



41 IBCT conducts Annual Training in Idaho: Page 5



Maj. Gen. Rees retires after 47 years of military service: Page 8

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon National Guard assists in fighting fires in southern Oregon



Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers called into action for fire season



Story by Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Army National Guardsman Sgt. Brandon Names (left), of Albany, Ore., a member of Detachment 1, Alpha Co. 1-112 Aviation, assists Oregon Department of Forestry firefighter Kyle Williams (right) with spotting new forest fires, in the hills surrounding Glendale, Ore., from an Oregon Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter. The Oregon Army National Guard provided five helicopters and approximately 150 Soldiers to aid the Oregon Department of Forestry with fire suppression efforts in Southern Oregon.

Photos by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

GLENDALE, Ore. (Aug. 8, 2013) – Since late July, the Oregon Military Department (OMD) has joined the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in battling forest and rangeland fires.

Five aircraft assisted with fire sup-

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Oregon National Guard welcomes new adjutant general

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson to serve as Oregon's 30th adjutant general

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon National Guard welcomed its 30th adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, to the post during a ceremony held at the Oregon State Capitol, Aug. 1.

Hokanson succeeds Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, who retired July 31. A retirement ceremony was held for Rees on July 13 at the state capitol mall in Salem.

As Oregon's adjutant general, Hokanson will direct, manage, and supervise the Oregon Military Department to include the administration, discipline, organization, training and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon State Defense Force, and the Office of Emergency Management.

Maj. Gen. Hokanson is responsible for developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs of the Oregon National Guard in concert with the governor and legislature of the state. The adjutant general also serves as the governor's homeland security advisor.

Hokanson's recent assignment was as the Director of Strategic Plans and Policy for the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon, in Washington D.C., where, he developed and implemented NGB strategy, policy, plans and initiatives related to warfighting, transformation, the State Partnership



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber (left) administers the oath of office to Oregon's new adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (right), as the general's wife, Kelly, looks on during the investiture ceremony at the state capitol in Salem, Ore., Aug. 1.

Program, theater security cooperation, homeland security for both federal and state, and civil support missions.

Hokanson graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1986 and served on active duty in Air Cavalry, Attack

Helicopter and Aircraft Test organizations prior to joining the Oregon National Guard.

He has command experience at the company, battalion and brigade levels.

See **Hokanson** on Page 3

FEATURES

His retirement ceremony on July 13 in downtown Salem was fit for network television. Against the backdrop of the Oregon State Capitol building, the ceremony carried all the pomp and circumstance of an event befitting a man who devoted his entire life and career to the state and nation, including 17 years as Oregon's adjutant general under four different Oregon governors.



Rees takes a swing at croquet during an Oregon Guard morale event in 2011.

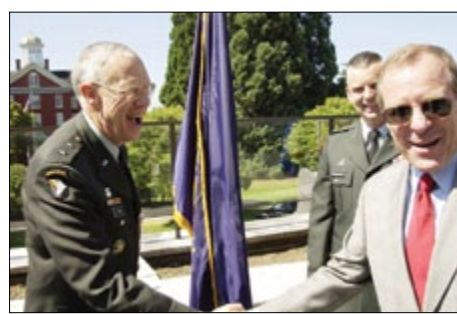
As Oregon's adjutant general, Rees directed, managed, and supervised the administration, discipline, organization, training and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon State Defense Force, Joint Force Headquarters, and the Office of Emergency Management.

Rees was responsible for developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs of the Oregon National Guard in concert with the governor and legislature of the state. He also served as the governor's homeland security advisor.



Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Vietnam Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Vice Chairman of the National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), sign official documents for the State Partnership Program between Oregon and Vietnam, at the Ministry of Defense Guest House in Hanoi, Vietnam, Nov. 27, 2012. Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy, Vietnam.

Nearly 1,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in stood in formation under bright blue skies in Salem. The event was attended by former Oregon Governor and close friend, Ted Kulongoski, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank J. Grass. The ceremony also included military displays, booths and a Howitzer salute.



Rees shares a light-hearted moment with then-Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski following Rees' 2005 swearing-in ceremony in Salem. Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy.



Raymond F. Rees, at the start of his career as a recent graduate of West Point.

How does a man like Rees move from leading more than 8,800 personnel in a nationally-recognized and lauded organization to retirement? Rees readily admits, it may take some adjustment.

"I have been working steadily in this job since I was appointed to the position of adjutant general in 1987, and this kind of position demands 24 hours a day. You live by the calendar, and so it will take a while to ratchet down," he said.

Life for Raymond F. Rees began humbly in a small town in Helix, Ore. He grew up on his family farm, which, for several generations had been a dry wheat farm in the small central Oregon town.

His military career began shortly after his graduation from the U.S. Army Academy at West Point in 1962. President John F. Kennedy had been in office for only a year.

After serving a short stint as a platoon leader and troop commander with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany, then-Capt. Raymond Rees found himself serving with the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

It was 1968, and the Vietnam War was in full swing.

Rees admitted that the job of commanding a cavalry troop was demanding work.

"From Hue to the Ashau Valley, we faced North Vietnamese troops that were well equipped and motivated," Rees recalled.

Serving at Camp Eagle, near Hue, Rees saw the best and worst of war. In fact, five of his fellow Soldiers in Delta Troop, 2nd Squadron perished during his tour. Rees often recalled the names of his comrades; Staff Sgt. Raymond Torres, Sgt. Harry Yingling, Pfc. William Bobo, Spc. 4 Charles Stockbauer and Pfc. Santos Rivera Jr.

Instead of harboring ill feelings, Rees turned his personal loss into professional action. Years later, he would spearhead a successful partnership with the very people he fought against through the State Partnership Program with Vietnam.

"I never once thought about someday working with the people I was fighting," Rees said.

Rees admits he's very pleased with the progress of the Oregon National Guard's partnership with Vietnam.

"I think (the partnership) also opened

A Lifetime of Service

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

TO SAY THAT RAYMOND F. REES left his mark on the Oregon National Guard would be an understatement. Over a 47-year military career, 17 of which spent at the helm of the Oregon National Guard, Rees can be credited with helping to shape Oregon's military, and indeed the rest of the National Guard in terms of relevancy and importance on a truly global scale.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, addresses several hundred attendees at his retirement ceremony, to include Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard, at the Oregon Capitol in Salem, Ore., July 13.

up the possibility for me to encourage other contemporaries to go back to Vietnam, and as a result, a lot of people are letting the raw emotions and bad feelings dissipate, and are able to move on," Rees said.

Oregon's successful program also includes Bangladesh. Several training opportunities have arisen since the relationship began, benefiting both countries. The Oregon National Guard hopes to forge a strong partnership, along with planned events with the



Left: Rees with former Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, at the Portland Air National Guard Base in 2010. Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy.

emerging country of Vietnam as well. "There are a lot of young, very well educated leaders that have a worldly view and are in tune with all the new training that people are using around the world, and I think in Vietnam, they're interested in moving rapidly into a post-authoritarian society and are very forward-thinking."

"As a result, I think we're going to find a happy medium between the two countries and I see a lot of closure for

It's not about being the leader... you are there to take care of people.

- Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, former Adjutant General, Oregon

a lot of people who may have had bad feelings or bad experiences 40 years ago," Rees said.

Rees' first term as Oregon's adjutant general began in May 1987, when he was appointed by Oregon Governor Neil Goldschmidt. At the time, he was serving as the commander of the 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Twin Falls, Idaho.

His second term as adjutant general followed his appointment as Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau in 1994, when Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts reappointed him to the post as leader of Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. Under Governors Roberts and Kitzhaber, Rees served five years as adjutant general.

Rees also served in many high-level command positions throughout the U.S. Army and National Guard Bureau including, Director of

The "general's general": Rees with his troops in 2012.



Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyles, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

across the country.

"We had the opportunity to set the future for the National Guard across the nation. We had to set things in place, such as preparation to mobilize people in a way that we had not been doing during the Cold War. As a result, I think many of those baseline things we did in the 1990s came to actual fruition," he said.

Rees was serving as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. His experiences during that tumultuous time undoubtedly helped shape his vision for how he would later respond as the adjutant general when the Oregon National Guard was called upon in the following years to help fight the Global War on Terror.

"I think I've had some unique circumstances to go from here in Oregon to the national level and back again to Oregon," Rees said.

Rees' final assignment as adjutant



The life of a general has a somber side: Rees salutes the family of a fallen Oregon Soldier in 2009.

the Army National Guard, and then Vice Chief and Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. He also served as Chief of Staff at U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) / North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

During his time at the National Guard Bureau, Rees and his contemporaries were forced to reduce the military force by about 75,000 people and were tasked with the redistribution of its force structure



Rees with Lt. Gen. Wadud, Principle Staff Officer for the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh, on a tour of the Maj. Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem in 2012.



Rees meets with guests at the Oregon State Capitol, just before his retirement ceremony, July 13.

general began in July 2005, when Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski asked him to return to Oregon. At the time, Rees was serving as chief of staff at USNORTHCOM/NORAD at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. Rees served two consecutive four-year terms as adjutant general under both Gov. Kulongoski and Gov. Kitzhaber.

Rees said the most rewarding part of his career was the 17 years spent as Oregon's adjutant general. Much of the groundwork done through the Cold War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and into the Global War on Terror turned into opportunities to bolster the organization, he added.

"On my third go-around as the adjutant general, serving during the Global War on Terror, we were actually able to see the fruition of all of the work we put in for many years—that the Guard demonstrates its competence and capability."

"As I've often said, we have the 4-C's; confidence, competence, courage and commitment of our people; and they are demonstrating every day that the Guard is living up to a wonderful tradition, and an organization that the



Rees with second-term Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, during a recognition ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in 2011.

people can rely on," Rees said.

Through the course of his military career, Rees has been recognized with numerous civilian and military awards, including the Defense, Army and Air Force Distinguished Service Medals, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. He is also qualified as a parachutist, Army aviator, and Army Ranger.

When asked what he plans to do in his retirement, this accomplished general said he and his family are anxious to get back to his family farm in Helix.

"We're headed back to our farm that has been in our family for about the last 100 years or so, and it needs some tender loving care. We've spent a fair amount of time trying to get it fixed

up," Rees said.

He adds that there might also be other opportunities in government service.

"I might take a look at some businesses related to my military background, and certainly there's some opportunities that may come up in government also."

Regardless of the general's final plans, it's likely he will remain humble to

his Helix and Oregon roots.

"As the adjutant general, I'm not a commander, but as the adjutant for our commander in chief, it has given me the opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people, see the performance of the Oregon Guard over the years," Rees said.

Regardless of stature or rank, the one thing Rees always refers back to is some advice given to him early in his military career—take care of your people.

"Appreciate the people you're responsible for. It's not about being the leader, as a reward or recognition of your performance, but you are there to take care of people. That is the most valuable piece of guidance I've ever been given."

Rees, in traditional clothing, while visiting Oregon Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in 2006.

Rees, in traditional clothing, while visiting Oregon Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in 2006.



Then-Capt. Raymond F. Rees (far right) on a training maneuver with then-Brig. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf (second from left) in 1977. Courtesy photo.

"Be proud of your service," Rees continued.

"What was brought to my attention by a cousin of mine years ago is that our uniform is a suit of honor," he said.

"You should be very proud that you're serving your state and nation. Take pride as an individual, and take pride in the fact that your National Guard is serving well and competently and efficiently, as was foreseen by the people who wrote our Constitution over 200 years ago."



Rees reviews his troops for the last time during his retirement ceremony, in Salem, July 13.

A TIMELINE OF RAYMOND REES' CAREER

1962	1967	1968	1970	1973/1974	1962	1986	1987	1991	1994	1999	2002	2003	2005	2008	2009	2012	2013
Graduates from West Point	Troop commander in Germany	Serves tour in Vietnam	Student, Army aviation school	Joins Oregon Guard, finishes law school	XO, HHC, 3-116 CAV, La Grande	Promoted to colonel	Appointed adjutant general of Oregon, 1st term	Appointed director of Army Guard	Appointed acting chief, NGB to Oregon in Aug. as adjutant	Appointed vice chief, NGB, 2nd term	Re-appointed acting chief, NGB	Begins 3rd term as Oregon's adjutant general	Begins 4th and final term as Oregon's adjutant general	Helps establish Vietnam as Oregon state partner (along with Bangladesh)	Begins 4th and final term as Oregon's adjutant general	Names MG Hokanson as successor	Rees retires

AZUWUR



Milton-Freewater Korean War vet remembered

Daughter of Oregonian killed in Korea welcomed by locals during visit there

Story by Mike Allegre,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
Photos courtesy of Kathleen Mischke

By age 27, John Patrick Hughes was already a veteran of World War II and had served with the occupation forces in Japan.

The Milton-Freewater, Ore. resident again answered his country's call to war as America and 21 allied nations began fighting against North Korea and the Chinese during the Korean conflict.

Hughes' five-year-old daughter Kathleen still recalls travelling with her family to Fort Lewis, Wash., to say goodbye as her dad deployed to South Korea. It would be Hughes' final goodbye to his wife and three young daughters.

In early September of 1950, as North Korean troops were advancing on American held positions south of Busan, a platoon of soldiers led by Staff Sgt. John P. Hughes was laying land mines to create a defensive position when one inadvertently exploded killing Hughes.

Days later, half-a-world away in Oregon, the Hughes family had gathered for a Sunday meal at their farm. Kathleen watched her mother look up as she had noticed a cloud of dust on the road heading toward their home.

"We didn't know who it could be and didn't recognize the car until it got close," she remembered.

A man got out of a taxi holding an envelope that contained a telegram for Mrs. Hughes. Upon reading the sad unexpected news, the family setting was silenced.

"Dad wasn't coming home. He had been killed in action near the Nakdong River. We didn't know how it happened, but dad was gone."

Later she would read the letters her father had sent to her mother from the



Kathleen Hughes Mischke is surrounded by local media as she tearfully touches the name of her dad, Staff Sgt. John P. Hughes, on a Korean War memorial wall while visiting Busan, South Korea in April. Hughes' name is engraved with more than 35,000 other Americans who lost their lives in the Korean War.

front. He described the devastation and the hardships endured by both sides, including the World War II-era equipment used by U.S. Soldiers, and how some men were sent to Korea were not completely trained.

Staff Sgt. Hughes' remains were soon transported home. He was buried with honors in Milton-Freewater.

Kathleen's life and that of her family had now drastically changed. Kathleen says her mother, now age 90, has never forgotten the love of her life.

Kathleen Mischke, 68, is a retired gerontologist living in Beaverton, Ore. She had been dreaming of going to South Korea to see where her dad had spent his last days.

Her husband David would soon turn 70, so she was planning a celebration trip to Asia.

Before departing, she contacted a Korean War veterans' association in Oregon. Former Oregon State Sen. John Lim put her in touch with his acquaintances in that city.

The South Koreans who heard about Mischke were so touched by her quest that they arranged to pick the couple up at their ship and hold a ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan. There, her father's name is inscribed on a large monument with the names of all U.S. troops who had died in that war.

On April 5, 2013, more than 62 years after Hughes was killed, Kathleen and



Staff Sgt. John P. Hughes was killed while setting up a defensive perimeter near Busan, South Korea in September 1950.

acknowledged my father and other Americans who gave their lives. They knew of and are truly thankful for America's sacrifices and for the loss of my dad when I was a little girl."

Kathleen said closure with her dad's death wasn't what she sought. That had occurred 60 years before.

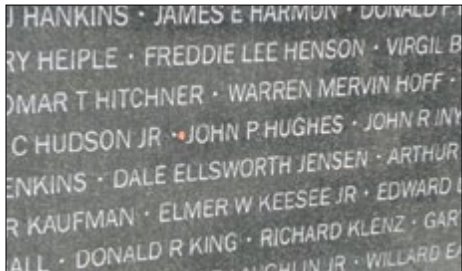
"I truly had wanted to walk where my father had walked and experience Korea today. I wanted to do what most family members of the fallen can't do; visit the area where a loved one had fallen in war time," she added.

"And certainly I desired to pay deep respects at the Wall of Remembrance where his name and other American names are engraved. That day I really did feel connected to my dad, like he was there with me."

And what does Kathleen think about when she remembers her dad?

"I remember him teaching me to roller skate. He sang funny songs and he could whistle louder than anybody I knew," she said.

"He was always my hero and he didn't come home."



Staff Sgt. John P. Hughes' name is engraved on a Korean War memorial wall in Busan, South Korea. The Oregonian was killed in an explosion near Busan in September 1950.

David had finally arrived and would begin a short day trip. They would be very near the area where her father had been killed.

As the couple disembarked the cruise ship, they looked out and wondered why so many people and a limousine were waiting for them.

They would soon learn their reception committee included the vice mayor of Busan, the president of the World Korean Interchange Association, an interpreter and other interested onlookers.

"Local government officials, a representative of the Consulate General's office, and former presidential candidate Moon Jae-in were among the well-wishers. We were so surprised and amazed at this outpouring of welcome and kindness," she said.

Now unexpectedly standing before a crowd of nearly 100 people and local media, Kathleen addressed the audience using an interpreter.

Later she cried when placing flowers at the memorial. Then Kathleen touched her father's name, an experience she described as "overwhelming." They were then whisked away to a beautiful restaurant and treated to lunch with their hosts.

"Considering what's happening there now, it's important that these things are remembered," she said, referring to the tensions between the two Koreas.

"The Koreans genuinely appreciate all that America did during that war and they told us that repeatedly," Kathleen said.

"In a very significant way they

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Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees bids farewell to Oregon National Guard

Story by Maj. Gen. (Ret. Raymond F. Rees,
Former Adjutant General, Oregon

It has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside all of you. Thanks to those of you who participated in my retirement ceremony.

Your professionalism and dedication created a send-off that will be mirrored in many other states. You truly set the bar high! Each of you were vital in making this day a success. I could not have asked for a more meaningful and amazing farewell.

It has been an honor to serve as your Adjutant General for the past eight years.

When I think of all we have taken on as the Oregon National Guard, I am astounded.

We have built new facilities, generated quality training areas, obtained and qualified on new equipment, and created a team which provides nationally-recognized honors for our fallen heroes.

All have been accomplished while flawlessly responding to both domestic and international mobilizations. These

are just a few of the achievements I have seen.

The accolades associated with them all are not mine to boast, they are yours; the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, and civilian employees of the Oregon Military Department and the Oregon National Guard.

In my career, I have had the opportunity to serve at the national level. There is a perception out there that I have worked to place Oregonians in positions at the national level in order to better benefit Oregon.

Although I must admit this is true, it has been fulfilling to see Oregon talent rise to the top. In the Oregon Guard, there is a determination to succeed, a drive to serve state and nation, and a pride in being part of an organization with a time-honored history.

Our programs, our mobilizations, our history, and your individual work are certainly recognized at the national level, but what stands out above all is our outlook. We do not rest on our laurels. Yes, we are accomplished. Yes, we are

trained and ready. Yes, we have a proud history. But, we want to go farther.

You, the Oregon National Guard team, want to become more accomplished, amplify training, and create history. Get 'er done.

As I depart a career of 47 years of service, I want all of you to know I could not be more proud of any organization.

As a professional problem-solving team, I hope you will always take with you the four C's, which this organization has demonstrated so well these past eight years.

Competence, Confidence, Courage and Commitment. This team has embodied these values and has succeeded at every turn.

To Maj. Gen. Hokanson, it was an honor to do my best to train and prepare this organization. As you have also served on the national level, I am certain you will find there are none better than the men and women of the Oregon Military Department and the Oregon National Guard.

Thank you. God bless you all, God



bless Oregon and God bless the United States of America. And remain ... "Always Ready, Always There!"