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Oregon Army Guard units receive Meritorious Unit Citation: Page 10

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Tiger Balm: Oregon Soldiers train with Singapore, Hawaii counterparts during annual bilateral exercise



Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

WAIMANALO, Hawaii (July 20, 2012) -- Outfitted in traditional Hawaiian clothing, local cultural representatives chanted and sounded a ceremonial conch shell to signify the opening of the training exercise, Tiger Balm 2012.

Tiger Balm is a bilateral training exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces and the U.S. military that covers offensive, defensive, stability and sustainment operations.

The exercise was designed to help foster professional military relations between the two countries and to increase strategic interoperability.

The Tiger Balm exercise has been held in multiple locations in the United States and Singapore, and is the longest-running bilateral training exercise in Singapore Armed Forces history, according to Col. Lee Ngian Sang, Chief of Staff, 3rd Division Singapore Armed Forces.

Participating in the exercise were members from the Oregon National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard, the Washington National Guard and the Singapore Armed Forces.

"This is a bittersweet time for the Oregon National Guard. This will be our last Tiger Balm after 10 years," said Col. William J. Prendergast, commander of

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Hula dancers welcome members of the Oregon Army National Guard and their counterparts from the Singapore Armed Forces to the 2012 Tiger Balm Exercise, held the first week of July at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

See **TIGER BALM** on Page 8

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Former enlisted Airman takes first F-15 flight as pilot



Photo by Paul Carter, Portland Oregon

Second Lt. Josh Pfeifer, formerly an enlisted hydraulic mechanic with the 142 Maintenance Squadron, is saluted by his former co-workers as he taxis for his first flight in an F-15 Eagle. Pfeifer, who recently attended flight school, is now a pilot for the 123rd Fighter Squadron, based with the Portland Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing. To see more Air Guard stories, turn to page 12.

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COMMAND

Oregon Soldiers, Airmen demonstrate readiness



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

The Oregon National Guard continues to demonstrate that when we are needed, we are there.

This summer, we mobilized three Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk aircraft and approximately 30 personnel to Lakeview, Ore. to assist with containing the Barry Point wildland fire.

The 2-641 Aviation Battalion continues to support local incident response commanders whenever, wherever they are needed, having flown more than 20 search and rescue missions this year.

The 3670 Maintenance Company assisted city and county officials in several communities along the Oregon Coast with equipment repair and generator maintenance to ensure preparedness for natural disasters and emergencies.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management coordinated with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other state agencies to remove a large dock that washed up on Agate Beach, in Newport Ore., this summer as a result of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As part of the Governor's Task Force on Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris, OEM will continue to monitor the coastlines as the changing winter tides bring a

possible increase in Japanese tsunami debris.

The 173rd Security Forces Squadron returned after commendable service in Afghanistan. One of their Airmen, Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton, was awarded the Bronze Star for designing and executing a key operation in Bagram.

The 173rd Fighter Wing also trained nearly 70 pilots this fiscal year, twice the amount of pilots trained in previous years. It took outstanding commitment and dedication from everyone at Kingsley Field to double the training results this year.

At the 142nd Fighter Wing, negotiations on a lease agreement with the Port of Portland are nearing conclusion. The agreement will enable long-term capital planning and ensure key infrastructure needs are met to continue our Aerospace Control Alert mission at the Portland Air Base well into the future.

Congratulations to all the units awarded with Meritorious Unit Citations for exceptional performance during deployment. The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and all subordinate battalions were recognized for their 2009-2010 deployment to Iraq. The 234 Engineer Company, 1249 Engineer Battalion, 82 Troop Command Brigade, was also recognized for their 2007-2008 deployment to Iraq.

A congratulations and job well done also goes out to the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron for receiving the 2011 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Our non-commissioned officers and enlisted service members continue to set the standard amongst their peers on a national level. Senior Master Sgt. Luke Thompson, 125 Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, was awarded Outstanding Airman of the Year. Sgt. 1st Class Zachery Phillips, C Co., 2-162 Infantry Battalion, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, was recognized as one of the top placers in the Army National Guard Best

Ranger Team competition. Spc. Ryan Johnson, B Co., 2-162 Infantry Battalion, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, received the Region 6 (Northwest) Soldier of the Year award and took second place overall in the Army National Guard Best Warrior competition.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, senior enlisted advisor of the Oregon National Guard, was recently selected as the 10th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard. He will now advise the director of the Army National Guard on policies that affect enlisted Citizen-Soldiers across all 54 states and territories. He played an integral role in the success of our entire organization and is recognized as a true leader. We are proud of his achievement and wish our fellow Oregonian success in this new endeavor.

I want to commend all of you for your hard work and superior performance during a successful Annual Training season for the Oregon National Guard from Camp Dodge, Iowa, to the islands of Hawaii.

The 82 Rear Tactical Operations Command, 82 Troop Command Brigade, participated in Tiger Balm 2012, an annual bilateral training exercise in Hawaii between the U.S. military and Singapore Armed Forces.

The 102 Civil Support Team conducted a week-long, joint training exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard in Astoria, Ore. and first responders in Warrenton, Ore. The exercise was modeled after a real-world situation which required a multi-agency response to potential radiological hazards aboard a vessel entering the Columbia River last year.

This fall we are looking forward to the dedication of the new Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas, Ore., and the homecoming of the 1186 Military Police Company.

As we approach the cooler weather and rainy season, we must continue to emphasize safety in everything we do.

Always Ready! Always There!

Warrant Officers: get involved, our survival depends on it

I want to take this opportunity to update everyone regarding changes in processes and procedures regarding warrant officer training programs.

First of all, WOCS and WOBC are now funded up-front from the G-3, prior to the split given to the brigades. This prioritization was necessary to facilitate growing the warrant officer corps to attain and maintain 100 percent strength. Command will function more efficiently and effectively with their full complement of warrant officers. All other Professional Military Education is funded through the brigades.

Everyone has heard of, or felt, the effects of the smaller training budgets by now. This means everyone needs to be on top of their own benchmarks for promotion and have their unit submit them for their required schools immediately upon eligibility. Then if you do not make it to the funded portion of the Order of Merit Listing (OML) that fiscal year, you will still have time to get to your school before going past your promotion eligibility date because you will have priority over others on the following fiscal OML.

Most if not all PME has distance learning phases in them. Ensure you allow yourself plenty of time to finish this phase because without completing it prior to your scheduled school attendance you will be pulled from the list of attendees, and probably go back to the bottom of the OML.

Young Airmen, Soldiers are the key to our successful future



Chief Master Sgt.
Cynthia Gauntz
Interim State Command
Chief Master Sergeant

As a Command Chief, I get to travel all over the state visiting with our Oregon National Guard units and their exceptional Soldiers and Airmen.

In these trying times of budget cuts, possible benefit losses and changing roles for the National Guard, the need to utilize all of our diverse strengths is imperative. Enlisted leaders have a responsibility to be creative and open minded in figuring out how to do more with less – less people, less money, and

less time.

I believe we sometimes overlook our junior enlisted members, dismissing them as the "millenniums", and often described as "entitled" or "non-communicative." We continue to see the media portray this age group as materialistic and consumer-minded, with little or no institutional loyalty.

However, in my experience I have seen them in a whole new light. Oregon's young Soldiers and Airmen are talented, resilient and intelligent problem solvers who care deeply about our state, nation and each other.

To think that I, and my peers, sometimes think of these studies as representative of our entire enlisted population proves that the generation gap is alive and well, and all of us – the mature and the young, need to keep striving for a better understanding of each other.

I recently attended a national conference, where I saw these young Airmen and Soldiers represent themselves and the State of Oregon

With the active component now requiring PME prior to promotions, school quotas are at a premium. Units need to project school requirements for their personnel two years out and ensure that this information

flows through battalion to brigade and onto the G-3 shop.

If an unforeseen emergency arises that would prohibit attendance to your scheduled training, you must notify your unit immediately. They can work with the state schools manager to see if another ORARNG Soldier can utilize the school seat so we won't lose the seat. Repeated instances of not filling seats will result in ORARNG and the National Guard as a whole getting fewer seats at the schools. The bottom line is we have to be smarter and proactive in these times of fiscal restraint.

For the Corps!



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

exceptionally well. Many of them were singled out by national enlisted leaders as examples for others to follow.

Our junior enlisted members around the state are active in national groups, civic organizations, and their local units. They're not just members of our communities—they're the future leaders of our National Guard.

They exemplify everything that's great about our nation. And while some of them achieve recognition as Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year, many of them go about their jobs, quietly supporting their families, communities, cities and states, invariably helping make this nation great.

In light of looming budget crises and unrest throughout the world, we must not alienate the quality members of younger generations. The diversity of generations makes us both fresh and wise, a signature strength of the National Guard.

My take away is this; I still prefer a conversation to a text, but I no longer doubt the sincerity of either message.

COMMAND

U.S. Senate confirms next Chief and Vice Chief of National Guard

Story and photo by

Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill,

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (7/26/12) – The U.S. Senate confirmed Army Lt. Gen. Frank Grass to be the next chief of the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Lengyel to be vice chief, July 26.

Grass, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general and Lengyel will add his third star with his promotion to lieutenant general.

The action of the Senate followed Grass' July 19 hearing in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Grass told the committee the National Guard is an operational force at a historic peak of readiness, its ranks filled with seasoned Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, and a critical partner to the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

"Your National Guard," Grass – deputy commander, U.S. Northern Command, and vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Command – told senators, "is more ready, more capable and rapidly deployable than ever before in our nation's history and also ready to respond to disasters in our states, territories and the District of Columbia.

"The past decade," he said, "has also demonstrated that the National Guard is an operational force and a critical partner with the Army and the Air Force in all missions, all contingencies and on the North American continent."

He attributed the transformation of the National Guard to previous chiefs of the National Guard Bureau, directors of the Army and Air National Guard, adjutants general, senior enlisted and, he said, "Most importantly, the sacrifice and commitment of the Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and their families."

As chief of National Guard Bureau, Grass told senators, "I will work to ensure

the capabilities gained since 9/11 are not lost and the investment not squandered."

As the channel of communications to the adjutants general of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, Grass will also partner with Congress, the Army and the Air Force to ensure the Guard's readiness and availability, he said.

"To the men and women and families of the Army and the Air National Guard ... you can know that I will be your strongest advocate," Grass said.

Asked about the chief's role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Grass said, "As a member of the Joint Chiefs, I [will] definitely have to bring forward the adjutants generals' and governors' thoughts, concerns, on the homeland mission. ... I also need to be able to balance that with the federal mission and deployable forces and be able to give my best military advice to the secretary of defense as well as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs."

Grass told senators he is an advocate of the National Guard's 20-year-old, 64-nation State Partnership Program, which he was heavily exposed to during his tenure as director, mobilization and Reserve component affairs, at U.S. European Command and at other points in his career.

"For a very small amount of money, it's been a tremendous program around the map," Grass said, noting deployments by SPP partner countries and the enduring nature of both the partnerships themselves and individual, career-long relationships between Guard members and their partner country counterparts. "[I] saw the value every day, saw the relationships that were built over the last 20 years, especially in what used to be Eastern Europe during the Cold War."

Grass' biography tells a quintessential National Guard story – a quintessential American story:

In 1969, he enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard. He served as a traditional Citizen-Soldier, juggling a civilian career



Army Lt. Gen. Frank Grass testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services at a confirmation hearing for his appointment to the grade of general and to be chief, National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., on July 19, 2012.

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and family life with monthly drills at a National Guard armory. He was promoted to staff sergeant, and his awards include the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon. Twelve years after enlistment, in 1981, he was commissioned.

On July 19 - almost 43 years after enlistment and after a career that has seen full and part-time service in his local community, for his state and at the federal level; enlisted and commissioned; domestic and overseas - Grass found himself testifying to the committee, nominated to be a four-star general, to be the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His wife, Patricia, sat among the spectators. The couple have five children and seven grandchildren.

"My service in the National Guard would not have been possible without her tremendous family support," Grass told the committee.

Grass will succeed Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the first four-star general and first to be appointed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the National Guard's more than 375-year history.

Lengyel, the senior U.S. defense official in Egypt, will be the first three-star vice chief of the National Guard Bureau. The position of vice chief was re-established and elevated to the three-star level by the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

Lengyel is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, mostly in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. His 30-year career has included extensive service with the Texas Air National Guard and key assignments as commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; and vice commander, First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Oregon JAG offers 'rules of the road' for upcoming election season

Story by 1st Lt. William M. Curtis,

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate,

Oregon Army National Guard

As U.S. military personnel, Oregon National Guard members promise to uphold the Constitution and protect the democracy and freedoms that all Americans enjoy.

This goal, however, can only be achieved if the military itself remains politically neutral and refrains from using its formidable might to wield political power.

We can easily appreciate the importance of this neutrality by considering the notorious history of political oppression and violence fomented by military coups and dictatorships.

Thus, when American service members commit themselves to protecting liberty, they also take on the responsibility of making sure that their political activities do not compromise the military's political neutrality.

The bottom line is that you must avoid taking actions that create the impression that the military endorses a political candidate, party, or movement.

The Department of Defense encourages service members to be active citizens and participate in the political process.

Oregon, as well, was recently honored for its efforts to encourage and facilitate voter participation by military members. DoD has, however, also promulgated rules governing the political activity of service members to ensure the military's neutrality.

Here are some guidelines to help you navigate these rules:

You can:

- Register and vote
- Attend political rallies as a spectator, but not in uniform
- Join and attend the meetings of a political party or club, but not in uniform

or as a representative of the Armed Forces

- Lawfully contribute money to political parties and organizations

- Express personal political opinions, e.g., in a Letter to the Editor, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces

- Place a political bumper sticker on your personal vehicle

- Sign a political petition

- Express personal political views via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), but not as a representative of the Armed Forces

You cannot:

- Engage in political activity at your military/government workplace

- Use your military position or title, or government resources, to advance a political cause or candidate

- Speak to an audience at a political campaign event

- Display a large political sign or banner on your personal vehicle

- Use contemptuous words against officeholders

- Use social media in a way that links one's military affiliation with a political candidate, party, or cause.

In order to comply with the rules, ask yourself if it is possible that your activity could give the impression that you are in a duty status, that you are authorized to act on behalf of the Armed Forces or that your views represent those of the military.

This risk is *always* present when you are in uniform. Therefore, engaging in political activity (other than voting) in uniform is prohibited.

The growing popularity of social media, like Facebook and Twitter, provides service members with greater opportunity to engage in political expression and discussion, but these media also come with an increased risk of implicating the military in politics.

A safe rule of thumb is that if your Facebook page or other social media indicates that you are in the military, and you express political opinions through them, be sure to add a disclaimer that clearly states that the opinions are yours and not those of the Department of Defense, the Army or the National Guard. "Liking," "friending," or "following" a political candidate or party on a social media service is also permissible.

Retired and non-active duty service members who are running for political office may, however, mention their military service affiliation in their campaign materials as part of their general biographical information, as long as they clearly indicate their retired or reserve status.

In addition, in certain, limited circumstances, a non-active duty political candidate may use a photograph of himself or herself in uniform in campaign materials.

If you intend to do so, you should first contact the ethics counselor of the Oregon National Guard at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

As National Guard members, our dual role as Citizen-Soldiers brings with it dual civic responsibilities.

As citizens, we have the right and obligation to dutifully participate in our country's democratic self-rule.

As service members, we must also assure our fellow citizens that our military remains faithful to its tradition of noninterference in domestic politics.

With the political season kicking into high gear, we should keep these dual civic commitments in mind.

If you have any questions or concerns about engaging in political activity, please contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at (503) 584-3571.

TAG visits MPAD Soldiers at Mob station



Photo by Spc. Alex Amen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents a recognition coin to Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hartman for his efforts in planning and organizing the mobilization process for the 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, July 15. Rees visited the 115 MPAD at the mobilization station as they prepared for their 400-day deployment to Afghanistan.

The 18-member team is providing theater-level public affairs support with print and broadcast media operations, delivering stories, photographs, and video packages to newspapers, magazines, news networks and affiliates throughout the United States and the world.

This is the third deployment for the 115 MPAD. The unit previously mobilized to Bosnia in 1996 for Operation Joint Forge and to Iraq in 2007-2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NEWS

Guard Bureau rep calls Oregon Guard's JTAP a model for other states

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

"I will never leave a fallen comrade."

For those working to help service members, veterans and their families from the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP) this quote from the U.S. Army Creed rings true both on and off the battlefield.

Like many service members and families across the nation—Soldiers, Airmen and families of the Oregon National Guard have sacrificed immensely with more than 10 years of multiple deployments and approximately 13,000 individual deployments following the events of 9/11.

As one of the most highly deployed states in the nation, veterans advocates in Oregon began to realize there was also a battle on the home front.

In 2005, a few leaders from the Oregon National Guard started a grassroots campaign to develop a reintegration program to help with readjustment to civilian life after deployment.

Oregon led the way by establishing a Reintegration Team in 2005, becoming one of only two states in the nation to have a program, said Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques, JTAP plans and operations NCO.

Jacques and others spearheaded a model reintegration program according to retired Maj. Don Weber, who is a Joint Transition Assistance Program Regional Area Manager serving the Portland, Ore., metropolitan area.

Jacques said that when he returned from a deployment after being wounded, he spent three frustrating weeks before finally finding a doctor that could help his machine gunner and fellow Soldier, who was wounded in the same IED explosion that took the life of his driver and RTO. Finding a doctor to help his wounded comrade inspired Jacques to find out what resources would be available in the future.

"Today, not a day goes by where we don't find new resources, and I am proud of that," said Jacques.

Marines, Navy and Air Force. There are no active duty military installations in Oregon and the program aims to be accessible to all veterans, services members and their families.

"There is not a better feeling in the world than when you help someone by giving them a hand up and not a hand out," Jacques said. "They are taken care of because you connected them and helped them, without letting them fall into an ocean of bureaucracy. It is just awesome to see that."

Weber said the JTAP team was able to organize quickly.

"They put this all together by organizing people from different places and pulling them together giving everyone a common direction with staff meetings and showing everyone where resources are at," Weber said.

JTAP Manager, Craig Snitker, a retired Army veteran said the program gives other advocates in the state better access to veterans and families by having closer connections to local units. Many of the JTAP members served in the units they service.

"The goal is now to help any veteran regardless of whether or not they have been deployed, where they live in the state, or what branch of the service they are in," said Snitker. "We have the best access to veterans and it makes a huge difference."

The team has developed numerous programs and partnerships that include statewide and regional reintegration summits, police department veterans issue trainings, a governor's executive brief, joint service career and benefit fairs, regional veteran resource groups and many partnerships with community colleges and universities, and service organizations.

Snitker said that in addition to many services it has provided in the last fiscal year (which also include a 24-hour hotline, multiple suicide interventions and 287 confirmed hires) the program has played a vital role in connecting and educating communities about veterans services.

We have the best access to veterans and it makes a huge difference.

- Craig Snitker, Oregon's JTAP Program Manager

He said with the success of these programs, leadership on the reintegration team saw the need to reach out even further.

In 2011, Oregon was one of eight states granted funding by Congress to implement additional reintegration resources for service members, veterans and their families, and the JTAP concept was created.

The team consists of 18 personnel geographically dispersed across the state with representatives from the Army,

Snitker mentioned that he and others on the team have countless stories about meeting community members who want nothing more than to help veterans.

"We have networked and become great friends with many of those people working toward a common goal," he said. "Seeing the communities come together for veterans has been absolutely amazing."

Snitker said future funding for programs like JTAP will most likely be



From left to right: Craig Snitker, Joint Transition Assistance (JTAP) program manager, Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques, JTAP plans and operations NCO, and Chris Petrone, program manager serving veterans at the White City VA in Medford, Ore., pause for a photo during a networking visit where Snitker and Jacques visited sites across Southern Oregon. Petrone said working with the JTAP and Oregon National Guard in southern Oregon is a key part of his program being able to provide services for veterans and their families.

less, and serving veterans will depend on communities taking a more active role in making sure people don't slide through the cracks.

"I believe communities are ready to do that and it just a matter of giving them some assistance," he explained. "JTAP has been out in the local communities with access to the service members and families regardless of military branch; they are all prior service."

However, he also added the program has proven to be a great value for Oregon both socially and economically.

Research from the program estimates JTAP's employment initiatives have potentially saved more than \$6 million in unemployment compensation this year with a goal of \$10 million by the close of fiscal year 2012. Furthermore, the team has had more than 9,000 service member support interactions, and is projected to reach more than 17,000 by the end on Fiscal Year 2012.

Senior Policy Advisor for to the Oregon Governor, Cameron Smith, made a great case for the socioeconomic impact of the program during a presentation about the current situation for veterans and their families in Oregon.

"We are facing a unique time in history with a decade of combat, multiple deployments, and less sacrifice (other than military families) on the home front," Smith said. "This is compared to conflicts the country has been involved with in the past."

He said the JTAP has saved lives with suicide and other interventions, and are directly responsible for providing many veterans in the state with employment.

"Community outreach has been a big part of what the team does to foster a wide range of partnerships, educating the public and assisting them in the support of service members and their families," Smith said.

On a recent visit to the National Guard Bureau with Oregon's State Command

Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, Jacques met with Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, who serves as the senior enlisted advisor for Reserve affairs to the Assistant Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C. Gipe called Oregon's program the 'golden egg' for reintegration after looking at the program's Standard Operating Procedure.

He explained that he has been trying to find a way to establish joint service teams across the nation that would fall under the governor or adjutant general, and was elated to see Oregon had already executed a model program within the U.S.

"He was impressed with how we worked outside the box to make sure no one—regardless of branch—is left behind," Jacques said. "He said nothing else has been able to do that like this program, and we've been able to do it without a military facility."

Jacques said JTAP has accomplished many of its goals by helping communities throughout Oregon better support veterans and their families. He added that he hopes the program will continue because of what it has grown into.

"We can now respond to and assist service members and commands in any area," he said.

Conley said he is proud of how the JTAP team and the Oregon National Guard has thought outside of the box to help veterans. Conley mentioned the recently deployed 3 Battalion, 116 Cavalry, who under the guidance of Commander Lt. Col. Phillip Appleton, and Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. William Wyllie, were able to reduce the number of unemployed Soldiers in their battalion from 172 prior to deployment in fall of 2012 to the current number of 13 by implementing creative job search requirements while on deployment.

"We are a problem solving organization," said Conley "We need to be creative and look at the situation so we can solve it. The JTAP program and the Oregon National Guard continue that on a daily basis."



Veterans from Oregon interact with employers during a career and benefits fair at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore. The Joint Transition Assistance Program participated in and helped coordinate the event.

NEWS

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Major honored during Linn County Fair opening

Story and photo by Corwin Brown, Oregon Military Department

Sgt. Maj. Sean Mishra, of the Oregon National Guard, was honored, July 19, during the opening ceremony of the Linn County Fair.

A Texas native, Mishra and his family have lived in Albany, Ore. for four years. At the ceremony, he represented local men and women serving in all branches of the military.

County Commissioner Will Tucker emceed the program on the main stage before the start of the Three Dog Night concert.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Sean Mishra

Sgt. Maj. Sean Mishra in southern Afghanistan in 2006.

Mishra, 40, has served in the Army and National Guard for 21 years and has been deployed 12 times to Central America, South America, the Middle East and Afghanistan.

In 2006 and 2007, Mishra served with special operations forces in the Panjiway District near Khandahar in southern Afghanistan.

"I was an embedded tactical trainer," Mishra said. "We were assigned to help the Afghan National Army learn new ways of doing things — from logistics to tactical training. They were used to doing things the old Russian regime way where officers led everything. We taught them how non-commissioned officers can lead troops."

U.S. forces worked hand in hand with embedded Canadian military units.

In September 2006, the troops began a 20-day battle known as Operation Medusa to capture a key hill from the Taliban.

"It was the biggest operation of Operation Enduring Freedom to date," Mishra said. "It was vital because we had to stop the Taliban from taking Khandahar City. If they had taken over, taken the high ground, they would have control of most of the country."

What Mishra and the other U.S. and Canadian soldiers didn't know is that they

were outnumbered 10 to 1.

"We had about 75 men and they had from 750 to a thousand," Mishra said. "We were running out of ammo and we were calling in air strikes from anywhere we could."

On Sept. 4, during one of the firefights, Mishra's vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and both he and his gunner were thrown from their truck. Mishra received a severe concussion and burns, and both men were evacuated to a hospital.

Their vehicle burned to its frame.

Mishra received the Bronze Star medal with valor and the Purple Heart.

His unit also received the Canadian Presidential Unit Citation — the first non-Canadian unit to earn the award, which has been presented to only six Canadian units.

At a ceremony held in May at Fort Bragg, N.C., Lt. Gen. Stu Beare presented the unit commendation to Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group-Airborne.

Beare is commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command.

"I was very surprised," Mishra said of the Linn County Fair ceremony. "It says a lot about Albany. This community always supports veterans, including the Veterans Day Parade. It's great to be recognized and



Sgt. Maj. Sean Mishra (right), is honored by Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker, prior to the opening ceremony of the Linn County Fair, July 19.

honored on behalf of all service men and women."

Mishra and his wife, Earlee, have three children, Ash-Leigh, 17, Alexis, 12, and Austin, 6.

MG Rees throws July 4th pitch



Photo by Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Department

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, throws out the first pitch at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball game, in Salem, Ore., July 4. Key leadership from both the Oregon Army and Air Guard were in attendance for the opening ceremony.

Timbers honor Oregon Guard



An Oregon Army and Air National Guard color guard detail stands by during the singing of the U.S. National Anthem prior to a Portland Timbers Major League Soccer match at Jeld Wen Field, in Portland, Ore., July 28, for Military Appreciation Night.

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

Oregon Army and Air National Guard members took part in a Military Appreciation Night at Jeld Wen Field, in Portland, Ore., July 28, for a Portland Timbers Major League Soccer match.

The event included an F-15 flyover, Oregon Air and Army National Guard color guard detail, U.S. flag presentation performed by the Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, recruiting displays and giveaways, armored security and HMWWV vehicle displays, and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package search and rescue static displays.

A crowd of more than 30,000 was in attendance.

"It's good public relations and it shows the military cares about the public," said Sgt. Maj. Scott Lucas, Joint Operations Center sergeant major.

"There's been lots of positive feedback, and with all the support we've had going forward after 9/11 it gives the Oregon National Guard a chance to let the public know we belong to them."

Al Gil, photo marshal for the Portland Timbers, said it is an honor to give thanks to the men and women of the military.

"There are service members sacrificing for our freedom and this is a good way to say thanks," Gil said.

Hoopla 2012 hits the Capitol Mall



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

For the third year, the Oregon National Guard served as the Title Sponsor of Hoopla, Oregon's largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The Oregon National Guard Hoopla is held each July on the streets surrounding the state capitol. This year, the event featured over 800 teams and 30,000 spectators.

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NEWS

Oregon's 1186 MP Co. improve security checkpoints with training

Story by Capt. Jacqueline R. Wren,
Task Force Hydra – Kabul Base Cluster
Public Affairs Office

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan Uniformed Police noncommissioned officers operating the City Gates recently received training from U.S. Soldiers at the City Gates headquarters to improve operations at entry points into the city.

The leaders invited to participate will take what they've learned in the two-day training session back to their posts and teach their subordinate officers. The City Gates Kandak is comprised of nine entry points into the city that are manned by police departments. Since there are not many highways in Afghanistan these police officers' responsibilities are paramount to keeping the insurgent effort from entering the Kabul city limits.

The instruction included properly conducting searches of people and vehicles, identifying improvised explosive devices, proper use of equipment and how to set up an effective entry control point.

Task Force Hydra, the senior U.S. task force in Kabul, conducted the training as a part of its Police Advisory Team (PAT) mission. The unit, which is commanded by the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Headquarters, a Georgia Army National Guard unit out of Columbus, has the task to advise, assist and mentor the 30 police districts, their special tactical units, and the 14,000 police responsible for law enforcement and security for the capital city of Kabul and its five million residents.

Task Force Hydra PAT team is made up

of a supervisory element lead by Lt. Col. Andre Edison, a Missouri Guardsman and a former policeman, members of Wisconsin National Guard, and the 1186 Military Police Company, an Oregon Army National Guard unit serving with Task Force Hydra.

"We bring a lot of law enforcement experience to this mission," said Edison about the PAT team. "Because of our background, we have added to Task Force Hydra's ability to impact the officers' training. As the security in the capital city of Kabul increases, the government becomes more legitimate."

The City Gates leader training was held as a part of the second and last phase in the process the PAT has implemented to improve the operations of the City Gates posts and Police District.

The first phase included conducting assessments of the 30 police districts and City Gate posts within the Kabul Province. The current phase is to address their opportunities to improve equipment, supplies, training and capabilities that were discovered during the assessments.

"The goal is for Kabul Province police to be more able to keep insurgents out of the Kabul area," Edison said. "This training is targeted at the NCO level and they are eager to learn."

The partnership between the Kabul City Police Chief and the PAT team is imperative to the success of events like these. The City Gates commander was on hand to observe the training and was welcoming of the professionalism the U.S. Soldiers shared with his officers.

"The impact has been very positive,"



Photo courtesy of Task Force Hydra

Soldiers from Task Force Hydra's Police Advisory Team and the 1186 Military Police Company congratulate a Kabul City Gates police officer after he receives his certificate for completion of the two-day training that took place at the City Gates Kandak Headquarters for noncommissioned officers.

said Col. Deen Mohammed Sanjani. "They have never had such training and I believe it will make them more professional."

Sanjani also spoke highly of the relationship he has built with Lt. Col. Edison over the last month of overseeing training.

"He is now my brother and my friend," said Sanjani.

At the completion of training each officer was presented with a certificate of completion. In a brief presentation where each officer raised their certificate above

their head with pride, each officer was congratulated by the trainers they had worked with for the time of the training.

The success of the training will be measured through the improvements that are made at the City Gates throughout Kabul, but Edison is hopeful.

"I don't think there is a long road ahead for these officers," said Edison "They understand the importance of what they're doing, and I'm surprised by the amount of courage they display while learning how to improve."

Wheel Vehicle Mechanics get 'down and dirty' at Camp Rilea

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

WARRENTON, Ore. — The Oregon Army National Guard hosted its first H8 Wheeled Vehicle Recovery course at Camp Rilea Training Site, in Warrenton, Ore., June 18-28.

The ten-day course was held in response to a recent Army policy change requiring all 91B, wheel vehicle mechanics, and 91H, track vehicle mechanics, to obtain certification in vehicle recovery procedures as an Additional Skill Identifier for their Military Occupational Specialty.

Thirty-six mechanics holding MOS positions in track, construction, and wheel vehicle repair from Oregon National Guard units throughout the state converged on Camp Rilea to attend the course and receive the H8 recovery operations certification.

Students said the training gave them the knowledge and confidence to recover incapacitated vehicles of all sizes, in any situation.

Spc. Greg Gwynn, of the 162 Engineers,

1249 Engineer Battalion, is a wheeled vehicle mechanic who has practiced real life vehicle recovery missions while deployed in Iraq.

"Overseas I was a mechanic and in a recovery crew," said Gwynn. "We would go outside the wire and recover trucks that had blown-up or rolled-over, often having to work 16-hour days."

Gwynn stated that the training will allow new Soldiers to be more confident in their jobs and what they're doing.

"This training will allow us to do our jobs much more proficiently, we'll be prepared," he said. "I think it's beneficial to both veterans and new Soldiers coming in. It's been a great experience."

Spc. Zachary Modrell, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Golf Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, was one of the many Soldiers who also said he enjoyed the training.

"It's a blast," he said. "It's a lot of valuable information learning how to recover a vehicle in any situation that might arise. You have to be able to adapt and overcome in any situation."

After six years of trying to get into the class, he was very excited to finally have the opportunity. "It's an extra identifier on my MOS that makes me able to do more for my fellow Soldiers," said Modrell. "If you're a young Soldier looking to be a valuable asset to your unit, this would be the place to go."

Sgt. 1st Class Ben Daniels, with the 204th Regional Training Institute, Idaho Army National Guard, was one of the instructors for the course which is usually taught at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. He said the Oregon National Guard asked his team of instructors to host the course in Oregon because the state was in need of qualified recovery specialists.

"We came to Oregon because they had so many students that needed the training," said Daniels.

The first part of the course consisted of driver training and the principles of recovery. Students learned all the mathematical equations that go along with recovery; the weights of vehicles, the loads; the maximum amount the wench can



Soldiers work blindly beneath the muddy water in an effort to properly attach and lock a wench component to tow a stuck five-ton truck during the newly mandated training course, H8 Wheeled Vehicle Recovery, required of wheel vehicle mechanics, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., June 25.

pull. They also learned how to use shackles and cables for a tactical advantage.

"This is some of the most valuable training I've had," said Spc. Aaron Fox, with Bravo Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion. "I'm a light wheeled vehicle mechanic learning to get vehicles out of stuck situations. The most challenging part has been the math; how much cable to pull out and how many snatch blocks we have to use. There's a lot more science to it. I've learned a lot and the roll-over training is some of the most fun I've had yet."

After completing the classroom portion of the course, students received hands-on training using M984A1 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks and M1089 Medium Tactical Vehicle Wreckers.

"We take the students out to the recovery and roll-over training area, we teach them to hook-up to various vehicles and tow them safely," said Daniels.

Some of the vehicles were partially submerged under muddy water, requiring the students to use their hands and knowledge in place of sight to hook-up the



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers attempt to pull a five-ton vehicle from the practice mud pit, using a 1089 MTV Wrecker, during the H8 Additional Skill Identifier training course at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., June 18-28.

equipment.

"It's amazing! Best training I've had so far," said Pfc. Amy Castle, wheeled vehicle mechanic with Detachment 1, Fox Company, 145 Brigade Support Battalion. "We're out here getting muddy, getting dirty in real situations."



Spc. Gregory Gwynn, 162 EN Co., hauls the wench attachment from a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck as he and his fellow Soldiers prepare to tow a five-ton truck.

FEATURES

Hiring our Heroes (H2H) in Oregon a success, organizers say

Story and photos by Spc. James Dilger,
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. – A clear July morning in the Willamette Valley brought new hope among unemployed veterans attending a career fair at the Eugene Armed Forces Reserve Center in Springfield, Ore., July 19.

The job fair featured a partnership between the U.S. Department of Labor's Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) and a recently launched Hero2Hired (H2H) web-based program for veterans.

It was the first event in Oregon featuring the partnership. HOH is scheduled to organize approximately 400 events this year with 210 already completed. Of the 400 events nationwide, 40 are scheduled to be joint events with the H2H program founded by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

According to retired Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas, U.S. Chamber of Commerce associate for HOH northwest region, there were approximately 25 companies in attendance, including three vendors who had not registered for the event.

Those employers came to participate after hearing about the event on local news.

"An event like this requires really good partnerships," Maas said. "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce brings a lot of credibility and clout."



Kathy Heavirland, district operations manager with U.S. Bank, discusses job opportunities with veterans, during a Hero2Hired (H2H) job fair in Springfield, Ore., July 19. The fair was Oregon's first event featuring the Heroe2Hired (H2H) website.

Maas said without the support of the Oregon Employment Department, local employers, local media, local veterans' services and other organizations, an event like this simply isn't possible.

"These programs bring a room full of military friendly employers who understand what these people bring to the table," Maas said. "So many companies have developed positions specific to military personnel recruiting."

H2H is a cutting edge program that uses modern technology and job fairs to link employers with qualified veterans, said retired Sgt. 1st Class, Craig Snitker, the program liaison for the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP).

"H2H is new this year," explained Snitker. "It's just now getting out to the field."

Snitker said ESGR also works with WorkSource Oregon and JTAP to hold Integrated Transition Assistance Program (ITAP) workshops. As the ITAP lead, Snitker has organized three-day events where veterans learn job-seeking skills, including resume writing and networking with businesses. The fact that the events are integrated with employers who participate makes them unique, Snitker said.

He said utilizing these events and the modern technology of H2H will provide the best available support for veterans seeking employment in Oregon.

"Job seekers can build a profile, post a resume and applications right from the site," said Snitker. "Employers can search resumes by key word, zip code or city. It is streamlined for straighter job landing."

In addition, the H2H site provides links to all of the tools that are at the ITAP events, such as writing a resume or a cover letter. Once registered, veterans can also apply from a mobile phone application.

Snitker said the anticipated outcome of events like the Springfield job fair is to assist anyone who has ever served in the military. It is a great tool for getting service members searching for jobs face-to-face with people that need and want assistance.



Veterans and vendors interact during a Heroe2Hired (H2H) job fair at the Lane County Armed Forces Reserve Center in Springfield, Ore., July 19. The fair was Oregon's first event combining the H2H web service and the Hiring Our Heroes initiative organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

He said that H2H also helps veterans translate skills to a resume or interview.

There were more than 200 people at the Springfield event with more than 150 pre-registered to take advantage of the help being offered.

The Springfield event also included 10 veterans' service organizations and three colleges.

"We use the Hiring Our Heroes program a lot," said Tina McGee, campus manager for the Red Rock College of Construction, Oklahoma City.

"The character traits veterans have make them stand out above other potential candidates," McGee said, referring to Red Rock College of Construction's job placement with the program.

An informal poll of job seekers at the event showed that veterans concur with McGee. The most common answer, when asked what they felt veterans bring to the job, was military values and character traits.

Maas said that he completely gets where job seekers are coming from and understands after being unemployed for a year prior to obtaining his current position.

"At six months the mindset changes," said Maas, empathizing with job seekers who start to doubt themselves and their job skills. "There's a lot more to you (military veterans), and employers need to know that."

Maas said an example is how much responsibility a squad or team leader has accounting for personnel and equipment and how that translates to in financial responsibility.

"The goal of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is to see 500,000 veterans hired," said Maas.

The plan of action for accomplishing this goal is centered on the 400 events they have planned.

Locally, HOH is organizing another job fair in Oregon scheduled November 13. The event will again partner with the H2H program. It will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Ore. All veterans are invited to attend.

For more information about H2H contact Craig Snitker at craig.snitker@us.army.mil or by phone at (503) 584-2393, or the H2H website at <https://h2h.jobs>.

ODVA, VA work to lay to rest discovered vets' remains

Story courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. — The cremated remains of four Oregon veterans were laid to rest with full military honors at Willamette National Cemetery on Aug. 15. The remains date back to 1919 and were among those discovered at Oregon State Hospital (OSH) in 2004.

Since that time, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) has been working together with both OSH and the Veterans Administration (VA) to identify the remains of veterans.

"We have worked closely with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs to identify these five individuals as veterans, and we're proud to know that these brave men will now be given a final resting spot with all due dignity and respect," said OSH Superintendent Greg Roberts.

The remains of the four men interred include: U.S. Army Pvt. James Edward Butler, who served from Sept. 1940 to May 1941; Lanier Dick Johnson, (rank unknown) of the U.S. Navy, who served from Jan. 1917 to Nov. 1919; U.S. Army Sgt. William Julius Madson, Aug. 1918 to Feb. 1919; and U.S. Navy Boatswains Mate 2nd Class Frank John Martin, June 1943 to March 1946.

Because of record keeping, little more is known about these veterans. The exact dates of their deaths and their hometowns remain unknown.

At the ceremony Val Conley, ODVA's deputy director, received the American



Photo by Robin Steckley, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

Select Honor Guard Spc. Kyle Sizemore presented a burial flag to Val Conley, deputy director, Oregon Dept. of Veterans Affairs, during an interment ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery on Aug. 15 for four veterans whose remains were recently discovered. Conley represented the veteran's missing families.

flag on behalf of these five veterans whose families could not be located.

"While we know little about these men, we do know they honorably served their country during one of two world wars. That sacrifice in itself is deserving of a fitting burial with full military honors that this State will give them and to others who

are identified later," Conley said.

ODVA will continue to partner with OSH and VA to assist in identifying the remains of other veterans.

If you happen to know any more information about these veterans, please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

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FEATURE

Bridging the cultural gap: U.S., Singapore relations strengthened by exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Photos courtesy 115 Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

WAIMANALO, Hawaii -- A mix of sage and jungle-patterned camouflage made it difficult to focus in the dim auditorium as two militaries came together to share strategy, culture and symbolic gifts.

This year, service members from the Singapore Armed Forces and the U.S. military trained for global peacekeeping operations at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

The two groups have a long tradition of working together in this exercise, called Tiger Balm, the longest-running bilateral exercise in Singapore Armed Forces history.

Providing instructional material for the combined group were subject matter experts from both militaries who shared both strategic information and operational anecdotes for the mixed group.

The different perspectives and experiences provide the true value of Tiger Balm, said Staff Sgt. Janile L. King, non-commissioned officer in charge of the exercise.

The sharing of gifts has a place in almost every culture in the world and the symbolism of this act conveys a sense of goodwill.

French sociologist Marcel Mauss said in his popular work 'the gift' that the act of gift giving transfers a small piece of the giver's own identity to the other person.

Many involved in the exercise chose gifts that meant something personal to them.

"I chose a Myrtlewood pen for my counterpart because we write a lot in our job and Myrtlewood grows in Oregon. It's also a functional gift, something that can be used," said King.

In this ongoing partnership, military members attend the exercise with open minds and attitudes focused on learning from one another.

As the Soldiers exchanged tokens of friendship, they shared a bit of themselves as a start to a meaningful exchange lasting far beyond the exercise at hand.

"This is an excellent experience for personnel at all levels to learn from one another and to strengthen ties, professional and relational," said Col. Lee Ngian Sang, Chief of Staff, 3rd Division Singapore Armed Forces.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and members of the Singapore Armed Forces hike to the summit of Koko Head Crater on the southeastern side of the Hawaiian island of O'ahu. The group took part in several team-building events, including a game of rugby, during the 2012 Tiger Balm Exercise, held the first week of July at Bellows Air Force Station in Waimanalo, Hawaii.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Christopher Kirkum and his fellow Soldiers face off against members of the Singapore Armed Forces in an ultimate rugby tournament, July 12, at the Regional Training Institute, Waimanalo, Hawaii during bilateral training exercise Tiger Balm 2012. The game was meant to boost morale, cross-cultural education, and esprit de corps.



Photo by Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Lt. Col. Pari, Singapore Armed Forces, and Staff Sgt. Stuart, Oregon Army National Guard, share the tradition of teatime with tea and rice cakes during Exercise Tiger Balm, July 11.

Tiger Balm 2012 last for Oregon National Guard, says commander

Continued from **Front Page**

the 82 Rear Tactical Operations Center, Oregon Army National Guard.

Prendergast said he looks forward to the relationships that will continue long after the conclusion of the exercise, and the transfer of the exercise to the Hawaii National Guard in 2013.

Upon arrival at the Regional Training Institute, members from both countries gathered together to discuss cultural topics ranging from differences in rank structures between the services to favorite national foods.

"Cultural awareness is key to understanding each other," Lee said.

"I'm confident we will enhance close bonds of friendships and continued peace," he added.

Directing the exercise was Brig. Gen. Gary M. Hara, land component commander, Hawaii National Guard. Hara is responsible for training, operational readiness, administration, logistical and strategic planning for Joint Task Force Kupa'a.

"I encourage you to take full advantage of this training experience and to make sure everyone meets and exceeds the

training objectives," said Hara.

The Regional Training Institute, Bellows Air Force Station is located in Waimanalo, a small town on Oahu's windward coast, near the southeastern tip of the island.

Rising behind the formed troops during the ceremony were the picturesque Ko'olau Mountains, a remnant of a once active volcano on the island of O'ahu.

According to the announcement in the opening ceremony, the sounding of the conch shell, also known as the *pu* was used to accompany chants, and most often used to announce the arrival of the *Ali'i* or Hawaiian royalty, births and deaths, and the beginning of a ceremony.

The conch shell was blown in four directions, signifying the universal protection over the exercise and representing the arrival of the official party.

Members from 29th Infantry Division, Hawaii National Guard also conducted urban operations training with members of the Singapore Armed Forces during training exercise Lightning Strike, which took place simultaneously along side Tiger Balm.



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

Col. William J. Prendergast (left), Oregon Army National Guard 82 Rear Tactical Operations Center commander, Col. Lee (center), 3rd Division Chief of Staff, Singapore Armed Forces, and Col. Harold Kwon, U.S. Army Reserve-Pacific 322 Civil Affairs Brigade Commander, conduct an informal briefing during bilateral training exercise Tiger Balm 2012 at Bellows Air Force Station, Waimanalo, Hawaii, July 9.

Rising above the Pressure

Story by Spc. Erin J. Quirke,
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik,
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Above: Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard and Singapore Armed Forces stand in formation during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Tiger Balm Exercise, held the first week of July at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii. The bilateral training exercise, which helps foster relationships and enhance combat readiness for participants, is the last for the Oregon National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Gary Hara, (right), Hawaii Army National Guard Land Component Commander, explains the capabilities and operations of Hawaii National Guard's aviation assets to Brig. Gen. Perry Lim, 3rd Division Commander, Singapore Armed Forces, during Exercise Tiger Balm, held in Oahu, Hawaii.

Left: Sgt. Maj. Raymond Powers stands in formation along with Soldiers of the Singapore Armed Forces during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Tiger Balm Exercise, held the first week of July at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

WAIMANALO, Hawaii (July 12, 2012) — Set against the Ko'olau Mountains, the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo is the home of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Over the course of the last 10 years, the Oregon Army National Guard has utilized the training institute to conduct the bilateral brigade level command post exercise known as Tiger Balm.

The exercise was designed to help foster relationships as well as enhance combat readiness, professional relationships and interoperability between the U.S. military and the 3rd Singapore Division's 24th Infantry Brigade.

One of the many objectives of the exercise was to give both the HIARNG and the Singapore Armed Forces the opportunity to train on their mission essential tasks.

This can include anything from route clearance to convoy security to base defense.

According to organizers, this was achieved through a series of mission scenario event list injections, or MSEL's.

In charge of the MSEL injections is the opposing force section known as OPFOR,

who were MSEL managers and roll players in the exercise.

"Essentially, it's a game of choose your own adventure," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Cox, of the Oregon Army National Guard's 82 Rear Tactical Operations Center, and an OPFOR liaison.

"We are here to test the ability of the Singapore Armed Forces and the Hawaii Army National Guard in sustainment operations," he continued.

In order to test the reaction and communication capabilities of the SAF and the HIARNG, OPFOR placed them in several electronically simulated training situations.

These situations can include anything from terrorist attacks to anti-coalition protests to criminal activity.

The training situations are designed so that the SAF and HIARNG can come together at the end of the day and share their own training techniques and plans of action.

By sharing reaction strategies and thought processes on how to counteract the MSEL's, the units can come together as one and learn from each other.

"All of the situations are scalable depending on the stress level that both the

Singapore Armed Forces and the Hawaii Army National Guard are feeling," said Sgt. 1st Class Cox.

"We don't want to give them more than they can handle, but for every action they take there will be a reaction from OPFOR to help guide them in the right direction so they can achieve their training objectives," he said.

The Oregon Army National Guard played the roll of the higher control, or HICON, in the Tiger Balm exercise. The HICON is essentially the control and command of the exercise.

At the end of each day the SAF and the HIARNG reported to the HICON with the days events and their strategies of reaction to the MSEL injections, as well as touching on the other objectives of the exercise.

"What we're trying to do is add some realism and depth to a two dimensional computer simulation," said Staff Sgt. Mark Stocks, of the Oregon Army National Guard's 82 Rear Tactical Operations Center.

Stocks, a MSEL manager for OPFOR added that there was a lot of tweaking and adjustments along the way.

"We wrote these MSEL injections for the 2008 Tiger Balm exercise, and have just built off that and adjusted them to help with today's scenarios," he said.

Along with the MSEL injections from previous exercises, the Oregon National Guard is also bringing a new aspect in to play to help with training in sustainment operations.

"Some of the new aspects we are

Left: Staff Sgt. Burton and 1st Lt. Choi with the U.S. Army Reserve, discuss information operations strategies with a member of the Royal Singapore Army during the bilateral training exercise Tiger Balm, at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii, July, 9.

Right: Maj. Gen. Joseph Chaves, (right) Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific Command, along with Brig. Gen. Perry Lim, 3rd Division Commander, Singapore Armed Forces, tour Hawaii's Regional Training Institute facility during Exercise Tiger Balm, held in Oahu, Hawaii.



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



Photo by Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115 MPAD

NEWS

Oregon Army Guard units honored with Meritorious Unit Citations



Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Frey, 41 IBCT

Col. William Edwards, commander of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, affixes a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the brigade's guidon during the unit's award ceremony held at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., July 20.

**Story by Staff Sgt. Jalayna Lagomarsino,
41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office**

The Oregon Army National Guard's 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team and subordinate battalions were awarded Meritorious Unit Citations in recognition for exceptional performance during their July 2009 – April 2010 deployment to Iraq.

The Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of duties for at least six continuous months during a period of military operations against an armed enemy.

The 41 IBCT, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, 41 Special Troops Battalion, and 1-82 Cavalry Squadron were awarded the MUC at separate ceremonies across the state this summer.

On July 18, the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion was awarded their Meritorious Unit Citation during Annual Training at the Yakima Training Center in Yakima, Wash. The unit was honored for their extensive sustainment and security operations conducted over a 150,000 square-mile area of operations during their 2009–2010 combat deployment to Iraq.

The 2-218 FA escorted more than 13,000 trucks over two-million miles in support of a multi-region route security and vehicle escort plan. These efforts were a vital part of the larger logistical sustainment effort to get fuel, supplies, and equipment to coalition forces and the Iraqi people during the phased draw-down of U.S. Forces in Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Hutchison, 1-186 Infantry Battalion

Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Santoyo affixes a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the 1-186 Infantry Battalion unit guidon as Lt. Col. Kenneth Pons, battalion commander, looks on during an award ceremony held at Biak Training Center, in Powell Butte, Ore., July 26.

Col. William J. Edwards, commander of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, praised the unit for their ability to adapt to what he considered a non-standard mission.

"This battalion was presented a non-standard mission for an artillery unit," said Edwards. "The Soldiers of the 2-218 adapted to this mission in a manner that maintained its artillery roots and performed superbly."

During a ceremony held July 20 in Warrenton, Ore., Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, presented the Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the 41 IBCT.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 41 Special Troops Battalion ran the Base Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex, an area consisting of seven contingency operating bases, one Air Force base, five Iraqi Security Force bases, and Baghdad International Airport.

Addressing the Soldiers in attendance, Rees said, "You represented the Oregon National Guard, the people of Oregon, and our nation in a wonderful fashion. We are extremely proud of everything you have done."

Capt. Van Zallee, an infantry officer who deployed with the 41 IBCT, said one of the challenges of draw-down operations was the adjustment to the new convoy and traffic control procedures to be used when encountering Iraqi drivers on the roadways. On this deployment, operations were adjusted so the Iraqis were provided as much freedom of movement as possible during the day.

"The whole idea was that Iraqi people had lives," Zallee said, "In order for them to get into a normal routine, we had to conduct our security convoys at night, to try to get them back to that sense of normalcy."

On Aug. 11, The 41 STB affixed a MUC streamer to their unit guidon in a ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. The unit conducted physical security for Victory Base Complex, as



Photo by Sgt. Julie Trotter, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion

Lt. Col. Stephen Schmidt, commander of the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, affixes a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to his battalion's colors during an award ceremony at Yakima Training Center, Yakima, Wash., July 18.

well as convoy security on key routes throughout southern Iraq.

The 1-186 Infantry Battalion was awarded their Meritorious Unit Citation during Annual Training at the Biak Training Center, in Powell Butte, Ore., on July 26. The unit was recognized for exceptionally meritorious service while conducting convoy security and force protection operations during their 2009–2010 Iraq deployment.

According to the award narrative, the 1-186 Inf. Bn. was responsible for force protection at Camp Korean Village, as well as convoy security operations on routes throughout central and southern Iraq. The battalion's security convoys were travelling at rates of 5,000 miles per week during the deployment.

Rees addressed the Soldiers of the 1-186 Inf. Bn., and took a moment during the ceremony to mention a similar award given to the unit earlier in its history.

"Over 70 years ago your predecessors in the 1-186 received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for action in Palawan Island," he said. "Today you're 21st Century Soldiers receiving recognition for the great work you have done in Iraq and for the Global War on Terror."

Lt. Col. Noel Hoback, who deployed with the 1-186 Inf. Bn. and took command of the battalion on the day of the ceremony, echoed praise for the battalion as he addressed his Soldiers.

"Guardians of the western gate, you have shown time and time again that you are willing to support any mission given to you," he said, invoking the unit motto.

Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Santoyo did the honors of affixing the streamer to the 1-186 Inf. Bn. guidon.

After the ceremony, Santoyo commented on how the 1-186's mission of convoy security expanded the capabilities of his infantry Soldiers, "It wasn't an infantry mission, so my Soldiers learned a lot of new skill sets and gained a vast amount of knowledge on this deployment."

On July 28, Soldiers of the 141 Brigade Support Battalion were recognized for conducting convoy security missions for more than 100 fuel and water trucks that traveled over two-million miles of key routes in northern Iraq.

"It is this battalion that makes the 41 Infantry Brigade a mighty brigade," Rees said. "This battalion has earned its place in

history."

The commander of the 41 IBCT said the unit's recognition is both historically significant, and has a potential impact on recruitment.

"The addition of the Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to your proud colors will stand as a permanent display of your achievement and inspire future Soldiers to join your ranks," Edwards said.

Sgt. Eric Davis deployed with the unit and worked the night shift in a Tactical Operations Center. He said it was good to be recognized for the unit's effort and for what he described as, "an incredible amount of work."

The 1-82 Cavalry Squadron was awarded their MUC streamer in a previous ceremony held May 19. A ceremony for the 2-162 Infantry Battalion is scheduled to take place in November.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jalayna Lagomarsino, 41 IBCT, PAO

Lt. Col. Sean Nikkila (center), commander of the 41 Special Troops Battalion, affixes a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the battalion's guidon as Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch (left) looks on during an award ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., August 11.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jalayna Lagomarsino, 41 IBCT, PAO

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Hanks affixes a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the 141 Brigade Support Battalion guidon as Lt. Col. Timothy Deckert, departing battalion commander, and Col. William Edwards, commander of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team participate during an award ceremony held at Kliever Memorial Armory in Portland, Ore., July 28.

NEWS

Oregon's 2-641 Aviation undergoes change of command

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

SALEM, Ore.— The Oregon Army National Guard conducted a change of command ceremony for its aviation unit, 2 Battalion, 641 Aviation Regiment, Aug. 4, in Salem, Ore.

Outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin, welcomed incoming commander, Lt. Col. Pete Derouin, after a two-year stint that included more than 30 search and rescue missions.

After taking command in August of 2010, Ulvin oversaw the deployment of all seven of his subordinate flying units across the globe and nation.

He has flown more than 4,000 hours in the UH-60 and C-12 aircrafts and currently performs duties as an instructor pilot and maintenance examiner for Blackhawk helicopters.

Derouin served as the Balkans operations officer for U.S. Army Europe after 9/11 before commanding the Ft. Hood Regional Flight Center.

In 2004-05, he deployed to Iraq as executive officer for Operational Support Airlift Command's Theatre Aviation



Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin, outgoing commander for the Oregon Army National Guard's 2 Battalion, 641 Aviation Regiment, addresses Soldiers during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 4, in Salem, Ore.

Battalion, and was responsible for all Army fixed-wing aircraft with passenger and cargo transport in Iraq.

The 2-641 Aviation Regiment provides theater aviation operations when deployed including cargo and troop transport.

The battalion also has command and control of Army National Guard aviation assets providing aviation support across the state for various missions including search and rescue and wildland fire fighting support.

3670th Maintenance Co. helps coastal towns prep for emergencies

Story and photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik,
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SEASIDE, Ore. – Citizen-Soldiers with the ground support platoon, 3670 Maintenance Company, 82 Troop Command Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, assisted Oregon coastal communities with equipment repair and maintenance in preparation for natural disasters and emergencies, Aug. 10, in Seaside, Ore.

Soldiers trained city water works employees in Seaside on the proper preventative care and maintenance for older military generators used as backup systems in case of emergencies.

"We've had nothing but positive feedback from the groups we support," said Chief Warrant Officer 3, Tim Coronado, a ground support maintenance equipment engineer with the 3670th.

"My Soldiers love going out and working in the local communities, it helps build relationships across the board."

There are approximately six different communities that request maintenance and training support throughout the year.

"We send out our contact teams during our Annual Training," said Maj. Richard Ybarra, 3670th company commander.

"The communities understand that it provides training to our Soldiers and the local employees. It's a win-win situation," Ybarra added.

Cities like Seaside may not always be able



Spc. Corey Buoy and Spc. Franklin Dominguez, with the 3670 Maintenance Company ground support platoon, conduct preventive care and maintenance work on a military generator used by the City of Seaside as a back up power source in their water works section, Aug. 10.

to purchase brand new back up generators, and that's where the local relationships with the Oregon Army National Guard and 3670 Maintenance Company help out, he said.

"This is a key partnership that we have with the communities," said Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, 82 Brigade commander.

"It dovetails nicely with the concept of military support to civilian authorities and

building relationships at the local level."

Repairing generators and building community relationships, Soldiers of the 3670th hope to continue on with the program as long as they are needed.

"It's not about getting recognition for what we do," said Coronado. "It's about training our Soldiers and lending a hand to our neighbors."

Vallee earns coveted spot at Command & General Staff College



U.S. Army Photo

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Geoffrey Vallee is currently attending the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Story courtesy of Sentinel Staff

Maj. Geoffrey Vallee, Oregon Army National Guard, is one of only 30 National Guard members across the nation enrolled in a year long resident school at the Command and General Staff College.

Vallee is currently at the residential school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He will finish his school in June, 2012.

"It is a unique honor to come to the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), especially for National Guard members," said Lt. Col. David Poulton, U.S. Army National Guard Advisor for Command and General Staff College.

Poulton said, Vallee is strategically placed in small groups with about 15 other Soldiers from the active duty component, so he can share his experiences as a National Guard Soldier.

"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to be here," said Vallee. "I want to share my perspective with fellow students," he added.

The school teaches officers the necessary skills for the transition from being a company grade officer to being a field grade officer. Vallee deployed as the company commander for Charlie Company 7-158 Aviation in 2009. Prior to that deployment, Vallee spent nine years on active duty as an aviation officer.

Poulton said with all of the deployments for the National Guard, the Active Duty Soldiers can gain insight from Soldiers like Vallee.

"Maj. Vallee is a sharp guy and he's representing the Oregon National Guard well," he added.

Vallee said the Command and General Staff College has taught him many skills he will be able to use in his job when he returns.

"I am looking forward to returning to Oregon and applying what I have learned at school to help improve any organization to which I am assigned," said Vallee.

"I hope that what I have learned will be beneficial to the state of Oregon, the National Guard, and the Army," he added.

Vallee said he is learning the most updated doctrine and practices the Army is using.

"We are at a time of change in the Army, it's nice to be in a place where that change is being talked about daily," said Vallee.

2012 ANG Golf Tournament raises over \$6,000 for 142nd FW Fund



Photo by Master Sgt. Shelly Ball, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Participants in the 2012 Air National Guard Golf Tournament pause for a group photo on the first day of play at the Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield, Wash., Aug. 22. The tournament raised more than \$6,000 for the 142nd FW Fund, which helps Airmen and their families in times of need.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

From Bonanza to Bronze:

Story by 2nd Lt. Heather Bashor,
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

During the demobilization ceremony for the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Security Forces Squadron at Kingsley Field, July 21, an Airman was recognized with the Bronze Star.

Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton is the first enlisted Airman from Kingsley Field to be awarded the Bronze Star while assigned to the 173rd FW.

The ceremony recognized his fellow 26 Airmen from the Security Forces Squadron, who recently deployed to Afghanistan for six months.

The Airmen returned home between March 17- 20, 2012.

Pemberton, a native of Bonanza, Ore. was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for the accomplishments of his unit during the deployment and for his competent leadership, proven ability, and his role as an ambassador for the United States as his squad conducted Counter Insurgency (COIN) Operations in Afghan villages.

Pemberton credits his teammates for his success, "My whole team deserves just as much credit as me, they were with me every day."

Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, presided over the ceremony. He thanked family members for their support during the unit's six-month deployment and recognized members of the 173 SFS for their outstanding service in Afghanistan.

He also noted that most of the unit's Airmen have deployed multiple times and are among the most seasoned veterans of the Oregon Air National Guard.

The deployment was unique for the Airmen in Kingsley Field's Security Forces. They spent the majority of their time working outside the wire ensuring the security and safety of Coalition Forces—a first for deployed security forces from Klamath Falls, Ore.

Mrs. J. Marie Norris, the Oregon State Regional Coordinator for Quilts of Valor presented a hand-made quilt to each of

the returning 173rd FW Security Forces members.

As the squad leader and non-commissioned officer in charge, Pemberton took the lead on varied and multiple missions. The COIN operations were the most memorable, Pemberton said.

"We would go to villages, seek out the leaders, and sit and have tea," he said.

Pemberton was the voice and representative for his team. With the assistance of a translator, Pemberton discovered the needs of the village and established a positive relationship with village leaders.

"I would always smile no matter what," said Pemberton with a laugh. "The villagers called me 'smiley eyes'."

"You could tell by walking into a village how the reception would be," Pemberton said. "You may have a great reception on one visit and later receive a very cold response from the same village."

After determining the needs of villages, the squad delivered a number of items to include jackets, boots, food, and fuel sources for heat.

Many of the items were for the children who did not have the necessary clothing for the cold weather climate.

The Security Forces members were deployed to Afghanistan during the high profile riots in reaction to the Koran burning incident.

A quick response team (QRT) made up of 173rd FW Security Forces members, led by Pemberton, responded to the riots on the front line. The Airmen stood the line for two days of the main force of the riots with riot shields.

"The rioters threw rocks, burning tires, Molotov cocktails, sling shots, and anything else they could think of without using firearms," said Pemberton. "They tore down concrete walls, penetrated a metal gate, and burned down gate shacks."

Pemberton's citation read; *While under constant threat of insurgent attack, during ground operations against the enemy at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Pemberton integrated a force of 16 Airmen, linguists, and advanced designated Marksman in*

173rd Airman awarded Bronze Star for service during Afghanistan deployment



Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton receives the Bronze Star Medal, July 21, presented by Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air for the State of Oregon, for his leading role in a 173rd Security Forces deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan last winter.

defense of the 220 square kilometer base security zone, according to the citation.

Pemberton led 130 military personnel outside the wire during combat missions, incorporated residual base defense air and synchronized reconnaissance assets, protecting 110 coalition aircraft, 36,000 base personnel, and over three billion dollars in strategic warfighting assets, according to Pemberton's citation.

As the architect of Operation KALEIDOSCOPE, Pemberton also coordinated fostered relationships with village Maliks throughout Bagram District. His efforts opened dialogue with local villagers to report priority intelligence requirements on insurgent activity.

He also directed the United States Air Force's first ever Female Engagement Team initiative and conducted 10 joint patrol missions with a Human Terrain Team analyst.

"We are very proud of Master Sgt. Pemberton for his outstanding leadership in Afghanistan," Prunk said. "His Bronze Star is well deserved and brings great credit upon himself and the 173 Fighter Wing."



Staff Sgt. William Briones stands in formation with fellow Airmen of the 173rd Security Forces Squadron during a demobilization ceremony, July 21.

Klamath Falls unit recognized with Outstanding Unit Award

Story courtesy of
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.— The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS) of the Oregon Air National Guard received the 2011 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, during a ceremony at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Aug. 4.

Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presented the award to the unit.

The award cited a range of accomplishments by the 270th ATCS, "from providing fixed base Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities for the only F-15 training site, to training and deploying air traffic controllers and maintenance personnel to every ream of Responsibility (AOR)."

The award also stated that, "The unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving as ground radar systems craftsman and significantly contributed to more than 2,600 hours of successful operational surveillance, tracking more than 155,000 aircraft with zero mishaps."

This is the seventh consecutive year the 270th has earned the AF Outstanding Unit Award.

"It is an honor to add another award to your list of accomplishments," Gregg said. "We are proud you are a part of the Oregon Guard team."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presents Capt. Michael R. Balzotti, commander of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for 2011, Aug. 4.

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director, Air National Guard, passed along his personal congratulations.

"The selection for this prestigious award reflects great credit upon the 270th ATCS, the State of Oregon, and the Air National Guard," said Wyatt in a written statement.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, also extended his personal congratulations for a job well done.

CST trains with U.S. Coast Guard

Story courtesy of United States Coast Guard Sector Columbia River Chapter

ASTORIA, Ore. — Coast Guard Sector Columbia River's Vessel Boarding Security Team and the Oregon Army National Guard 102 Civil Support Team trained together in Astoria, the week of Aug. 16, to prepare for potential chemical and radiation threats posed by vessels entering the Columbia River.

In the event that the Coast Guard VBST discovers high levels of radiation or unfamiliar chemicals aboard a vessel, the CST would be called upon to identify the material, and decontaminate the vessel and any members of the team with whom it had come into contact.

The teams worked together in a real world scenario on April 8, 2011 when the freight vessel Pan Pac Spirit was cleared to enter the Columbia River. Both teams boarded the vessel, which had recently transited through potentially contaminated waters in the vicinity of Fukushima, Japan.

The VBST provided security and basic radiation detection while the CST offered more technologically advanced radiological and chemical detecting capabilities.

CST members practiced hoisting to and lowering from a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter, and practiced vessel boardings.

In a boarding drill, VBST found simulated chemical or radiological



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Fireman Loumania Stewart

Coast Guard members from Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Wash., assist a member of the Oregon National Guard 102 Civil Support Team aboard the Tongue Point Job Corps training vessel Ironwood during a training exercise in Astoria, Aug. 16.

agents aboard the Tongue Point Job Corps training vessel Ironwood.

Oregon's CST members were called in and it was discovered that a VBST member had been notionally contaminated.

The contaminated member was then taken to Hammond Marina via boat from Station Cape Disappointment, where a full decontamination line was set up.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

MG Zadalis visits K-Falls

Story by 2nd Lt. Heather Bashor,
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Maj. Gen. Timothy Zadalis, the Director of Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration, HQ Air Education and Training Command (AETC), visited the 173rd Fighter Wing after a recent AETC restructuring that brought the 173rd FW under his command.



Zadalis toured the base and learned about the Wing's mission as the F-15 Premier Pilot Training School House.

At the start of the day, Zadalis expressed his enthusiasm for the Oregon Air National Guard

pilot training mission.

"This is a great place to fly and a great mission," he said.

Zadalis, a cargo aircraft pilot, spent the morning preparing for an F-15 familiarization flight, learning about the equipment and terrain, viewing new construction projects and greeting Kingsley Airmen.

"We don't want to mess with this operation," Zadalis said. "You know what you are doing."

In the afternoon, Zadalis was ready for his first flight in the F-15.

"I just hope I don't lose my lunch," he joked.

Zadalis stepped up to the aircraft and buckled up for the ride.

The general returned to terra-firma with his lunch intact. Stating that the ride was incredible.

"I've never seen an aircraft do anything like that!" Zadalis exclaimed. "I do not know how you guys do this for 25 years," he added, noting the physical stresses exerted on the body by the F-15's maneuverability.

Zadalis then thanked all the Airmen involved in making the visit possible. He expressed his enthusiasm and optimism about the future of a possible total force integration (TFI) at Kingsley as the Air Force decides to plus-up F-15C graduate production.

A TFI would bring active duty men and women to Kingsley Field and increase the number of pilots graduating from the school house.

Col. Robert Erickson, Air National Guard Advisor to General Zadalis and former Kingsley member, said HQ-AETC were now strong advocates for Kingsley following the visit.

"After seeing the people, the facilities, the mission, and the excellence at Kingsley, we now are strong advocates for Kingsley," Erickson said. "I have no concerns for a TFI at Kingsley. It would be fantastic for the Oregon Air National Guard and for Klamath Falls."



Master Sgt. Kenneth Shearer, 114th Fighter Squadron, instructs Maj. Gen. Timothy Zadalis on F-15 egress in preparation for Zadalis' familiarization flight in an F-15 Eagle at Kingsley Field, Ore., July 24.

Oregon Airman recognized as one of nation's best



National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Marvin Preston

Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, the director of the Air National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, the command chief master sergeant to the director of the ANG, present Senior Master Sgt. Luke W. Thompson, 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, with the Outstanding Airman Ribbon during the 2012 ANG Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards ceremony at the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 22.

The ANG Outstanding Airmen of the Year ceremony recognizes the Air National Guard's six top performers for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements.

"We celebrate these six Outstanding Airmen who represent the 91,000 amazing ANG enlisted warriors," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, the command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard. "I wish we could honor all our Guard Soldiers and Airmen like we do these lucky few. They all should be the toast of every town, village, and city in America."

Senior leaders from across the National Guard hosted the 2012 Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year banquet Aug. 24 at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.

The banquet is held each year in honor of the top Soldiers and Airmen from both the Army and Air National Guard.

"The choice of who will represent the Army and the Air National Guard is never easy, however, individuals who will be honored in August in our nation's capital are truly America's finest Citizen-Warriors," said Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, senior enlisted leader of the National Guard Bureau.

Military Department gate guard devoted to helping others

Story and photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. – We drive past him almost every day. He greets us with a smile as we roll down our car windows and show him our ID.

Sometimes we stop for a minute and talk, chatting about the weather, upcoming events or just about things happening in our lives.

Who is this man that guards our gate and keeps us safe?

Joe Lefore was born in 1953 in a small Texas town. He admits spending his formative years facing segregation and racial harassment.

"I would have to climb up trees to get away from other kids that wanted to beat me up," he said.

In 1955, Joe's father, who was in the active duty Air Force, was assigned to U.S. Strategic Air Command in Scotland. The move saved Joe from further childhood discrimination at the hands of his peers in Texas.

"Scotland was very different than what I was used to," Lefore said. "It was much easier for me to fit in with the kids my age."

After spending several years in Europe, he returned to Texas. Joe was shocked by the cultural shift. He now felt like a complete outsider — he still faced racial segregation, but also just didn't quite fit in.

"People would treat me as being sub-human," Lefore said, "I didn't fit in with the white or black communities."

It was through that experience he decided to be the best at whatever he did, no matter it was.

During his teen years, he moved to Long Beach, Calif., where he learned how to surf and play the guitar. It was the 1960s and music and the surf culture in Southern California reigned supreme. He finally



Joe Lefore welcomes employees at the front gate to the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Ore. Lefore has devoted his life to helping others.

found his niche.

He spent several years playing with many famous musicians at the Palamino Club. He earned an associate's degree at the local college.

Lefore also studied boxing and kung fu. The physical training taught him resiliency, but also mental toughness. He could now face challenges and could 'roll with the punches.'

He married and eventually had a child. Lefore moved his family to Oregon and attended bible school in Eugene, Ore.

He soon took a job working as a counselor at Fairview Hospital, where he helped patients deal with personal issues

for nearly 27 years.

The Lefores now have two children and reside in the Salem area.

Lefore said his passion for helping others comes from his own personal difficulties growing up as an "outsider."

He has taken his knack for helping people and combined it with his musical abilities, and now holds group guitar sessions with Oregon National Guard Soldiers and veterans returning from war.

"The difficulties in my own life have given me a unique perspective," said Lefore. "I feel my experiences help me mentor and help others through some of their life challenges."

NEWS BRIEFS

Update on 2-year Capital Campaign fundraiser for new Oregon Military Museum

Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department

The Thayer family joins Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, on stage during the Oregon Air National Guard's Executive Briefing. Brig. Gen. (ORDSF) James B. Thayer was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement award during the event held June 14 at the Portland Air Guard Base.

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department

The two-year Capital Campaign for the Oregon Military Museum is off to a strong start with two high profile events raising awareness and funds for the cause. The All Star Salute to the Oregon Military at the Oregon Golf Club in May raised \$350,000 for the museum. The event featured celebrities like Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS and pro golfer Peter Jacobsen.

"The All Star Salute to the Oregon Military was impressive because of the immediate outpouring of support from everyone I know," said Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS.

Five hundred people including civic and military leaders joined together to honor Thayer's father, World War II

Hero James B. Thayer, retired Brigadier General Oregon State Defense Force and Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus, and all Oregon servicemembers.

"This is a cause everyone can get behind. It's something that every person can relate to and directly affects their lives," said Thayer.

The Oregon Military Museum will be named after Retired Brig. Gen. (OSDF) James B. Thayer, who is the recipient of the Silver Star and Bronze Star, and World War II veteran. Thayer, of Lake Oswego, helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. After the war, Thayer returned home to Oregon to build a successful business and raise a family.

On June 14, Thayer was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon National Guard Executive Briefing at the Portland Air National Guard Base hosted by

Gov. John Kitzhaber. Thayer accepted the award with his four children, Tommy Thayer, John Thayer, Mike Thayer, and Jim Thayer on stage.

"I'm so proud that Dad is being honored," said Tommy Thayer. "It's fitting considering all of his accomplishments and leadership in nearly 70 years of service."

The Oregon Military Museum will pay tribute to Thayer and all those who have served in the military.

"This is what this state needs," said Oregon State Defense Force Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer.

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

"The museum will be a gathering place, a sort of blueprint or way-finding point, of meaningful stories about Oregonians' military service and military values," said Tracy Thoennes, Curator for the Oregon Military Museum.

Funds raised from the Capital Campaign will be used for facilities upgrades, including proper museum lighting, fire safety, environmental controls and security system improvements. Professional exhibits include a vault showcasing a large weapons collection. Thoennes said every object tells a story.

"We hope that by sharing these stories with the community, through our collection of historically significant objects and archival material, lives will be enriched," said Thoennes.

For more information on the Capital Campaign for the Oregon Military Museum go to www.allstarsalute.com.

TAG Diversity Council invites new members

The TAG's State Diversity Council consists of a group of Airmen, Soldiers and Civilians of the Oregon National Guard who help foster an organizational culture where diversity is valued as a factor of personnel readiness and a combat multiplier.

Some of the areas of focus are leadership commitment, education and training, career management, policy creation, diversity awareness, community outreach and involvement, recruiting and retention.

The council meets quarterly in various locations throughout the state and all Airmen, Soldiers or Civilians are welcome to attend and participate.

This fiscal year, the council has completed a new Charter, identified new council goals and objectives, and accomplished some community outreach by partnering with organizations such as the Korean Society of Oregon, Clatsop County Schools, and the Port of Portland.

For any questions on the Diversity Council, contact the State Equal Employment Manager, Ms. Theresa Hinges at 503-584-3829 or theresa.m.hinges@us.army.mil.

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 (SERE-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
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VA to add two Oregon to community-based outpatient clinics

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As part of the continuing effort to provide health care closer to where more veterans live, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced plans in July to open 13 new community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in nine states, including two in Oregon.

By 2013, VA plans to open CBOCs in Clackamas and Grants Pass.

"Community-based clinics are key to providing veterans better access to high-quality care closer to home," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "By reducing the distance veterans have to travel, we hope more veterans will benefit from the health care services they have earned through their service to our nation."

With 152 medical centers and more than 812 community-based outpatient clinics, the VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. Oregon currently has 13 CBOCs across the state. The clinics and their respective phone numbers are provided below:

- Bend, 503-220-8262
- Brookings, 541-607-0897
- Eugene, 541-607-0897
- Hillsboro, 503-906-5000
- Klamath Falls, 541-273-6206
- LaGrande, 541-963-0627
- Newport, 541-265-4182
- North Bend, 541-756-8002
- Portland, 503-273-5142
- Salem, 503-220-8262
- The Dalles, 800-949-1004
- Warrenton, 503-220-8262
- West Linn, 503-210-4900

RV spaces available at Oregon Guard facilities

Are you a retiree with a Recreational Vehicle (RV)? RV owners are constantly looking for unique campgrounds at an affordable price.

For Oregon military retirees there are two big-rig friendly RV parks offered by the Oregon National Guard.

Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, offers 10 full service spaces at a price of \$20.00 per night. Water, sewer, 50A electric service and cable TV are included in the price. Reservations can be made by contacting Post Billeting at 503 836-4052.

Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, offers five fully paved RV spots with water, sewer and 30A electric service for \$12.00 per night. Reservations and information are available at 541 885-6365.

Active, National Guard, Reservists, Retired, 100 percent DAV, and DoD Civilians are authorized to use both facilities.

Military campgrounds and RV facilities are located throughout the U.S. The following web site helps locate these facilities and offers much useful information: <http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/> Just click on the Recreation Facility Information tab and you can search by area or individual state.

The Retiree Service Office has made a suggestion to the Oregon Military Department to add additional RV sites, specifically at Camp Withycombe. Access to our newest AAFES exchange and close proximity to I-205 makes this location very desirable. Let the RSO know if this idea appeals to you, call 503 584-2891 and leave a message.

Vietnam War information website launched

Much has been written and researched about the Vietnam War and the veterans who served there. Yet, there are always questions and controversy concerning that era.

A website called Vietnam War Websources has a wealth of information and provides answers to questions that veterans and non-veterans alike may have about that period of history.

Visit this resource at: www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html

Story, photo corrections

In the Summer 2012 issue of the Oregon Sentinel, there was an error in the caption of the cover photo of the Thayer family.

James B. Thayer was incorrectly referred to as an Army Brigadier General.

Thayer is a retired Brigadier General with the Oregon State Defense Force, and also holds the title of Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (Emeritus).

Also, Sgt. Cory Grogan, of the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office should be credited as the photographer.

In the center photo spread of the Summer 2012 issue, Sgt. Cory Grogan was incorrectly credited with the story and the photos.

The photo credit for images 1, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12 should go to Spc. Marilyn Lowry, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

NEWS BRIEFS

Labor Department launches Vets Retraining Assistance Program

Story courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Labor

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) rolled out the new program on July 1, 2012.

To qualify, a Veteran must:

1. Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
2. Be unemployed
3. Have an other than dishonorable discharge
4. Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
5. Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
6. Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to 54,000 participants from October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014.

Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,473 per month). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

We are accepting VRAP applications now. Please visit eBenefits to apply.

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation. Search for an approved program here.

Call 1-800-827-1000 to learn more information about the VOW to Hire Heroes act of 2011, or visit the website at www.benefits.va.gov/vow.

Hotels offer Wounded Warrior transition help

Story by Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (8/10/12) - Families of wounded warriors already are benefitting from a program that started last month to make it easier for them to travel with their loved ones for medical treatment.

The Defense Department and Fisher House Foundation have teamed up to oversee the Hotels for Heroes program, which allows the American public to donate their unused hotel reward points to families of wounded warriors so that they might stay for free in hotels around the country while their family member receives medical treatment.

"The family members of our wounded heroes should never have to stress about the financial burden of travel," David Coker, president of the Fisher House Foundation, said at a July 16 ceremony. "We are honored to help facilitate the process and are confident that the American public will help make this new program a success."

Cindy Campbell, the foundation's vice president for community relations and media affairs, said Aug. 7 that the program already has provided 60 nights of lodging for military families.

"We're very fortunate in that many of the hotel chains banked a lot of points for us," she said. "That has allowed us to go ahead and get started. And a lot of people already have donated points, but we are going to go through these quickly."

Sadly, Campbell said, "there is a huge demand" from families who must travel to locations without one of the 57 Fisher

Houses, or where they are full. The houses near large military medical centers fill up quickly.

The program's sponsors are optimistic, given the success of its sister program, Hero Miles, that has allowed them to give away more than 30,000 plane tickets since it was created in 2003, Campbell said.

The annual need for hotel rooms "is a very substantial six-figure number," she said, "so this is really going to help us out."

Jessica Allen, whose husband, Army Staff Sgt. Charles Allen, is recovering from a roadside bomb, used Hero Miles to fly herself and her two daughters back and forth to her husband's hospital bed during his recovery and rehabilitation.

"Hero Miles saved our family from a crushing expense, and gave our daughters the chance to be with their dad when he was in the hospital and learning to walk again," Allen said at the program's launch ceremony.

"Hotels for Heroes will do something similar, and I am thankful to all the people who have and will donate their unused hotel points to benefit our military families."

Six major hotel companies; Marriott, Wyndham, Best Western, Starwood, AmericInn and Choice Privileges Hotels, are participating in the program.

The program fills a void, Campbell said, in allowing the American public to give back. "It's a very simple way for business travelers while they are racking up so many hotel points, to give back," she said.

People can donate points by going to their hotel rewards club website, which has a tab for Fisher House donations.

Fisher House Foundation is best known for the network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers.

The Fisher Houses are donated to the military and Department of Veterans Affairs, and families can stay in the houses while a loved one is receiving treatment. Additionally, the foundation ensures that families of service men and women wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan are not burdened with unnecessary expense during a time of crisis.

End of summer marks job hunting season for vets

Story by Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The end of summer marks the start of an open season of sorts for job fairs for military spouses in what one Pentagon official calls the "high-tech" part of a "high-tech, high-touch" process.

Meg O'Grady was a military spouse herself, having moved 13 times in 17 years, when she began working at the Pentagon just before the June 29, 2011, launch of the Defense Department's Military Spouse Employment Partnership. Today, she is its acting program manager.

The partnership hosts an online job portal where military spouses can search for jobs, post resumes and receive education and training, and where employers can post openings and search for new talent.

The site has posted 500 million job ads in the past year, and has 220,000 ads on any given day, O'Grady said. That's the high-tech part.

The high-touch part gets under way today as MSEP's partner, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes program, ramps up its "touch" tactics by sponsoring numerous job fairs in the coming weeks in military-populated cities such as Hampton, Va.; Minneapolis; Utica, N.Y.; Sugar Grove, Ill.; Lake Charles, La.; and Quantico, Va., to name a few.

The DoD and Chamber programs compliment that of Joining Forces, a program started by First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Jill Biden that also works to improve military spouse's employment.

The job fairs not only bring employers to job seekers, but also offer forums for helping spouses with resume writing, networking and the like, said Laura Dempsey, director of Hiring Our Heroes. Dempsey, too, is a military spouse, and so knew the potential of those who mostly

have been an untapped resource in hiring.

When Dempsey was building the Hiring Our Heroes staff, she turned to Noreen O'Neil, a military spouse she knew socially who had volunteered for the program's launch, to be its events director.

Like many military spouses, O'Neil had an employment gap of more than 10 years, but "had either been the president or chief fundraiser of every spouse club she was in," Dempsey said. "That certainly qualifies her to do the job."

The hiring fair forums will address how military spouses, especially those with employment gaps, can market their volunteer experiences to civilian employers, she said.

"You have to help spouses sell it, is the problem," said Dempsey, a lawyer who has maintained her skills through nine moves with the Army. "Employers are open to it, if they understand it."

Telling a private-sector manager you were a family readiness group leader may not resonate until you say you were in charge of the well-being of 750 families, Dempsey said.

And, "saying you were a spouse club president may sound like a boutique social position," she added. "But if they say they were in charge of a budget of tens of thousands of dollars and hosted 10 major events with hundreds of attendees, that's an event planner."

Oregon Guard utilizes Blackhawks to assist with fire fighting efforts in Lakeview



Photo courtesy of Oregon Army National Guard Aviation

Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters stage at the Lakeview Helibase to assist with the Barry Point fire in south central Oregon, Aug. 18. The fire, which scorched more than 94,000 acres, was nearly 50 percent contained by Aug. 21. The fire was determined to be under control by the end of August.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

SPECIAL PULL-OUT
POSTERS!

LOOK IN THE
WINTER 2012 ISSUE OF THE

Oregon Sentinel

FOR MORE DETAILS!

AZUWUR



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

SALEM, Ore. — On the 68th anniversary of the Allied invasion of France, June 6th, memories became fresh and emotions swelled as hundreds gathered to witness the ceremonial groundbreaking of Oregon's World War II Memorial in Willson Park on the grounds of the state Capitol.

Many don't recall an event in recent history where so many veterans of World War II were assembled in one place. It was history, once again, in the making.

"There's not very many of us left, and I think it's very nice that they would do this," said Alvin Christopherson of Salem, a World War II veteran who lived through the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I was actually on duty that morning, wide awake. And I heard a drone and looked up. I counted 80 Japanese war planes," said Christopherson.

For Christopherson and dozens of World War II veterans in attendance, a war memorial for Oregonians is a long-time-coming.

Jim Willis, director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and one of the Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation board members, has made it his mission to give the "greatest generation," who were typically too modest and humble to draw attention to their achievements, their proper due.

"When they came home, the last thing in the world that they cared about was any kind of memorial," Willis said. "And that's why the national World War II memorial wasn't dedicated until 2006. That war ended in 1945. It took the nation that long."

Secretary of State Kate Brown, one of the nine representatives who turned the first shovel of dirt for the memorial site, said three words define the veterans of the Second World War

"Sacrifice, as in the act by 1st Lt. David R. Kingsley, of Portland, to give

Greatest Generation recognized with WWII Memorial: War memorial for Oregonians 'A long time coming'

his parachute to a fellow crew member before his bomber crashed after bombing the oil fields in Ploesti, Romania, in 1944. Kingsley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 1945.

She added, "Tenacity, as in the life and career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, a unit of America's first black aviators.

And courage; when considering the careers and service of Ken Jernstedt, one of the original Flying Tigers volunteer pilots in China, later a state senator and mayor of Hood River. Rex T. Barber, a fighter pilot from Culver who was part of the top-secret mission to locate and shoot down Japanese Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto.

"There's American-born Japanese Kennie Namba, of Portland, who served as a member of the mostly all Japanese U.S. Army 442nd Infantry Regiment, and Donald Hughes, a Navy pilot in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, who was buried this week in Portland," Brown added.

Foundation honorary board member, Bill Markham, flew B-17 bombers over Europe with the 8th Air Force and later became the longest-serving state representative (1969-75 and 1977-99, for a total of 28 years).

"It will not be about war," Markham said of the memorial. "It will tell the story of the men and women in war and on the home front."

Markham is one of 12 honorary board members who are supporting the Foundation's efforts to build the state's memorial.

Others include Govs. John Kitzhaber, Ted Kulongoski, Barbara Roberts, and Victor Atiyeh, Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Oregon Medal of Honor recipients Bob Maxwell and Arthur Jackson, and World War II veterans Gerry Frank and Art Sorenson.

Oregon is one of only six states that do not have an official state World War II



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.

memorial. Financed entirely by private donations, the aim is to have the memorial completed by Veterans Day 2012. However, that date will depend on raising enough money to complete the project.

Once completed, the memorial will commemorate and honor the service of more than 152,000 Oregon men and women of the armed forces, the support of countless civilians on the home front, and the ultimate sacrifice of more than 3,750 Oregonians who gave their lives during the war.

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature authorized an official Oregon World War II Memorial to be built on the capitol grounds. The Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation is the non-profit organization charged with raising private funds to build the memorial as well as unify Oregon communities to honor their

veterans from that era, and the generation of people who supported the war effort on the home front. The foundation's fundraising goal is \$1.5 million.

In addition to Brown, Jaffe, Markham, Plame and Willis, others who took part in the groundbreaking were Sen. Brian Boquist (R-Dallas), chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, and an Army veteran of the Iraq War; Rep. Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie), co-chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; and Marian Beresford of Portland, representing those who worked on the home front in support of the war effort.

To learn more about the memorial, the Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation or to make a donation, visit: www.oregonwwiimemorial.com.

The 'father of the Oregon Militia' more than just a name, photo

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

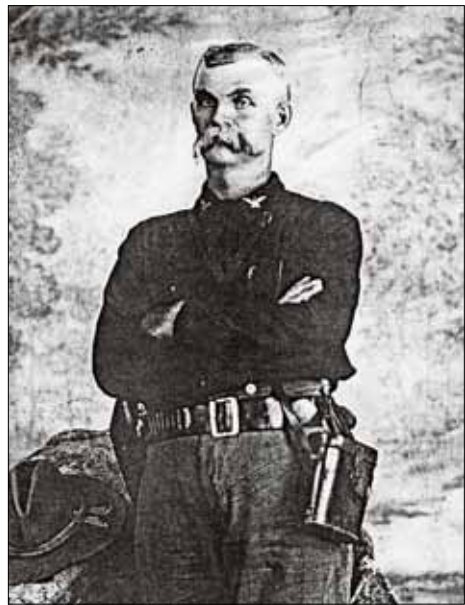
Owen Summers is more than just a photo on the wall as you enter the headquarters for the Oregon National Guard.

Owen Summers was born in Brockville, Canada, on June 13, 1850. At the age of two, his parents, John and Elizabeth Ann Summers moved the family to Chicago, Ill., where his father worked as a cobbler. Five years later, Owen and four siblings were left as orphans after his parents and a younger sister died during the cholera epidemic.

Six year old Owen was taken to a farm near Frankfort, Ill., and spent most of his youth working on the farm in exchange for room and board. He attended a small schoolhouse in La Center, Lee County, Ill.

At the age of 12, Owen and three of his schoolmates tried to enlist in the Army to join the ranks of those fighting in the Civil War, but were refused by recruiting officers because they were too young. Undeterred, Owen tried unsuccessfully twice more. On his fourth attempt to enlist in 1865, he garnered the help of a Pennsylvania Dutchman, who consented to become his guardian. With the permission of this man, the examining Army surgeon granted his acceptance into the United States Army. He was barely 14 years old.

On February 1, 1865, Owen joined Company H, Third Illinois Cavalry. He served in the eastern part of Mississippi, and later in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and the Carolinas. Following the close of the war, his unit was ordered to St. Louis, Mo., and fought against the Sioux Indians in Minnesota and the Dakotas before being mustered out of the service on Dec. 11,



1865.

In January, 1875, he headed west, taking odd jobs and bouncing back and forth between San Francisco, San Diego, and Portland. He eventually settled in Portland, Ore., where he and his brother-in-law, J.C. Olds, founded a crockery and glassware business known as Olds & Summers. The company occupied a building at No. 183 First Street in downtown Portland.

After several set-backs, including a fire which destroyed their building and inventory in 1886, Owen persisted in his business endeavors, becoming a force in the local trade, becoming a well respected, and prominent merchant in the Portland business community.

During this time, Owen had been appointed to the state legislature as the United States Appraiser of the Port of Portland. He worked closely with

the Oregon delegation and the general assembly on the passage of a bill which resulted in the creation of a militia for the State of Oregon. The bill allowed for the reestablishment of a State Adjutant General, and three regiments and a company of Veteran Guards, composed of ex-members of Civil War regiments—of which he was chosen as first lieutenant.

According to the new law, which came to be known as the "Summers Law," Oregon's militia was authorized a minimum strength of 1,320 men in one battalion and each of its three regiments. Furthermore, Summers oversaw the outfitting of the units, and the creation of an efficient, disciplined force.

In 1887, the militia was reorganized into the Oregon National Guard, and Owen was elected as lieutenant colonel of the First Regiment. Seven years later, he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

At the opening of the Spanish-American War, all National Guard troops were ordered to Portland and consolidated into the Second Oregon Regiment of the United States Volunteers. Colonel Summers was named as commander of this new group, and on May 24, 1898, the regiment sailed to the Philippines. The unit was the first military unit to leave the continental United States, and along with the First California and five companies of the 14th U.S. Infantry, were the first to arrive in a foreign country during the war. The men under Summers found him kindly, considerate and helpful.

Col. Summers' unit was involved in several battles, including the advance on Guadalupe, the battle of Malabon, and the liberation of Manila.

In 1899, just before his regiment returned to Oregon, Col. Summers was

recommended for promotion to the rank of brigadier general. Then, on Sept. 1, 1899, Summers was reappointed as the United States appraiser by the President in Portland, Ore. He shortly began re-immersing himself in the business community, founding Summers & Prail Crockery Company—a company he sold shortly thereafter.

On July 23, 1880, Summers married Clara T. Olds, a native of Oregon, and sister to his old business partner, J.C. Olds. The two had only one child, Owen George.

In his later years, Summers became active in civic and social circles. He joined the Commercial Club, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He also became a Mason, and was a charter member of Columbia Lodge No. 114.

Summers died of pneumonia in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 2, 1911. He was 60. He is buried in River View Cemetery in Portland, Ore.

The title of "Father of the Oregon National Guard" is appropriate, given Summers' accomplishments throughout his life. The legacy Summers created lives on in the evolution of the 2d Oregon Regiment to what we know today as the 2nd Infantry, 162nd Battalion, also earning him the title of "Oregon's First Volunteer".

Moreover, his effort to create Oregon's militia lives on in today's Oregon National Guard. Summer's example of Citizen-Soldier, model businessman, and successful statesman, is a proud heritage to which all Oregonians can aspire.

Information for this post resourced from Oregon State Defense Force History website, Ancestry.com, and Ask.com.