important. It translates into other parts of your life. Sports is a great foundation for this. You have to work hard for what you want in life."

Field Artillery participates in CERFP training at Rilea

Story by 2nd Lt. Andrew Christoson, Bravo Battery Platoon Leader

WARRENTON, Ore.—On a cold, wet Saturday morning at Camp Rilea, Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 2-218 Field Artillery hook up hoses to a fire hydrant and power up the generators.

The hoses provide hot and cold water to a complex system of pumps and plumbing, while the generators provide power for portable lights and sump pumps.

Meanwhile, the rest of the unit rolls up to the "hot zone" in F-250s and cargo trailers, and quickly unload an array of tents, rollers, litters, hoses, and spray nozzles.

Where are the howitzers and explosive rounds, you may wonder? They are safely stored at the armory for the weekend. In addition to the standard artillery mission that the Soldiers of Bravo Battery are used to, they have also adapted to fulfill a mass casualty decontamination mission.

"This is a federal mission, and the area of responsibility is the Pacific Northwest," says Capt. Vince Habeck, Commander of Bravo Battery.

The battery joins Soldiers and Airmen

from various units around Oregon to participate in incident response training in preparation for Operation Vigilant Guard, an exercise evaluation scheduled for May 2012.

The Soldiers hustle to unpack and set up three rows of two tents: ambulatory, non-ambulatory, and technician tents. They then plug in hoses and nozzles which are used to wash casualties with a soap solution and water.

The runoff is collected and pumped to a collection bin for safe disposal. Although they did not suit up this particular weekend, in the future they will eventually be in full protective suits, gloves, and goggles.

Triage is in front next to the chemical detection meters, decon is in the middle spraying and washing, while Air Force medical personnel are in the back taking care of survivors.

When it all comes together, it becomes clear just how powerful and useful the mission really is.

"We would respond to a hazmat event where local responders are not able to handle it by themselves," Habeck says.

Along with the brute strength of slinging

105mm Howitzer shells, artillerymen have the tactical and technical skill required to place "steel on steel." Perhaps this is one of the reasons the Artillery was chosen for the DECON mission, Habeck adds.

During the course of the year countless hours were dedicated to understanding Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), various markings and identification of Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT), State and Federal Laws and chemistry.

"Most of us have completed five or more online classes on incident command," says 1st Lt. Dean Blachly, unit liaison officer and platoon leader.

"Squad leaders and above have also completed a week long classroom course on incident command and control," he adds.

But with all the additional training for his Soldiers, the battery has not forgotten how to shoot, says Blachly.

"We are still an artillery unit at the core," he said.

"The battery will get an opportunity to shoot again during annual training, but until then the primary focus will be DECON."

NEWS

Local couple clears runway for “Volunteers”



Owner of Lawrence Air Charters, Cheryl Turner and her granddaughter Taryne, lend moral support to the troops as Oregon Soldiers from the 2-162 Infantry (Volunteers), prepares to depart to Thailand for training.

Story and photos by Sgt. Armondo Borboa, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SPRINGFIELD, Ore.—An infantry battalion is a self-contained fighting unit, one that brings with it everything needed to take the fight to the enemy and win the battle.

That said, even an experienced combat unit like the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion of the 162nd Infantry still occasionally needs assistance getting the job done.

That job is tough one—move 330 Soldiers with 350 lbs of equipment each, totaling more than 50 tons of personnel and cargo from their home station in Springfield, Ore., overseas to Korat, Kingdom of Thailand to participate in an annual exercise—Cobra Gold, a recurring multinational and multiservice exercise co-hosted by the Royal Kingdom of Thailand and the United States.

This is where Shad and Cheryl Turner, owners of Lawrence Air Charters, come in.

Although more accustomed to arranging Eugene airport charters for away games for the Oregon State University Ducks and University of Oregon Beavers in such exotic locations as Reno and Las Vegas, Mr. and Mrs. Turner were very eager to step up when asked to arrange the 2-162 IN BN’s strategic air movement to the Kingdom of Thailand.

“By far, (the 2-162 IN) is the biggest charter we have ever done,” said Cheryl Turner, “We are honored to help out in any way we can.”

The help also included no fewer than three generations of the Turner family, who were on hand to ensure everything went smoothly for the Oregon unit’s travel.

Although minor mechanical difficulties delayed their departure, the Turners made sure members of the task force were comfortable, providing refreshments and chatting with Soldiers as they waited on the ground.

Shad and Cheryl’s son Bryce helped direct traffic on the tarmac while his own young daughter, Taryne watching from the entrance gate, provided moral support.

“You guys are our heroes,” Cheryl told the Soldiers. “We want to make sure you get off to a great start for your training.”

Oregon, Thai Soldiers overcome barriers, train successfully

Continued from Front Page

overcome, the practice of kicking down doors, putting steel on target and taking the fight to the enemy is a universal language shared by all military participants.

“You can tell they are used to working together,” said Junction City, Ore., resident Spc. Robby Ockerman, regarding the way Royal Thai service members operate.

Surprisingly, according to some of the Oregon Soldiers, the biggest miscommunication so far has nothing to do with combat operations at all.

“Our priorities differ a little bit,” admits Harrisburg, Ore., native Sgt. Brian Mehlhoff. “It’s not a big deal, but it does make for some interesting challenges in unexpected ways.”

As one of Headquarter Company’s Non Commissioned Officer’s in charge of Billeting and Housing for the task force, Mehlhoff’s duties include working with a local contractor for laundry services.

“We (the American military) are all about individual accountability,” Mehlhoff said. “That’s why we tag and bag our laundry into separate bags, to keep each Soldier’s items apart from everybody else’s.”

However, Thai culture is generally more concerned with efficiency, Mehlhoff explained.

“That explains why the first truckload of laundry that came back had everything neatly washed, pressed and folded, but with uniforms in one bundled stack, underclothes in a separate stack and laundry bags in a third,” he said.

Despite the occasional cultural misunderstandings, operations ran smoothly, with strong mutual respect developing between Soldiers.



Photo by Sgt. Paul D. Rushing, Oregon Military Department

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Justin Reynolds, of the 2-162 Infantry Battalion, instructs Royal Thai Army Soldiers on search techniques during Exercise Cobra Gold 2012 in Korat, Thailand, during Exercise Cobra Gold 2012. Cobra Gold, which took place in the Kingdom of Thailand in February 2012, is the largest multinational exercise in the Asia-Pacific region, say organizers.

“I have never seen any other Soldiers do more with less than these (Royal Thai Army) guys,” said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Craig, a platoon sergeant with the 2-162 IN BN. “They are dedicated like you

wouldn’t believe.” The Oregon Soldiers returned home in late February following official closing ceremonies on Feb. 17.

The Exchange officially opens at Camp Withycombe

Story by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The Exchange, a store for retired service members, veterans, and members of the military, officially opened March 16, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore.

The Exchange, formerly known as Army & Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, is a military department and drug store.

National Guard and Reserve personnel and their dependents, along with retirees have unlimited shopping privileges at any Exchange. A military ID or dependent ID is required.

“I encourage everyone to check it out,” said Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Phil Appleton, who oversees logistical needs for the 41 Infantry Division Armed

Forces Reserve Center. “This facility will be great for Guard members and reservists as well as retirees and their family members,” he added.

The Exchange at Camp Withycombe, is part of the new 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, located at 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, Ore.

The store offers food and toiletries, and Class-6 items such as alcohol and tobacco products.

Appleton said that more than 1,500 Oregon Guard members utilize AFRC building at Camp Withycombe every month, making The Exchange an important addition to the facility.

A grand opening, including a ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 13 at 11:00 a.m. in front of the store.



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

The new Exchange at Camp Withycombe, is now open in Building 6400. The Exchange is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hooley inducted into Order of Minuteman



Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Retired Oregon Congresswoman (District-5) Darlene Hooley, was inducted into the Order of the Minuteman during a ceremony at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., March 17. Pictured is State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley (right), and Col. Leah Sundquist (left). Hooley was recognized for her unwavering support of the Oregon National Guard throughout her tenure in Congress.



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PHOTO FEATURE

Best Warrior

Oregon's Citizen-Soldier



Story and photos by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. – The Oregon Army National Guard held their annual “Best Warrior Competition” March 16-18 at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

The annual event featured multiple events including rappelling, rifle marksmanship, physical fitness testing, obstacle course, stress testing, combatives tournament and a Soldier knowledge evaluation board.

During the three-day event, Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from around the state competed against each other for the titles of Soldier of the Year and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. Winners of this competition will advance to a regional competition later this year.

The Soldier of the Year includes the ranks of Private through Specialist (E1-E4), and NCO of the Year includes the ranks of Corporal (E5) and above.

First Place NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Joseph Austin of Lake Oswego, Ore., is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard's 3rd battalion, 116th Cavalry.

First Place Soldier of the Year: Pvt. 1st Class Ryan Johnson of Brookings, Ore., is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard's Bravo Co., 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry.

Other winners in the NCO of the Year are; Staff Sgt. Justin Harmer of Corvallis, Ore., a member of the 249 Regional Training Institute, who took second place, and Sgt. Jon-Paul Hanson of Beaverton, Ore., a member of Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry, who took third.

Rounding out the competition for Soldier of the Year are; Spc. Esteven Diaz of Lebanon, Ore, a member of Alpha Troop, 1 Squadron, 82 Cavalry Regiment, who took second place, and Spc. Matthew Christensen of Aurora, Ore., a member of Bravo Co., 41 Special Troops Battalion, who took third place.

The goal of the Best Warrior Competition is to have as many events as possible in one location to make it easier for commanders and senior non-commissioned officers to observe their troops and to celebrate their successes, said Oregon National Guard State Command Sergeant Major Brunk Conley.

In conjunction with the event, the Oregon National Guard inducted the Honorable Darlene Hooley into the Oregon National Guard “Order of the Minuteman”, during a ceremony at Warrior Hall on March 17.

Pvt. 1st Class Ryan Johnson of Brookings, Ore., a member of the Oregon Army National Guard's Bravo Co., 2 Battalion 162 Infantry, is recognized by Oregon National Guard State Command Sergeant Major, Brunk Conley, following the Best Warrior Competition, March 18, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. Johnson, who took first place in the Soldier of the Year competition, is scheduled to compete in the regional Soldier of the Year competition later this year.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers fine tune their rifle sights prior to the marksmanship portion of the Best Warrior Challenge at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., March 17. The competition challenges Soldiers from around the state with various events designed to test mental and physical fitness.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Austin prepares for a military knowledge board March 16, Ore., during the Best Warrior Challenge. Austin, of Lake Oswego, Ore., National Guard's 3rd battalion, 116th Cavalry, received the Oregon Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, after winning the non-commissioned officer of the Year at the Best Warrior Competition. He is scheduled to compete in the Soldier of the Year competition later this year.



Q&A with the Command Sergeant Major on Best Warrior

Q: How competitive was this year's competition?

A: This year I couldn't predict who was going to win. It was a knock down, drag out competition until the last day.

Q: How's does this year's competition stack up to other years?

A: We want to have a balanced competition physically and mentally, but we assign an essay while they're also going through the appearance boards with our finest Command Sgts. Maj. grilling the Soldiers on their knowledge, and this year's essays were the

best I've ever read. These Soldiers and NCOs are an intelligent bunch.

Q: Is the competition a tradition of which you are proud?

A: This is my favorite weekend of the year. I love this weekend above all because we are celebrating the successes of our future leaders, our finest Soldiers with every battalion across the state, and just enjoying their motivation.

Q: How does it make you feel watching this competition?

A: It reinvigorates me to see how they're laying it all on the line for the Oregon

National Guard.

Q: How do our Soldiers stack up against other states?

A: Instead of picking a book -smart Soldier, they were picking an all-around warrior/leader. In two of the last three years our region has won the national championship for the Guard, and one year, (we won) the all around championship. Our region is a very competitive region.



Above: Oregon Soldiers compete in the new Army Combat Readiness Training Assessment, during the “Mystery Event” at the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., March 17. The participants ran a 400-meter race in full uniform, carrying their weapons.

Soldiers compete in several events for title of state's "Best Warrior"



March 17, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., and a member of the Oregon Army National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. He is scheduled to compete in the regional



Left: Two Soldiers compete during the Combatives portion of the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, March 17. The combatives event was one of many which tested Soldiers' competency, agility and knowledge during the event.

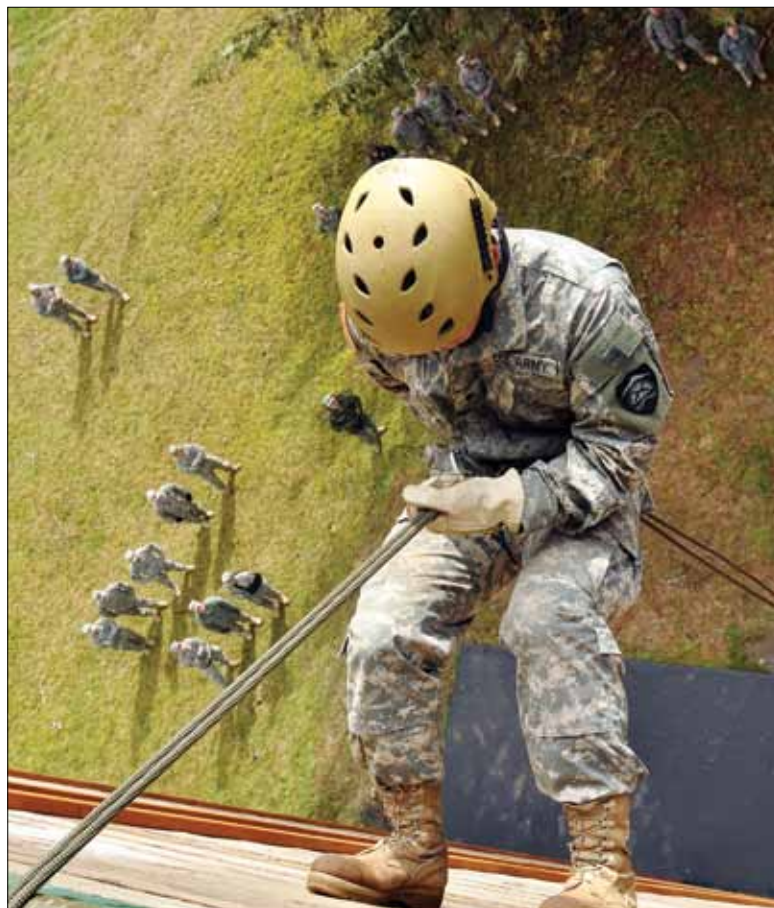
Below: Private 1st Class Tiffany Richards, of Albany, Ore., a member of the Oregon Army National Guard Medical Command, low crawls under ropes at the obstacle course on Camp Rilea, March 17, in Warrenton, Ore., during the Oregon Army National Guard's Best Warrior Challenge.



Left: Sgt. Jason Scott, from Portland, Ore., a member of the Oregon Army National Guard lunges over a barrier on the obstacle course during the Best Warrior Challenge, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

Right: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier rappels down a training tower during the Best Warrior Challenge. Soldiers from around the state competed against each other for the titles of Soldier of the Year and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Below: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier prepares to low crawl during an Army Combat Readiness Training assessment at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., during the Best Warrior Challenge. Soldiers competed in multiple events including rappelling, rifle marksmanship, physical fitness testing, obstacle course, stress testing, combatives tournament and a Soldier knowledge evaluation board.



Left: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier negotiates the Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) portion of the Best Warrior Competition by dragging a simulated casualty from a smoke-filled room.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Kingsley Airmen trade snow, ice for sun, sand during Sentry Aloha Exercise

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.—Ninety plus Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, left the snow-covered ground of Klamath Falls, Ore., for the tropical paradise of Hawaii March 2.

As appealing as the warm sun and sandy beaches are, that was not what motivated these Airmen to pack up five F-15 Eagles and head across the Pacific Ocean.

Members of the 173rd FW were there to support the multi-unit exercise Sentry Aloha. The event is a National Guard Bureau-sponsored exercise that provides an opportunity for dissimilar aircraft combat training (DACT) with a special focus on air-to-air combat between F-15, F-16 and F-22 aircraft.

“The purpose of Sentry Aloha is to continue the development of tactics for fourth generation and fifth generation fighters in a complex training environment,” said Maj. Sean Sullivan, 173rd Fighter Wing Instructor Pilot and Project Officer for the exercise.

“We wanted to increase our individual pilot’s proficiencies in flying with F-22s and advanced tactics; so we are, in turn, able to teach those to our students,” Sullivan added.

Learning what to expect when sharing the airspace with multiple air-frames is extremely important to combat pilots. The

knowledge and skill-set they gain from flying DACT is absolutely essential when deployed to a warzone.

“While this is great training for our pilots, we are actually also helping to validate some new tactics that will be used U.S. Air Force wide once they are thoroughly tested,” said Col. Jeffrey Silver, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander.

The training was held at the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Air Force Base, located on the island of Oahu.

The 154th is currently flying the F-22 Raptor—the Air Force’s fifth-generation fighter. The HIANG F-22s and ORANG F-15s were joined by F-16 Fighting Falcons, from the 18th Aggressor Squadron, Eielson AFB, Alaska.

Additionally, this exercise provided an excellent opportunity for the aircraft maintainers and support personnel to operate in a deployed environment. Leaving home station and working at a different location presents many challenges.

“There are a lot of challenges when working in a different environment,” said Staff Sgt. Joel Scott, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Crew Chief. “We don’t have the resources here that we would have at home. We are forced to plan ahead and work with a limited number of people,” he added.

When asked how the maintainers were performing, 2nd Lieutenant Eric



Master Sgt. Pete Hall, 173rd Fighter Wing F15 crew chief, signals out an F-15 at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, during Sentry Aloha, March 5. Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing trained in Dissimilar Aircraft Training (DACT) during the exercise.

McDaniel, 173rd FW Sentry Aloha Maintenance Project Officer said their work was outstanding.

“There were some challenges with the weather. But on the maintenance side we have been able to deliver everything we’ve been asked to,” he said.

On March 18, the Airmen packed up their

jets and equipment and said goodbye to the balmy tropical weather, returning home to snow and ice of Southern Oregon.

The 173rd Fighter Wing is one of two F-15 units in the State of Oregon. It is the sole U.S. Air Force F-15 schoolhouse in the Nation.

The Family Connection: Volunteers ‘critical link’ between deployed Airmen, families



Ms. Susan Murren is presented with the Oregon Family Volunteer Award from (left to right) Oregon Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Stephen Gregg, 142nd Family Program director Mary Bell, Lt. Col. James Mitchell, Murren and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell.

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When Oregon Air National Guard personnel deploy, loved ones who are left behind sometimes face hardship and concerns when trying to manage childcare, finances, career and home.

For the 116th Air Control Squadron, family volunteer Susan Murren has become the critical connection linking those remaining at home with the resources they need.

“In the year and a half since I took this volunteer position, I’ve become really involved in all aspects of what it takes to help our families,” said Murren.

The job of a family volunteer comes with many challenges from arranging events during deployment to the difficult family issues that come before the final

homecoming celebration.

“The training the Air National Guard family coordinators receive allows them to handle difficult situations like Susan has taken on,” said Mary Bell, Family Programs director for the 142nd Fighter Wing.

A big part of Bell’s job is to find committed individuals like Murren, and get them the tools and training to keep focused on the needs of unit members and their families.

“I tell them to set goals and we have regular meetings to keep everyone informed,” said Bell.

Murren works full time in the mortuary profession at Oregon Health Sciences University. Her specialized insight and training helped her with one particular hardship during the most recent deployment of the 116th ACS to the

Middle East. During this deployment, an Airman’s family member passed away, and Murren stepped up to assist the family with arrangements.

“I just relied on all my training, and knowing these members’ needs, which allowed me to step in and help right away,” said Murren.

Murren represents national region 10, and was selected for the Regional Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011—an accomplishment for which she was recognized at the Oregon Air National Guard Awards Banquet on Feb. 25.

Murren said she will travel this summer to a national conference in Indiana for the formal presentation of her award by Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Oregon Air National Guard trains at Red Flag Exercise

Story by Maj. Melinda LePore, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – Six 142nd Fighter Wing F-15Cs participated in the annual Red Flag Exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., through the middle of March.

The exercise is a premier training exercise that involves air forces of the United States and its allies.

“It’s the highest quality training we can get simulating the complexity and magnitude of an air war,” said Col. Jeff Hwang, 123rd Fighter Squadron Commander for the 142nd Fighter Wing.

According to Hwang, the intense training and exposure to international coalition partners pay huge dividends.

“Aircrew return home with more confidence and a better understanding of the composite of other weapons systems, nationalities and services,” he said.

The origins of Red Flag date back to the lessons learned during the Vietnam War. It was found that through combat experience, aircrew increased their chances for survival.

Since 1975, Red Flag has been exposing aircrew to the dynamic rigors of air-to-air and surface-to-air threats in order to better prepare them for future combat operations.

“When 142nd Fighter Wing Airmen return from Exercise Red Flag, they will



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Hubenthal, 99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Jon Merris, 142nd Fighter Wing, engine mechanic at the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, prepares an F-15C Eagle to launch during the Red Flag Exercise, March 8, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise involving the air forces of the United States and its allies.

be even more equipped and ready to respond to our state or nation’s call,” said

Col. Michael Stencil, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

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NEWS

Soldiers use old-fashioned ingenuity, non-traditional techniques during exercise

Continued from Front Page



Staff Sgt. Tyson Pardun, of the 249th Regiment Training Institute out of Monmouth, Oregon listens to a question from a soldier from Nepal during Exercise Shanti Doot 3, in Bangladesh March 9.

them to translate into the way that they understand.”

Whether discussing wound triaging with Mongolians or splinting a broken arm with Indonesians, Culp and Pardun were continually amazed at the way the information was received.

“They were eager to learn. Some of this basic stuff they have never seen,” said Culp. “The reception has been great. We have seen them go out and practice this stuff on their own.”

Armed only with their knowledge, the two Soldiers arrived in Bangladesh and designed the curriculum of information they wanted to impart based on the needs of the exercise, as determined through discussions with the PACOM representatives and Bangladeshi organizers.

“I thought it was great that they were able to show us things that we’ve never seen before,” said Pardun. They wanted to see how they work with their equipment, he added.

The concept of “capacity building” is an important mandate of the Partnership Program, and leaving the tools and expertise for the Bangladeshis to continue to train after the SPP leaves the country.

On their own initiative, Culp and Pardun took this to heart, working closely with Bangladeshi Cpl. Abdul Ahad. Originally responsible for the set up every morning of the classroom, Ahad immediately took an interest in the subject matter and became a trainer himself.

“It was very interesting to me, I have never seen this before,” Ahad explained.

He became more involved and eventually took over teaching parts of the material under the mentorship of the Oregon Soldiers, Culp and Pardun said.

“Ahad has been great,” said Culp. “He is very enthusiastic, and over the course of the week picked up so much of the material that we felt comfortable letting him take lead at times.”

“We spoke to the planners of Shanti Doot-3, and said we have this broad portfolio within the Oregon National Guard across all spectrums, and they identified that they needed help in medical,” explained Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark Crosby, Director of the Oregon State Partnership Program.

“Two of the events were based on discussions between our senior staff,



Staff Sgt. Tyson Pardun and Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp from the 249th Regional Training Institute, from Monmouth, Ore., answered final questions from a platoon of soldiers from Nepal following hands-on training during Exercise Shanti Doot 3, in Bangladesh, March 8.

security,” explained Crosby.

On his recent visit to Bangladesh, Crosby and his team proposed a project related to first aid for frontline troops.

“It was very well received,” said Maj. Paul Anderson, 173rd Medial Group, and part of the team that developed the proposal.

The plan is to enable the frontline military to provide adequate lifesaving aid to personnel in civilian and military engagements. By providing manuals and experts, the goal is to facilitate the Bangladeshi military to become self sufficient in medical aid at all levels. Given Bangladesh’s propensity for natural disasters and their military’s role as first-responders, this is a skill set that is especially critical, Crosby said.

Much like what Culp and Pardun did in Exercise Shanti Doot-3.

“The medics will be invaluable to this; they already have the necessary experience and we plan on tapping into that experience as much as we can,” said Anderson.

Oregon Guard members bring a unique skill set to the Partnership Program, according to Crosby. They have the maturity and experience to adapt to the dynamic situation of an event, he explained.

“For example, often times, there is great planning that comes with these events, but

because of language and cultural issues, when you get here, you find the situation to be different than what you had planned,” said Crosby.

“I’ve already seen this happen to our Guardsmen on multiple occasions and they consistently react and respond in a manner that garners praise from our Bangladeshi partners,” he added.

In the end, the success of Shanti Doot-3 will be measured not by what Culp and Pardun did, but by what the Soldiers do when they deploy.

“All we want is to help, give you the tools, to get home safely to your families,” said Pardun, speaking to a platoon from Thailand.

The State Partnership Program was established in 1993 by the State Department in cooperation with National Guard Bureau, and was originally started to foster relationships with former Soviet countries, officials said.

The partnership of Oregon and Bangladesh was formally established in 2008 and has resulted in numerous interactions between the Oregon National Guard and respective Bangladeshi institutions. In the month of March, there were five State Partnership events going on in Bangladesh, according to Crosby.

Working in a multi-national environment, it was a great opportunity to see some things we’ve never seen before.

- Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp

“We weren’t allowed to bring any of our own equipment...they wanted us to use things that these platoons could find themselves,” said Pardun.

Using mostly found items, they managed to impart the vital information of lifesaving techniques. The duo gathered sticks and squares of cloth for splints and bandages, used spare belts, and butter knives borrowed from the chow hall to use as litters and tourniquets.

The Oregon Soldiers also used non-traditional communication techniques in order to bridge the language barrier.

“Hand motions, touching, pointing, drawing, anything you could use until we saw recognition on their faces,” Culp said.

Epitomizing the concept of partnership, Culp and Pardun both agreed that the best part has been learning from the platoons. Not just new cultures and languages, but even some new techniques.

and three events are in support of Pacific Command events, Crosby said. “Whether we’re in the lead or in support of a PACOM event, we just want to maximize the ways the Oregon National Guard can engage with our Bangladeshi partners.”

Crosby stressed that a partnership is about building long term relationships.

“This is something the National Guard is especially well-suited to do,” he added.

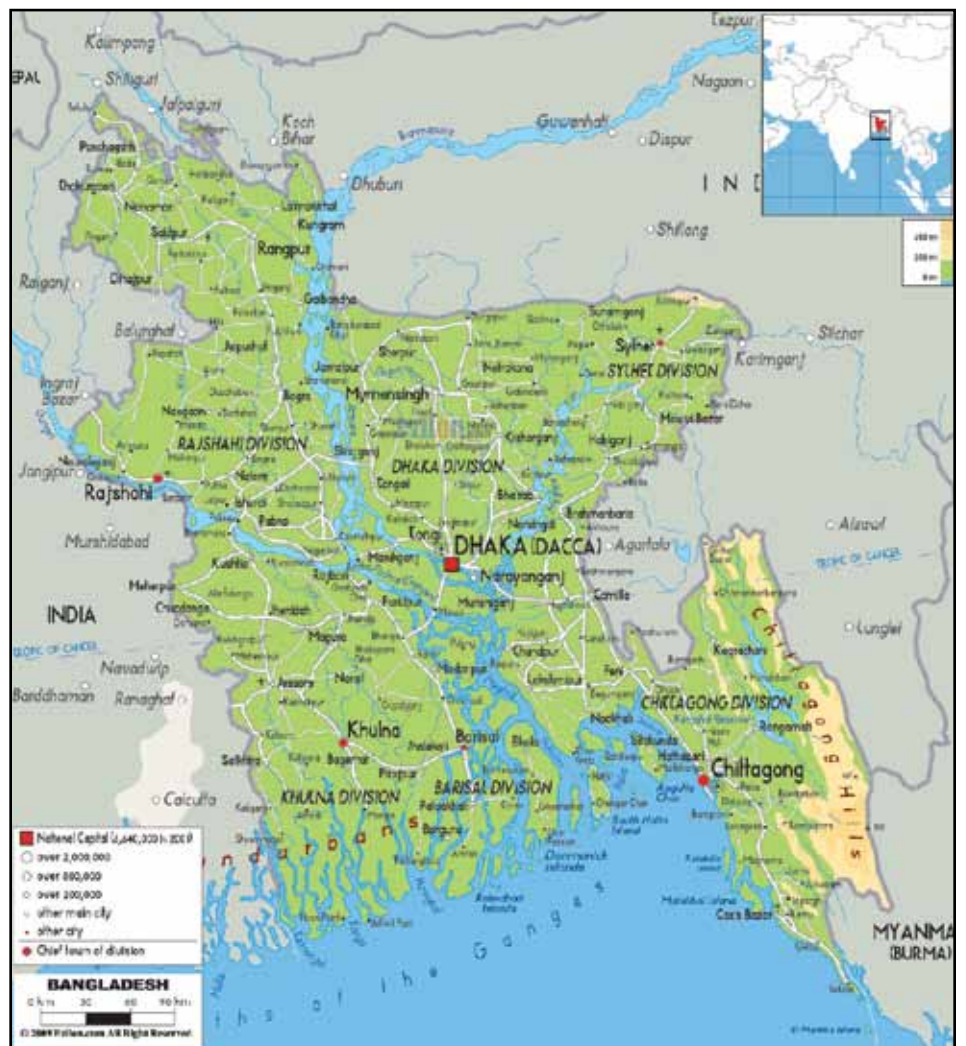
By identifying certain needs based on discussions between partners, Oregon officials identified several opportunities to utilize the expertise of guardsmen.

Whether filling gaps in personnel for other U.S. military operations and exercises, or developing information and expertise exchanges directly, the partnership is as much about the information exchange as it is about building relationships.

“Relationships that can be re-invigorated down the road to support long-term theater



Bangladeshi Cpl. Abdul Ahad, tends to a simulated casualty played by Bangladeshi Soldier, Md. Ahtesham Billah, under the watchful eye of Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp, of the 249th Regional Training Institute, during Exercise Shanti Doot-3, in Bangladesh, March 19.



Map courtesy of ezilon.com

NEWS BRIEFS

115 MPAD prepares for deployment



Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Army National Guard 1st Sgt. William Boyd (right) and Staff Sgt. Zach Holden (right center) take part in a mock interview as part of the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) pre-deployment training at the Salem Armory, March 3. MPAD Soldiers were trained and tested on interview skills and practiced running a joint media operation center—it is the job they will be doing for Army Command East Combined Joint Task Force.

New legislation could expand Space-A eligibility

Under the current rules, Guard and Reserve members qualify for Space-A travel. However, unlike active duty family members, dependents of the Guard or Reserve currently cannot fly Space-A.

So-called, "Grey Area" retirees (retirement eligible members of the Guard and Reserve who are under 60 years old) are excluded from traveling OCONUS on Space-A.

If passed, House bill 4164 and its companion bill in the Senate, S. 2112, would authorize DoD to offer space available worldwide travel on military aircraft to dependents of Guard and Reserve members, "gray area" retirees, and widows and widowers of retired members and dependents.

Here are the current six eligibility categories:

- CATEGORY I: Emergency travel on a round-trip basis in connection with serious illness or death.

- CATEGORY II: Environmental Moral Leave

- CATEGORY III: Ordinary Leave—Members of the uniformed services in an ordinary or reenlistment leave status

- CATEGORY IV: Unaccompanied dependents on EML— Unaccompanied family members, 18+, traveling on EML

- CATEGORY V: Permissive Temporary Duty and Students

- CATEGORY VI: Retirees— National Guard/Reserve Components, the Ready Reserve and Retired military members.

Under the current rules, Guard and Reserve members qualify for Space-A Travel under Category VI. However, unlike active duty family members, dependents of the Guard or Reserve currently cannot fly Space-A.

So-called 'Grey Area Retirees' (Reservists who are eligible for retirement pay at 60 years of age but not yet 60 years old) are also excluded from traveling on Space-A.

Under H.R. 4164, introduced by Representative Don Young (R-AK-At Large) on March 7, 2012 and S. 2112, introduced by Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) on February 15, 2012, an amendment would be added to title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

To learn more about Space-A travel, or to show your support for these legislative bills, visit Military.com, or the feedback section for these bills at: www.capwiz.com/military/issues/alert/?alertid=61099401&type=ML.

Clackamas College offers Small Business courses to vets at discounted rate

On March 6, the Small Business Development Center began its highly recognized Small Business Greenhouse Program.

The 16 week class is a flagship course for anyone wanting to start a business, has started a business but needs the foundation to move forward, or for the person who has always had an idea about a business and does not know where to start.

The Greenhouse program has been the driving force behind multiple successful business startups and is considered to be the best learning investment for budding entrepreneurs in the Portland Metropolitan area.

In addition to the weekly three hour class (6:30 – 9:30 p.m. Tuesday), each class participant has the option for two hours of counseling a month. Counseling sessions are specific to the individual business, and are considered to be as valuable as class participation.

The normal fee for the 16-week program and counseling sessions is \$495. However, veterans can take advantage of a discounted rate of \$150.

The Greenhouse instructor is Rob Campbell. Rob is a Viet Nam combat Vet and has extensive experience with large, small, and start-up companies.

For more information contact Myrna at 503-594-0738, email: mrattle@clackamas.edu.

BG (ret.) Byrne assumes chair of Retiree Council

Retired Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne has assumed Chairmanship of the Retiree and Veterans Council on Dec. 13, 2011.

He replaced retired Lt. Col. Richard Norton, who served in the position since 2009.

Byrne began his military service in 1971 as an enlisted Soldier. He received his commission after attending Infantry Officer Candidate School. He has served in many positions including the Acting Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, where he had overall responsibility to direct, manage, and supervise all matters pertaining to the administration, discipline, organization, training and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon State Defense Force, and the Oregon Military Department.

Retirees who require information or assistance should contact the Retiree Service Office at 503-584-2891 or via e-mail: NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil.

Former Oregon Soldier pays tribute to fallen comrades



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Retired Oregon Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Robert White pays tribute to fallen Oregon Soldiers with a custom mural painted on his motorcycle.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Retired First Sergeant Robert White wanted to pay tribute to Oregon Soldiers who were killed in the line of duty.

He took his Kawasaki Drifter 1500cc, a replica of a 46 Indian Chief, and asked artist Patty Nichols of Canby, Ore., to paint the bike.

The three Soldiers honored on the front fender include; Lt. E. McCrae. Sgt. J. Eyerly, and Spec. J. Linden, who were all Soldiers who worked with White in E Troop, 82 Cavalry.

McCrae's father, Col. Scott McCrae served as White's platoon leader in 1983 with I Troop, 3-116 Armored Cavalry.

Painted on the front fender is "Honoring their sacrifice," and on the rear fender is painted "Fallen Not Forgotten."

Spc. Ryan Walker, another Soldier honored on the bike, is the son of retired 1SG Randy Walker, a good friend of White's.

The two fallen Soldiers on the rear fender are from Albany, Ore. The left side of the bike is a memorial of fallen law enforcement officers.

White, who joined the Army in June 1976, was honorably discharged in February 1983. he joined the Oregon Army National Guard as a member of I Troop 3-116 Armored Cavalry. White eventually retired in December 2001.

White said he wanted to show his gratitude for his fellow Soldiers' sacrifice. "Each time I mount my steed, I feel great pride to be riding with heroes," he said.

'Three-peat' for team in RSP Challenge



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Carter, Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Story by Guy Britnell, Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Members of Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) Detachment 2, A Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, show off their First Place trophy from the third annual RSP Challenge conducted at Camp Rilea, Ore., on March 16-18.

The RSP Challenge is comprised of various events, including a pugil pit competition, push ups and sit ups, obstacle course, paintball, a written exam, relay run, drill and ceremony, tug of war, litter carry and a road march.

The mission of the RSP is to ensure newly assigned Soldiers are mentally prepared, physically fit, and administratively ready to attend and complete Initial Entry Training, and can return as MOS-qualified Soldiers ready to support the Oregon Army National Guard.

Detachment 2, A Company represents the southern Oregon recruiting area and remains undefeated since the challenge began in 2010.

Team members include (l to r): Pvt. Blake Parker, Pvt. Nalani Hernandez, Pvt. Kyle Riggs, Sgt. 1st Class James Marinucci (kneeling), Pfc. Devon Walker, Pvt. Monti Wilson, Spc. Shane Corley.

NEWS BRIEFS

ORANG to host 47th Annual Western States Golf Tournament



The 47th Annual Air National Guard Western States Invitational Golf Tournament is scheduled to be held at the Great Blue Course at Heron Lakes Golf Course in Portland, Ore., and Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield, Wash., August 21 – 23, 2012.

The tournament is sponsored by the 142nd Fighter Wing located at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., and is open to members of the Air National Guard, Oregon Army National Guard, retirees and their spouses.

Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the 142nd Fighter Wing Community Foundation, a local organization which provides assistance to local military service members and their families in times of need.

An optional skins game is scheduled to be held on August 20, 2012, followed by the two days of tournament play. A block of rooms has been reserved for this event at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach.

The hotel is located at 909 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, Ore.

For more information, visit the tournament's official Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/2012.ANG.golf.

AUSA to hold 10th Annual Golf Tournament, July 19

A blast from a Howitzer will announce the start of the 10th Annual Association of the United States Army Columbia River Chapter



FORE! Our Troops Golf Tournament at the Chehalem Glenn Golf Course, in Newberg, Ore. July 19, starting at 1:00 p.m.

The event will raise money for Soldiers in Oregon and Southwest Washington through the Columbia River Chapter.

The golf course is located at: 4501 East Fernwood Road, in Newberg, Ore.

In the past, funds have been used to support the Veteran Home in The Dalles, the Oregon National Guard Military Ball, the Oregon Military Museum, and other events. This tournament is the fundraiser that enables this chapter to continue to give assistance.

Sign up online at www.chehalemglen.com/fore2011.

Team names should be sent via mail to 2259 St. Moritz Loop, West Linn, OR 97068. The cost is \$100 per person. An Early Bird Special of \$125 per person includes two mulligans and 20 raffle tickets if purchased by May 31, 2012.

All players are automatically entered in the drawing for Bandon Dunes Package.

A 19th Hole wine tasting will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and dinner will follow immediately. Prize drawings, corporate sponsor recognition and presentation of golf awards will take place during dinner.

ORNGA to hold conference, Military Ball in Eugene, April 21-22

The ORNGA will conduct its 85th conference in Eugene, Ore., at the Valley River Inn on April 21.

Hosting the event is the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-162 IN BN, whose members are excited about bringing together Guard members from throughout

Oregon to conduct the business of the association, elect officers, meet the Corporate Partners who support the association and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow members.

On Friday, April 20, during a Reception in the Rogue Room, the leadership of the National Guard and the ORNGA will recognize those corporations who support the efforts of the association.

Also on Friday evening, the 2-162 Infantry Battalion, the 82 Brigade, the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the Oregon Air National Guard will host hospitality suites. This will give attendees an opportunity to have some leisure time with each other and enjoy connecting with friends.

On Saturday, the conference starts with registration at 7:00 a.m. Those who register on-line can bring their receipt, which will speed up the processing at the venue. Those who do not register before the conference will be charged \$45 at the door.

A buffet breakfast will be served at 7:15 am. Depending on speakers, the conference will begin between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The Chairman of the NGAUS Board is scheduled to be in attendance.

Also, make sure you visit our Corporate Partners during the conference!

The business meeting will highlight what is happening in the legislative arena. In December, President Obama signed legislation giving the Guard's senior officer, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, a permanent seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The provision in the National Defense Authorization Authority (NDAA) enables the NGB chief to sit with the heads of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines -- none of whom have ever served in the Guard -- and provide the Guard for the first time, permanent representation among the nation's senior military officers.

The NDAA also creates a new three-star position for the NGB Vice Chief and provides permanent funding to the Guard's State Partnership Program. This success is tempered with the knowledge of the increasing uncertainty about the upcoming budget years and the impact this will have on the Army and Air Guard. NGAUS will remain on the front lines for us as we continue to support their efforts through our membership and our letters to the U.S. Congress.

This year the Association will present ten \$1,500 scholarships to National Guard members or family members. The Calbag Metals Company Endowment continues to allow the association to present these scholarships.

This year will also see the return of the "Mystery Bag" event, due to its success last year. This event allowed us to increase our scholarships this year by an additional four awards. Each bag is \$20, and those who participate will be entered into a drawing for two Military Ball tickets for next year.

The Military Ball will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. An oral auction will be conducted featuring several unique items.

For more information on the conference, or to register for the event and the Military Ball, please visit www.ornga.org.

VA launches Crisis Line

The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to prevent suicide through several new initiatives that increase the availability of services for Veterans, Service Members and their families.

Now, in addition to the Veterans Crisis Line, Veterans and Service Members in crisis-and their friends and families-may text free of charge to *83-8255* to receive confidential, personal and immediate support.

The text service is available, like the Veterans Crisis Line and online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and connects a user with a specially trained VA professional. The Veterans Crisis Line can be found at: www.veteranscrisisline.net, or by calling 1-800-273-8255 (option-1) or via their online chat; www.veteranscrisisline.net/ChatTermsOfService.aspx?account=Veterans%20Chat.

Oregon National Guard hosts veterans, advocates, resource providers at Reintegration Summit



Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Dr. Suzanne Best, co-author of "Courage After Fire: Coping Strategies for Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan" speaks to veterans, advocates and resource providers at an Oregon National Guard Reintegration Summit, March 1, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. Best called Oregon the national leader in reintegration services for service members, veterans and their families, and said with that comes a lot of responsibility. "We are the model for the nation," Best said. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, Joint Transition Assistance Public Affairs).

DoD to expand drug testing

On Feb. 1, 2012, the Department of Defense expanded its drug testing program to include widely abused prescription drugs like Xanax and Valium, which contain benzodiazepine, and the painkiller Vicodin.

The testing program will include not only Vicodin but any drug that falls into the class of benzodiazepines, a class of drugs often prescribed for anxiety.

The testing is not an all-out ban of the substances. Service members with prescriptions for the drugs will not be subject to disciplinary action for using them within the dosage and time prescribed.

"Our medical review officers will be doing more validating of prescriptions," said Lt. Col. Michael Gillett, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

The DoD is giving troops a three-month notice before the testing begins. Service members addicted to prescription drugs can seek treatment without fear of penalty. Drug testing for these substances will begin on May 1.

The expanded drug testing guidelines comes after the Associated Press (AP) reported the number of Soldiers referred for opiate abuse treatment has been growing for the last decade.

JFHQ Cookbook needs your recipes!

Just a reminder that the JFHQ Family Program is still taking reservations for the JFHQ Cookbook. Our goal is to reach 200 recipes and we are only about one-third of the way there.

If you are interested in submitting recipes and having your name in print, or you would like to just reserve one, send an email to Robin Webb at: robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us, or call at 503-584-3581.

Cookbooks will go on sale sometime this spring and will sell for \$10 each. Money raised will go to support the JFHQ Family Program and their efforts in putting on the JFHQ Family Picnic in August 2012, and also the JFHQ Christmas Party in December.

Retiree Service Office

Anderson Readiness Center
Room 243
3225 State Street
Salem, OR 97309

503-584-2891, or
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil
Web: <http://orngetirees.info/>

Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309



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Store manager: Elan Kane

Would you like to be a published author?

**Submit your story or photo to:
Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us**

AZUWUR



The Oregon National Guard 150 years ago

Story and photos courtesy of Warren Aney, Oregon Military Department Historian

If you were in the Oregon military 150 years ago, what would it have been like? What would you be wearing and carrying and what would you be doing?

Let's say your name is William Finn, and last December you responded to a recruiting poster, joining a unit being organized in Dalles City (what we now call The Dalles). You joined Company E, First Regiment Cavalry, Oregon Volunteers to serve for three years. Your pay is \$31 per month. At the end of your service you will receive a \$100 bounty payment and a land warrant for 160 acres of free land.

Your unit's enlistment roster describes you as age 26, height 5 ft., 5 in., fair complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair, born in Ireland, occupation; tailor.

Last year most of the regular army units in the west headed east to fight in the Civil War. So your regiment of volunteers is being organized to take their place.

It is now March 8, 1862, and you are leaving Fort Dalles with a party of 12 Soldiers. You are riding your own horse, on your own saddle and wearing your own clothes (you won't be issued uniforms until next month). You are carrying an old .69 caliber musket.

Where are you headed? Your company commander, Captain George B. Currey, says: "The murder of the Woodward party by Indians on John Day's River has greatly alarmed the citizens of Eastern Oregon. A rumor reached the Commanding Officer at Fort Dalles that a considerable body of Simcoe Indians just returned to the north side of the Columbia River from the head of John Day's River, and that several articles had been seen

with them answering the description of property known to have belonged to members of the Woodward party."

So you crossed the Columbia River and began a march through one to two feet of snow. Then a warm south wind sprang up and quickly melted most of the snow. You then floundered through snow and slush until dark, reaching only 10 miles.

Fearing the Indians would get information about your approach, next morning you made an early start along the north bank of the Columbia River. You galloped most of the time.

At about one o'clock you approached an Indian village, put spurs to your horses and entered it at full speed. You made prisoners of several old important looking men and held them hostage for the good behavior of the rest of the astonished natives. You learned that the band you were after was encamped some 15 or 20 miles farther up the river.

You took one of the hostages along as a guide, passed through several more

villages. In each you replaced your hostage guide.

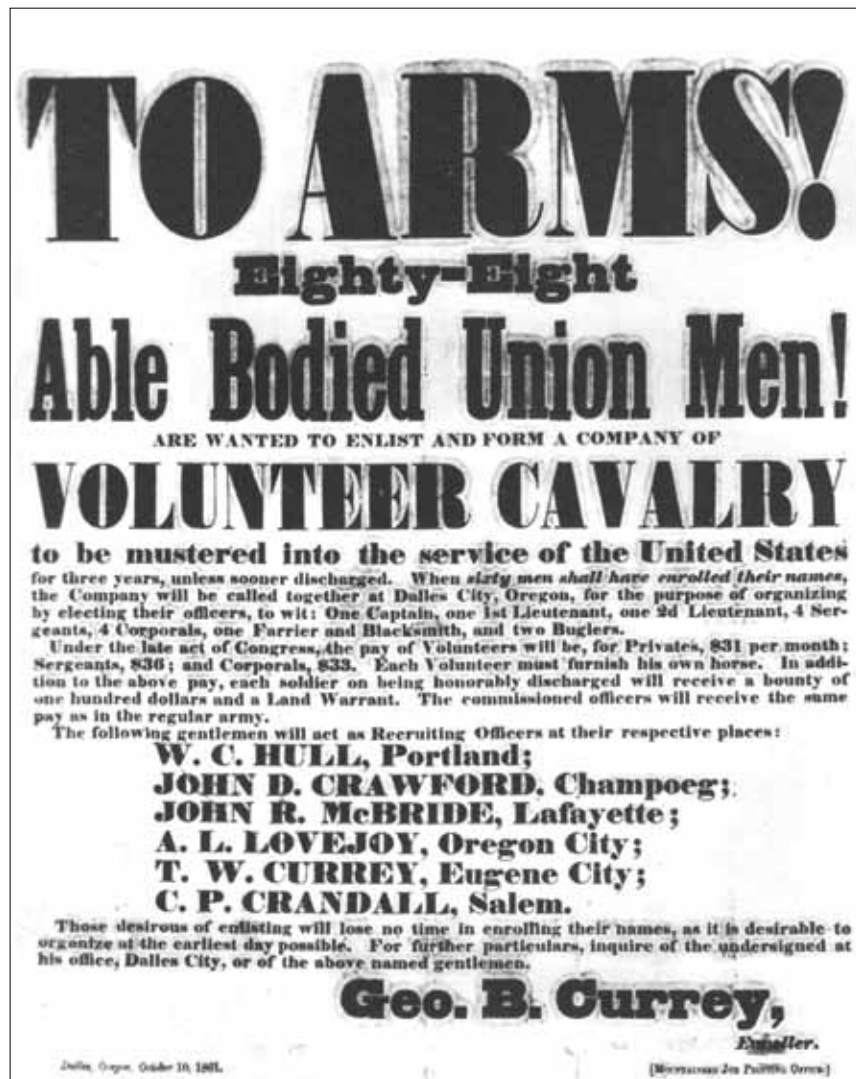
At about an hour before sundown you overtook the band you were after, just as they began to unpack for the night. You took their leader



Right: George Byron Currey, Captain, Co. E., 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, 1862-1865; Colonel, 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry, 1865-1866.

prisoner, searched the camp, and questioned various members as to their whereabouts during the winter.

Nothing was found in their camp nor in their statements to confirm the rumors. Satisfied that the reports against the Simcoe Indians were unfounded, you began your return march. Sixty miles later, wet to the skin, without tents or supper, and with saddle blankets for pillows, mattress, covers and roofing, you enjoyed the rest and dreams of cavalry scouts in the houseless country.



Above: "Call to Arms" recruiting poster for Oregon 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, 1861. Courtesy of Oregon Military Department.

Below: U.S. Springfield Model 1842 percussion musket, caliber .69 smoothbore. One of the models used to initially equip the 1st Ore. Volunteer Cavalry in 1861. Courtesy of Oregon Military Museum.



On the fifth day you attended roll call at Fort Dalles, completing the first scout of your regiment.

(From the Report of Capt. Geo. B. Currey, Oregon Adjutant General's Report For 1865-66.)

National Women's History Month: Women in the military through the years

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

Many women in the United States can't imagine a world where they couldn't vote, get an education or join the military.

They can't even begin to imagine a world without possibilities.

Every March, we celebrate the women who made those possibilities a reality by acknowledging National Women's History Month.

Even though women have always played a role in our country's conflicts, it wasn't until 1901 that they were recognized as having officially served in the military.

Since then, women have changed the way the United States military goes to war.

Here is the first part of a two-part story on women who served in the United States military over the years.

This brief history of female roles in our military and the cultivating of a new generation of women with a warrior's spirit, which for more than 200 years, was almost exclusively reserved for men.

Revolutionary War

During the Revolutionary War, women served as nurses, scouts, and messengers. When the men were away fighting, the women effectively defended the settlements.

Mary Hayes McCauly earned her nickname, Molly Pitcher, by carrying water and grog to her husband and other American artillerymen. She earned her fame, however, by immediately taking his



During the Revolutionary War, women played a crucial role in nursing Soldiers back to health.

place firing a cannon after he collapsed during the Battle of Monmouth.

Mad Ann Bailey, an expert shot and skilled horsewoman, served as a scout, spy and messenger.

Sara Fulton delivered dispatches through enemy lines.

Deborah Sampson, disguised as a man, enlisted in the Revolutionary Army. Her identity was protected until injuries rendered her unconscious and near death. The treating doctor discovered her true identity, and she was quietly discharged from the Army.

Civil War

Women served on both sides of the Civil War, mostly as cooks and nurses. Some women became scouts and spies, while at least 400 women disguised themselves as men and fought in battle.

Clara Barton, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and Louisa May Alcott served on the Union side providing both care and much needed supplies.

Committed to healing spirits as well as bodies, Barton established the first National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. after the war and went on to found the American Red Cross.

Sarah Edmonds, in disguise, served as a male nurse, but later became a spy in the Union's secret service.

Because female doctors were not allowed to serve in the military, Dr. Mary Walker gave up her medical practice to serve with the Union Army as a nurse.

She later volunteered to be a spy, was captured by the Confederacy and held prisoner for four months. A Congressional Medal of Honor awarded for her actions was later rescinded, along with several male recipients, when the criteria changed.

A special act of Congress later restored the medal in 1976. Walker remains the only woman ever accorded the nation's highest military honor.

Spanish-American War

In 1898, some 1,500 nurses under civilian contract provided outstanding care in the field and on hospital ships.



One of the nurses, Clara Maas, assisted with the research into yellow fever transmission.

Among the first subjects to volunteer to be bitten by an infected mosquito, she became ill with the disease and died. Maas was buried with full military honors.

In 1976, the U.S. issued a postage stamp in her honor. The outstanding care provided by nurses during the Spanish-American War resulted in the formation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, followed by the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908.

However, these women found themselves without clearly defined roles, rank or military grade.

Look for Part 2 of this two-part story on women in the military and women veterans, in the next issue of the Oregon Sentinel.



Dr. Mary Walker, Union Army nurse and spy, was the only woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service during the Civil War.

Left: First documented military nurses of American Indian (Sioux) heritage served in the Spanish-American War.