



Oregon National Guard joins state and nation to observe Veterans Day: Page 8



142FW welcomes new commander: Page 13

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

State Partnership program expands to include Vietnam

Oregon National Guard, Vietnam strike historic partnership agreement

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff



Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Hanoi

Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents Vietnam Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), with the official signed documents for the State Partnership Program between Oregon and Vietnam, at the Ministry of Defense Guest House in Hanoi, Vietnam, Nov. 27. U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear (center, yellow tie), and other Oregon and Vietnam officials look on.

HANOI, Vietnam — The Oregon National Guard signed a partnership with Vietnam as part of the State Partnership Program during a ceremony held Nov. 27 at the Ministry of Defense Guest House in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, signed the agreement with Vietnam Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM).

U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear, Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, Assistant Adjutant General (Army), Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark Crosby, Oregon's State Partnership Program Director, and other Vietnam officials were on hand for the signing.

The agreement comes just as the United States begins ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Events and commemorations to honor era veterans and casualties are scheduled in both countries through the year 2025. For more information on anniversary observances, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.

The State Partnership Program reflects an evolving international

See **Vietnam** on Page 4

1186 Military Police Company returns home from Afghanistan

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

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard held two separate demobilization ceremonies for its 1186 Military Police Company, which returned from a year-long deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan.

The first ceremony was held at the Chemeketa Community College gymnasium, in Salem, Ore., Oct. 27.

A unit change of command ceremony was also held during the event, where outgoing commander, Maj. William V. Gillentine, relinquished command to Maj. Dustin K. Ballard.

Soldiers also gathered with their families for a 60-day Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Event where they learned about health, education, and employment resources. Many spoke about how good it feels to be home.

“This is great, this is the third time so it feels really good to be home,” said Spc. Brad Foster as he held his smiling daughter, Niema, in his arms.

The second ceremony was held the following day at the McLoughlin High School gymnasium, in Milton-Freewater, Ore., where a patriotic crowd filled the seats.

Nancy Hubbard, who along with other volunteers makes quilts for wounded and returning veterans, said she is proud



Oregon Army National Guard 1186 Military Police Company outgoing commander, Maj. William Gillentine, hands the unit guidon to the 821 Troop Command Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Michael Gillett, during a change of command and demobilization ceremony at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Ore., Oct. 27.

to give something back to brave service members.

“This isn’t about charity, it’s about the people, those who have served, those who have given.”

Unique, handmade quilts were given to members of the 1186 that day.

The 1186 MP Co., consisting of

approximately 180 Oregon Citizen-Soldiers from throughout the state, deployed to Afghanistan in October 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The unit provided force protection, personal security for high profile visitors, and trained the Afghan National Police.

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Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

State Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Stephen S. Bomar
stephen.s.bomar@mail.state.or.us

Editor-in-Chief
Master Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.r.choy@mail.state.or.us

Visual Information Manager
Master Sgt. Thomas L. Hovie
tom.hovie@mail.state.or.us

Assistant Editor
Staff Sgt. April L. Davis
april.l.davis@mail.state.or.us

Contributing Writer
Staff Sgt. Jason Van Mourik
jason.vanmourik@mail.state.or.us

Contributing Writer
Sgt. Cory Grogan
cory.e.grogan@mail.state.or.us

Contributors
Oregon Emergency Management
41 Inf. Brig. Combat Team Public Affairs
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Editorial Offices
c/o Oregon Military Department
Attn: Editor, Oregon Sentinel
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
503-584-3917

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COMMAND

Recognize those who enable you to serve our state and nation



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

As you read this you are contemplating the holidays ahead or remembering the good times you shared with family and friends. Please take time to be appreciative of the service of those such as the Soldiers and Airmen of 1186 Military Police Company, A-641 Aviation, 173 Security Forces Squadron, or 125 Special Tactics Squadron, that returned from deployment in 2012. Likewise, take a moment to reach out to your friends in the 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, C/7-158 Aviation, or the 125 STS that are still down range.

It has been another successful year in the service of our nation for the Oregon National Guard. Capping off the year has been additional milestones in Oregon's

participation in the State Partnership Program. You are well aware of our four-year partnership with Bangladesh. We enjoyed the honor of hosting the head of the Bangladesh military, Lt. Gen. Wadud, to our state in May to observe our very successful Vigilant Guard exercise. In November, we added a second partner, Vietnam. I am a Vietnam veteran. I hope you can understand the satisfaction that I feel with this accomplishment. I can now see the fulfillment of the costs of the war in which I started my career. Lt. Gen. Khue, who is the Deputy Chief of Staff for the People's Army of Vietnam and the Commander of Vietnam's National Search and Rescue Committee (Homeland Response), was an adversary 40 years ago but is now a friend. I believe that this partnership will bear much fruit for the Oregon Guard, our state and our nation.

Let me turn to something more mundane; brick and mortar. Our Army Guard Installations Division and our Air Guard Civil Engineers continue to astound me. The new 173 Security Forces building is an award winner. Likewise, the Colonel Nesmith Armed Forces Readiness Center in Polk County, the home of the 162 Engineer

Company, is an amazing state-of-the-art complex. These new buildings are truly a gift to our Soldiers and Airmen. Likewise, my hat is off to the staff that maintains our older structures. The cooperation and teamwork with our unit members make our buildings stand out as a point of pride. I believe we are the nations' best in this arena.

I have directed our state Public Affairs shop to begin a series on those who keep our planes in the air, our trucks on the road, and our tanks on the range. These Soldiers, Airmen and technicians deserve recognition for the enormous and meaningful work they do to keep us in business. Readiness would be an empty word without their dedicated effort.

Goodbye to 2012. Hello to 2013.

Put down this article. Turn to your nearest family member, your employer, your fellow Soldier or Airman. Thank them for allowing you the privilege of serving or sharing your service in the great Oregon National Guard.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Raymond F. Rees

Deployments give Airmen perspective, broaden horizons



State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell
State Command Chief Master Sergeant

The experience was rewarding and fulfilling as I filled a Group Superintendent position at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

The missions performed at the location were different than any I had worked with before, but the commitment and positive attitude of the service men and women I encountered were the same I encounter everyday throughout the Oregon National Guard and Air National Guard.

All branches of service and components were represented on the camp, as well as several coalition partners. The dynamics of working with all different services was challenging at times, but the majority of

the time it was easy to work side by side completing complex missions.

I had active duty, Reserve and Guard units rotating in and out of the group, I could not tell which component I was working with due to their can-do attitude and professional manner.

I would encourage all Airmen to deploy, if given the opportunity, as it will validate the first class education and training that you each have done thus far in your career.

The experience will broaden you in your field of expertise as well as understanding the bigger picture of the Air Force and Department of Defense.

I recently returned from a deployment and have had time to reflect on the pre-deployment preparedness and the overall deployment.

Oregon State Defense Force trains for emergencies

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing, Joint Force Headquarters

West winds blew coastal rains onto Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., as members of the Oregon State Defense Force (ORSDF) gathered, Oct. 20, to hone their skills and practice their proficiency relevant to the mission at hand. Members of the ORSDF come from every corner of Oregon biannually to fulfill their drill requirements, which lead to Oregon's capability to respond to emergencies.

The ORSDF is comprised of volunteers who personally invest in their service to Oregon. Volunteers use their own equipment, purchase their own uniforms, and participate in ORSDF meetings and drills on their own time. The members train on scenarios based on real world emergencies.

The organization was formed in 1961 by the Oregon Military Department to augment the Oregon National Guard in its efforts to respond to incidents. Presently, there are 157 members statewide; many have been members of the military for several decades. Several members maintain current



Multnomah County Medical Director Dr. Jon Jui, M.D., M.P.H., provides expert consultation with an Oregon State Defense Force team during the Oregon State Defense Force's October 2012 Semi-Annual Training exercise at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., Oct. 20.

amateur radio licenses. During their training, the members train on scenarios based on real world emergencies.

Doctor John Jui, Multnomah County medical director, attended the event as a special guest. Members of the Force said his participation in the exercise added a real-world feel to the drill.

"We didn't pull any punches today," said Jui, referring to

the reality of the exercise. "The members were well briefed on the roles and responsibilities, which is to disseminate information."

In the event that Oregon should experience a statewide, catastrophic event, the ORSDF would be activated and utilized as a critical asset, providing the state with qualified individuals to assist in response and recovery efforts.

Oregon has not experienced a widespread catastrophic event in quite some time. However, lessons learned from other events around the world have proved the importance of volunteer organizations, such as the ORSDF, when first responders and state resources are exhausted.

Participating in rehearsal drills ensures the ORSDF stands ready to respond to emergencies.

COMMAND

Conley bids farewell to Oregon, accepts National Guard Bureau position

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

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, of Sublimity, Ore., officially moved from his position as Command Sergeant Major of the Oregon National Guard to the new Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard during a Change of Responsibility ceremony in Arlington, Va., Sept. 26.

The Director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., chose Conley, the Oregon National Guard's senior enlisted advisor, to become the highest ranking enlisted Soldier in the Army National Guard.

As the National Guard's 10th command sergeant major, Conley will represent and advise the director of the Army National Guard on all matters pertaining to policies and actions that affect enlisted Citizen-Soldiers across all 54 states and territories.

"The Army National Guard is one of our country's great treasures," said Conley "I hope I can serve the Guard as well as the nine previous Army National Guard Command Sergeants Major."

As a father and a Soldier, Conley has led by example, earning the respect of many throughout his journey.

"It is amazing how many people know and respect him," said Conley's son, Capt. Nick Conley, with the Oregon National Guard's 2-162 Infantry Battalion.

"In the community I constantly run into people that he has worked with, and in the military, Soldiers tell me all the time about the impact he has had on their careers," said Nick.



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan

The Oregon National Guard's former State Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, pauses for a photo with his two sons, Capt. Nick Conley and Pvt. Zachary Conley, Sept. 14, prior to leaving for Washington D.C., where he was appointed Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard in a ceremony at Arlington Hall, Sept. 26.

Jim Jungling, retired command sergeant major with the Oregon National Guard, who was recently appointed to the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment Hall of Honor, said he first met Conley in the early 1990s in Silverton, Ore., where they served together in the same unit.

He said Conley is a great leader who is serious, focused and confident, constantly pushing his Soldiers to train above the standard. Jungling said in those early days of Conley's career he had the utmost respect for Conley and his father, Brunk Sr., who was also in the unit.

Jungling added, it was when he deployed with Conley to Iraq, and then to Louisiana for disaster response in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, that he really began to admire Conley's qualities as a leader.

"He was always around and always receptive to communication," Jungling said. "He was hard working and it seemed like he never slept."

Jungling mentioned that no matter where he and his Soldiers were, Conley would always seem to show up.

"He works well with officers to get enlisted Soldiers what they need to accomplish the mission," Jungling said. "He is a teacher, almost his whole family is (made up of) teachers, and he knows

how to communicate with and teach Soldiers."

Conley is a former physics and chemistry teacher with the North Santiam School District in Stayton, Ore.

Jungling mentioned that Conley would get everybody to buy-in to his plans because of the aura he presents.

"He is sincere, if he says he is going to do something he keeps his word," said Jungling.

His military career began in December 1981. After attending One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was awarded the Military Occupational Specialty of infantryman.

Conley went on to serve in an Army Ranger Battalion after the Vietnam War. After a stint with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Conley transitioned to the Oregon Army Guard where he served in a variety of leadership positions from squad leader through command sergeant major.

Luis Palacios, a retired command sergeant major, Vietnam veteran, and member of the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, served as Conley's first sergeant in the Ranger Battalion. Conley said Palacios is one of his greatest mentors.

Palacios stated that he always knew Conley was going to have a promising career.

"He was a very good young specialist who never had any problems, always out there with his fellow Rangers doing a lot of training," said Palacios.

"The way that we trained him was hard according to task, condition and standard because we want to make sure they will know what they're supposed to be doing," he added.

Palacios and others Conley served with call him an outstanding problem solver.

Capt. Timothy Merritt, who served as a general's aid with Conley for the Oregon National Guard's 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan, said he admires Conley for his problem solving abilities.

"He was always fixing problems and thinking outside the box to find the best solutions," Merritt said. "He talked with officers and did what is best for the organization and Soldiers."

Conley has deployed overseas twice with the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, first to Baghdad, Iraq in October 2003 and then to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2006.

Additionally, Conley served in New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts as the task force sergeant major after the storm made landfall in August 2005.

At a farewell ceremony hosted by the Oregon National Guard in Salem, Ore., on Oct. 30, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, stated that he knew Conley was the right person to be Oregon's next command sergeant major when Conley conducted a television interview during Hurricane Katrina. Conley put a positive spin on a difficult situation by calling Katrina a "problem solver's paradise".

During the same farewell ceremony, Conley attributed his success to the support of his family, and in particular, his wife Laura.

He mentioned a time when he was asked to volunteer for the Afghanistan deployment.

When he asked Laura for her thoughts, she said, "Can you help Soldiers?"

He replied, "Yes."

She said, "Then you go."

Conley and two of his five sons are members of the Oregon National Guard.

"As a father, words can't express how proud I am that Capt. Conley (Nick) and Pvt. Conley (Zac), have chosen to join the same organization that my father retired from," Conley said to a packed house



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, the 10th Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, accepts the noncommissioned officers sword from Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., director of the Army National Guard, symbolically taking on the responsibilities of his new position in a ceremony at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., Sept. 27.

during the farewell ceremony.

Nick Conley attributes much of his success as an officer to his father.

"As an officer, his experience, knowledge and guidance have been priceless in my young career," he said.

Nick Conley added that with a busy schedule, his father is still able to manage time effectively so family is not taken for granted.

"As a father and son, we have a lot in common and conversations come easy, but more importantly, the time we spend as a family is focused around family," Nick said.

Conley called the milestone of becoming Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major an "Oregon accomplishment" that would not have been possible without the help of many great Soldiers and Airmen he served with in the Oregon National Guard throughout the years.

"I accepted this position because of my deep love and respect for our organization," Conley said. "The Army National Guard is one of our country's great treasures."

Conley explained that he embraces the opportunity to be the next Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major.

"I will miss Oregon greatly, but my love of country is as strong as my love of Oregon," he said. "I hope to serve more than 350,000 Soldiers with all my might and determination."



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, newly appointed Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Army National Guard, pauses for a photo with Luis Palacios, a retired command sergeant major, Vietnam veteran, and member of the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, in Oman. Palacios served as Conley's first sergeant in their Ranger battalion. Conley said Palacios is one of his greatest mentors. After a stint with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Conley transitioned to the Oregon Army National Guard where he served in a variety of leadership positions from squad leader to command sergeant major.

Today's Soldiers, tomorrow's leaders



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., Director of the Army National Guard, discuss the UH-72A Lakota, the newest addition to the Army National Guard fleet of helicopters during the Oregon Senior Leadership Conference, Sept. 22, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

Story and photo by Spc. Erin Quirke,
115 Mobile Public Affairs Det.

WARRENTON, Ore. - Senior leaders from across the state of Oregon gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 21-23, for the Oregon National Guard's annual Senior Leadership Conference.

The Senior Leadership Conference is created to enhance the education and training of the Oregon National Guard's Army and Air Force leaders.

This year's conference included the unveiling of the UH-72A Lakota, the newest addition to the Oregon Army National Guard's helicopter fleet.

The Lakota is the Army's newest light utility helicopter and is replacing the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter. The Lakota will be used in support of homeland security, search and rescue, emergency response, and counter-drug enforcement missions.

In attendance was Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., Director of the Army National Guard, who spoke at the conference.

"Oregon has done an absolutely superb job from the history of the state, but especially in the last decade of war," said Ingram.

"Oregon National Guard has been involved from the very beginning and you still have Soldiers mobilized for active duty in Afghanistan. You've answered every call and you've done it magnificently," he added.

The conference covered current deployment updates, the importance of building resiliency in service members of the National Guard.

Also covered, was the necessity of supporting military families before, during and after deployment through the Family Readiness Program, and a speech from Lt. Gen. Ingram covering strategic imperatives for the future of the National Guard.

"We're the best trained, best equipped, best manned, best led National Guard we've ever had and it's because of great Soldiers like the Soldiers in the Oregon National Guard that have made that happen," said Ingram.

"Oregon has done absolutely wonderful work. You are a very strong organization," he told the gathering.

For more on the UH-72A Lakota rollout ceremony, see related story on Page 5.

NEWS

Organizers call third annual disaster response exercise in Bangladesh a success

Story and photos by Angela E. Kershner, Public Affairs, U.S. Army Pacific

DHAKA, Bangladesh - The third annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange 2012 held by the U.S. Army Pacific and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division went off without a hitch in September 2012.

The event tested the capabilities of disaster response organizations and personnel in the event of a catastrophic earthquake in Dhaka, Bangladesh. More than 180 personnel representing more than 70 organizations participated in a two-day table top exercise, analyzing and planning how to deal with various scenarios that may occur in the wake of a major disaster. More than 1,250 personnel then participated in a city-wide field training exercise, reacting to real-world scenarios ranging from search and rescue to evacuation of casualties to local hospitals.

Led by the U.S. Army Pacific G-9, Civil-Military Operations and the Bangladesh AFD, the DREE focused on supporting civilian authorities and the Government of Bangladesh in a disaster response scenario. Without civil-military interoperability, disaster management can quickly slow and become less effective.

"I have been very pleased and very encouraged by what I have seen here in the last three days," said Col. William R. Hollingsworth, Jr., U.S. Army Pacific G-9, Civil-Military Operations.

The two-day table top exercise emphasized the importance of effective engagement and planning between civil and military organizations in the wake of a major disaster.

Coordination with Bangladesh and U.S. national agencies as well as international non-governmental organizations was necessary to effectively plan responses to scenarios that would come up in the wake of a large scale earthquake in Dhaka city.

"I am really fortunate to have been here in 2010 and 2011," said Lt. Col. Mohammad Tawhid-Ul-Islam, Joint Operations, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division. "I can see the continuation of our disaster management preparedness. We have these participants that are disaster management experts, but we had to bring them together and get them in the [mindset]."

A culminating field training exercise was held on the third day of the DREE. The first of its kind, the FTX exercised plans, equipment and personnel between the U.S. and Bangladesh to increase readiness for disaster response. USARPAC hopes to use this FTX as the baseline for future FTX

opportunities in Indonesia and Nepal.

"This year and next year mark a big step forward with the Pacific Resilience concept as we move forward with the field training portion of the DREE," said Hollingsworth.

"For the first time with one of our partners we have effectively carried out a full-scale field exercise," he added.

The Bangladesh Minister of Disaster Management and Relief, Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali and U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena, who both observed the exercise, stressed the importance of the strong partnership between the two countries as a necessity in effective disaster response.

Conducted at multiple locations throughout Dhaka, the FTX included search and rescue, fire-fighting, medical first response, helicopter extraction of casualties, response to a capsized ferry, rooftop rescue and many other scenarios. Field participants reacted to those scenarios as they would in an actual disaster.

"It is an interaction ... understanding each other. We are friends. To have



Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Micah Goettl describes a search and rescue scenario to U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena during the third annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange 2012 was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh by the U.S. Army Pacific and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division from September 17-20.

better relationships between different organizations is to be more successful," said Tawhid-Ul-Islam.

Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Annie Schuler said the exercise went above her expectations, and included a diverse group of individuals.

"It's been a really good learning experience for me and our team. It's been really exciting," she said. "I didn't realize how diverse the group would be."

Oregon's State Partnership Program Director, Col. Mark Crosby, said the strength of the Oregon National Guard is not only in the diversity of its members, but in the longevity of its relationship with its Bengali partners.

"The National Guard is America's



Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark Crosby, Director of the Oregon State Partnership Program, is presented with a gift from Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud, Principal Staff Officer, Armed Force Division, commemorating their ongoing partnership with the SPP during closing ceremonies for the third annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise and Exchange 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Thursday, September 20.

first responder in the military for natural disasters," Crosby said. "Our partnership with Bangladesh offers us the opportunity to hone our abilities in a peaceful, positive environment because as Soldiers and Airmen, we need to be good at war-fighting as well as peacekeeping," he added.

A field hospital was set up in Bushandhara and three local hospitals participated in the exercise, testing their capabilities to respond to a mass casualty situation. Patients were evacuated to Mitford Hospital, Combined Military Hospital and Apollo Hospital where various injuries were evaluated and treatments were described.

Soldiers and Airmen from Tripler Army Medical Center, 18th Medical Command and the Oregon National Guard were on hand to observe, assist and evaluate Bangladesh medical personnel and first responders both in the field and at the medical centers.

"This was a really unique opportunity in which we could really explore our capabilities," said Tawhid. "This is the first training exercise of its kind and it was very much a success."

"With the FTX, we have established what the benchmark is for Bangladesh," said Hollingsworth. The true indicator of success will now be how much further and how much harder they continue to push themselves to improve."

Joint planning efforts between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USARPAC

and AFD began last September. USACE and the USARPAC G-9, Civil-Military Operations are involved with planning at least three disaster response exercises at any given time.

The exercise was more than just disaster response according to Tawhid-Ul-Islam.

"During partnership activities, it is not only armed forces we talk about ... we talk about renewable energy, about the legal system, about disaster management," he said.

Crosby, echoing Tawhid-Ul-Islam's comments, said Oregon's partnership with Bangladesh has evolved over time to include a wide variety of areas which benefit both the United States and Bangladesh.

"I see the program evolving and maturing in more areas of disaster response but also in other areas of civil-military efforts because we as National Guardsmen represent not just the military, but members of the community," Crosby said.

Participants in the exercise included the Bangladesh Fire and Civil Defense, Bangladesh Ministries of Food and Disaster Management, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Embassy among many others.

The Oregon National Guard has been a partner with Bangladesh under the State Partnership Program since 2008, and has participated in eight events in 2012.

Vietnam named new Oregon SPP partner

Continued from Front Page

affairs mission for the National Guard, emphasizing its unique state-federal and civil-military characteristics to interact with both the active and reserve forces of foreign nations, interagency partners, and international non-governmental organizations.

State partners participate in a broad range of security cooperation activities to include homeland defense/security, disaster response/mitigation, consequence/crisis management, interagency cooperation, border/port/aviation security, combat medical, fellowship-style internships, and bilateral familiarization events that lead to training and exercise opportunities.

The Oregon National Guard is also partnered with Bangladesh. Both have conducted numerous training exercises in Oregon and in Bangladesh since striking an agreement in 2008.



Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, and Vietnam Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), sign the State Partnership Program agreement at the Ministry of Defense Guest House in Hanoi, Vietnam, Nov. 27, as U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam David Shear and other Oregon and Vietnam officials look on.

The State Partnership Program currently supports 62 partnerships between states and nations. For more information about the program, visit: <http://www.ng.mil/features/ngspp/default.aspx>

Blazers honor military, families



Sgt. Duane Reno, an Oregon National Guard human resources non-commissioned officer, with Joint Forces Headquarters, Oregon Military Department, sings the National Anthem during the Portland Trail Blazers eighth annual Military Appreciation Night in observance of Veterans Day, Nov. 12.

NEWS

Oregon National Guard rolls out new Lakota helicopter at Senior Leader's Conference

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Oregon Army National Guard's Detachment 1, C Company, 1-112 Aviation received the first of four new UH-72A Lakota helicopters during a roll-out ceremony at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 22.

Three more Lakotas arrived in November.

The Lakota is the Army's newest light utility helicopter and is replacing the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter. The Lakota will be used in support of homeland security, search and rescue, emergency response, and counter-drug enforcement missions.

"It's not just a replacement, it's a significant improvement in capacity, endurance, and capability," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, during the ceremony.

Rees signed for the new aircraft and received the log book and keys from Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr., Director of the Army National Guard, and Mr. Ted Mickiewicz, Vice President of Homeland Security and National Guard/Reserve Programs for EADS North America, the manufacturer of the aircraft.

"It's a perfect airframe for the purpose

that we use it for; counter-drug and domestic response," said Ingram, as he addressed the audience at the ceremony.

"It has a wonderful Mission Equipment Package that allows you to do some things that you really couldn't do before, especially when working with our partners in the civilian community."

Two of the four Lakotas the Oregon National Guard is receiving will be equipped with the Security & Support (S&S) Mission Equipment Package.

A state-of-the-art GPS navigation system will allow pilots to navigate to a precise location using both street addresses and grid coordinates.

The communications system allows aviators to communicate on multiple frequencies simultaneously; military as well as police, fire and other first responder frequencies.

Ingram said the Army National Guard is fielding more than 200 Lakotas nationwide. He said the aircraft has greatly improved operations on the Southwest Border.

State Representative Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach) also attended the ceremony and was excited about the possibilities the new aircraft brings to Oregon communities in disaster response and aiding law

enforcement agencies.

"The sheriff's department in this county

is going to love this," she said. "It's going to really make our work easier."



Lt. Gen. William E. Ingram Jr. (left), Director of the Army National Guard, recognizes members of C Company, 7-158 Aviation shortly following a roll-out ceremony for the new UH-72A Lakota helicopter at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 22. The Blackhawk crew members participated in a search and rescue mission in Deschutes County earlier that day and were on hand for the afternoon ceremony where the Oregon Army National Guard's Detachment 1, C Company, 1-112 Aviation received the first of four new UH-72A Lakota helicopters to replace the OH-58 Kiowa. (See related photo on Page 6)

Oregon Guard strikes partnership with sister unit during deployment



A patient is transferred from the 126th Avn. in Kuwait. The US Navy patient was on a ship 270-miles from shore, a Marine Corps V-22 Osprey was dispatched to pick the patient up from the ship and recover him to Kuwait for further care. Waiting in Kuwait was a Blackhawk from Charlie Company, 1-126 (Maine Army National Guard). Once the patient was moved to the Blackhawk, he was then transferred to the armed forces hospital.

Story by 1st Lt. Kerri Brantley, 35th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer Jon Campbell

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT - The focus of the mission in Kuwait is partnerships with the friends of the region while the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade is deployed here.

However, there is also a state-to-state partnership being fostered in the medical evacuation company.

Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment (medevac) is comprised of Forward Support Medical Teams from both the Maine and Oregon National Guard. These states were two of the last few wholly organic medevac units within a given state.

The two units did not make the merge into one company until they met at Fort Hood, Texas, during pre-mobilization training and validation.

From past deployments, the company commander, Maj. Mark Stevens, from Saco, Maine, has been told about all the issues of working side-by-side with different states.

"We all come from different states, different cultures," said Stevens. "One of my biggest concerns was our people wouldn't get along."

A significant concern of the commander was whether the unit would come together

as a team or be two separate entities; however that is not at all what has happened with this group.

"This has been an extremely easy transition, personalities, training, standards of operations, all lined up," said Stevens.

"They were just like us, Oregon fit right in. This was great that it happened to be so smooth, because this is a long-term partnership. This deployment is the foundation and it was a good start."

The only disagreement between members from both states is how to correctly pronounce Oregon.

"As commander, that has made my job easier, having good Soldiers from both states," said Stevens.

The commander was not the only one who feared that the unit would not come together as a team, 1st Lt. Samantha Franklin, of Eugene, Ore., is the assistant platoon leader and had similar apprehensions.

"I thought we would be excluded from missions, but that was falsity. There has never been an 'us and them' mentality," said Franklin.

"Once we all got together at Fort Hood, leadership has worked hard to ensure there were no lines drawn."

The unit has faced some struggles together and endured a loss of one of their Soldiers, but in that time of despair the unit stood together. When one was struggling with the loss, another Soldier would be that

stronghold.

"The ability for the unit to come together, even in the hard times, just affirmed we are a cohesive team, we know we can lean on one another," said Franklin.

"We also mix the aircrews together, so there is never all Maine or all Oregon personnel on a flight. This allows us to learn from one another all the time."

The company is the only medevac asset in the 35th CAB, with the primary mission to be the air ambulance for this region.

However, when not conducting medical evacuations for troops here, they are training other units for what they have coined as Medevac 101.

To date, the company has educated almost 900 people in medevac training. Medevac 101 teaches evacuation protocols; how to call in the Army's 9-Line medevac request, how to prepare the landing zone, helicopter safety, and more. Flight medics are the primary instructors for the training.

"The training has multiple levels starting with the basic terminology to simulating a live transport while the helicopter is powered up with the blades running," said Sgt. Erica Yates.

Back home, in Maine, Yates is a nurse; she is new to aviation but likes teaching the Combat Lifesaver course and Medevac 101.

"The thing I appreciate most is for everyone to have basic safety and understanding of how to operate around the helicopter," Yates said. "If they had to do this for real, they will know how to do it safely."

Also playing a vital role in the training is another instructor, Spc. Matthew Maloney, from Oregon. He is also new to aviation, but an experienced combat medic and previously deployed to Iraq with an infantry unit.

He was recently hero of the week for



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Christopher Nuttbrock re-enlists as Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Estill, also from Oregon, administers the oath. Both Soldiers are attached to Charlie Company 1-126 (Maine Army National Guard).

his eagerness to progress as a flight medic; extremely active in training the forces, having a great capacity to learn and retain knowledge, which is vital to being a successful flight medic.

"Combining flight crews for training and real-world evacuations has allowed individuals to come together as a team, we all came here for the same purpose," said Maloney.

"Being able to help someone in a critical situation and train others to help is a very rewarding experience."

Capt. William Bradbury, from Maine, led a medevac group in the partnership with Jordan, in case a real-world situation happened, they would be there to help.

The unit took the opportunity to conduct training flights while there as well.

"The terrain is different in Jordan and it was good to get that experience," said Bradbury.

"We integrated flight crews, so that everyone felt like a part of the whole and no one feels like an outsider."

Long-lasting friendships have developed over the course of this deployment.

"We just clicked, our values were very similar, it's like we found our long-lost brothers and sisters," said Bradbury.

"I will definitely stay in contact via Facebook and email. It would be really rewarding to do a Yellow Ribbon event together after the deployment."

Yellow Ribbon is a Guard and Reserve program that assists members who have served in combat and experienced the stress of war.

Charlie Company would like the chance to be able to support one another once they are home, having returned to communities and jobs scattered across the nation, and to friends and family who may not grasp the depth of their experience.

"It would be great to see where they live and for us to get the chance to show them around our home and meet each other's families," said Bradbury.

"It may or may not happen, but it would be an opportunity, which we would be forever grateful for."

The unit continues to support partnerships in this region that promote stability and security, as they also foster this state-to-state medevac partnership.

"We have set the baseline for a long-term partnership, along with mission success and established lifelong friendships; it doesn't get much better than that," said Stevens.

The unit is due home in early spring 2013.

NEWS

Crooked River Canyon Rescue



Photo courtesy of Douglas County Sheriff

An Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter from Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, based in Salem, Ore., lifts off from a makeshift landing zone near Crooked River Ranch, Sept. 22. The crew responded to a request for assistance from Douglas County authorities to help rescue a hiker stranded in Crooked River Canyon. The crew conducted the Search and Rescue mission and then headed to the Oregon National Guard Senior Leader's Conference, where they were scheduled to provide a static display for the Lakota helicopter roll-out ceremony later that same day. (See related story on Page 5)

Soldiers assist Portland food drive



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

2-218 Field Artillery Battalion Soldiers collect donated canned goods from Christmas Bazaar customers at the Portland Expo Center, Nov. 30, to assist with the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division food drive. From left: Spc. Craig Stevens, Staff Sgt. Patrick Ward, and Capt. Derek Hotchkiss, Bravo Battery commander.

Story by Maj. Maurice A. Marshall, Executive Officer, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion

On an unusually dry winter day in the Pacific Northwest thousands turned out for the annual Christmas Bazaar located at the Portland Expo Center. The bustling crowds made their way through large doors to be greeted by members of the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, headquartered in Forest Grove, Ore. Their mission was to collect cans and other non-perishable food donations into storage bins for the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division.

The Sunshine Division was founded in 1922 to provide food assistance in response to the city's growing poverty. As always, the battalion was 'on time and on target' with 18 Soldiers arriving at 8:00 a.m. on Nov. 30 to prepare for their mission. The Soldiers augmented 25 other volunteers and assisted with directing the masses through the sprawling entryway of the Expo Center to the Christmas Bazaar, exchanging entry tickets to those who brought canned goods, and loading cans in a nearby truck. The battalion was asked to accommodate the first shift — the busiest shift from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

As the doors officially opened, the flood gate of people arrived. "We couldn't have done it without them," said Tessa Reeves, volunteer and development coordinator, about the assistance of the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion.

In total, the Sunshine Division collected 13,968 pounds of cans and non-perishable items. "This was a great event that made everyone feel like they were doing their part to help," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Spaulding, battalion organizer.

"It showcases how the local military can interact with the public in a positive light, showing the community that we are everyday people as well."

Countless people stopped and shook hands and thanked members of the battalion for their service. "They loved having you there," Reeves commented about people greeting the Soldiers.

The battalion attempts to conduct a community service event every quarter. Prior to this event, the unit participated in Washington County's 'Adopt-a-Road' program to clean and beautify neighboring streets around the battalion headquarters.

Infantry Soldiers compete for elite sniper, scout positions

Story and photo by Sgt. Jon-Paul Hanson, 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Infantry Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, engaged in a series of training events and exercises in order to be assessed and/or selected for the unit's Scout Platoon or Sniper Section.

Twenty-six Soldiers and three cadre

members attended the training event, held at Christy Flats, Ore., Oct. 19-21.

Soldiers were required to complete a challenging unknown distance ruck march with full packing list, as well as complete training lanes in first aid, range estimation, target detection, area/zone reconnaissance, squad attack, ambushes, and patrol base operations. Candidates were assessed based on tactical/technical proficiency, physical fitness, and mental ability.



Sgt. Larry Powers (left), a senior sniper with the 2-162 Infantry Battalion Sniper Section, takes a math problem skills test with other candidates during the Scout/Sniper Indoctrination and Selection Drill for the recon platoon at Christy Flats, Ore., Oct. 20.

NEWS

Native American, community groups, turn out for Withycombe open house

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

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard hosted a Veterans Day Open House celebrating Oregon's military history, Nov. 9, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore.

Under overcast and rainy skies, numerous units across the Oregon Air and Army National Guard displayed equipment and booths in the parking lot. At noon, pilots from the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls conducted an F-15 flyover.

Members of Clackamas Fire District #1 and the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion collaborated on a display in front of the entrance, utilizing a Howitzer and a ladder truck holding a giant American flag. Many attendees took advantage of the impromptu backdrop for group photos. Local students and Native American groups also participated in the event on the main drill floor inside the building. They opened the ceremony with dances and songs, honoring their participation



Miss Oregon 2012, Nichole Mead, poses for photos with members of local Native American tribes at the Camp Withycombe Open House, Nov. 9.



Members of Clackamas Fire District #1 and the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion collaborate on a display for the Oregon National Guard's Open House in front of the 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Nov. 9.

in the country's military, and pausing to remember those who were killed in action.

Ringed the perimeter of the drill floor were display booths by the Oregon Military Museum featuring historical equipment from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Volunteers in period costumes representing the various eras were on hand to answer questions and show off the museum's wares.

Also on hand was Miss Oregon 2012, Nichole Mead, who paused for photo opportunities with attendees, Soldiers and Airmen.

Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, of the Oregon State Defense Force, and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Emeritus, spoke to the gathered crowd during the event. The Oregon Military Museum, currently under renovation, is slated to be named in Thayer's honor. A capital campaign, currently underway, will generate the necessary funds for the museum renovation.

During the waning days of WWII,



David Funk (right), chairman of the 41st Infantry Division Association, and former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski (center), present Rosetta LaBonte, of Portland, Ore., with Sgt. Eli A. DuMonte's (her brother) Purple Heart medal at the Oregon National Guard's Open House at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., Nov. 9. DuMonte was a member of the 41st Infantry Division during WWII and was killed during the battle of Biak in 1944. His medals were stolen during a home burglary. Funk worked with various government agencies to have the medals reinstated to LaBonte's family.

Thayer and his fellow Soldiers liberated a concentration camp in northern Austria, saving thousands of lives.

Former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, who also attended the event, thanked the local business leaders and attendees.

During a VIP reception in the auditorium, Kulongoski joined David Funk, chairman of the 41st Infantry Division Association, in presenting Rosetta LaBonte, of Portland, Ore., with the Purple Heart medal.

Her brother, Sgt. Eli A. DuMonte, was a member of the Oregon Army National

Guard's 41st Infantry Division during WWII and was killed during the battle of Biak in 1944. His medals were later stolen during a home burglary.

Funk worked with various government agencies to have the medals reinstated to LaBonte's family.

Dan McFall, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Stimson Lumber Company, Inc. in Portland, Ore., presented a \$50,000 check to the Oregon Historical Society during the VIP reception. The money was part of three presentations by local area businesses which will go toward renovating the military museum.

Local college recognized for support of National Guard families

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

The Oregon National Guard Family Programs formally presented Clackamas Community College (CCC) with the National Guard Bureau's "Purple Award" during the Oregon Community Colleges Association Banquet in the Santiam Room at the Salem Convention Center, Nov. 10.

Mike Caldwell, the Oregon Military Department deputy director; Dave Ferre, the director of Service Member and Family Support for the Oregon National Guard, and Michelle Kochosky, the Oregon National Guard Family Programs director, presented the award to JoAnne Truesdell, the Clackamas Community College president and Ron Adams, the Clackamas Community College Board of Education chairman.

The Community Purple Award is a National Guard Family Program Volunteer Award given to one organization that goes above and beyond in support of veterans and their families.

Nominations were solicited from across the country to recognize the contributions of volunteers to the National Guard's family programs. The award recognizes the efforts of Truesdell, Dean of College Advancement Shelly Parini, and CCC Veterans' Affairs coordinator Greg Myers.

"We are honored to provide services that will help our veterans find success in civilian life. We recognize the sacrifices these men and women have made for our country," Truesdell said.

Since 2007, CCC has increased its services and support for veterans and military families through several initiatives.

The college opened its Veterans Education and Training Center in November 2009, one of the deliverables from a federal grant the college received for veteran outreach and support. The



Clackamas Community College was honored with the National Guard Bureau's Purple Award for their support of Oregon National Guard families during the Oregon Community Colleges Association Banquet at the Santiam Room in the Salem Convention Center, Nov. 10.

From left to right: Clackamas Community College Board of Education Chairman Ron Adams; Joanne Truesdell, Clackamas Community College president; Michelle Kochosky, Oregon National Guard Family Programs director; and Oregon Military Department Deputy Director Mike Caldwell.

college is also a regional leader in translating military training into college credit.

"The tireless and continued effort of Clackamas Community College in support of veterans, service members and families from all branches of service is nothing short of remarkable," said Caldwell.

In addition, the college has hosted three major career and benefit fairs, bringing veterans, members of the Oregon National Guard and military families together with dozens of veteran-friendly employers and

veteran service providers.

These fairs have been attended by Guard leadership from Washington D.C., and have been recognized as the national model for the military-to-civilian reintegration process.

The event included a tribute presentation by the nationally-renowned Oregon National Guard Funeral Honors Team and a reading from the poetry book "Voices of the Guard" by Clackamas Community College Board of Education Chairman Ron Adams.

Want to be a Teacher?



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

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FEATURES

Oregon National Guard honors Oregon Veterans



Left: State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (left) and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, watch as units from the Oregon Army and Air National Guard pass the reviewing stand during the annual Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10, in Albany, Ore. (Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Above: Flags honor heroes of the past on Veterans Day at the Fort Vancouver Barracks post cemetery in Vancouver, Wash., Nov. 11. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142 Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Right: Col. Christian Rees leads a marching formation of Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and unit colors representing both the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 82 Brigade Troop Command during the annual Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10, in Albany, Ore. (Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Below: Sgt. David Patterson (left) and Spc. Bryan McCallie, with Bravo Battery, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, fire their gun during a Howitzer Salute for the annual Veterans Day Memorial Service at Timber Linn Memorial Park, Nov. 10, in Albany, Ore. (Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Below: Wreaths adorn 'Fallen Soldier' memorials during a Veterans Day ceremony held in Hillsboro, Ore., Nov. 11. The event served as the official dedication of 19 granite pavement stones engraved with names of service members with ties to Washington County who have been killed in action since 9/11. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jalayna Lagomarsino, 41 Infantry Brigade Coombat Team Public Affairs)

INSIDE: SPECIAL PULL OUT POSTER EDITION!



Left: Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, speaks at the Praying Hands Memorial at the University of Portland campus in Portland, Ore., Nov. 11. School administrators and Air Force and Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets participated in the ceremony, following a 24-hour vigil held at the campus to honor veterans of all branches of the military. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Right: Senior Airman Brittany Corr (right), Oregon Air National Guard Category I Airman of the Year, Spc. Ryan Johnson (center), Oregon Army National Guard Soldier of the Year, watch from the reviewing stand during the Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10, in Albany, Ore. (Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



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FEATURES

3670 Maintenance Company celebrates holiday, new state mission

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

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The 3670 Maintenance Company, Oregon Army National Guard, celebrated with family and friends during their Christmas celebration at the 41 Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, Dec. 2, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore.

After months of preparation, there was a raffle table, special area for children to make ornaments and get their faces painted, four re-enlistments during the holiday event, and a feast for everyone to enjoy.

“The food’s the best part,” said Spc. Charles Reese, who returned from deployment last year.

While units across the state had similar holiday parties to recognize hard work of Soldiers and families, the 3670th also learned about its important new role.

Soldiers received information about

the unit’s new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) capabilities.

That includes incident site search of damaged buildings, rescuing trapped casualties, providing decontamination, and performing medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize patients for transport to medical facilities.

In addition to the maintenance they give the Oregon National Guard, the 3670 Maintenance Company will now be able to provide immediate response in emergency situations across Oregon.

Soldiers and their loved ones discussed expanding military capabilities and holiday plans while excited children got a “special visitor” named Santa Claus, who came to see all the good boys and girls.

In the spirit of the holiday, the party was another example of how the Oregon National Guard ties together professional responsibilities with unit moral and family bonding.



Photo by Spc. Erin Quirke, 115 MPAD

Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 3670 Maintenance Company, Clackamas, Ore., re-enlist in front of their families and fellow Soldiers during the unit’s Christmas party, Dec. 2. The unit will begin a new state mission for the Oregon National Guard’s CERFP.

Artillery Soldiers honor tradition of Saint Barbara in annual banquet



Photos by Sgt. Armondo Barboa, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Left: Captain Derek Hotchkiss, commander of Bravo Battery, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, stirs the punch at the annual banquet in honor of Saint Barbara, Nov. 30, in Portland, Ore. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of artillerymen, military engineers and others who work with explosives because of her association with lightning and cannon.

Below: Field artillery officers inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara raise their cups to toast during the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion’s annual banquet. From left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas Thompson, Capt. Matt Vanderzanden, Maj. Manuel Robledo, Maj. Maurice Marshall.



Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season

Here are some safety tips to ensure you and your family are fire safe during this holiday season.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots and broken or cracked sockets
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Always use outdoor lights outdoors and indoor lights indoors
- Do not link more than 3 light strands together
- Do not connect strings of lights to an extension cord
- Never leave holiday lights unattended while in use

HOIDAY DECORATIONS

- Use only non-flammable or flame-retardant decorations
- Keep a 3 feet clearance away from heating devices
- Never place wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Never leave candles unattended

CHRISTMAS TREES

- Do not place your tree close or near to a heat source, hallway or door
- Live trees should have needles that are green and hard to pull back from the branches
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times
- Dispose of your tree properly and promptly

Finally, as in every season all year round, ensure your smoke alarms are working on every level of your home, test them monthly and replace the batteries twice yearly (change your clock, change your battery). Ensure all family members know and practice your home escape plan and are familiar with how to call for emergency assistance. For additional safety information contact the State Safety Office at (503) 584-3320 or (503) 584-3324.

Governor celebrates National Guard birthday



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

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon; and Spc. Kevin Spence, one of the newest officer candidates in the Oregon National Guard, ceremoniously cut a cake with a sword at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Dec. 13, in celebration of the National Guard’s 376-year birthday.

The governor addressed a crowd of Oregon National Guardsmen, Oregon Emergency Management and other Oregon Military Department employees during a luncheon commemorating the National Guard birthday.

The National Guard traces its history back to December 13, 1636 when the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony organized the first militia, declaring that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to muster for military training and could be called upon to fight in defense of their homeland when needed.

Oregon’s provisional government established an Oregon militia with the passing of the first militia law on July 5, 1843.

INSIDE: SPECIAL PULL OUT POSTER EDITION!

NEWS

Miss Oregon 2012 joins more than 100 employers at Transition Assistance event

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

PORTLAND, Ore. — Supporters came out in droves for a Hiring Our Heroes veterans' career fair at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Nov. 13.

The event boasted more than 100 employers, approximately 500 job seekers, and representatives from a wide variety of veterans' services organizations.

Many at the event had inspiring stories about why they want to help veterans.

Jan John, senior human resources director for Kaiser Permanente Northwest, who went to a reintegration event held by the Oregon National Guard in March, said community members and military representatives discussed the sacrifices veterans make, and difficulties they sometimes encounter.

John explained that after that day in March she was overtaken with a passion for helping veterans. The experience motivated her to help facilitate an 80 percent hiring increase of veterans at Kaiser Permanente last year.

John has been impressed with the positive attitude veterans bring to her company and said she would like to increase the number hired this year by at least three times.

"Our veterans have enthusiasm and a can do attitude — they have energy, excitement, respect and professionalism," John said.

Pete Pringle is a retired Sailor who serves veterans in the Portland Metropolitan area for the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program, which networks to help veterans from any era or branch of the service. He said he takes his job seriously and loves finding veterans careers that change their lives.

"I would do this even if I wasn't getting paid, I will always stay in touch with some of the people I have helped," Pringle said.

Heather Wilson, with the Secretary of State Corporation Division, almost came to tears when she talked about how much she loves her country and those who protect it.

"We want to help veterans get a foot in the door and get their business going on the right track," she said.

Organizers at the event also look for post-deployment changes in behavior or mood. Nichole Mead, Miss Oregon 2012, who attended the event, said she saw changes in her brother after he returned from a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

It wasn't until four-and-a-half years after returning he admitted to having Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

"At that point it was a huge wake up call for him realizing he was going down the wrong path and wanted to change direction," she said.

Mead said she has seen a drastic change for the better with her brother and that raising awareness about veterans' issues is her motivation for being Miss Oregon. She has used her platform to talk about veterans issues and make appearances at many events for veterans. Mead wears a yellow ribbon pin on her Miss Oregon sash to show her support for service members. She spent the entire day talking to veterans and supporters.

These people were only a few among hundreds at the career fair who are passionate about supporting veterans.

Dawn Taylor, with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, said it was motivating to see a wave of people walking to meet employers when the doors opened at the largest veterans' career fair Oregon has held to date.

Taylor helped facilitate the event and said she was pleased with the outcome.

"It makes me feel good because after all our hard work I can come in and see the veterans walking through the door and interacting with employers," Taylor said with a smile.

"The veterans were lined up outside the door," she added. "You can plan but you can't make them come so this [turnout] is exciting to see."

The event was a result of teamwork and partnerships that have been forming since post-9/11 deployments started in Oregon. The event would not have been possible without many organizations joining forces, said Phil Maas, Northwest Regional Associate for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



Jan John, senior human resources director for Kaiser Permanente Northwest (right), discusses Kaiser Permanente's veterans' employment program with Miss Oregon 2012, Nichole Mead, at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Nov. 13, during a Hiring Our Heroes career fair. Organizers said the career fair was one of the largest for veterans in Oregon to date with more than 100 employers and approximately 500 veterans.

Key organizations that worked together to plan the event were Work Source Oregon, the Oregon Department of Labor, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its Hiring Our Heroes Program, Employer Support of Guard and Reserve and its H2H Program, American Legion, and the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program.

Maas, who originally worked for the Oregon National Guard helping service members reintegrate and find employment, said he has seen networks and relationships grow from a few people trying to help veterans, to partnerships that include more than 100 agencies communicating and working together.

"Oregon has proven to be the standard bearer for the rest of the nation," Maas said.

With those partnerships, veterans from all eras and all branches of the service have more opportunity now, he added.

Disabled Vietnam-era veteran, Clarence Banks, earned a college degree using his military education benefits. He came to the

career fair clean-cut with resumes in hand. "This job fair here is super, there are lots of employers; this is an excellent source for finding a job," he explained.

A common opinion among employers attending job fairs for veterans is not just about supporting veterans, but also getting great employees, said Jon Sanford, Veterans and Military Advocate for U.S. Senator Ron Wyden.

Senior Airman Arthur Serfes, of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing's maintenance squadron, said he just finished his degree and is looking for full time employment to supplement his one weekend a month obligation.

"This makes it easier for us, a lot of times it is hard to translate the value of our military background to the civilian workforce, so having companies here that understand and support the military is great."

For more information on future job fairs, contact H2H representative Craig Sntiker at 503-584-2393, or go to <https://h2h.jobs/>

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Lewis Linn McArthur (center), great-grandson of the late Col. James W. Nesmith, receives a standing ovation during a dedication ceremony for the new Oregon National Guard Readiness Center in Dallas, Ore., Oct. 12. The facility was named in honor of Nesmith's historic contributions to Oregon, Polk County, and his service to the military.

Dallas, and changed its name to Nesmith's Mills. This became the first post office site in Polk County and James Nesmith acted as postmaster from 1850 to 1852. He was elected treasurer of Polk County in 1852 and, in 1853, President Franklin Pierce appointed him U.S. Marshall.

Significant features of the new building include a full commercial grade kitchen, modern weight room, a 1,225 square-foot small-arms training simulation room, a 5,800 square-foot assembly area, 2,200

square-feet of dividable classroom space, and 2,848 square-feet of maintenance bays to support the units 75 engineer vehicles.

The facility will serve as a community resource with flexible rental space to accommodate events such as weddings, gatherings and concerts. According to designers, the building was designed for simple operation, low-maintenance and ease of management.

The overall design helps the facility blend into the surrounding countryside.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Airmen team up with other units for joint training exercise

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

WARRENTON, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS), based at Camp Rilea conducted a two-week training exercise, Sept. 12-28, hosting the 109th ACS from Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

The exercise involved the Nimitz Carrier group and other joint tactical components.

The fleet synthetic training exercise, a program that is part of the Fleet Readiness Training Program, is to prepare and certify a strike group for deployment, according to Grant Ayres, a senior military analyst with the U.S. Fleet Command Joint Training Team.

A normal cycle for this training is done over an 18-month period, which cover the entire deployment cycle from the time a strike group returns from deployment to when they prepare for the next mission.

"Some of the time has been compressed due to real-world situations and because of fiscal constraints. Ultimately, this type of training saves money and time," said Ayres.

The goal is to simulate many of the aspects that a Sailor at sea would experience, and working in a joint environment with air and ground assets.

"It is always good to work with joint crews of the Army, Navy and Air Force, all working together in a particular mission and with our sister unit, the 116th ACS," said Maj. Leon McGuire, 109th ACS Director of Operations.

Large force exercises that involve various services are expensive and the virtual environment can create unique opportunities for training, said Ayres.

"So when you're looking at a Guard unit that has a limited amount of resources and limited amounts of time, this type of training exercise can benefit a multitude of our training requirements in one exercise," said McGuire.

"It's a big win for us," he said.

Ongoing training requirements for air crew members require different types of events both with the Air Force directly and in the joint exercise.

"The partnership we have with the 109th ACS has been developing for several years and it allows our facility to work as a hub for them to train and work on this exercise," said Lt. Col. James Mitchell, 116th Air Squadron commander.

During the week of training the joint crews are able to share knowledge and sharpen their skills.

This allows members to work in different air spaces while cross training directly one-on-one between the two ACS units.

"It is great to come to the west coast and work with the 142nd Fighter Wing and their F-15's, because this a different aircraft and weapons system than the F-16's at Hill AFB we normally work with," said McGuire.

Several members of the 116th ACS supported the training of the 109th ACS members during the fleet synthetic training exercise.

By providing maintenance support and operational air space control, they were able to ensure overall mission success.

As the Navy provided the data and information for the exercise conditions, in turn it was processed by the Airmen from both the 109th and 116th Air Control Data System Specialist.

"If we get information that different aircraft will be flying or information has



Senior Airman Brittani Schammen, a surveillance technician with the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron, monitors the air space above the Camp Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 26, during a two-week training exercise. Airmen from the 109th ACS based at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and personnel from U.S. Fleet Command Joint Training Team also participated in the event.

changed on the ground, I am entering the material into our system," said Tech. Sgt. Douglas Hawkins, 116th Air Control Data Systems Specialist.

Checking the system for errors and the overall integrity allows Hawkins to work with the 109th members and deflect any unforeseen issues with the training. Once the information is loaded, other operators can decipher and identify the assets.

"After the information is available I can see the point and can identify anything that is flying in and around the air space," said Senior Airman Brittani Schammen, 116th

surveillance technician.

Assisting the 109th ACS with the materials and personnel helps both organizations stay sharp, said Mitchell.

Throughout the exercise the information provided the Nimitz group with the intelligence and assets to complete the exercise on time.

"With all the different requirements in a large force exercise, we get extra and valuable training supporting our sister squadron complete their training mission too," said Mitchell.

Yellow Ribbon event helps Airmen, families readjust following deployments

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

Sometimes the biggest joys in life are the simple things: house work, a Sunday afternoon football game on TV, and time spent at home with family members.

After multiple deployments in the past several years during his 38-year career in the Air Force, Chief Master Sgt. Steven P. Nichols said he savors these kinds of days at his home in Vancouver, Wash., with his wife, Nancy.

Each transition in his family's life has been a challenge depending upon everyone's stage in life, said Nichols, maintenance superintendent, 116th Air Control Squadron, Camp Rilea, Ore.

"Mostly for me, it is just getting resettled with Nancy and the things around the house," he said.

The adjustment from deployment back to the everyday routine often is a bigger challenge than the deployment.

During mobilization Airmen create a sense of purpose and cohesiveness while focusing on the larger mission. The support can quickly vanish once Guardsmen and Reservists return home and begin the reintegration process back into their communities.

One of the ways to support Airmen and families make the adjustment after deployment has been the creation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Established by the Department of Defense in 2008, the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program was designed to assist in all the stages of the deployment process and give family members and employers the resources necessary to welcome the service member home.

"We had nothing like this before," said Steve's wife, Nancy Nichols.

"The Yellow Ribbon staff and unit deployment managers hosted several get-together events for family members, and wives in particular, during the most recent deployment, as they were reaching out to

us on a weekly basis," she said.

As the 142nd Fighter Wing Airman and Family Readiness Program Manager, Mary F. Bell, helps train volunteers that work directly with the deployed family members and their employers.

These volunteers are a key link between the families and the Yellow Ribbon staff when putting together informational events or pot luck dinners during the time the member is deployed.

It is my job to get as much information about the resources available in one place before deployment, and support the Yellow Ribbon retention specialist during the deployment cycle, Bell said.

That is where Amy L. Schmid, Oregon Air National Guard Yellow Ribbon retention specialist plays such a significant role.

When a member gets orders or a unit is mobilized, the list of responsibilities to prepare everyone in time to deploy can be daunting.

"Many times the challenge is just getting as much information as possible to the members and allowing them to focus in on what they need right now," said Schmid.

Sometimes she may work with a unit first sergeant to help get a broad array of material out, or she may work with one person who has a unique need. Financial, marriage support and educational benefits are just a few of the many arrangements that frequently get asked about.

"Letting loved ones know where the resources can be found is an enlightening experience, and communication is key to making the connections happen for everyone involved," she said.

The main part of the Yellow Ribbon Program focuses on the post deployment phase with 30, 60 and 90-day events. The events can be as intimate as a counseling session for couples or a weekend retreat with workshops, breakout sessions and kids events.

Schmid has orchestrated larger events to enhance the workshops' impact at unique



Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Steve Nichols and his wife, Nancy, attend one of the many break-out sessions during the Yellow Ribbon Event held at the Governor Hotel in Portland, Ore., Sept. 24.

venues such as; Sunriver Resort in Bend, Ore., or at luxury hotels around the state in Portland and Seaside, Ore.

Last year when 83 members of the 116th ACS returned from Operation Enduring Freedom, Schmid coordinated a three-day weekend event for the unit.

"This larger event allowed members from all over the state to attend, and we got a lot of bang for the buck with guest speakers and a variety of workshops," said Schmid.

"Steve and I have been married for 32 years, and we have had nothing offered before this program to ease the transition process," said Nancy Nichols.

Steve Nichols noted that in his 19 deployments, "This is better than anything before," he said.

"I really feel for our young fathers coming home from a deployment. Mom

has set all the rules for the kids while he was away and everyone needs time to adjust back to a normal life at home," said Steve Nichols.

With the current operational tempo slated to wind down in 2014, many of the programs established with the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program will eventually fall back to the Family Programs plans coordinators like Mary Bell.

The assets and contacts put in place since the program was set up have given Airmen resources for future growth, said Bell.

In the past many Airmen who deployed did not receive many of the assets currently being offered now to Airmen who have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In many ways these services and resources will be a living legacy to Guardsmen and Reservist in the future.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Kingsley Field dedicates new Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center

Story by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Local and state dignitaries gathered to officially dedicate the \$6 million Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center at Kingsley Field, Sept. 25. Brigadier Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General (Air), presided over the ceremony. He was joined on stage by Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR), representative from Oregon's 2nd District; Oregon Military Department Deputy Director Mike Caldwell; Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard; and Col. Jeffrey Silver, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander. The new facility, located near the main entrance, houses the 173rd Security Forces Squadron, which just returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. "The state-of-the-art 14,000 square-foot building contains office space, enhanced warehouse storage, and dedicated training space for the Security Forces," said Capt. Nikki Jackson, master of ceremonies for the event. "It enhances their ability to accomplish both their home station and deployed missions."

The new facility conforms to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver standards and replaces multiple outdated and inefficient buildings across the base. Previously, the 173rd SFS was located in four sub-standard buildings across the base, and this building places the Squadron under one roof. "Facilities are absolutely essential to getting our mission done and getting it done well," said Caldwell. He went on to say it is essential that Airmen and Soldiers are given the tools they need to get the job done. "His eight years of persistent effort, resolve, teamwork, and leadership, along with his coordination of multiple agencies ... were instrumental in the success of this building," noted Jackson. Silver thanked his predecessors, retired colonels Tom Schiess and Jim Miller for having the vision to bring the facility to fruition. He went on to commend the

173rd Civil Engineering Squadron and the various contractors that executed the construction of the JAFRC. The multiple uses for the JAFRC were noted in U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley's (D-OR) letter to Silver. "The Center will improve the quality of life for those stationed here and help provide stability for the future," said Merkley. "Additionally, the Center will be open to citizens and groups throughout the area to hold functions and events that support the local economy. It will also be able to serve as a support center for the community during natural disasters," he added. The speeches were followed by the ceremonial ribbon cutting and cake. Attendees were given the chance to tour the facility and see first-hand how the facility is being used. Future plans for the facility include a second phase of construction that will add an armory that will house Oregon Army National Guard, making it truly a joint facility. "I look forward to seeing this facility grow," added Walden.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) delivers remarks to assembled community members, Oregon Guard members, and Veterans commemorating the completion of a new building for the 173rd Security Forces Squadron at Kingsley Field.

Oregon Air Guard Major takes on civic duty in state legislature



Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Michael McLane, 173rd FW Staff Judge Advocate.

Story by 2nd Lt. Heather Bashor, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Kingsley's traditional Guardsmen balance multiple roles as they work in the community and serve the state and nation. Maj. Michael McLane is one such Guardsman and serves our state, and nation as a Citizen-Airman. McLane is the 173rd Fighter Wing Staff Judge Advocate, and also the elected State Representative for Oregon's District 55. That district stretches from outside of Bend, Ore., through Lakeview to the California border and reaches west to parts of Medford. As a state representative, McLane serves on the Ways and Means Committee. The committee is responsible for writing the state budget. McLane is also the Deputy Republican leader for the House of

Representatives. "Every time I enter the state capital, I am aware of what a privilege it is to serve as a state representative," McLane said. McLane is currently the only member of the Oregon National Guard to serve in the Oregon legislature. "I wish there were more of us," said McLane. "Our unique experience and perspective as Guardsmen is needed in Salem as we deal with tough budget decisions and security challenges." McLane was voted the 2012 Legislator of the year by the Oregon Prosperity Project which consists of business associations and chambers of commerce from around the state. As the 173rd Fighter Wing Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), McLane has many duties. He advises the wing commander, as well as group and squadron commanders, on legal

issues. He provides legal assistance to Guard members for an array of matters in both military and civilian life. McLane supports the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland by providing defense services for members, and he serves as prosecutor for discipline issues at the 173rd Fighter Wing. McLane takes his job as the SJA seriously, and gives credit to those in the fight. "It is important to me that those who are mission critical and carry the fight to our enemies overseas have their affairs in order and leave Kingsley Field knowing that their loved ones will be taken care of," he said. "Having good order and discipline at Kingsley and in the Oregon Air National Guard is vital to our success, and I enjoy my role in that," he added.

City of Albany honored with F-15 nose art

Story by Cathy Ingalls, Albany Democrat-Herald

West Albany High School retired math teacher, Max White, played a pivotal role in getting an Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle fighter jet, based in Portland, dedicated to the city of Albany as part of its Cities of Honor program. "Maj. Frank Page, the executive officer of the 142nd Fighter Wing, confirmed that my having served as the wing command chief, the highest enlisted position, helped get Albany included," White said. The other factor, he said, was his telling the command staff that every year Albany hosts the largest Veterans Day Parade west of the Mississippi River. "In short, I will take credit for having planted the seed in the decision-makers' heads," White said. "And I would add that I have goose bumps just thinking about the city of Albany being painted on the side of one of those magnificent jets." Albany spokeswoman Marilyn Smith told the city council that the city had been selected for the honor. The Albany artwork selected for the jet is of the Train House owned by St. Mary's Catholic Church and at Seventh Avenue

and Lyon Street. Konopa, a member of the parish, said she was unaware that the house had been selected for the recognition. "It's neat that they chose one of our most recently restored historic structures," she said. A rendering of the house will be placed on the jet's nose horizontal to the ground, Page said. Albany joins several other cities in Oregon and southern Washington with jets named for them, Page said. Cities in Oregon are Corvallis, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Gresham, Salem, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Portland, Pendleton, and West Linn. The F-15 Eagle is a twin-engine, all-weather tactical fighter designed by Boeing to gain and maintain air superiority in aerial combat, Page said. "It is considered among the most successful modern fighters with more than 100 aerial combat victories with no losses in dog fights," he said. Page said the 142nd Fighter Wing's mission is air defense of the Pacific Northwest from the Canadian border to California and out over the ocean. "As guardians of the Pacific Northwest, we are ready to respond to the requests of our national command authorities and the Federal Aviation Administration," Page said.



Oregon Airmen among those honored during National POW/MIA Recognition Day

By Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Terrence G. Popravak, Jr., 142 Fighter Wing Historian

On Friday, Sept. 21, the nation observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day. In World War II, the 371st Fighter Group, redesignated as the 142nd Fighter Group after the war and the 142nd Fighter Wing of today, flew the P-47 Thunderbolt in combat in the European theater. Online sources indicate at least 17 of the group's pilots became POWs. The group's yearbook, published in 1946, shows another 15 pilots as MIA. One of them was Second Lt. Wayne L. Holm, from Portland, Ore., who went missing over Germany on January 2, 1945. His remains were found and recovered after the war. In the same 1944-1945 time period, the 35th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, previously designated as the 123rd Observation Squadron and redesignated after the war as the 123rd Fighter Squadron, flew the Lockheed F-5 Photo Lightning in combat in the China-Burma-India theater. The wartime history of the squadron shows no POWs but lists four pilots as MIA.



During the Korean War, nine Oregon Air National Guard pilots from the 123rd Fighter Squadron flew combat in Korea with the 18th Fighter-Bomber Wing. 1st Lt. Orval Tandy was shot down on September 5, 1951 and became a POW until September 5, 1953 — exactly two years from the day and within an hour of when he was shot down in 1951. On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the Redhawks remember our POWs and MIAs, and hope for a full accounting of those still missing.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Portland's 142nd Fighter Wing welcomes new Wing commander

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

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Portland, Ore. — Oregon Air National Guard Col. Richard W. Wedan, former 142nd Fighter Wing vice commander, assumed command of the 142nd Fighter wing from Col. Michael E. Stencil during a change of command ceremony Dec. 2.

The wing's colors were passed to Wedan during the ceremony, heavy with the responsibility and significance of leading the storied group called the Redhawks. In his previous role as the vice wing commander, Wedan assisted in leading more than 1,000 personnel in defending the Pacific Northwest with the F-15 aerospace control alert mission, as well as worldwide deployments, and domestic operations. The supporting role now becomes the leading role. The outgoing commander, Stencil, thanked his family for their support during his tenure and the distinguished guests for attending the ceremony. Stencil also addressed the members of the 142nd in attendance, thanking them for their contributions, leadership and sacrifices that helped the wing achieve each mission. During the ceremony, Wedan thanked Stencil in turn, for his leadership and tireless work ethic. "Mike, you are truly a great man of tremendous character," said Wedan. As wing commander, Wedan will oversee



Col. Richard W. Wedan.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughe, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon National Guard senior leaders stand at attention during the 142nd Fighter Wing Change of Command ceremony, held at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., Dec. 2. From left to right are: Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard; Col. Richard W. Wedan, incoming 142nd Fighter Wing Commander; Col. Michael E. Stencil, outgoing 142nd Fighter Wing Commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Julie Eddings, Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant.

the 142nd Fighter Wing just as Airmen prepare for an upcoming Combined Unit Exercise (CUE) scheduled for July. During the ceremony, Wedan laid out a four-point leadership plan for the future of the 142nd Fighter Wing focusing on the homeland defense mission, base facilities, community engagement, recruitment and retention. "I challenge you to embrace the endeavor through your whole-hearted contribution and best efforts," said Wedan.

Wedan enlisted in the Minnesota Air National Guard in 1988 as a command post controller with the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minn., attended undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, and received his initial F-16 training at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore., in 1991. In 1997, Wedan returned to Oregon as an instructor pilot with the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, where he served for 12 years prior to being assigned to Oregon's

Joint Force Headquarters for three years as the director of operations. Wedan has been married to his wife, Liz, for 25 years. They have two children: Steven, a senior at the United States Air Force Academy, and Autumn, a Junior at the University of Portland. The 142nd Fighter Wing maintains continuous alert with F-15's from the Portland Air National Guard Base as part of the Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission.

Lt. Kingsley's sweetheart donates wartime letters to Klamath museum

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., is named for Lt. David Kingsley, a native of Portland who sacrificed his life to save a fellow Airman on June 23, 1944. David Kingsley was on a B-17 bomber flying a mission over Romania when the plane was attacked by German fighters. The pilot flew the badly damaged bomber into Bulgarian air space. As the plane was about to crash, Kingsley realized there weren't enough parachutes to go around. He gave his parachute to another Airman, and while the rest of the crew parachuted to safety, Kingsley went down with the plane. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The airfield in Klamath Falls was named after him in 1957, and a memorial was dedicated in his honor in Sunhozem, Bulgaria in 2003. In September 2012, historians in Klamath Falls learned Kingsley had sent numerous letters in 1942-43 to his



Oregon Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

Harriet Zalabak and Oregon Air National Guard Capt. Ryan Bartholomew, Kingsley Field base historian, visited the downtown Klamath Falls, Ore., mural which features 1st Lt. David R. Kingsley's likeness painted by local artist Chris Young. Zalabak was engaged to Kingsley when he left to serve overseas in WWII, where he was killed in action over Sunhozem, Bulgaria when his B-17 was shot down. A memorial in his honor was dedicated in Sunhozem in 2003.



Above: While in training and later in while stationed in Europe, David R. Kingsley kept a lively discourse with Harriet Fox, her maiden name, sending many letters. Several of these letters are available at the Klamath Country Museum website, which she donated during her visit to the base Oct. 18. (Photo courtesy Klamath County Museum)

sweetheart, Harriett (Fox) Zalabak. On Oct. 18, 2012, Ms. Zalabak donated seven of Kingsley's letters, two post cards, and a Christmas card to the Klamath County Museum. The letters, covering a period of several months, reveal the feelings of an Airman who was struggling

with his Army Air Corps training, and suffering from loneliness. The letters are highly emotional, written as a typical Airman might speak to the woman he hoped to marry. Ms. Zalabak described Kingsley as being "tough as John Wayne" on the outside, but gentle

and tender-hearted on the inside. Kingsley addressed Fox as "Peanut" in most of his correspondence. Scans of Kingsley's letters are available for download at Klamath County Museums website: www.co.klamath.or.us/museum/kingsleyletters/overview.htm.

NEWS

Oregon's "Volunteers" awarded for meritorious service, inducted into hall of honor

Story and photo by Sgt. Armondo Borboa, 41 IBCT Public Affairs

The practice of Soldiers honoring their own has been a part of military culture since the depths of antiquity, assuredly something done since the first day men gathered together to study the Profession of Arms.

Promotions, awards for a job well done and the honoring of Warriors both past and present are occasions worthy of drawing the troops together to celebrate and recognize one of their own.

In a rare combined ceremony the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Officers and Soldiers of Oregon's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment (known as the "Volunteers") gathered at the Springfield Armory to do all three.

"This is an honor just being here," said Sgt. Kenneth Barrett, who doubled as an usher, escorting official guests to their seats. "It's inspiring to meet all these retired Soldiers. Every one of them has a great story to tell."

The 162 Infantry Regiment Readiness Center (IRRC) in Springfield, Ore., is a monument to the storied past of the Regiment, one of the most decorated units in the Oregon National Guard, possessing a history of accomplishment that rivals that of many active duty units in any branch of service.

Representatives from each company and support element assembled on the armory's drill floor in the early Saturday afternoon in a battalion mass formation. Also in attendance were families and friends, members of the community and local elected officials.

The IRRC drill floor hall is plastered with battle streamers and unit awards hanging on the walls. The walkways and reception areas are covered with mementos of past campaigns, photos, paintings, unit citations, and commemorations of friendship and respect from communities all around the world that have been helped by the Volunteers over the years, both in wartime and in peace, tucked away into every corner ... and each Soldier shares the pride of accomplishment as if they had personally been there.

"This is actually my last drill with

the Oregon Guard," said Pfc. Robert Leverance. "But it's pretty spectacular to know that my actions will be remembered by the unit long after I'm gone."

The first portion of the day's events began with two promotions and awards.

Master Sgt. Ronald Bjerklund was promoted to first sergeant and given charge of Delta Company, the Volunteers' motorized heavy weapons company located in Hillsboro. First Sgt. James D. Terrel was promoted to sergeant major of the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, headquartered in Forest Grove.

First Sgt. Jeffery Miotke received both the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. The MSM was presented for his exceptional management of the Expert Infantryman's Badge competition in the summer of 2011.

The EIB is exclusive to the infantry, a demanding course with the highest of standards that cannot be awarded; it can only be earned. Of the more than 200 hundred initial candidates entering the competition that year, only nine of them managed to earn the coveted EIB.

The second portion of the day's ceremony was the awarding of the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the Volunteer's most recent combat tour in Iraq. In order to receive the MUC, a unit must meet strict guidelines, be noted for exceptionally meritorious conduct and perform outstanding services for at least six continuous months against an armed enemy. The unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart from other units with similar missions.

In addition to earning another battle streamer for their guidon, every Soldier who served in the unit during that deployment is eligible to wear a MUC ribbon on their uniforms for the rest of their careers. The guidon is a symbol of enormous importance, as it carries the pride and history of the regiment embodied in the unit flag and battle honor attached to it.

"I saw all the other battle streamers hanging from the guidon and thought about all the Soldiers who fought to earn them," said Sgt. Raymond C. Campbell. "And



Command Sgt. Maj. Major Timothy Bloom (center left) dresses the 2-162 Infantry Battalion guidon after Lt. Col. Eric Riley (center right) added a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer while retired Brig. Gen. Norman Hoffman (left) looks on during an award ceremony held at the Springfield Armory, Nov. 17.

then I thought about how someday in the future, somebody else will be looking at our streamer and thinking about us."

The final portion of the ceremony was the 162nd Infantry Regimental Association induction of new members into their elite Hall of Honor.

"Although many veterans have served with honor, today's honorees were selected not only for their personal accomplishments, but also for their involvement in the community, both during and after their time in service," said Lt. Col. Eric Riley, current commander of the 2-162 Battalion.

Among the honorees present were retired Brig. Gen. Dennis Merrill, retired Command Sergeant Major Gary Neville, James Jungling, William Elfferring, and retired Sgt. 1st Class Brunk J. Conley.

Also inducted into the Hall of Honor are Distinguished Supporters of the Regiment were Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel and Chelle Young, and Honorary Member of the Regiment, Lt. Col. Dick Norton.

"It was amazing seeing Soldiers I've served with in the past inducted into the Hall of Honor," said 1st Sgt. Miah

Washburn said. "It was an honor for me to be here and I hope this tradition continues."

Helicopter Pilots Wanted

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

Eligibility Criteria:

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

Preferred applicants will have (but not required):

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact:

- 1LT Matthew Maurice
503-584-3993
matthew.maurice@us.army.mil
- CW2 Steven Rhoden
541-736-3285
andrew.steven.rhoden@ng.army.mil

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

Rogue Ales celebrates 10 years with street party, special label

PORTLAND, Ore. - Rogue Ales & Spirits held a military tribute event in Northwest Portland, Ore., Sept. 15, for military members, veterans and their families.

The event included complimentary food and beverage, the introduction of a ten-year anniversary commemorative label, military displays, live music and activities for families.

Entertainment was provided in part by musicians from "Oregon's Own" 234 Army Band.

In attendance was Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Rogue President Brett Joyce, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon.

"This is a decade long relationship," Rees said. "They are a very patriotic organization and great supporters of our Soldiers and Airmen — every time we've deployed, they've been there."

Rogue has been a committed supporter of the Oregon's military community throughout the deployment of thousands of Oregon Soldiers and Airmen, spanning approximately ten years.

Rogue has designed more than twelve custom labels in honor of deployed Oregon National Guard units. A ten-year anniversary label was unveiled at the event, and was made available for purchase by Oregon National Guard members and their families.

"For us, it is an honor to honor those



Oregon Army National Guard personnel enjoy the military tribute event in Northwest Portland organized by Rogue Ales and Spirits in downtown Portland, Sept. 15. From left to right: Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Lucas; Col. William Edwards, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon; Congressman Earl Blumenauer, 3rd District of Oregon; Rogue President and event organizer, Brett Joyce; Oregon Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, Brig. Gen. (ORSDF) Mike Caldwell; and Col. William Prendergast.

who serve," Joyce said.

Joyce said the event was organized to thank service members, veterans and their families for their sacrifice, and to highlight the support Rogue Ales and Spirits has given deployed Oregon National Guard units.

Jen Moser, wife of Sgt. 1st Class James Moser, who is a member of the Oregon

National Guard's 41 Special Troops Battalion, said she is thankful she was able to bring her daughter Bella to the event.

"This is awesome, the kids love it, they don't know a whole lot of other military kids and this is a chance for them to see other kids at these events."

NEWS BRIEFS

Emergency Management recognized for community preparedness plan



Chuck Perino, Emergency Management Planner for Oregon Emergency Management, fills backpacks with emergency blankets, flashlights, and basic first aid supplies to be used in a disaster. OEM received the Citizen Corps award for Community Preparedness for the project that placed backpacks in Oregon coastal counties.

Story and photo by Kim Lippert, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Oregon Emergency Management received the Citizen Corps Honorable Mention Award for Individual and Community Preparedness for a project that placed emergency backpacks in Oregon coastal counties.

The backpacks contain emergency blankets, flashlights, and basic first aid supplies to be used in a disaster.

"I've worked on the Cascadia Subduction Zone catastrophic response plan and know that counties need assistance in caring for survivors in the event of a disaster," said Chuck Perino, Emergency Management Planner for Oregon Emergency Management.

"It's great to be able to provide them something tangible to use." Experts predict there is a 37 percent chance of a large Cascadia Zone

earthquake in Oregon within the next 50 years.

Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600-mile long earthquake fault stretching from offshore northern California to southern British Columbia.

"We know Oregon is at risk for a major earthquake," said Martin Plotner, director, Oregon Military Department's Office of Emergency Management.

"This award brings to attention all of the hard work our staff at the Office of Emergency Management has done to make sure residents in Oregon are prepared," he added.

Experts now say people need to be able to survive for at least 72 hours on their own following a disaster. As in the case of Hurricane Sandy, in some cases it may take even longer for help to arrive.

"You may not be at home when a disaster occurs," said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator for Oregon Emergency Management.

"You will want the supplies because you may be camping for a few days as you make your way home," added Rizzo.

The State Citizen Corps Advisory council is made up of five citizen corps programs including Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corps, volunteers in police service, medical reserve corps and neighborhood watch.

A total of 90 backpacks will be distributed to CERT and Fire Corps programs in the coastal counties.

Funding for the project came through the Homeland Security Grant program dedicated to the Citizen Corps Program. The mission of Citizen Corps is aimed at equipping communities to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of NW Natural, thank you very much to the Oregon National Guard for your tremendous support at "Get Ready Salem" on Sept 15, 2012 at Riverfront Park!

You all played a key role in our primary purpose of sponsoring the event: bringing awareness to the residents of our area on the importance of preparing for emergencies and natural disasters. We especially appreciate having that incredible Technical Decontamination Team and display; that was awesome!

We had around 375-400 people attend the event and we brought together some great organizations, including our local chapter of the American Red Cross; Salem Fire Department; Salem CERT; Rural/Metro Ambulance; Marion County Sheriff (notably their Search & Rescue staff); Polk County Sheriff (both their Marine Patrol and Search & Rescue); Salem Health; Hands-on Mid-Willamette Valley; Mid-Valley 2-1-1; and Marion-Polk Food Share.

We greatly appreciate your support!

Bruce Anderson, Regional Community Affairs Manager, NW Natural

Space-A travel saves money, adds adventure to your vacation



A typical Space-A aircraft, with civilian and military travelers.

Story by Lt. Col. Allan E. Jeska, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)

Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, and Retired military personnel are able, and in fact encouraged, to seek out and fly with our military forces. We have many aviation assets to utilize here in the Pacific Northwest.

Flight schedules for a 72-hour period for Joint Base Lewis McChord and most U.S. Air Force bases can be found by searching for the base on Facebook or call McChord Air Force Base at (253) 982-7268.

Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Wash., has frequent flights and its schedule may be found on the Whidbey website (www.cnic.navy.mil/whidbey/index.htm), or by calling (360) 257-2604.

Fairchild AFB, Wash., flight information is available by calling (509) 247-3406. Other flights of opportunity can "pop-up" at the Portland Air Base, Kingsley Field, Gray Army Airfield, or the Salem ORANR flight facility.

You may fly on assorted aircraft, depending on the service, but there is no cost, other than the usual fees and taxes. Planes vary from cargo to VIP aircraft and you should aim to travel with about 30 pounds of luggage.

Flights from the Pacific Northwest tend to go to Dover AFB, Del.; Andrews AFB, Md.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Jacksonville, Fla.; San Diego, Calif.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Fort Hood, Texas; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Reservists and Guardsmen not on active duty status, may only fly in the continental U.S., to include Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and territories. Active Duty and Retired personnel may fly worldwide.

While you may often just show up and "hop" a flight, the usual routine is to sign-up about 60 days before you desire to fly. Go to unclbud.net to see how to sign up for flights. This website includes a wealth of information and references. Then watch for the 72-hour listing for the flight you desire, or call the flight terminal to see if the flight is still going.

I always go to the base a day ahead, and stay in pre-arranged quarters. I then check with the terminal regarding the flight and what time I should be there. Be prompt for the showtime, report in, and wait to be called for the flight. Should the flight be overbooked, seats will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

As you obtain your boarding pass, you may be able to order/pay for an "inflight meal" which will be delivered to the aircraft prior to departure. For U.S. Navy flights, you'd better grab a Subway sandwich or similar! You will go through a TSA-type screening prior to boarding the aircraft. Similar rules concerning carry-on liquids and firearms apply here.

Be sure to have cash, credit cards, and a very flexible schedule in case there are no planes to get you back home.

Space-A flights are only for those of us with patience, daring, and a love of seeing our military at work. Keep in mind, this is a perk you earned, so enjoy it!

ESGR accepting 2013 Freedom Award nominations

ARLINGTON, Va. — Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest award presented to civilian employers for support of their employees serving in the National Guard and Reserve. Nominations may be submitted by Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, at www.FreedomAward.mil through January 21, 2013.

Each year, up to 15 of the nation's most supportive employers are selected as recipients and honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Past Freedom Award recipients' supportive measures have included arranging childcare services for deployed employees, sponsoring trips to visit injured employees, and working longer hours to cover the shifts of employees at military training.

"Employers of every size and industry continue to go to extraordinary lengths to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to employees serving in the Guard and Reserve," said James G. Rebholz, National Chair, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "I urge all Guard and Reserve Service members who have benefited from their employer's support to nominate that employer for this most prestigious award. A Freedom Award nomination allows service members to acknowledge and thank their employer for the essential role they play in supporting their military career and in our nation's defense."

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. In the years since, 175 employers have been honored with the award. Established as a DoD agency 40 years ago, ESGR develops and maintains employer support for Guard and Reserve service. ESGR advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to ESGR's mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.

For questions or interviews regarding the Freedom Award, please contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 571-372-0705 or by email at ESGR-PA@osd.mil.

Additional life insurance benefits available

Oregon's benefits coordinator, Art Liss, visited most of the Oregon National Guard units throughout the state during 2012, offering Soldiers and Airmen group life insurance through the State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Program.

One of the benefits that SSLI provides to all members of the Oregon National Guard is a \$1,000 Life Insurance Policy at no cost. This is distributed to the beneficiary within 24 hours of death notification. To date this year, Oregon National Guard families have received \$28,000 in distributions.

Due to the efforts of Liss and the participation of Oregon Guard members, the Oregon National Guard Association and the Enlisted Association of Oregon shared more than \$80,000 this year.

This experience refund is sent to Oregon National Guard Benefits, Inc., a non-profit organization that is charged with dispersing the money received from a pool of 17 states, of which Oregon is a member.

For more information about programs offered by ORNG Benefits, Inc., visit www.orngbenefitsinc.com

AZUWUR



Former Oregon Airman POW remembers WWII

Second Lt. Lee McDuff thankful for service despite time spent in German prison

Story by Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.) Terrence G. Popravak, Jr., 142 Fighter Wing Historian

Wham!

Without any warning the nose of 2nd Lt. Lee McDuff's P-47 Thunderbolt exploded, sending hot shrapnel and broken aircraft fragments flying all about — through the firewall, knocking off the canopy of the Razorback Thunderbolt, and knocking out Lt. McDuff.

It was September 20, 1944. In the preceding summer months, fighter pilots like McDuff played a key role in the rapid Allied advance across France. Lee's outfit, the 405th Fighter Squadron of the 371st Fighter Group, provided cover for General George S. Patton's Third Army in its sweeping movement from Normandy.

McDuff had been in the thick of the action, and just days earlier had safely returned in a flak-ridden ship; 103 holes in his P-47, after a mission supporting the Allied airborne landings in Holland.

But on September 20, McDuff was knocked unconscious by this sudden blow to the nose of his aircraft. He was flying as number four at the outer edge of his flight's combat spread formation as the squadron flew at 8,000 feet just above the cloud cover, en-route to a target in Bonn, Germany.

The two worst things were not having enough to eat and not enough to do.

- 2nd Lt. Lee McDuff

Skirting too close to the flak concentrations at Koblenz, the squadron drew unwanted attention from alert German flak gunners below, who with the help of radar, tracked the squadron. The anti-aircraft gunners gained a lucky direct hit on their first salvo, hitting Lee's P-47 fighter without warning.

As his damaged fighter descended, nearing the ground in the area of Boppard, south of Koblenz, Lee awoke from the initial blow to hear the voice of his flight leader 1st Lt. Barton over the still-operating radio "...bail out, bail out!"

A quick glance out the cockpit showed McDuff his plane had reached a valley and was about even with hills on either side — he quickly decided to abandon his stricken aircraft and managed to jump out just in time. His parachute had not even completely opened when he slammed into trees on a hillside and was knocked out again.

He awoke to find himself suspended from a tree some 15 feet off the ground, with angry German civilians beneath him shouting at him to come down.

"They had shovels, but no pitchforks, and that was good," he remembered. Sighting a couple of German Soldiers approaching, McDuff unclipped himself from the parachute harness and dropped to the ground, only to be beaten by the civilians and knocked unconscious again.

The next thing he saw as he awoke was trees, and he was being dragged along a road by a couple of German Soldiers that may have "saved" him from the irate civilians. Conscious again, the Soldiers stood him to his feet and marched him off to captivity.

The next day he was taken for detention to a castle in Koblenz, and experienced a thundering aerial bombardment aimed at an adjacent railroad marshalling yard. Afterward, McDuff was moved to the Luftwaffe interrogation center at Oberursel, just north of Frankfurt.

After a week in solitary confinement, he underwent a thorough questioning by Otto "Canadian Wild Bill" Englehardt, one of



Photo courtesy of Lee McDuff

Nineteen year old Lee McDuff posed for this photo in 1944 before he was shipped overseas. He was most proud of his Arial Expert Gunnery Badge, which he wore for this photo.

the Luftwaffe's expert interrogators, and assistant to Hanns Scharff, the Luftwaffe's master interrogator.

"He didn't have any luck talking to me, so he sent me back to solitary confinement and I stayed there another number of days," McDuff said.

McDuff was then whisked away to Luft Stalag-1, near Barth, Germany, on the Baltic coast a hundred miles northwest of Berlin, where he joined 9,000 other imprisoned airmen—all officers—mostly American. The trip was in an unmarked boxcar and at one point RAF Mosquito light bombers strafed the train pulling his boxcar. No one was hurt in this incident, McDuff recalled.

When he first arrived, McDuff thought the old "Kriegies" (short for Kriegesgefangenen, the German word for prisoner of war) were nuts, out of their minds. At the time he couldn't appreciate this evidence of their mental survival skills being displayed.

"We learned to make light of everything," McDuff recollected, "You had to or you went crazy."

After about four months, McDuff came to think that the new arrivals were strange.

Luft Stalag-1 had four compounds within the camp, and McDuff's barracks was in south compound of the camp. He was quartered in barrack 7, room 7, in 18 square feet with 23 other Kriegies.

"Roll call was held every morning, McDuff said. "Every block had to report and the Germans counted us off."

The barracks were not great accommodations. During the winter of 1944-45, one of Europe's coldest winters on record, McDuff said that a pitcher of water at night would freeze solid.

In addition to the roll call, some other things soon revealed themselves as routine.

"The two worst things in the stalag were not having enough to eat, and not enough to do," remembered McDuff.

"We joked that the Germans used sawdust to flour their bread pans, and that we could use the bread crust for shoe soles. The major problem was that there just was not enough food," he said.

As for the lack of work, McDuff said the Germans treated the prisoners according to the rules of the Geneva Convention, and would not work the officers.

"So we sat around a lot and talked," McDuff said.

Thanks to the enterprising efforts of some inmates, the Kriegies did have something to talk about, with regard to war news. A clandestine team in the camp gathered news from a variety of open sources, including German newspapers

and propaganda broadcasts, as well as BBC radio news from a well-hidden radio, and produced a daily paper called the POW – WOW: Prisoners of War – Waiting on Winning. It was carefully circulated amongst camp members. Lee remembered that the rule was to only read it in groups of three.

Mail and packages sent through the Red Cross were important morale boosters, but arrived infrequently for the prisoners. Though his mother wrote to him, McDuff never received any mail while he was a POW. In spite of the relatively brief period he was in captivity, as the severe war damage and dislocation of the transportation system within Germany prevented McDuff from receiving her correspondence.

Escape from Luft Stalag-1 was problematic for the Kriegies, at this camp on a peninsula jutting into the Baltic Sea.

"Sand and water were an issue for tunnels there," said McDuff. "And the Germans found them all."

Lee recalled there were about 1,000 British POWs at Barth. "One of them was a prisoner since the first day of the war in 1939," he remembered.

There was also a smaller group of prisoners from the east.

"All of the Russian prisoners were housed in one barracks," he said. "The Germans forced them to do the worst jobs in the camp, cleaning out the latrines by hand. The Germans enforced a rule that all the barracks windows must be closed during darkness. During the night, very large and vicious attack dogs were released in the compound," McDuff recalled.

"One night a guard discovered an open window in the Russian barracks. He released his dog and commanded him to enter the open window. Immediately, all hell broke loose within the barracks. The guard waited and waited for his dog to return.

After some time the guard called for his dog. Within moments, the skin of the dog was tossed out of the barracks and the window was closed. It was learned the next day that the Russians had skinned and eaten the dog. Those Russians were really tough," McDuff said.



Photo courtesy of Jim Considine

Luft Stalag-1, located near Barth, Germany, where McDuff was held prisoner of war. Luft Stalag-III was the basis for the 1963 Hollywood movie, The Great Escape, starring Steve McQueen and James Garner.

Adjacent to the camp was the college of Barth which was being used as a Luftwaffe technical school for radar and anti-aircraft training. Military students attending this school gave Lee the "nearest thing to torture I had while there," he said.

Every day female members of the Luftwaffe marched outside the fence along the camp perimeter on their way to and from the technical school. "They looked like Marilyn Monroe to all of us," McDuff remembered.

McDuff said the last three months in Luft Stalag-1 were tense. The Luftwaffe was replaced by the SS, and rumors went around that the Germans planned to kill off all the POWs, he said.

"They used any excuse to shoot prisoners, and we had to try not to get

shot. If an air raid occurred, with bombers going to Berlin and passing nearby, they would shoot at anyone outside the barracks," McDuff said.

At the end of April, 1945, as Russian forces approached the camp, the Germans suddenly left, and the newly free Kriegies were left to fend for themselves. When Russian forces arrived the next day, the camp's senior officers engaged their erstwhile liberators in efforts to return home, but the Russians seemed disinterested in anything except for bureaucratic accountability paperwork.

Fortunately a former commander of the 56th Fighter Group was a fellow kriegie in the camp.

"Hub Zemke was our ranking officer," McDuff said. "We were lucky to have him because (he) had spent time in Moscow as a military attaché before the war. And it was good we had him or they would have marched us all the way to Odessa when the Russians came in."

With the uncertain situation, McDuff and his fellow captors knew there had to be some sort of organization or the prisoners might escape into Germany.

"Our barracks was chosen by Zemke, among others, to be MPs," said McDuff, who helped with supervision of the former POWs.

"We made them stay in the camp so they could be evacuated...so they wouldn't get into town and into martial law areas with the Russians," McDuff said.

In his MP role, McDuff sometimes worked with the Russians. Though he didn't speak any of their language, between them they both used a little German to achieve at least some communication.

Eventually General Dwight D. Eisenhower intervened in the former POW handling impasse with the Russians, and nearly two weeks after "liberation," groups of B-17 Flying Fortress bombers based in Britain arrived at nearby Barth airfield to return the liberated American and British airmen to freedom. The Luft Stalag-1 portion of this "Operation Revival" took place May 12-14, 1945. Because of his MP duties McDuff was one of the last to leave.

McDuff returned stateside and was discharged after the war ended. He went to Texas Tech and became an engineer with a successful 42-year career at Transco, developing energy pipelines across the eastern United States.

He reflected on his time in the service, as a POW, and said, "I think I am probably the luckiest person you've ever seen," he said.

McDuff wistfully remembers his combat buddies.

"Your combat buddies are closer than anybody else to you, closer than immediate family. All my heroes are my combat buddies that didn't make it back. It's been...years and I still think about them every day," he said.

Retiree Service Office

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

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

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

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

Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309