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Oregon Air Guard dedicates new F-15 nose art: Page 12

# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Star Power

All-Star Salute to Oregon's Military kicks off \$6.5 million Capital Campaign to build new Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas



KISS guitarist Tommy Thayer rocks the house at the All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, held at the Oregon Golf Club, May 18. The event kicked off the Oregon Military Museum's Capital Campaign. The event raised nearly \$250,000 and kicked off the Capital Campaign to raise funds to build the Oregon Military Museum, which will be named in honor of WWII hero, retired Army Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer.

Left: The Thayer family gathers on stage during the All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, at the Oregon Golf Club, May 18. From left to right: Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS, Retired Army Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, Mike, John, and Jim Thayer.

For more information, visit [www.allstarsalute.com](http://www.allstarsalute.com).

See the related story, **Oregon's New Military Museum** on Page 6.

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

## Oregon Guard breaks ground on new readiness center in The Dalles

Story and photo by Spc. Marilyn Lowry, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**THE DALLES, Ore.**—U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), U.S. Representative Greg Walden (R-District 2), along with other federal, state and community leaders came out to celebrate as the Oregon National Guard broke ground at their newest location for a readiness center at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles, Ore., June 2.

After 20 years in the making, the readiness center will not only benefit the Oregon National Guard, but the community as well, said State Representative John Huffman, (R-The Dalles, OR District 59).

"We kept plugging away," he said, "Thanks to everyone that has brought us to this location at this point today."

"We don't quit," said The Dalles Mayor Jim Wilcox, one of the official ceremony members, in reference to finally getting a new facility. "That's The Dalles, it's who we are."

Wilcox was also pleased with the way the project brought together Congress, the Oregon Legislature and the local community.

"Not only will it be a drill floor, but a conference room as well—a great co-efficient building," Wilcox said.

Wilcox added that with the construction price tag of almost \$18.1 million, the building will have one of the nicest conference centers within a hundred miles



Soldiers of Alpha Company, 3-116 Cavalry, surround a new Bradley A3 as they await the groundbreaking ceremony for their future home at The Dalles Readiness Center at the Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles, Ore., June 2.

of the site.

"It's going to be a state-of-the-art, green facility that's carbon neutral," he added.

In addition to being home of Alpha Company 3-116 Cavalry, The Dalles Readiness Center will also serve as a workforce training location, providing reintegration programs and education for service members, as well as an extension of the community college.

"This will help integrate military and civilians," said the mayor. "It will be good for our citizens to see that our friends and neighbors are the service members here."

Construction is slated to begin September 2012 and be completed sometime in October 2013.

See related story, **Oregon Soldiers among first in nation to begin training on new, cutting edge tank**, on Page 7.

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Salem, OR

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON  
P.O. BOX 14350  
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047  
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The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, and other interested persons by request, free of charge. Circulation: 13,500. The Oregon Sentinel is published by Eagle Web Press, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, Departments of the Army or Air Force, or the State of Oregon, and is under exclusive written contract with the Oregon Military Department. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically, and can be found online at [www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml).

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Oregon National Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit articles and story ideas. Stories from any source, military or civilian, are accepted. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All submissions must include the author's name, mailing address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication, and the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to print or reprint submissions at any time.

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## COMMAND

## 101 Critical Days of Summer: Safety is top priority



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

I want to commend all of you for your hard work and dedication during an extremely busy, yet overwhelmingly successful spring.

In May, the Oregon Military Department participated in Vigilant Guard, part of an international exercise conducted by U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). We demonstrated our capability to meet the Homeland Security mission as we focused on supporting civil authorities in disaster scenarios.

Vigilant Guard was followed by the training and evaluation of our CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). The joint-service Air and Army National Guard unit achieved certification and set new records in responding to hazardous incidents with search and

extraction teams, decontamination, medical triage and treatment of casualties.

My sincere appreciation goes out to all those who participated in the Armed Forces Day celebration at the Oregon State Capitol Mall and to all of you who provided support for Memorial Day services throughout the state. I could not be more proud of how you represented the Oregon National Guard. Your professionalism is applauded by the citizens in the communities you serve.

As we support the citizens of Oregon here at home, we also continue to answer the call of our nation around the world. There are more than 300 Oregon Guard members mobilized in support of both federal overseas and domestic operations.

The 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will mobilize in late June for a one-year deployment to Afghanistan. As we wish them well on their departure, we look forward to welcoming home the 1186 Military Police Company from Afghanistan this fall.

We continue to make improvements within our organization and in our communities. A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 2, for The Dalles Readiness Center. The new 45,000 square-foot facility will be home to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116 Cavalry.

They are also some of the first to receive the latest M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A1 SEP Abrams tanks, which will be fielded throughout the year. Construction

is scheduled for completion in October 2013. Training on the new vehicles began at Umatilla Army Depot and will be complete at about the time the new building is complete.

Fundraising efforts have begun to renovate the Oregon Military Museum in order to provide the space needed for preserving and displaying historical artifacts of our military heritage. This is a two-year Capital Campaign, which will be named in honor of retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, (Emeritus).

The 101 critical days of summer are upon us. Historically, this is the most risky time of year as everyone takes advantage of the warm weather with outdoor activities. This means being extra vigilant to keep you, your family, and your friends safe.

As we gear-up for Annual Training, leaders have a responsibility to assess and mitigate risks.

However, all Soldiers and Airmen have a responsibility to look out for one another. Make spot corrections and speak up if you notice something unsafe, whether at training, at work, or at home.

Thank you for what you do every day for our state and nation. Enjoy this beautiful time of year with your family and friends, but remember to always play and work safe.

Always Ready! Always There! Always Safe!

## Warrant Officers: get involved, our survival depends on it

For this article I am addressing Warrant Officer involvement in professional organizations.

Maj Gen. Rees authored a memorandum regarding participation in professional organizations, dated Mar. 1, 2012. Membership and participation in these organizations afford military and government employees a forum in which to legally advocate for benefits.

Furthermore, this important forum allows us the opportunity to voice our concern regarding proposed changes in manning, equipping, and policy within the DoD, U.S. Army and National Guard.

Currently, mission structure and funding for the Air National Guard is being threatened. While the Oregon Air National Guard will lose only a few positions in this proposed restructuring, if the current proposals are implemented, some states will lose their ability to meet their state mission requirements.

For the Oregon Army National Guard, we are already feeling the impact of the post-

war economic environment. Funding shortfalls have caused the brigades to establish Order of Merit listings for Soldiers wanting to attend schools. The sad reality is that many of those who submit requests may not be able to attend due to lack of funds.

The Army Times consistently runs articles talking about downsizing total military strength, retirement reductions, and equipment upgrade and replacement programs on the chopping block.

Members of the National Guard and Reserves are in a unique position to influence our state and federal legislators regarding decisions they make with regard to cuts in government spending and reduction of our national debt.

While as government employees we are not allowed to personally get involved in public speaking and demonstrating for particular causes, we can obtain membership into organizations that are outspoken in regard to our best interests as current, retired, and/or sympathetic supporters of the



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

military.

Now more than ever, we must become involved, despite the limited options available to us, to protect what we previously have fought hard to achieve.

Now is the time to do what we can to protect this nation's military and to continue to seek benefits for those who have served this state and nation. Get involved.

For the Corps.

## Social Media: What you need to know to keep you out of trouble

In early 2009, the Oregon National Guard developed an official presence in the world of social media by launching its own Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr pages, in addition to an official blog.

The Oregon National Guard continues to have a very popular social media program, with robust guidance, and far-reaching tools which serve a direct collective following of over 6,000 Facebook "friends", blog and Twitter followers, and YouTube subscribers.

An important aspect of social media continues to be security concerns. Specifically to our members and their families and friends, I've put together 15 concerns for those engaging in social networking.

1. Think before you post. Status updates, photos, and comments can reveal more about you or your unit (or mission) than you realize. Don't reveal information online that you wouldn't reveal in real life!

2. Turn off your geolocation settings on your smart phone or mobile device. The last thing you want is the bad guys knowing where you or your family are vacationing, or spending the holiday weekend.

3. Nothing good comes from filling out a "25 Most Amazing Things About You"

survey. Avoid publicly answering questionnaires with details like your middle name, hometown, or mother's maiden name, as this is the type of information financial institutions may use to verify your identity.

4. Think twice about applications that request permission to access your data. You would be allowing an unknown party to send you email, post to your Facebook wall, and access your information at any time, regardless of whether you're using the application.

5. Don't click on short links that don't clearly show the link location. Criminals often post phony links that claim to show who has been viewing your profile. Test unknown links at [Siteadvisor.com](http://Siteadvisor.com) by copying the link into the "View a Site Report" form on the right-hand side of the page.

6. Beware of Facebook posts with subjects along the lines of, "LOL! Look at the video I found of you!" When you click the link, you get a message saying that you need to upgrade your video player in order to see the clip, but when you attempt to download the "upgrade," the malicious page will instead install malware that tracks and steals your



Master Sgt. Nick Choy,  
Oregon Military  
Department Social Media  
Manager

data.

7. Be suspicious of anything that sounds unusual or feels odd. If one of your friends posts, "We're stuck in Cambodia and need money," it's most likely a scam. Follow your gut online just as you would in real life.

8. Understand your privacy settings. Select the most secure options and check periodically for changes that can open up your profile to the public. Facebook is famous for changing your privacy settings during their periodic upgrades.

9. Use an updated browser. Older browsers tend to have more security flaws. While

See FACEBOOK on Page 10



## OPINION

**MG Vavala: Four-star representation of the National Guard is the start of our hard work**

By Maj. Gen. Francis Vavala,  
Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard

Maj. Gen. Francis Vavala, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard, was a keynote speaker at the Oregon National Guard's Senior Leader's Conference in Eugene, Ore., April 21.

The following is a transcript of his speech, given to senior leadership of the Oregon National Guard.

As I go about the country speaking to our National Guard Associations in the various States, I always wonder if my words are value added since I'm essentially preaching to the choir. You're all members, you understand why the National Guard Association of the United States is vital to our survivability and hopefully you know what NGAUS has done for all of us in the National Guard.

I've been a Guardsman for over 45 years. Certainly not as long as your Adjutant General who served with George Washington.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think we would be where we are today.

This new reality is staggering to me as I remember the Guard as a strategic reserve, put on the shelf with limited resourcing.

These advances were earned by all of you through your exemplary performance, your blood, sweat, tears and by many of our colleagues with their lives. When finally unleashed and allowed to perform the functions we were trained for, we distinguished ourselves!

Just so you know: We have just achieved the greatest victory in National Guard history since the early years of the 20th century when the Dick Act made us a modern federally resourced force.

We now have a four star Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who by the way is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is unprecedented, historic and monumental.

Your NGAUS led the way through sustained engagements, by your state association, the Adjutants General of the United States (AGAUS), Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), the National Governor's Association (NGA) and finally, Congress.

This is a tremendous "grass roots" effort and a valuable civics lesson, in the face of opposition by the Department of Defense.

We the people, through our elected representatives spoke and legislation was enacted to give us the seat at the table and a voice in developing our nation's military strategy.

All of us--460,000 men and women now have a representative at the highest echelons of our military.

So with this accomplishment are we done? Can we sit back and feel comfortable?

HELL NO!!

As we face budgetary challenges for our military and we draw down in overseas contingency operations how do we retain our relevancy?

It's up to NGAUS to lead that charge.

Our nation has a tendency to utilize a flawed model that calls for reductions in the National Guard while sustaining a large active force.

This thinking is counter to the vision of our founding fathers, where in the constitution they visualized a small standing military with a militia (National Guard) that had the capability to surge to meet the nation's needs.

The President is looking for a reduction of \$487 billion over the next ten years.

What's the answer to creating an economic, efficient, and effective force? Obviously it's the National Guard. Why would you divest yourself of a battle-tested, experienced force that can perform at a fraction of a full time force?

This is our current fight with both the Army and the Air Force.

We can win this by going to our strength; the Congress



Photo by Sgt. Armando Borboa, 2-162 IN BN Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Francis Vavala, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard, is recognized following his keynote address at the Oregon National Guard Senior Leader's Conference in Eugene, Ore., April 21. Vavala is joined by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon (left), and U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, (D-OR), (center).

of the United States of America. The great equalizer, the court of appeals, is Congress, not the Pentagon.

That grass roots effort utilizing our proven allies can give us victory.

NGAUS will lead this fight! NGAUS needs you!

We're the solution and we are right for America! The Guard is our nation's most enduring military component.

That's why I'm proud to be a Guardsman!

## LETTERS

**Hall receives accolades from grieving parents**

To the Senior Staff of the Oregon National Guard With Whom Major Oliver Hall serves, and to All Others to Whom It May Concern: Greetings!

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this commendation of Major Oliver Hall.

He came into our lives at the dark hour of the death of our beloved on, CW5 Paul F. Stewart, who was killed on the street in Olympia, WA, struck from behind while riding his bicycle. The shock of it all is yet with us.

In this dark hour, Major Hall came to us. We did not know what to expect from this soft speaking soldier when he called. He came to us undaunted through winter weather with the threat of snow clogged passes.

My wife and I were not only shocked by our son's death, but we were both in the ravages of various ailments. I was so far out physically as to be unable to safely operate our car. At one of his appointments with us, I had to go to the ER with my body in disarray by some alien malady. (It was later declared to be vertigo made worse by an attack of Bell's palsy.)

When he did not find us at our house, through friends of ours, he located us at the hospital. He came into the waiting room bringing empathy clothed in his bright uniform, a vivid contrast to the often downcast ambience of a waiting room.

Major Hall was asked to do this service to us with no previous experience. At this point I would be tempted to question your judgment. My experience in the ministry of the Church extends to more than sixty years, including eight years teaching pastoral counseling along with other courses relevant to the ministry.. My graduate education in this area includes two masters' degrees as well as a doctorate in ministry. What I observed in Major Hall's disposition, personal skills, attitudes, and overall behavior answered to the highest knowledge and desired ends of what makes a person capable to help when tragedy strikes. Though it may sound contradictory, keep Major Hall away from most professional education in grief counseling lest he be bitten with some new

theory of how it ought to be done. Major Hall's humility, with his constant respect for our privacy, along with his "learning as he went along spirit", was a comfort to us.

The most outstanding contribution of Major Hall was the gift of himself to us. We lost our son, and we are sad. Major Hall came along, and we have "adopted" him. As long as we live, by God's grace and will, Major Hall will be a light that came to us, dressed neatly in his new dress uniform, and dressed with a gentleness and steadiness that led us through the rituals and formalities of things strange to us.

Thanks for sending Major Hall. Let this appreciation go as high up the chain as it will. Not only does Major Hall deserve your commendation, but those above you need to know that in your hands, things are going well.

With great pleasure:

The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Stewart,

Assistant Pastor,

Grace Fellowship Church of the Nazarene

**Rose Festival organizer thanks Oregon Guard**

Gen. Rees,

Good afternoon. My name is Sara Wright and I had the pleasure of working with SGM Scott Lucas at the Rose Festival's Memorial Day Celebration.

I wanted you to know how much we appreciate all of the support we received from Scott and the Guard. He is such a professional, and was there to help in every way. He was part of our committee, and added to our ideas, processes and implementation.

Also to me, as a civilian, getting through all the paperwork and processes for a fly-over and cannon salute was a bit overwhelming. Scott made it seamless for us and was in constant communication so we knew what was happening.

This event is a special one for the Rose Festival, and everything that Scott did helped it to become more so. Veterans and their families and the public were so honored to have the military support.

Thank you again,

Sara Wright, Events Assistant, Portland Rose Festival Foundation

**Gorge Heroes Club sends care packages to deployed 1186 MP Co.**

Thank you very much for the packages you sent us. Some of the non-perishable food goes on our trucks for missions when we cannot get to a chow hall. I especially wanted to say thank you to Kyle McCullough. I read the article and I appreciate his huge effort.

Thank you for all you do. I would like to have you at our final formation if possible.

Respectfully,

MAJ Jack Gillentine, Commander, 1186 Military Police Company, Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan

Dear MAJ Gillentine,

The members of the Gorge Heroes Club take great pride in being able to support you and the members of the Oregon National Guard 1186MP Unit during your deployment.

We are sending to you our deepest appreciation for all your dedication and commitment in preserving our freedoms.

We will be honored to be present at your final formation.

Respectfully,

Terri Hansen, VP GHC

**Tribute motorcycle owner grateful for story**

Master Sgt. Choy,

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Soldiers honored on my bike. The article you wrote and the photo do great honor for our fallen comrades.

I wish I had two copies of this Spring edition. I plan on giving this one to the artist Patty Nichols who painted my bike. She will be so touched, She is the one who came up with the American flag idea.

The art work is truly amazing in person. She truly showed a great way to honor our fallen heroes. I ride with some great heroes. Again thank you for the article.

1SG Bob White (ret.)

Editor's Note: If you would like to read

the article on this bike, refer to Page 10 of the Spring 2012 issue of the Sentinel. And Bob, it was our privilege and honor.

**Australian man finds WWII relic, thanks Oregon Guard for service**

Hello,

My name is Tim Whitford. I am a military historian from Victoria, Australia.

The 41st U.S. Division, including the 162nd Regt. was camped near my home in 1942 before they moved north to fight the Japanese.

I have met many 41st Division war brides and have recently interviewed a veteran who moved back to Australia with his Aussie war bride. A wonderful man with great recall of those distant times.

The purpose of my email was to show you the relic I recently found in one of their old campsites. A collar disc once dropped by a member of the 162nd in 1942.

I know the Oregonians continue to live up to the wonderful example left by your forebears and have done sterling work in dangerous places like Iraq recently but I thought it important to get in contact to let you know that thousands of miles away from home, in 1942, some of your people did good things, made their mark, and are not forgotten.

Please keep up the good work and continue to maintain the high standards set by those young Oregonians who came to my country to help our Diggers keep us free.

With my kindest regards,

Tim Whitford, Victoria, Australia



NEWS

# Oregon National Guard Soldiers take a ride on the Tinseltown Express

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

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.--When Sgt. Amy Feltzin and Spc. Jayme Roth of the Oregon National Guard's 1249 Engineer Company were on convoys in Afghanistan, the dream of working on a film set in Hollywood seemed a long-shot.

However, less than six-months after returning from their deployment, they found themselves doing just that, thanks to a program designed to find veterans jobs in the film industry.

"Operation Hollywood," the brainchild of Hollywood film producer Suzanne DeLaurentiis and the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program, is providing Soldiers opportunities to work in the film industry.

Actress Erica Christensen, who has had major film roles in "Traffic" and "Swimfan," and currently plays Julia Braverman-Graham in the television series "Parenthood," is one of several Hollywood actors who work closely with Feltzin on the set of DeLaurentiis' new film "How Sweet It Is." She said she is

DeLaurentiis, who frequently visits wounded veterans and donates much of her time in support of veterans, said she was inspired after viewing the documentary "This is War: Memories of Iraq" at one of her film festivals. The film, produced by independent Oregon filmmaker Gary Mortensen, follows several Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers during their 2004 deployment to Iraq. One of the Soldiers featured in the film is Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques of the Oregon National Guard.

Jacques, who is the Plans and Operations/Reintegration Manager for the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program, helped launch what many consider the best reintegration program in the nation for veterans and their families.

He was moved to launch the program after losing one of his Soldiers in an IED attack. He and two other Soldiers were wounded in the same explosion.

Jacques said he understands what veterans endure, knows they are capable of great things, and is passionate about helping them succeed.

**"We feel special having (the Soldiers) here. It is an honor both ways."**

- Erica Christensen, Hollywood actress

honored to be working with the veterans.

"I think it is really cool that they feel special being here," Christensen said. "But we feel special having them here; it is an honor both ways."

Feltzin, who is working wardrobe and make-up on the set, said she is having an amazing experience.

"The whole experience of being on the film set, and the demands there are, is so parallel with what the military asks of us time-wise and energy-wise," Feltzin said. "Getting to work with these guys is just awesome."

DeLaurentiis met the Oregon Citizen-Soldiers during a visit to a career and benefits fair in Oregon, which was put on by the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program. The team helps veterans and their families with employment, healthcare and education.

She said the veterans on her set are brave men and women who are wonderful people and even better employees.

"The great thing about hiring veterans is they're always on time, they know how to multi-task, and they're very accustomed to taking direction," DeLaurentiis said.



Actor Joe Piscopo shakes hands with Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program on producer Suzanne DeLaurentiis' film set of the movie "How Sweet it Is" May 22 in Studio City, Calif., where Oregon National Guard Soldiers who recently returned from Afghanistan are working.

"Suzanne has given an incredible opportunity to our troops to come down here and work on a film set," Jacques acknowledged. "I told Jayme: 'Suzanne has opened the door for you and that I am ecstatic to hear how well you are doing.'"

When DeLaurentiis met Jacques, they said they formed mutual admiration sharing similar values and an interest in working together to help veterans.

Since then, DeLaurentiis' efforts have resulted in accolades and recognition from the very organization to which she has dedicated herself. Thus far, she has received the Oregon Commendation Medal (an award rarely bestowed to civilians), a written letter of appreciation from Oregon's Adjutant General, and an engraved plaque of recognition from the Oregon National Guard.

"Operation Hollywood" is her most recent effort to help veterans. Jacques said he can't thank DeLaurentiis enough because of the doors she has opened for returning vets.

"They've given so much, we've all seen it when they are downrange, and there are a few people who have really noticed it here in the U.S.," he said.

DeLaurentiis said she personally plans on hiring more veterans and will promote "Operation Hollywood" to other influential people in the film industry. Jacques and DeLaurentiis recently met with an executive from Paramount Studios to discuss employment opportunities.

Feltzin said she is proud to be a part of something bigger than just herself.

"This is such an amazing honor because we get the chance to pave the way for "Operation Hollywood," so other service members can come and do this too," she said.

Larry Litton, assistant director for "How Sweet It Is," said the veterans are picking their jobs up quickly. Roth is doing transportation, mechanical and medical work on the set.

Litton said her military training is an advantage in each of those areas.

"So far they are doing great, they show up on time and are willing to do what needs to be done," said Litton. "Being willing to learn and paying attention is half the job."

Alex Burns, the transportation coordinator for the film is Roth's supervisor. Burns has worked on sets of multiple major motion pictures and said he has been very impressed with Roth.



Sgt. Amy Feltzin (left) of the Oregon National Guard's 1249 Engineer Company prepares the costume of actress Erica Christensen on the film set of "How Sweet It Is" May 22 in Studio City, Calif. Feltzin was hired by producer Suzanne DeLaurentiis during a career and benefits fair held by the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program.

"She's excellent, she's knowledgeable, she retains, she is a very quick study, and definitely an asset," Burns said. "Whenever we do another film she is the first person I am calling."

Roth said working on the film set has been hard work—involving 12-hour days, early mornings, and grave yard shifts, much like being in the military—but she is thankful for the opportunity.

"I've watched movies, but I've never been behind the scenes and it is an amazing experience," she said. "It is hard work—you're ways moving, always running"

Alex Adams, a production assistant for "How Sweet It Is," is also a former Marine. He said the ability to think ahead gives veterans an advantage on a film set.

"Military being on set is a very good thing because we're already trained to take orders and we're good at lot of different things," he said. "There are other former military on this film set and we've all talked about a common sense factor that military experience brings to the set."

Actor Joe Piscopo said he has also been impressed with the Oregon National Guard Soldiers on the film's set. The former "Saturday Night Live" star has been in many films and says he has done multiple USO tours while frequently



Alex Burns, (right), transportation coordinator for the film "How Sweet It Is," shows Spc. Jayme Roth how to work on a generator, May 22, in Studio City, Calif. Roth was hired by Film Producer Suzanne DeLaurentiis as part of "Operation Hollywood." Burns has worked on sets of multiple major motion pictures and said he has been very impressed with Roth.

supporting the New Jersey National Guard. His father served in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

"I've got the chance to see some of what the military goes through and we are very humbled by that, and I'd like to thank Suzanne DeLaurentiis for doing this," Piscopo said.

"How Sweet It Is" stars Piscopo, Christensen, Paul Sorvino, Michael Pare and Eddie Griffin. It is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2012.

## Governor's proclamation marks Military Family Appreciation Day at State Capitol



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

Family members represented Oregon's military during the signing of a proclamation on Military Family Appreciation Day at the Oregon State Capitol on May 8. The three families who were presented with signed copies of Kitzhaber's proclamation were; Rachael Siller, a former Army Guard member and military spouse from Walla Walla, Wash.; Mindy Barrella, a military spouse from Gresham; and Salem's Norman and Arlene Walters—parents of Army Sgt. Donald Walters, who was killed in Iraq in March 2003.



## NEWS

## Oregon's 1-82 Cavalry trains with Royal Army of Oman during ARCENT event

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

Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 1 Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, took part in a U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) sponsored training event, Jan. 17 – Feb. 4, in Oman.

The event was designed to strengthen military and diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Oman. It did just that according to leadership from both armies—exceeding their expectations.

According to leadership and organizers of the event, Oregon Soldiers, who trained alongside troops of the Royal Army of Oman's 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, and a platoon from the 125th Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, from Joint Base Lewis McCord, Wash., were quite "impressive."

Distinguished guests who visited the training site included Hamed Nasser Al Nabhani, commander of the Royal Army of Oman's 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, Maj. Gen Raymond Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, Oregon's State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, ARCENT Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Gary Cheek and Deputy G7 Arabian Peninsula, Col. Stanley Reedy, who all commented on the company's success.

"This is the best teaming event I have ever seen from any of Oman's international partners," said Al Nabhani.

The company level Field Training Exercise (FTX) was conducted at the Rubkut Training Range where troops were treated to a unique, rugged landscape of rolling hills with a variety of fascinating wildlife that included camels, panthers, gazelle, eagles and lizards.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gary Callister, linguist manager for the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade from the Utah National Guard, who managed three other interpreters during the training, echoed the sentiments of many Soldiers by saying the bond which developed left U.S. and Omani Soldiers with memories that will last a lifetime.

"The relationships being built are critical to our country because of the importance of this region, and the Soldiers on both sides will remember this for a lifetime," he added.

After settling in at the training site, the event kicked off with meet and greets and weapons training session. While it was clear the Soldiers didn't know what to expect, they quickly began communicating and forming a mutual respect.

"I am learning things I never knew before by training with a foreign Army, and even making new friends," said Spc. Wesley Ham, a cavalry scout.

Many of the Omanis spoke English and



Above: A mortar team from the Oregon Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, guides a Royal Army of Oman Soldier from their 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, during mortar firing exercise at the Rubkut Training Range in Oman, Jan. 22. The live fire event is part of a U.S. Army Central training exercise in Oman designed to share knowledge and build diplomatic relations.

Right: An Oregon National Guard Soldier from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team's 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, communicates with members of his squad and Soldiers of the Royal Army of Oman's 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, at the Rubkut Training Range, Jan. 24.

were able to translate. The U.S. Soldiers were impressed with how interested the Omanis were to learn, and the Omanis were happy to see the interest the U.S. Soldiers had in their culture.

"We like the American Soldiers—we are learning a lot from them—I have never shot mortars or a .50 Caliber machine gun, and I like it a lot," said an Omani Soldier.

In addition to the challenging training, the Soldiers enjoyed cultural and sports days where they shared meals, participated in sporting events, and learned about culture with the Omanis. By the end of training, Omani and U.S. Soldiers frequently commented on the mutual respect and comfort level that developed.

Lt. Col. James Niumatalalo, ARCENT Arabian Peninsula branch chief, said the diversity of the National Guard Soldiers from Oregon allowed them to provide disciplined training while connecting with the Omanis on an interpersonal level. He said the way the Soldiers conducted their training and interaction with the Omanis left ARCENT, Omani and Oregon National Guard leadership impressed.

"The 1/82 Cavalry opened some doors out here that have never been opened before," Niumatalalo said.

The training involved company level field training involving light infantry tactics, combat medical procedures, operational planning and military leadership.

Col. Stanley Reedy said he was impressed with the level of professionalism the Soldiers and leaders from the 1/82 Cavalry brought to the training.



"This unit is the best Army National Guard unit I have seen in my 24 years of service, they did an outstanding job partnering with the Omani Soldiers and leaders," said the Deputy G7 of the Arabian Peninsula.

Oregon's Adjutant General also said he thought the Oregon troops did an excellent job while visiting the Rubkut Training Range with Conley.

"The 1 of the 82 Cavalry has made the most of a wonderful opportunity; the Soldiers have deployed with a great attitude and thoroughly impressed their Omani counterparts," Rees said.

Staff Sgt. David Reynolds said it is the first time in his 23 years of military experience that he has been able to train with a foreign national army. He said it is great to learn about their culture and military tactics.

"I am impressed with the teamwork the Omanis have," Reynolds said. "It's like our teamwork, and right now we are working with them as one team."

Maj. Antoinette Baucom, public affairs officer for the Third Army, said the purpose of the training is to maintain and enhance the U.S. presence in Oman while strengthening military to military relationships that promote regional stability.

In addition to the interpreters involved in the training, Oregon and Omani Soldiers found other ways to bridge the communication gap, said Spc. Caleb Rice, a medic with 1/82 CAV.

"We maximized the training with all the hands-on activities—the language barrier wasn't really an issue," Rice said.

Maj. Erin Bagley, plans and operations officer with 1/82 Cavalry, said the training is a great tool for the development of the Oregon squadron.

"We're looking at what works for us and how we can improve," Bagley said. "This is a great opportunity to do that."

Capt. Nicholas Le Crerar from the British Foreign Service, a training officer for the Omani Army, commented on the relationship between the U.S. and Omani Soldiers on the last day of training. He



The Oregon National Guard's 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment based in Bend, Ore., and a platoon from the 125th Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery Regiment from Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM), Wash., joined Omani Soldiers to share knowledge and build diplomatic relations.

said everybody came with a great attitude ready to learn throughout the training.

"You can see today that they've become great friends. They're out here shaking hands and having a bit of fun," Le Crerar said after the U.S. and Omanis participated in sporting events and shared a traditional Omani meal.

Maj. Scot Caughran, the U.S. task force commander for the event said the experience is one he will never forget.

"We have improved as a unit and now have an increased respect for Omani culture," he said.



Soldiers from the Royal Army of Oman, the Oregon Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, and the 125th Forward Support Company from Joint Base Lewis McCord, Wash., prepare for a briefing at the Rubkut Training Range in Oman, Jan. 22.



## FEATURES

# From Vicksburg to Willamette: The incredible journey of Peter Knapp

A number of family members, friends, and decades connect Civil War veteran through history

Story by Mike Francis,  
The Oregonian

**Editor's Note:** This story originally appeared in the Oregonian on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, two days before Knapp's funeral at Willamette National Cemetery. The dates and references were not changed in adherence to Oregonian reprint guidelines.

An echo of America's bloodiest war will be heard in Southeast Portland Friday when family members, the Oregon National Guard, historians and members of a curious public gather to bury the ashes of Civil War veteran Peter Knapp.



The event also will cap a story of a long-ago medical oddity, a burst of national publicity, a cross-country friendship of former military enemies, followed by a long period of oblivion.

Knapp's remains will be buried at Willamette National Cemetery on the 88th anniversary of his death in Kelso, Wash., and 151 years after the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Confederacy. He will almost surely be the last Civil War veteran to be laid to rest.

Knapp was a key player in an unusual event that commanded national attention in 1921 -- 58 years after he fought in

the Siege of Vicksburg, Miss. And it was his role in that episode that leads to Willamette this week.

The story could begin almost anywhere, but let's pick Oct. 11, 2009, when the Medford Mail-Tribune published a fascinating story with the headline "'Coughs Up Bullet:' The unlikely sequel to a Civil War mystery." The story by Shady Cove writer Bill Miller began with an anecdote from 1921. That was when a 78-year-old Confederate War veteran named Willis Meadows suffered a violent coughing fit.

Meadows, who lived in Lanett, Ala., was struggling to breathe until, as Miller writes, "something flew from his mouth, bounced on the wooden kitchen table and tumbled to a stop."

It was a bullet fired at Vicksburg. A Union soldier had fired a round into Meadows' eye and he was left for dead. But Union doctors nursed him back to health, although they never recovered the bullet that took his right eye. Meadows went home after the war, the slug remaining lodged in his head -- until his coughing fit.

The story made national news, eventually becoming the subject of a "Ripley's Believe it or Not" panel. Across the country in Cowlitz County, Knapp read it and realized he must have been the one who shot Meadows.

Knapp's great-great-great-niece, Alice Knapp of Nehalem, picks up the story from there.

Knapp evidently wrote a letter to Meadows, probably sending it general delivery, she said. From that unlikely

contact, a friendship blossomed, and the two men corresponded until their deaths. Knapp's obituary said he died April 13, 1924, after being confined to his bed for two months.

Alice Knapp, whose hobby is genealogy, had married into the Knapp family. As she researched the family tree, she was frustrated that she never was able to find where her great-great-great-uncle, the Civil War veteran, was buried. On the Findagrave.com website, she found his obituary from the April 16, 1924, Kelsonian, which said final services for him were conducted at the Portland Crematorium.

The ashes of Civil War veteran Peter Knapp have been contained for almost 88 years in a box in a southeast Portland mortuary. Now they have been transferred to Willamette National Cemetery, where they will be buried Friday in a ceremony with full military honors, along with the ashes of Knapp's wife, Georgianna.

It took multiple phone calls, but Alice Knapp traced the Portland Crematorium to its present-day successor, the Wilhelm Portland Memorial in Southeast Portland. She called.

"Do you have the remains of Peter Knapp?"

Yes, we do.

"By the way, do you have the remains of Georgianna Knapp?"

Yes, we do.

For whatever reason, the ashes were never claimed. But Alice Knapp, her sister-in-law Ruth Knapp and a key advocate, Debbie Peevyhouse of the California Medal of Honor Project, started making connections with the Oregon Military Department and others. They noted the discovery of the ashes of an unclaimed veteran, the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and the looming anniversary of Knapp's own death.

The result was an announcement Tuesday by the Oregon Military Department that Knapp and his wife would be buried in a public ceremony at 3 p.m. Friday at Willamette. Knapp will be given full military honors. The public is welcome.

"I think it's a marvelous thing," said Ruth Knapp, the great-great-great-niece who lives in Alameda, Calif. "I think it brings a human face to the war."

The attention from the press and veterans' advocates has been a little overwhelming, said Alice Knapp. "I'm just kind of shocked."

But the Knapps will gather with many others to celebrate the life of their ancestors, which were remarkable enough without the coughed-up bullet and the



Courtesy of Cowlitz County Historical Museum

unlikely cross-country correspondence between a sharpshooter and his victim.

Knapp survived some of the Civil War's bloodiest and most pivotal campaigns. He saw the surrender of Memphis. He survived the Battle of Iuka, in which his Union regiment lost more than half of its 440 men. He was at Vicksburg and Shiloh and then was captured at Missionary Ridge and sent to the notorious Confederate prison at Andersonville, Ga., where survival was a moment-to-moment affair.

"Andersonville is the thing that makes me appreciate his wife," said Ruth Knapp. "You've got to figure he had a couple of sleepless nights. She was probably the person who helped him keep it together."

Knapp's obituary says he married Georgianna in Michigan in 1870 and they moved to Kelso in 1887. He worked "in the mill business," was elected justice of the peace and became commandant of three different posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Kelso.

And this week, his descendants will gather with others to lay them both to rest at last.

*Mike Francis is a reporter with the Oregonian newspaper. You can find his blog, Oregon At War, online at: [blog.oregonlive.com/oregonatwar](http://blog.oregonlive.com/oregonatwar).*

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

Representatives from Stevens, Baker and Renniger Camps, of the Sons of Union Veterans fire Civil War-era rifles April 13 during funeral honors for Civil War Veteran Peter Jones Knapp at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Ore. The remains of Knapp and his wife, Georgianna, were located and claimed by family member after they sat unclaimed at the Portland Crematorium for 88 years.

## Oregon's new Military Museum to be named in honor of WWII hero

Story by Kimberly Lippert,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The two-year Capital Campaign to renovate the Oregon Military Museum began with the All Star Salute at the Oregon Golf Club. This kick-off event raised \$350,000 toward a goal of \$6.5 million.

The sold out event featured many celebrities including Oregon golf legend Peter Jacobsen, radio broadcaster Bill Schonely, and lead KISS guitarist Tommy Thayer, son of retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer of Lake Oswego.

The museum will honor retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, who is the recipient of the Silver Star and Bronze Star, and World War II veteran. Thayer, an Oregon native, helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. The museum, which will be named in honor of Thayer, will commemorate the military service and sacrifice of all Oregonians who have served in the nation's armed forces.

"This is what we need in this state,

something to be proud of, and the Oregon Military Museum is it," said Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer.

On June 14, Thayer was also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon National Guard Executive Briefing hosted by Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber. The event was held at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.

The Oregon Military Museum will be the centerpiece of the new Historical Area Development Plan at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., home of the Oregon National Guard's 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Funds raised will be used for facilities upgrades, including proper museum lighting, fire safety, environmental controls and security system improvements. Professional exhibits include a vault which showcases one of the largest weapons collections west of the Mississippi.

For more information on the Oregon Military Museum Capital Campaign, visit: [www.historicaloutreach.com](http://www.historicaloutreach.com).



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

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber presents retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer with the Lifetime Achievement Award, at the Oregon National Guard Executive Brief, June 14, at the Portland Air Guard Base in Portland, Ore.



## FEATURES

## Beaverton's Southridge High School connects veterans with students

Story and photo by Capt. Vince Habeck,  
Commander, B/2-218 Field Artillery

**BEAVERTON, Ore.**—On what could have been a typical day at Southridge High School in Beaverton, Ore., students were offered a rare chance to interact with Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces and all of America's recent conflicts.

The Oregon Army National Guard was represented by a diverse number of military occupations ranging from Field Artillerymen from the 2-218 FA, recruiters from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion command, and Soldiers of the 141 Brigade Support Battalion.

All attendees were veterans of at least one overseas conflict and wished to share that knowledge with the next generation of young Americans.

Forty-three veterans, both male and female, attended the event and shared stories over the course of six hours during the school day. The oldest attendee was 92 years of age, a retired Colonel and Veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

The most junior Soldiers were several young Oregon Army National Guard Specialists who demonstrated the functions and capabilities of various pieces of equipment on display in front of the school.

While most of the attendees were local, one veteran traveled from Brooklyn, New York and was in town to visit his grandchild who attends Southridge.

The majority of the speakers were retired from service. Some were careerists who served 20-plus years in one of the services, and others shared their story of being drafted or volunteering for conflicts because they were called upon by their country in a time of great need.

Much like current day Soldiers of the National Guard, these men and women were pulled from their civilian lives and served their nation. Some of them were also successful in their adjustment back to civilian life with no intent to make the military a career.

The Oregon Guard Soldiers who attended the event shared stories from

modern conflicts such as Operations Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Task Force Phoenix (Afghanistan), and Joint Task Force Katrina.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Browning of Recruiting Command said it was rewarding to see students taking an interest in what modern-day Soldiers were doing.

"I also really enjoyed spending time with some of the older veterans from WWII and Korea," Browning said. "Their stories fascinate me."

The 141 Brigade Support Battalion was well represented. Capt. Jessie Claerhout, 141 Second Officer, gained insight from the event as well by sharing with the students.

"Some groups had a broad variety of questions and interests in the military and I had a great time answering all their questions," Claerhout said.

"However, not only did they ask about my military experiences and career but once I told them that I was originally from Europe, they had a bunch of questions about Europe."

Claerhout said most of the students' questions gave her a better understanding about their views on Europe, the United States, and their overall knowledge of the world.

Maj. Jeffrey Copeck, 141 Battalion Administrative Officer said the experience allowed him to speak to an audience which was clearly interested in the military, but also gave him a chance to share his personal experiences with others.

"The best part was answering the student's questions," Copeck said. "Many students put a good amount of thought into their questions and wanted detailed responses."

The organizer of the event was Kevin Bickler, a social studies teacher at Southridge High School. Bicker, who has organized the event for the past six years, said it was extremely important for students to connect with history in more ways than just learning out of a book.

"I feel that this is the single most important opportunity for Southridge students each year because it is such a



Capt. Jessie Claerhout, Second Officer, 141 BSB, 41 IBCT, speaks to students at Southridge High School in Beaverton, Ore., during the question and answer session of an annual veterans event. The event pairs veterans of all services with students as part of an "immersion" history lesson, says event organizer and Southridge teacher, Kevin Bickler.

rewarding and humbling experience in many ways," Bickler said.

"All too often the experiences of our military members are explained from a historical perspective in our history classes, but when students are able to learn from those that experienced history first hand, it provides a human side to those experiences that students would otherwise never be able to connect."

Bickler added that history is about the stories that others have to tell and asked what better stories are there than those whom lived through them?

"The positive feedback I have received from the staff and students each year solidifies the need and benefits of such an event," Bickler added.

"What I hope students gain from this event is a feeling of patriotism that they may never feel from studying history out of a textbook, and understand the human side to the Soldier, allowing them to critically think and analyze major social

issues. It is my favorite day of the year and an extremely humbling experience to witness such great history in one room at a given time."

A total of 965 students, in grades 9-12—half of the school's student population, participated in the event. Participants were prepared by teachers, and each teacher was provided a Library of Congress website to assist with developing well-prepared questions relating to the event.

A core group of volunteer students hosted the event and saw to the needs of each of the attending veterans and helped to direct other students to each attending vets table. After the vets and volunteers sat down for a sack lunch meal, the Southridge High School Choir regaled the group with several songs they performed from the district choir competition.

The Southridge Choir is the two-time defending Metro League champions and put on an excellent performance.

## Oregon Soldiers among first in nation to begin training on new, cutting edge tank



One of the new M1-A2 SEP tanks rolls down the road near the Umatilla Army Depot on the back of a low-boy in this May photo. Ontario's Army National Guard unit, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, will spend the next few weeks at the depot training on the new, high-tech armored vehicle. The 3rd Battalion is the first Guard unit in the nation to receive the U.S. Army's newest tank.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell,  
3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment  
Special to the Argus Observer

**ONTARIO, Ore.** — The best way to illustrate the recent technological leap forward for the Oregon National Guard unit who just took delivery of their new equipment is with a well-known car model.

The model is a sturdy, dependable Chrysler sedan of yesteryear, built to satisfy the automotive appetite of people living in a big country.

Right behind that model, though, sits

another car that looks almost exactly like the Chrysler sedan. Under the sheetmetal however, is the heart, and hardware, of a fresh-off-the-assembly-line Corvette Coupe sporting a 427 big-block engine.

This week, Citizen-Soldiers from eastern Oregon's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, kicked off their annual training stint at the Umatilla Army Depot. More than 500 Guardsmen from seven eastern Oregon towns will converge on the now nearly empty Army depot during the next two months to begin training on the U.S. Army's newest, most-high tech tank — the

M1-A2 SEP Abrams.

The 3rd Battalion — consisting of Guardsmen from Hood River, The Dalles, Hermiston, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City and Ontario — returned from a one-year deployment to Iraq last autumn. In Iraq, the battalion used the big, Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected armored vehicles to safeguard convoys across the central portion of that country. Before its 2010 deployment, the battalion operated the older, reliable M1-A2 Abrams tank.

Priorities, though, change and for many leaders in the battalion, the deployment to Iraq and the use of the MRAP is a distant memory. Now the focus is on mastering the key features of a tank usually reserved only for regular Army units and that is an automotive and technological equivalent of a sports car that can go off-road and destroy enemy armored vehicles with ease.

"It is the best tank in the world," Capt. Aaron Johnson, the commander of Ontario's Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, said.

The technological hop from the old Abrams to the SEP is a big one. The SEP, which stands for system enhancement program, is the Army's first fully digitized direct fire combat tank. The tank boasts an upgraded turbine engine and other high-tech attributes.

M1A2 SEP's digital command and control system provides real-time updates to all the other tanks in the unit. Another one of the M1A2 SEP's notable features is its gunnery system. The updated internal gunnery structure allows the tank to engage one target while at the same time tracking a second target in a different area of the

battlefield. The gunnery sights are also state-of-the-art thermal imaging systems. The tank's cutting-edge computerized system also provides Guardsmen with color maps and displays inside the armor.

The M1A2 SEP also carries an improved onboard diagnostics system that allows the big vehicle to self-diagnose problems, thus slashing the amount of time crews are out of action. The M1A2 SEP's survivability on the battlefield has also been improved significantly. The tank can withstand the impact of a high-energy warhead and still remain operational.

Thomas Langston, a logistics management specialist with the U.S. Army's Fort Hood Material Fielding Team, the group that oversees the deployment of the new tank to field units, said the SEP is a game-changer on many different levels.

"It is a huge leap forward. It is a lot of technology. It is a computer with a tank built around it," Langston said.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Clapp, Payette, the Readiness non-commissioned officer for Ontario's Charlie Company, agreed with Langston that the new tank vaults his unit into a new technological future.

"There are a lot of leaps forward. It will mean some changes, but it's like anything, once we get into the system we will be proficient," Clapp said.

The 3rd Battalion is the first Army National Guard unit in the nation to receive the new SEP tank, and the training program on the new system will not end once the two-week annual training cycle concludes. The battalion, and Charlie Company with it, will spend the next year training on the new system during weekend drills.



PHOTO FEATURE

# TAG Match

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

**WARRENTON, Ore.**--Some of the Oregon National Guard's best marksmen put their skills to the test Apr. 4-5 at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. during the Adjutant General's Combat Marksmanship Training Exercise.

"Oregon has always had a strong history of marksmanship since the founding of the Oregon National Guard," said Match Director Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Merrick.

According to historical archives at the Oregon Military Museum, what has evolved into the Adjutant General's Match originated in the early 1900's to select the marksmanship team that would represent the state at the national matches.

Merrick said he takes pride in the competition because of what it means for the Oregon National Guard. It is important to send competitors back to their units better trained to teach other Soldiers marksmanship, he said.

"Marksmanship training embodies the key disciplines of being a Soldier," said Merrick. "The use of arms is the skill that defines us as Soldiers, as members of the profession of arms it is the one thing we should be proficient at if nothing else."

This year's match included an individual competition with a series of tests, and the team event where 12 four-person teams tested speed and accuracy using multiple weapons systems including M4/M16 rifles, M9 pistols, Squad Automatic Weapon machine guns, .22 match pistols and 12 gauge shotguns.

Sgt. 1st Class Toben Pond, range non-commissioned officer at Camp Rilea, has competed in the competition multiple times and says it is a great experience. He would recommend it to other Soldiers.

"It allows young Soldiers to get involved with marksmanship and learn how to handle a weapon more effectively," Pond said.

Pond said his experiences have allowed him to be a part of a rich marksmanship tradition in the Oregon National Guard.

Throughout history, Oregon marksmen have constantly distinguished themselves among the best in the country by winning the individual and team competition multiple times at the national championships, said retired Master Sgt. Nelson Shew.

"From its inception in the early 1960's there has always been at least one Oregon Guardsman on the prestigious 'All Guard' marksmanship team," Shew said.

The "All Guard" marksmanship team is the national team representing the entire National Guard Bureau at the interservice and national championships every year. This year there are two Oregon Soldiers on the 25-person team; Sgt. 1st Class Merrick, and Sgt. Daryl Hagar from 1-82 Cavalry.

Shew won the "Presidents 100" match in 1988 at Camp Perry, Ohio, competing shoulder to shoulder with several thousand of the best marksmen the county.

Merrick said the rifle Shew used is displayed at the Oregon Military Museum as a monument of his accomplishment.

This year's individual winners were Staff Sgt. Buck Dugger, of the 173 Fighter Wing, in the Open Class, and Sgt. William Nix, of the 162 Engineers, in the Novice Class.

Team competition winners were Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Jones, Airman 1st Class Tim Tecmire, Staff Sgt. Buck Dugger, and Staff Sgt. Michael McCormick of the 173 Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard.

Winners will have the opportunity to compete at the Marksmanship Advisory Council regional match, Camp Gurnsey, Wyo., scheduled in August, and selected individuals had the opportunity to attend the Winston P. Wilson National Guard Bureau Championships in Little Rock, Ark., which took place in April.



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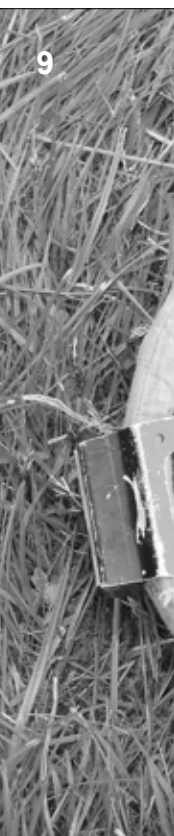
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10: From left to right: Sgt. Thomas Richards, Staff Sgt. Amber Laperle, Spc. Bethany Bay and Sgt. Joseph Stanchfield race to engage targets for the M4/M16 portion of Oregon's Adjutant General Match team competition, April 6, at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore.

11: An Oregon National Guard Soldier fires his weapon during the M9 pistol portion of The Adjutant General Match team competition, April 6.

12: Sgt. William C. Nix, 162 Engineer Battalion, tallies up his score on a target at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., during Oregon's Adjutant General Match, April 5, where Nix was the overall novice champion.



# Men set their sights on being the best marksmen in the state

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1: An Oregon National Guard Soldier engages a target with a shotgun at Camp Rilea during The Adjutant General Match in Warrenton, Ore., April 5. Soldiers and Airmen from around Oregon compete to take first place honors as the Guard's top marksmen in a variety of categories. This year, more than 50 Oregon National Guardsmen are competing against one another with M4/M16 rifles, M9 pistols, SAW machine guns, .22 caliber pistols and shotguns.

2: A "Bravo" flag marks an active firing range at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., April 5.

3: Soldiers load their weapons prior to the shotgun portion of the TAG Match.

4: A Soldier participates in the M4/M16 portion of Oregon's Adjutant General Match team competition.

5. "Spent brass" litters the ground following a TAG Match segment, April 5.



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6. Staff Sgt. Wayne Vaughn, 1st Squadron, 82 Cavalry Regiment, fires at pop up targets during Oregon's annual Adjutant General's Match, April 5.

7: A spent shell casing appears to hover mid-air after a Soldier fires at targets during the TAG Match at Camp Rilea, April 5.

8: A Soldier competes in the shotgun portion of the TAG Match, April 5.

9: Ammunition conveniently placed in a Soldier's helmet for the TAG Match at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.



**NEWS**

## Oregon Guard Soldier recognized as hero for saving injured boy's life

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

CLACKAMAS, Ore.—An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier was recognized for his heroism at a ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., April 13.

Sgt. 1st Class James Goleman, a member of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, located in Salem, received the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal with Gold Star, for his response to a vehicle accident he witnessed on Interstate-5 in August, 2010.

The ceremony, which took place at the 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., was presided over by Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, Assistant Adjutant General.

"Sgt. 1st Class Goleman is the epitome of what it means to be a citizen Soldier," Bush said. "Always ready, always there is our motto and adhering to our core values is precisely what Sgt. 1st Class Goleman did, in his act of bravery to save a young child."

On Aug. 27, 2010, after Goleman witnessed a vehicle accident between a passenger vehicle and a semi-truck on I-5 near Wilsonville, Ore., he came to the aid of three injured passengers in a Jeep Wrangler, that rolled over.

After reporting the accident to authorities, Goleman rushed across the southbound lanes of I-5, and quickly took action. He evaluated the injuries of the Jeep's occupants, before concentrating on Khoal Collinsworth, who was riding in the rear seat, and had sustained massive head trauma.

Goleman, who deployed with the 1249 Engineer Battalion in 2011, stayed with Khoal in the back seat of the Jeep, reassuring him and the other passengers, while monitoring the child's condition until paramedics arrived on the scene.



Photo by Sgt. Anna Rutherford, 1249 ENBN Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class James Goleman, FSC 1249th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Gridley, Oregon Army National Guard, pulls security near a doorway of the Center for Engineering Excellence in Sharana City, Paktika province, Afghanistan, in February, 2011.



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

Khoal Collinsworth, (right), shares a book which commemorates his medical recovery with Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class James Goleman, prior to an official award ceremony which recognized Goleman with an Oregon Exceptional Service Medal with Gold Star, at the 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., April 13. Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, who presided over the ceremony said Goleman epitomizes what it means to be a Soldier.

He remained at the scene until the youngster was rushed to a local hospital via Life Flight, where doctors were able to save the child's life.

"I didn't think he was going to make it," Goleman said about Khoal's injuries during an interview with a local television station just before the award ceremony. "When I found out he had made it, I was surprised—but very happy."

Goleman is credited with risking his own personal safety, and remaining calm despite a chaotic and stressful situation, according to his award.

"His actions epitomize the meaning of a Citizen-Soldier and are a credit to himself, his instructors and the Oregon National Guard," the award read.

When Khoal's parents referred to Goleman as a hero, he took the compliment in stride. Later, he dismissed the accolade.

"I was just doing what anyone else would have done," Goleman said. "The real hero is Khoal. He fought to stay alive. He fought like a Soldier."

Goleman is the Substance Abuse Program Coordinator at Joint Force Headquarters, in Salem, Ore.

He lives with his family in Vancouver, Wash.

## Recent OCS graduates ready to lead



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

This year's Winter Accelerated Officer Candidate School graduates were honored with a ceremony at the 41st Division Armed Force Reserve Center, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Apr. 6.

Capt. Joseph Snyder, Officer Strength Manager, said the program has grown immensely over the past two years thanks to hard work and dedication of the newly-commissioned officers, and the OCS cadre at the Oregon National Guard Regional Training Institute.

"Our efforts have doubled the attendance in these program and the standards have never been higher," he said.

Graduates include Second Lieutenants Geoff Bogie, Paul Brown, Jared Hoffer, Saul Ramirez, Timothy Frey, Mike Metzger and Cadet Stephen Carlile.

## Salem gives Aviation unit big send-off



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

Salem Mayor Anna Peterson (right), speaks with Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Tyler Eikenberry, a member of the Forward Support Medical Team of the Oregon Army National Guard's Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, following the unit's mobilization ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., March 3. Peterson joined Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, at the ceremony. Nineteen Soldiers from the unit will spend approximately one year in the Middle East in support of Central Command MEDEVAC missions there.

## Facebook, Twitter, blogs allowed by DoD, but highly scrutinized and monitored

Continued from Page 2

you're at it, make sure your security suite is up to date and includes antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam, a firewall, and a website safety advisor.

10. Choose unique logins and passwords for each of the websites you use. Explore using password managers, which can create and store secure passwords for you.

11. Check the domain to be sure that you're logging into a legitimate website. If you're visiting a Facebook page, look for the www.facebook.com or www.twitter.com addresses.

12. Be cautious of any message, post, or link you find that looks at all suspicious or requires an additional login, regardless of who sent it to you.

13. If you have a personal photo sharing page such as Flickr or Picasa, ensure the

highest level of security is set for viewing your albums. Also, diligently screen all "friend invitations" to ensure you know and trust requestors.

14. Be careful when posting photos or videos (even those from family vacations), which may reveal personal information. Consider this: would you walk into a crowded bar and show everyone there a picture of the house (with address) in which your family resides? Again, don't do online what you wouldn't do in real life.

15. Invest in identity theft protection. Regardless of how careful you may be or any security systems you put in place, there is always a chance that you can be compromised in some way. It's nice to have identity theft protection watching your back.

If you have any questions about proper (and safe) use of social networking tools,



feel free to send your questions via e-mail; address is [www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-National-Guard-Oregon-Military-Department/63030240817](mailto:AGPA@mil.state.or.us).

Be sure to also like us on Facebook, where you can find updates, photos, videos stories and information about your Oregon National Guard! The

address is [www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-National-Guard-Oregon-Military-Department/63030240817](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-National-Guard-Oregon-Military-Department/63030240817).

Thanks in part to Robert Siciliano of Infosec Island for some of these tips.



## FEATURES

## Oregon Soldier called 'best of the best' following Ranger Competition

Story by Staff Sgt. Cassidy L. Snyder,  
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs  
Photos by Master Sgt. Scott Boston,  
Army National Guard Warrior Training Center

Sgt 1st Class Zachary Phillips of the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry Regiment, and his partner, Staff Sgt. Matthew Madiar of the Illinois National Guard placed third among 50, two-man teams at the 29th Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition, April 13-15.

The duo did what no other National Guard members have done—becoming one of only two National Guard teams



which qualified for the competition, and being among just 34 teams who completed the grueling test.

Phillips said he and Madiar spent two-months drilling constantly in preparation for the event.

"When it came time to execute we blocked everything out and did it like we had always done," said Phillips.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Bloom, 2-162 Battalion Command Sergeant Major, said Phillips has been a model Soldier; he served on three deployments and during his most recent overseas tour, he led a platoon for Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.

Left: Staff Sgt. Matthew Madiar, with the Illinois Army National Guard, follows the poncho raft into the water as teammate Sgt. 1st Class Zach Phillips of the Oregon Army National Guard pushes off to clear the helicopter during the 29th Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., April 15. Madiar and Phillips placed third overall in the competition

On that deployed Phillips received one of the highest honors in the Army, when he was inducted into the elite Audie Murphy Club for non-commissioned officers.

After the deployment, Phillips was asked to bring his elite Soldiering skills to Fort Benning, Ga., where he is now a pre-ranger instructor.

Bloom said it is amazing that the Oregon National Guard has been able to provide a number of quality pre-Ranger instructors, adding that 2-162 has a history of doing so.

"We have been fortunate to set the standard for performance and training by drawing some of the finest Americans," said Bloom. "Because of that, Soldiers have had the opportunity to see what excellence looks like—and they have learned from it."

He called Phillips the best of the best.

"He is one of the best Soldiers I have seen in the 24 years I have been in the battalion" said Bloom.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy E. Beck, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team also contributed to this story.



(Left to right) Staff Sgt. Matthew Madiar, with the Illinois Army National Guard's Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment, and teammate Sgt. 1st Class Zach Phillips with the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-162 Infantry Battalion, cross the finish line at the 29th Annual David E. Grange, Jr. Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., April 15.

## SPORTS

## Oregon Guard members 'get wild' during Wild Canyon Games

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

One only need look at the evening news to see that support for the armed services has never been higher in the U.S. This year's Wild Canyon Games outside of Antelope, Ore., stands as another example of this nationwide support.

Five teams from the Oregon National Guard converged on the town located just 60 miles northeast of Redmond, Ore. Out of the total of 15 teams, they represented Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen at the patriotic event, June 2-4.

The Oregon National Guard Elite team placed first in the military portion of the competition which included two special operations teams from the active duty military. The team finished the event with athletes finishing seventh overall out of 130 seven-person teams.

"The Oregon Guard continues to prove how amazing an organization it is with events like this that bring out the talents and relentless spirit we share," said Lt. Col. Chris Reese, Directorate of Military Support to Civil Authorities for the



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

Oregon Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Michael Gallagher (left) hands a wrist band to Master Sgt. Seven Richmond (center) for their exchange at the bicycle to running portion of "Wild Canyon Games" triathlon, June 2, in Antelope, Ore.

state of Oregon, who organized Oregon National Guard participation at the event.

The event included a team triathlon, the world's largest geocache course, an endurance relay, zip lining, ropes course, military style obstacle course and more. All of the military teams were sponsored and the \$2,500 entry fee was waived.

Carley Dillon, Executive Director for Wild Canyon Games, said the event has supported the military since its inception.

"One of our sponsors, Citibank, has extensive veterans' initiatives and they work with sponsors to get teams in the event."

With this year's sponsorship, Citibank received five teams and asked if the teams could include Oregon veterans.

"Other sponsors jumped on board including Nike, Take Shape for Life, Wells Fargo and individuals who want to support," said Dillon. "This is great, it is a small way we can give back, and seeing the joy on the faces of the participants is such a pleasure."

After competing in the event, many military participants gave an overwhelmingly positive response.

"This was one of the most pro-military sporting events I've participated in," said Master Sgt. Seven Richmond, an Oregon National Guard Elite team member who is also a member of the Oregon National Guard marathon team that placed first in the nation in 2009 and 2010.

"Not only did the race donate team slots, but other teams donated as well—we got compliments and thanks all weekend long—it was a very humbling experience," Richmond said.

Richmond recommended the event to service members saying it is a perfect fit for anyone in the military.

"I liked the camaraderie and team concept of the games because you're only as strong as your weakest link," he said. "A good strategy and the ability to make changes on the fly is essential to a good finish at Wild Canyon Games. There are lots of parallels between the military and the Wild Canyon Games."

Mike Yonker, Vice President of Strategic Planning for Nike, who Dillon said has played an integral role in coordinating Wild Canyon Games since it started, said he is proud of the military connection at the games.

"The military has been a critical part of our journey from the start, we are excited about being a part of the reconnecting our armed service men and women back into society upon their return from deployment," Yonker said. "We feel



Photo by Capt. Jason Marshall, Oregon Military Department

Participants in the "Wild Canyon Games" triathlon, June 2, in Antelope, Ore., pause for a group photo following the event.

like Wild Canyon Games gives them an opportunity to set a goal and work together to achieve that goal, we are excited to see that grow even more in the future."

Military skills came in handy at the event for members from the team "Dr. A", who performed first aid on a wounded participant during the geocaching event.

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Alexander Johnson and Oregon Air National Guard's Senior Airman Brad Miller responded to a severe cut, stopping the bleeding until paramedics arrived. They lost time but still finished fifth overall in the competition.

"I know basic buddy aid and how to mitigate wounds to get further assistance from medically trained professionals," Johnson said. "Senior Airman Miller is also EMT qualified, but in this situation it was paramount to get the wounded female back to a facility for further evaluation and treatment, and we did that."

Johnson said he was proud to be able to help and that he loves the event because it also includes teams with wounded veterans.

"Every year I have been in the games they have had Wounded Warriors there competing. I love that aspect of it since I can relate to those fine Soldiers' whose lives have now changed," he said. "Watching these Soldiers is enough to get anyone's heart racing. They are what a true Warrior looks like. I really was convinced this year that this is something I will do every year for the rest of my life."

If you are interested in sponsoring a

military team at Wild Canyon Games contact Carley Dillon at [carly.dillon@wildcanyongames.org](mailto:carly.dillon@wildcanyongames.org).

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## AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon Airmen trade rain for snow during Alaska Alert mission in April

Story by Staff Sgt. Tristan Threlkeld,  
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.** –While maintaining aerospace control alert over the Pacific Northwestern skies, Oregon Air National Guard airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing deployed to Alaska in May to also protect the vast airspace of Alaska out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The 142nd Fighter Wing sent more than 50 personnel and five F-15 fighter jets in support of the alert mission.

The Wing had just 27 days from the time of the request to support the alert mission to mobilize and deploy its Airmen. This timing was significant because it normally takes almost six months to prepare for real world contingency missions.

“It really speaks highly for the wing to have pulled this off in such a short period,” said Lt. Col. Richard Morris, 123rd Fighter Squadron Commander.

This mission came at a time when the wing was engaged in multiple training and real world missions. In addition to covering the Alaska mission, the 142nd Fighter Wing also was providing mission support for U.S. Central Command, providing personnel to assist with the ACA alert at the 104th Fighter Wing in Massachusetts and maintaining alert here in Portland.

Col. Jeff Hwang, 142nd Operations

Group Commander said that he felt 142nd Fighter Wing maintenance crews did an outstanding job maintaining the aircraft. He said the deployment was an amazing opportunity for the pilots and maintenance crews.

“On the operations side, unless we actually get a scramble and launch, we don’t really deploy like a training deployment,” said Hwang.

Hwang emphasized that deployments reinforce the teams and enhance the skills they diligently train for here in Portland. “The alert mission is something that is our bread and butter,” Hwang said.

“We realized that type of skills applies to anywhere we go. We built a fair amount of confidence that we can do this on a short notice,” Hwang said.

The alert mission is a component of a strategic force poised to respond to any airborne threats. The mission provides quick-reaction support to protect U.S. airspace and significant events like presidential movements and space shuttle launches.

The typical alert mission for the 142nd is much more about the terrorist threat and concentrating on potential airliner and general aviation issues, said Hwang.

“In Alaska the flavor is ever so different compared to what the typical alert mission the unit covers in Portland and the lower



Photo by Paul Schweizerhof, Portland, Ore.

A line of Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing Operations and Maintenance Groups disembark from a C-17 after returning from Alaska Alert, held at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in April, 2012.

48 (states),” said Hwang. He said while in Alaska the threat is more keeping an eye on Russian long range aviation.

“Now we are familiar with Alaska operations and if the call comes again we know what to expect. We know the base and the environment and are more aware of the limitations there are,” Hwang said.

Some members only had two weeks to prepare for the Alaska mission after returning from Exercise Red Flag in Nevada in early March.

The short turnaround was a challenge for the 142nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was responsible for the spin up on

the personnel side for the Alaska mission. Senior Master Sgt. Pam Pittman, 142nd LRS, played an integral role of coordinating all the pieces on a very tight schedule that needed to be in place in Alaska by April 8.

“We have a really good working relationship with the guys over in maintenance,” said Pittman. “Everybody always goes the extra mile. We do a lot of deployments, so it’s just knowing what to do.”

“With everything we’re covering we are kind of in every corner of the globe right now,” said Morris.

## 142nd Fighter Wing honors Battle Ground, Pendleton, during Cities of Honor Ceremony

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

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk helped the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing unveil nose art on an F-15 fighter jet during a Cities of Honor ceremony at the Portland Air Base in Portland, Ore., June 14.

Houk requested Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, assist him in the unveiling of the nose art.

“Even though General Rees is from Helix, we like to refer to him as a ‘Pendletonian,’” Houk said to the gathered crowd.

The unveiling ceremony took place immediately following the Oregon National Guard’s Executive Briefing. Another F-15 jet, with nose art honoring Battle Ground, Wash., was unveiled during the same time by Battle Ground Mayor Lisa Walters.

The Pendleton nose art depicts the iconic “Let’er Buck” image, symbolic of

Pendleton’s annual Round Up. The graphic was applied to the jet by technicians the day before the ceremony.

Tech. Sgt. Doug Dixon, who printed the graphic and applied it to the jet, said this is a great way to say thank you to the communities for their support of Oregon’s Citizen-Airmen and Citizen-Soldiers. Many call Pendleton and the surrounding areas in Eastern Oregon home.

“I think the Cities of Honor program is great because of the wonderful support we get from the communities,” he said.

In all, 21 fighter jets at the Portland Air Base honor cities throughout Oregon and Washington. Cities include; Astoria, Beaverton, Bend, Corvallis, Gresham, Hillsboro, Hood River, Lake Oswego, McMinnville, Newberg, Pendleton, Portland, Salem, Tigard, Tillamook, West Linn, Wilsonville, Woodburn, and Vancouver and Battle Ground, Wash.

The Oregon Air National Guard’s Cities of Honor program started in 2007 during a



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, joins Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk during the unveiling of the new F-15 nose art honoring the City of Pendleton, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., June 14. The unveiling ceremony took place immediately following the Oregon National Guard’s Executive Briefing.

ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the United States Air Force.

Historically, nose art was used to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. World War II was an era where artwork was in high demand, and

extravagant creations highlighted unit pride and cohesion. Today, the Air Force allows specialized artwork for fighter aircraft that is distinctive and symbolic to enhance unit morale.

## 142nd Fighter Wing Chaplain makes history in Oregon once again

Story by Bruce Poinsette,  
The Skanner News

Trisa Kelly is surprised she is making history.

“I’m amazed that in 2012 you can still be a first Black anything,” she says.

Last month, Kelly was named by Gov. John Kitzhaber to Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Advisory Committee—the first Black woman to be appointed, and the youngest to serve.

She was already the first African American chaplain – and the first female chaplain – in state history for the Oregon Air National Guard, where she serves with the 142nd Fighter Wing. Her rank, after 10 years of service, is Major.

Kelly says she hopes to use her experience to bring a different perspective to the state ODVA advisory committee and more awareness to underserved veterans.

She often gets questioned on how she can work with so many non-believers when she is a dedicated Christian.

“There are Buddhists and Atheists at the base but we’re all human,” says Kelly. “My spiritual background helps me be empathetic. Personally I believe all wisdom is God’s wisdom. I show the compassion that Jesus would. Jesus was



around a lot of non-believers.”

A mother of two who works full-time as a bilingual Medicaid eligibility worker for Multnomah County

Health Department, Kelly was born in Patterson, N.J. and moved to Portland during middle school.

After graduating from Jefferson High School in 1989, Kelly graduated from Portland State with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and French.

She is in charge of spiritual care and handles counseling for veterans, and also performs ceremonies such as marriages, funerals and christenings.

Kelly says she’s lucky not to have been deployed to any dangerous theaters, but she is with her Soldiers in spirit.

Ordained in 1997, Kelly also serves as Associate Pastor of Maranatha Church in Northeast Portland. She says she was born and raised in the church and that she found her faith at a young age.

“I sensed a call to do work for him (God),” says Kelly. “When I was younger I thought I would be on a mission field. God doesn’t give you the whole picture at once.”

Before she was ordained, Kelly taught Sunday school, led Bible studies and worked with young adults in the church.

She began seminary at Western Evangelical Seminary and completed her studies at Western Seminary.

According to Kelly, faith was part of what led her to the military. She says she had friends and family in the service who insisted she would be a good chaplain; so she signed up for the Guard and was given the opportunity.

For the most part, this didn’t cause much commotion, she says.

“I’ve never had anyone get up and leave,” says Kelly. “In the military you learn to adjust to adversity. I had a funny moment at one event where someone asked me, ‘Are you the chaplain’s assistant?’”

Kelly will be using her experience as an underrepresented voice to advocate for other veterans she feels are underserved. Specifically, she says she wants to advocate for traditional Guardmen because, according to Kelly, most of the people serving on the Oregon Veterans’

Affairs Advisory Committee are chosen from former active duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

This has resulted in, she says, more extensive GI loans for active duty Soldiers. The issue, she says, is that Guardmen are not eligible for some benefits because they are considered by some to be “weekend warriors” rather than full members of the military.

Another issue she wants to address is defining military leave. Currently the state can only give Guardmen two weeks of military leave. Kelly says two weeks isn’t enough.

“I’m tasked to do extra things like funerals and weddings,” she says. “This is time I have to take away from work. What if I have used my two weeks but I need to help a family that has to bury a loved one?”

Kelly recalls one moment, during a memorial in Bulgaria, where she saw the bright eyes of a woman in the Bulgarian military and was touched by the sight of a fellow female Soldier.

“I deploy through my members,” says Kelly. “As they travel across the globe, I’m privileged to be able to serve, pray for them and reach out to families.

“When they return I can help them transition back to civilian life.”



## NEWS

## Oregon's Airmen, Soldiers participate in Vigilant Guard Exercise

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

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard took part in a week-long exercise designed to train alongside state, county, local, National Guard and federal resources.

The Vigilant Guard Exercise was conducted at multiple locations throughout the state, May 1-6.

As part of Ardent Sentry, the exercise was conducted by U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), as a way to focus on training and interoperability between civil authorities and the National Guard following natural or man-made disasters.

Vigilant Guard is designed to train personnel and teams, said Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, who held the dual status commander position during the exercise.



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

Greg Rogers, an urban search and rescue instructor with Safety Solutions, Inc., out of Boynton Beach, Fla., briefs Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud, Principle Staff Officer for the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh (center), on search and extraction operations at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Training Center in Sherwood, Ore., during the Vigilant Guard Exercise, May 3. Wadud led a Bangladeshi delegation visiting Oregon as part of the ongoing State Partnership Program.

"Vigilant Guard is an excellent opportunity to highlight the Oregon National Guard's ability to respond in times of emergency," Bush said.

"This exercise will strengthen our relationships in the disaster response community and with U.S. Northern Command," he continued.

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from the Oregon National Guard, along with other Guard members from Puerto Rico, Washington, personnel from NORAD, and USNORTHCOM took part in 24-hour operations at various locations including the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.; the Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore.; Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Training Center in Sherwood, Ore.; and the Eugene Airport and Autzen Stadium, at the University of Oregon, both in Eugene, Ore.

Multiple military assets, including the new HH-60 "Mike" model MEDEVAC Blackhawk helicopters, as well as personnel and specialized equipment from the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force-Plus team, took part in the exercise.

A delegation from the Bangladeshi military, including Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud, Principle Staff Officer for the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh, visited Oregon as part of the ongoing State Partnership Program during the week.

The group, which included Lt. Col. Mohammad Tawhid-ul-Islam and Capt. Gazi Mosharrof Hossain, toured the various training sites throughout the region, and met with Oregon National Guard members and participants in the exercise.

"One of our primary areas of training with the Bangladeshis is disaster response," said Capt. Stephen Bomar, Director of Public Affairs for the Oregon Military Department.

"Vigilant Guard is a perfect opportunity for both of us to expand our partnership."

When requested by local or regional authorities, USNORTHCOM has the ability to support civil authorities with military capabilities to save lives, prevent



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

An Oregon Army National Guard crew chief from Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, directs first responders, as they load a simulated injured "patient" onto an HH-60 Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopter during the Vigilant Guard Exercise near Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., May 2.

human suffering, and mitigate severe property damage under the authority and control of a local dual-status commander.

According to organizers, Ardent Sentry and Vigilant Guard are designed to test and train this ability.

As part of Ardent Sentry, related training events also took place in North Dakota, Texas, Alaska, Connecticut and Nova Scotia, involving U.S. and Canadian military units.

The Oregon National Guard provides a reliable force of approximately 8,800 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, who are fully equipped and trained to respond to natural or man-made incidents throughout Oregon and the region.

## Withycombe dedicates new Exchange



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

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks to the gathering at the dedication ceremony for the Exchange at Camp Withycombe, April 13.

Story by Sentinel Staff

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.**—The Exchange, a store for members of the military, retired service members, veterans and their families, held a grand opening ceremony with a ribbon cutting, April 13, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore.

The ceremony, presided over by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, was well attended, and included personnel from Camp Withycombe, Salem, and Portland.

Other attendees included Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department; Patrick McGhee, General Manager of Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Val Conley, Deputy Director of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, and representatives from the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard.

Several companies, including Monster Energy Drinks, Red Bull and Jumbo Foods, had promotional items and product displays at the event, including the Monster Energy monster truck. A beer and wine tasting event was hosted by Seven Brides Brewing following the official portion of the ceremony.

"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 is great for Guard members and reservists as well as retirees and their family members," he said.

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.

The Exchange at Camp Withycombe is part of the new 41 ID AFRC located at 15300 SE Industrial Way, Clackamas, Ore. The store offers food and toiletries, and Class-6 items such as alcohol and tobacco products.

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

The store manager is Elan Kane. The store's hours of operations are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and can be reached at 503-655-1717. AAFES can also be reached via the Internet at: [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).

## Oregon makes new 'connections' during Vital Connections Exercise

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

**SALEM, Ore.**—Personnel from the Oregon Army and Air National Guard took part in a multi-agency training exercise, Vital Connections, at the Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore., April 3-5.

The exercise tested joint communications between multiple first responder agencies and regional emergency response organizations, said Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Troy Danielson, exercise project officer for the Oregon Military Department.

"We have learned a lot through mistakes made during disasters in other communities," Danielson said. "This exercise will better prepare us to handle these situations should we be called on to do so."

Participating in the training exercise were; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), U.S. Coast Guard, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Oregon's State Homeland Security Office, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, Portland Police Bureau, various representatives from local county sheriff's offices and a number of amateur radio operators.

Also taking part in the training exercise was the Washington Air National Guard's Joint Incident Communications unit and various units from the Oregon National Guard, including; 102 Civil Support Team (CST), The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, the Oregon Military Department's Joint Operations Center and Joint Incident Communications personnel.



Photo by Sgt. Paul Rushing, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

An Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team member is lowered from a Coast Guard helicopter based at Sector Columbia River, during the Vital Connections Exercise at the Fairview Training Center near Salem, Ore., April 4. The exercise is meant to test joint communications between multiple first responder agencies and regional emergency response organizations. The Coast Guard used the exercise to fulfill a quarterly training requirement for their helicopter team.

"We ended the exercise better prepared and more knowledgeable about the resources that we have available to us. The

better we prepare, the safer our citizens will be when the time comes for us to respond," Danielson continued.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**HRO offers TSP information seminars**

Story by Spec. Betty Boyce, Oregon Military Department Human Resources Office

This year the Human Resource Office has invited an instructor from the Thrift Investment Board to come and present information on the Thrift Savings Plan to employees and service members.

The instructor will present two separate seminars at each location, Pre-Retirement and Separation and an In-Depth Overview of the Thrift Savings Plan.

The seminars are offered at the following locations at the specified times:

Date: Aug. 22, 2012

Location: Anderson Readiness Center, Room 114

Time/Topic: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Pre-Retirement/Separation; 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., In-Depth Overview of TSP.

Date: Aug. 23, 2012

Location: Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, Auditorium

Time/Topic: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Pre-Retirement/Separation; 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., In-Depth Overview of TSP.

The seminars will be open to any employee or member of the Uniformed Services who is eligible to contribute to TSP (Federal Technicians, AGR/ADSW/ADOS, and M-Day or DSG service members).

Registration is required. If the number of registrations does not meet the minimum required by July 27, the Thrift Investment Board has the option to cancel the seminars.

For more information, or to request a registration form, contact Spec. Betty Boyce at [betty.a.boyce@us.army.mil](mailto:betty.a.boyce@us.army.mil).

**Thrift Savings Plan to offer new Roth option**

WASHINGTON, DC (April 13, 2012) -- Service members and Defense Department civilian employees who are eligible for the Thrift Savings Plan will soon have a new Roth option for retirement savings under the program, according to defense finance officials.

The change will allow participants to contribute after-tax dollars to the federal government-sponsored retirement savings and investment plan, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

As with traditional and Roth individual retirement accounts, the TSP's two options will now allow plan participants to invest either before- or after-tax dollars, although limits on annual contributions, catch-up contributions and agency matching funds will remain the same, officials said.

The plan, which is similar to a 401(k), is open to federal civilian employees and military members. For 2012, the maximum contribution is set at \$17,000. Catch-up contributions, available to participants 50 or older, are capped at \$5,500 over the standard limit.

Only civilian employees are eligible for agency matching contributions. All eligible civilian employees receive one percent in agency matching funds. Eligible plan participants receive a dollar-for-dollar agency matching contribution for the first three percent of pay they contribute, and 50 cents on the dollar for contributions of between three and five percent. Contributions above 5 percent of pay are not matched.

The current plan treats all contributions as pre-tax dollars – participants do not pay taxes on pay they put into the plan, but will pay deferred taxes when they receive those funds in retirement.

The new Roth option will allow contributions that are taxed in the year they are made, but will be tax-free in retirement, TSP officials said.

Greg T. Long, TSP executive director, urged in a letter to participants that they carefully consider whether Roth TSP would be to their advantage.

"As with all tax matters, you should seek the advice of a qualified tax or financial advisor for information pertaining to your specific tax situation," Long wrote.

He added the plan's website will soon offer a Roth calculator, and other website

content including forms and publications will be updated in May to include information about the Roth feature.

Defense finance officials said the Roth option will be available on a phased basis by military service from June to October. Officials said the schedule will allow service finance employees to complete and thoroughly test the complex changes needed to the various payroll systems.

Defense finance officials said more specific deployment dates on Roth TSP elections will soon be available on [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

Officials said service members and their families may contact Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 to schedule an appointment with a financial consultant.

For more information, visit [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

**Oregon General delivers keynote address at Ex Cope South in Bangladesh**

DHAKA, Bangladesh -- As part of its ongoing partnership between Bangladesh and the Oregon National Guard, Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General (Air), delivered the keynote speech during the closing ceremonies of Exercise Cope South., in Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 26.

The exercise allows U.S. and Bangladesh Air Forces an opportunity to exchange airlift, air-land, and airdrop delivery techniques that will enhance the participants' ability to respond to regional disasters.

According to exercise planners at United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), the event helps cultivate common bonds, foster goodwill, and improve readiness and interoperability between members of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and U.S. Air Force (USAF).

Exercise Cope South, last conducted in 2010, was a great success in developing the inter-operability between the USAF and BAF, say USPACOM planners.

This year's exercise focused on improving interoperability in personnel drops, static line and freefall, para rescue and C-130 maintenance discussions, and Night Vision Goggles (NVG) operations, including landings and airlift missions.

The exercise complements a number of other cooperative activities designed to strengthen the close and growing partnership between the United States and Bangladesh.

For more information on Oregon's State Partnership Program, visit the National Guard Bureau SPP page at: <http://www.nationalguard.mil/features/spp/default.aspx>.

**Want to be a Teacher?**

**Troops to Teachers program is looking for Guard members who want to be teachers.**

- Counseling services available
- Must have six good years of military service
- Financial assistance available to members separated due to service determined disability
- Must meet academic or vocational requirements

Financial assistance also available to members who were teaching school prior to federal activation.

For more information, visit [www.ProudToServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudToServeAgain.com), or call Edward Brands at: 1-800-438-6851 [info@mptt.org](mailto:info@mptt.org)

**1-82 Cavalry welcomes new commander**

Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Jackola, squadron command Sergeant Major, (back to camera), passes the squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Daniel Miner, 1 Squadron, 82 Cavalry Regiment's incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony at the Biak Training Center in Powell Butte, Ore., May 19.

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

The Oregon National Guard's 1-82 Cavalry Regiment headquartered in Bend, Ore., conducted a change of command ceremony at the Biak Training Center, May 19.

The squadron has approximately 450 troops in Bend, Redmond, Klamath Falls, Lebanon and Burns.

Outgoing Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Reese, welcomed incoming commander Lt. Col. Daniel Miner.

Reese said in the past couple of years the Squadron has helped troops back into civilian occupations and schooling, built relationships with local officials for emergency response and disaster relief efforts, and developed traditional and relevant Cavalry training plans.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of men and women and I will miss being a part of this great organization," said Reese.

During his command the Squadron coordinated with more than 95 local authorities to build stronger relationships in local communities. Those relationships were put to work with responses to floods in Burns and fires in Sisters.

Miner graduated from Lebanon Union High School, and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Management. In 2002, he also completed a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Miner's previous assignments include Scout Platoon Leader, Squadron Personnel Officer, Squadron Logistics Officer, Troop Commander of HHT and Troop F, Squadron Executive Officer, Troop Executive Officer and Assistant Regimental S4 (Maintenance). He received his Reserve Commission in the Oregon National Guard in 1996 and was assigned to 1-82 Cavalry in Bend, Oregon.

He also served as Assistant Training Officer for the Training Assistance Group in Afghanistan in support of OEF in 2006-7, and Squadron Executive Officer in Iraq

**Golfing For the Guard, KXL raises funds for Military Museum, Emergency Relief Fund**

Photo by Kimberly Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

KXL Radio hosted the 7th Annual Golfing for the Guard, at Heron Lakes "Great Blue" Golf Course, May 25. The event began with a bang, courtesy of the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-218th Field Artillery. Proceeds will go to the Oregon Military Museum and the Oregon National Guard's Emergency Relief Fund. From left to right: Bob DeFrancisco, Chad McCracken, Tim McAlbin, Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Mike Gillette.



## 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 website at: <http://angwesterninvitational.com>.

**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](http://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.

**ODVA offers ORVET home loan programs**

SALEM, Ore. -- The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) is now offering a wider variety of competitive home mortgage rates, including a 30-year term with a zero percent origination fee to qualified veteran home buyers.

The ORVET Home Loan Program currently offers one of the lowest home

loan interest rates available. The 30-year fixed mortgage is 3.75 percent (3.88 APR) and features a zero percent origination fee which may allow for reduced closing costs.

ORVET offers a very competitive short-term 20-year loan at 3.125 percent (3.459 APR) and a 30-year fixed loan at 3.49 percent (3.732 APR). Both offerings carry a 1.375 percent loan origination fee.

A state of Oregon veteran benefit, the ORVET Home Loan Program is separate from the federal VA home loan guaranty program. Even if a veteran has purchased a home using the federal VA program, they may still be eligible for an ORVET home loan.

"These new rate offerings will allow many veterans to take advantage of a great opportunity to buy a home. Our veterans have served our country with honor and distinction," said Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. "We must always provide them with the very best that we have to offer."

The ORVET Home Loan is a lifetime benefit for eligible veterans with a maximum loan amount of \$417,000 for a single family, owner occupied residence.

For more information about eligibility and rate details, contact ODVA's Home Loan Department at 1-888-673-8387, or visit [www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS](http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMELOANS).

**Practice safe summer grilling with these tips**

It's that time of the year again, the weather gets nice and we break out the BBQ grill. Here are a few tips on how to keep you and your grilling safe this summer.

1. Check your grill thoroughly for leaks, cracking or brittleness before using it.
2. Clean out the tubes that lead into the burner.
3. Make sure the grill is at least 3 feet away from your house, garage, or trees.
4. Store and use your grill on a large flat surface that cannot burn (i.e.- concrete or asphalt).
5. Don't use grills in a garage, porch, deck or on top of anything that can catch on fire.
6. Keep children away from fires and grills. It is a good idea to establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct children to remain outside the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose.
7. Have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose attached to a water supply, or at least 16-quarts of water close by in case of a fire.

**DURING BARBECUING**

1. Don't wear loose clothing that might catch fire.
2. Use long handled barbecue tools and/or flame resistant mitts.
3. Never use any flammable liquid other than a barbecue starter fluid to start or freshen a fire.
4. Never pour or squirt starter fluid onto an open flame. The flame can easily flashback along the fluid's path to the container in your hands.
5. Keep alcoholic beverages away from the grill, they are flammable!
6. Never leave the grill unattended.

**AFTER BARBECUING**

1. Always follow the manufacturer's cleaning and storing instructions that accompany the grill.
2. Keep your grill clean and free of grease buildup that may lead to a fire.
3. Never store liquid or pressurized fuels inside your home and/or near any possible sources of flame.

**ESGR announces Freedom Award nominees**

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, recently announced that three Oregon employers have been selected as semifinalists for the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the DoD to employers for exceptional support of their Guard and Reserve employees. This year, 133 semifinalists nationwide stood out among an impressive pool of 3,236 nominees.

The Oregon employers named

semifinalists are Cayuse Technologies, Pendleton; Clackamas Community College, Oregon City; and Wal-Mart (Store #1817), Hermiston. Freedom Award nominations come directly from Guard and Reserve members, or family members acting on their behalf.

The Freedom Award provides service members with an opportunity to recognize employers for going above and beyond what is required by law. Employers chosen as semifinalists support their Guard and Reserve employees through a variety of formal and informal initiatives, including developing internal military support networks, providing full benefits to employees fulfilling their military obligations, caring for the families of deployed employees, and granting additional leave to Guard and Reserve employees preparing to leave for or return from deployments.

"The employers selected as Freedom Award semifinalists have distinguished themselves for their support of their National Guard and Reserve employees, and are truly serving our Nation with their extraordinary commitment to these special employees," said ESGR National Chair James G. Rebholz.

"Their efforts are to be applauded, and ESGR salutes these patriotic employers for their special care of their Guard and Reserve employees and their families while they serve our Nation in times of war and peace."

ESGR has announced the 2012 Freedom Award finalists. Selected were the 30 most supportive employers from among the 133 semifinalists.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 160 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service.

A complete list of Freedom Award semifinalists from each state is available at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil).

**JFHQ to hold family picnic in Turner, Aug. 5**

The Joint Force Headquarters Family Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, at Aldersgate Camps and Retreats in Turner, Ore. The event is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The event will include a water balloon toss, volleyball, tug-o-war, sack race and a water slide. There is no uniform requirement for this event, but it is recommended that families bring a change of clothes and towels for kids who want to play on the water slide or in the water balloon toss.

For more information, contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581.

**Helicopter Pilots Wanted**

The Oregon Army National Guard's 2-641 Aviation Regiment is seeking applicants for its upcoming Initial Entry Rotary Wing Board, Jan. 28-31.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- All members of the Oregon National Guard are eligible
- Born after June 1, 1980. (Must be less than 33 to attend Flight School)
- Passing APFT with minimum of 70 points in each event
- Must be able to pass Class I Flight Physical (No disqualifying medical condition per AR 40-501)
- No Criminal conviction or DUI's
- GT score of 110 or higher
- Secret Security Clearance
- Support from applicant's Chain of Command
- Must pass AFAST (Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test)

**Preferred applicants will have (but not required):**

- Bachelors degree
- Private pilot's license
- E-5 or above (with WLC completed)
- ROTC Cadet MS-4

IERW positions will be in FY13 and FY14. The board will be conducted the week of Jan. 28-31, 2013, at the AASF#1, in the Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, Oregon. The IERW positions will be in FY13 and FY14.

Flight School is a series of highly demanding courses, including; Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)(for Warrant applicants); Helicopter Overwater Survival Training (HOST); Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion level C (SERC-C); Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training (IERW); Advanced graduate flight training for the UH-60 or CH-47.

**Only motivated, physically and mentally fit applicants who are serious about seeing the process thru to completion are encouraged to apply.**

**For more information, contact:**

1LT Matthew Maurice  
503-584-3993

[matthew.maurice@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.maurice@us.army.mil)

CW2 Steven Rhoden  
541-736-3285

[andrew.steven.rhoden@ng.army.mil](mailto:andrew.steven.rhoden@ng.army.mil)

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**AZUWUR**



**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.

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.

This is the second and final part of a two-part story on women who served in the United States military over the years.



Former Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) Anna (Flynn) Monkiewicz, now 92, was one of only 130 of the 1,078 WASP who flew World War II fighter planes around the U.S. She resides in The Dalles.

eight WASP's were killed in airplane crashes and many more injured. Except for their pay, these women received no benefits, medical care or insurance for their on-the-job injuries, and could not even have a flag draped over their caskets until 1977 – when their service to their country was formally recognized.

**Korean War**

Once again women served both in hospitals and in support roles. The development of the air evacuation system for combat casualties and the expansion of the roles of the flight nurse were pioneered during Korea and would make a significant difference in the casualty care system during Vietnam.



MASH nurse washing up using her helmet as a wash basin.

Women and men served with Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH). These medical units served as a fully functional hospital in a combat area of operations.

The units were first established in August 1945 and were initially deployed during the Korean War. The U.S. Army deactivated the last MASH unit in February 2006.

**Vietnam War**

The perception that women, were assigned to the "safe" places in Vietnam demonstrates an ignorance of women's contributions. From the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964 to the fall of Saigon in 1975, more than 265,000 women served in the military.

Approximately 11,000 women served in Vietnam; most served as military nurses. Others worked as physicians or in intelligence, supply, administration, air support, and additional areas. Eight military nurses died while serving in Vietnam – their names are engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

**Post-Vietnam War**

The end of the draft and the advent of the All-Volunteer Military in 1973, along with the increasing demand for a technologically skilled soldier, the feminist movement, and the successful service of women, all played a part in the changes of the early 1970's.

The two-percent cap on the number of women in the military was lifted and more and more fields were opened to females. In 1980, women were finally admitted to the service academies, bringing about expanded roles for military women.

By 1990, 100 percent of Coast Guard, 98 percent of Air Force, 59 percent of Navy and 52 percent of Army positions were open to women.

**Persian Gulf War**

By 1991 and the Persian Gulf War, more than 11 percent of the active duty military and 13 percent of the reserve forces were women.

The Persian Gulf was a true turning point for women in the military. For the first time they were called upon to demonstrate their effectiveness in positions previously reserved for men.

Manning Patriot missile placements, flying helicopters on reconnaissance and search and rescue missions, driving convoys over the desert close to enemy positions, women were called upon to do all these jobs and more.

Close to 35,000 women served in the Persian Gulf. Their success can be measured by the fact that many new positions have been opened to women in recent years.

Slowly but surely women have demonstrated that the characteristics necessary to be a successful and effective soldier are not found only in men.

**Afghan-Iraq War**

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are the first in which tens of thousands of American military women have lived, worked and fought with men for prolonged periods. Through 2011, more than 200,000 female troops have engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). This is a one in 10 female-to-male ratio.

Currently, women compose more than 15 percent of military troops. More than 17 percent of military women are officers; one percent higher than male counterparts.

The growth in seniority of women veterans is expected to continue.

In these wars without front lines, there have been more combat deaths. As of February 2012, nearly 150 U.S. female service members have died while serving in support of OEF/OIF.

From the Revolutionary War to the present, American women veterans have been invisible heroines. They are examples to future generations that securing our country's liberty and freedom is everyone's responsibility.



A female Soldier in Afghanistan. Through 2011, more than 200,000 female troops have engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To date, nearly 150 have died in action.

**Oregon Guard in the summer of 1862**

Story by Warren Aney, Oregon Military Department Historian

What was going on in the Oregon National Guard this Summer 150 years ago?

**May 1862**

Co. E, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, travels to Fort Walla Walla for garrison duty and spends the summer patrolling and performing escort duty.

**June 1862**

Remainder of 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry moves east of the Cascades; one company is sent to Nez Perce country in Idaho and two companies are sent to the Salmon River district and later to Fort Hall in Idaho.

**July 7, 1862**

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord of the U.S. Army assumes command of the District of Oregon. He orders a company of cavalry to the Nez Perce country to protect that tribe from the intrusion of miners.

**July 15, 1862**

Col. Cornelius resigns as commander of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry; command of 1st OVC turned over to Lt. Col. Reuben F. Maury.

**August 14, 1862**

Capt. Currey, commander of Co. E, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, is ordered to arrest three Indian leaders accused of raiding settlers in the Grande Ronde Valley; shooting breaks out and four Indians are killed, including two of the leaders.



Col. Reuben F. Maury, Commander of 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry.

**Aug. 19 - Oct. 11**

Lt. Col. Reuben F. Maury, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, leads 125 men from Camp Owyhee to Bruneau river and Fall river in southern Idaho, then back to camp on the Malheur river in Oregon, a distance of 1,000 miles.

**World War I**

In 1917, when America entered the war, many women in the Nurse Corps saw duty close to the front lines and were wounded or gassed as a result. Some were imprisoned by the Germans. Since the nurses were not engaged in combat, the government refused to grant disability pay.

World War I also saw women outside the nurse corps officially in uniform for the first time. Volunteers were recruited to assume some of the clerical duties routinely done by men. This call for volunteers resulted in more than 12,000 volunteers for extended servicemen's benefits to women. Not until 1942 would women receive pay and allowances commensurate with men. However, other treatment remained unequal as marriage and pregnancy were grounds for dishonorable discharge.

**World War II**

During the war, more than 384,000 women served in the military. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was established as America prepared for World War II.



Salem's Blanche (Osborn) Bross (far right) served with WASP's during WWII.

Within a year, it became fully incorporated into the Army and became the Women's Army Corps (WAC), with rank, pay and appropriate benefits. Soon after, the Navy organized the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) as part of the Naval Reserve. Women in the Coast Guard were inducted as SPAR's (Semper Paratus—Always Ready).

Women served throughout the theaters of operation—as secretaries, interpreters, and intelligence operatives. Nurses once again were at or near the front lines.

More than 200 were killed by hostile fire, including six Army nurses who remain buried at the beachhead on Normandy.

Also during World War II, 900 women volunteered to join the Women's Air Forces Service Pilots (WASP's). They served as flight instructors for men, ferried airplanes from the U.S. to Europe, and had the dubious privilege of towing targets so fighter pilots using live ammunition could practice on something moving. Thirty-

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

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PO Box 14350  
Salem, OR 97309