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41 IBCT conducts Annual Training in Idaho: Page 5



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

FALL 2013

Oregon Sentirel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon National Guard assists in fighting fires in southern Oregon



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

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.

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



Story by Oregon Department of Forestry

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-

See Oregon's on Page 12

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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

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The Oregon Military Department

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2013 Oregon Military Department

COMMAND

New adjutant general visits Soldiers, Airmen around state

To the Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and civilians of the Oregon Military Department,

It is my distinct honor to serve as Oregon's 30th Adjutant General. For more than 165 years, Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees have served our communities and responding to our nations call to arms.

This reputation and tradition would not be possible without support from our Commander-in-Chief, the Governor; our local communities; and the selfless service, leadership by example, and unwavering commitment by leaders such as Gen. Rees This collective accomplishment has made the Oregon Military Department what it is today—a first-class, nationally-recognized organization. Gen. Rees' efforts, and those of our many Soldiers, Airmen and civilians past and present, will serve us well far into the

As we move forward, we will hold true to our mission of supporting our communities, our state and nation; and we will support and care for our members, veterans, and family members. Their loyalty, spirit of commitment, and enduring sacrifice has helped ensure the future of our state and nation.

In the next few months I plan to visit all of our armories, air bases and other locations throughout the state, and to meet with our

Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees. I will then work with key leadership to develop the future of the Oregon National Guard and the entire Oregon Military Department,

Daniel R. Hokanson. The Adjutant General,

building upon the strong foundation by those who have

previously led this great organization.

In closing, I am proud to again be part of such a talented, professional organization. I also have the utmost confidence in you, and your ability to remain relevant and effective as we continue our commitment to be always ready, always there!

Daniel R. Hokanson, Major General, The Adjutant General, Oregon

Sequestration forces us to plan better, plan smarter

Looking at all types of news sources, arguably the biggest issue that faces this nation is that of government spending.

The word sequestration was foreign to most of us until last year when we heard about impending budgeting shortfalls and program stoppages if this "thing" was not avoided. Well "it" is here and we are all feeling its effects.

But equally important is how we, as individual Soldiers, recognize, plan and react to the impending changes that are going to affect (and are now affecting), us all. This begins by looking outside of our daily and immediate lives and focusing on the big picture as it pertains to our world, country, state, and organization.

It is only by prior planning and forward thinking that we will be able to head off and/or decrease the effects and impacts of the coming changes. With regard to the national issues, we need to join and support organizations that speak for our best interests and benefits. We also need to voice our preferences and concerns to our national leaders so that they respond accordingly. This same approach should be utilized in addressing our state leaders as well.

Here in the Oregon National Guard, we can utilize our forward-thinking process to better utilize the finances we do have by decreasing operational costs and streamlines processes. Everyone has a vested interest in this venture.

In July we wished Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Rees a happy retirement. His many years of service within the military at all levels, was a huge benefit to the Oregon National Guard. Just as we worked and supported Rees, we are also called upon to support Maj. Gen. Hokanson, as he steps forward to take over command of the Oregon Army and Air National

Let's focus on getting behind Hokanson to ensure that the ORNG remains a leader and example to the other 54 states and territories. Let's be creative and resourceful in our approach and response to these challenging times. It's time for the "Quiet Professionals" to be the professional leaders with answers for all the situations in front of us. For the Corps



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

Bentz promoted in Salem as Oregon's first female major general



Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115 Mobile Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, administers the oath to Maj. Gen. Julie A. Bentz (right), during her promotion at Heritage Park at the Oregon Military Department in Salem. Ore., June 7. as her husband, Dr. Brendan Plapp (center), looks on. Bentz is the first female major general in the Oregon National Guard, and one of five female major generals in the entire National Guard force.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore.--The Oregon National Guard celebrated the promotion of Brig. Gen. Julie A. Bentz to the rank of major general during a ceremony at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Ore., June 7.

Bentz is the first female in the Oregon around nuclear defense, homeland security, National Guard to be selected for major health physics, environmental sciences and general. Bentz was recently honored by the traditional nuclear, biological and chemical 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly for being the first female general in the Oregon Army National Guard, with the adoption of House Gen. Bentz assisted with the initial stand-up Concurrent Resolution 11.

Strategic Capabilities Policy, National Security Council in Washington, D.C. Her officer for 82nd Troop Command Brigade promotion comes with an assignment as the from 2003-2004. Director of Nuclear Defense Policy, National Security Council, in Washington, D.C.

policy, coordinating interagency dialogue, and shaping the Department of Defense's informing presidential budgetary decisions leading role in this effort. She served on the and building consensus on interagency initiatives in programs that develop United States strategic capabilities to meet 21st 2011, advising senior-level decision makers century requirements

"It is a remarkable personal achievement said Governor John Kitzhaber in a letter congratulating Bentz.

"You embody the dedication and professionalism of our Oregon National emergencies, in leadership positions back in Washington, D.C., and on deployments overseas. We are so proud of your Oregon years ahead."

as the first female general officer within the a graduate of the National War College with a Oregon Army National Guard.

Bentz has more than 27 years of service and has held multiple roles from field work to White House advisor. She began her in the National Guard nationwide; 18 are military career with an ROTC commission from the Army National Guard and nine are from Oregon State University in June 1986 and served in a variety of active, reserve female general officers in the National Guard, and National Guard assignments revolving five hold the rank of major general.

officer assignments.

In the Oregon Army National Guard, Brig. of the 102nd Civil Support Team in 1999 and Bentz is currently assigned as the Director, served as the executive officer of the unit in 2003. She also served as the operations

She then went on to serve in various positions in the Pentagon, developing She is responsible for writing presidential a national nuclear response framework Homeland Security Council from 2004-2006 and the National Security Staff from 2009on nuclear defense policy.

"We couldn't be more proud of her or her and one that we celebrate here in Oregon," accomplishments," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon's former Adjutant General.

'Bentz's selection to major general highlights the significance of Oregon's education and leadership programs. We are Guard as they serve here at home during proud to have been a part of her already amazing career.'

In addition to her bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Radiological roots and wish you continued success in the Health, Bentz holds a master's degree and a doctorate in nuclear engineering from the The Governor further recognized Bentz University of Missouri-Columbia. She is also master's in national security strategy.

> According to the National Guard Bureau, there are currently 27 female general officers from the Air National Guard. Of those 27

NEWS

Beach promoted, takes command of 82nd Brigade

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Col. Steven R. Beach was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony at Heritage Park in Salem, Ore., Aug. 3.

He is currently assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore., with additional duty as commander of the 82nd Brigade Troop Command.

"Steve has demonstrated exceptional potential throughout his entire career and that's being recognized here today," said Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Beach graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1984 and served several years on active duty before joining the Oregon Army National Guard in 1989.

His most recent assignment was deputy chief of staff of operations with Joint Force Headquarters, following his service as the deputy brigade commander for 82nd Brigade Troop Command.

He previously served as operations branch chief, and subsequently as post commander for Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. He also held numerous positions within the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team throughout his career as a company commander, public affairs officer, information operations officer, and deployed as the executive officer.

Beach graduated Ranger school in 1985; Command and General Staff College in 2002; and he completed U.S. Army War College through a National Security Fellowship at Harvard in 2009

Following his promotion, Beach took command of the 82nd Brigade Troop Command in a change of command ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Aug. 3. The official ceremony included the passing of the brigade's guidon, a flag representing the unit, from the outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Eric C. Bush, to Beach as the incoming commander.

"Today, we have the opportunity to recognize two outstanding officers that I've been fortunate to serve with, both here in the state and down-range in Iraq during our deployment in 2009-2010," said Hokanson about both

"We get to recognize the contributions of Brigadier General Bush and his wife, Kim, for all that they've done for this organization. Eric is a true example of a Citizen-Soldier not only as a brigade commander in the Oregon National Guard, but also the chief of police in Prineville, Oregon. He's excelled at every level and he's most recently been selected to serve with U.S. Forces Korea."

A large formation of units, representing each battalion in the brigade, witnessed the ceremony as the new commander assumed his position.



Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach (right), receives the 82nd Troop Command Brigade guidon from Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, symbolizing Beach accepting command of the brigade in a ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Aug. 3.

"I encourage all of you to always maintain the courage to do the right thing, for the right reason, and to keep that courage in your heart; your actions will follow," Beach told the formation of troops.

"It's been an honor to be selected to take command of the 82nd Brigade. I'll devote all my energy toward keeping the traditions and success of this brigade rolling along."

The 82nd Brigade Troop Command, headquartered at Camp Withycombe, consists of Army aviation units with HH-60M Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook, and UH-72 Lakota helicopters; cavalry units containing new M1A2 SEP Abrams tanks and A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles; as well as other units specializing in engineering, military police, public affairs, and maintenance.

Hokanson assumes **Oregon National Guard's top position**



Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Oregon's 30th adjutant general.

Continued from Front Page

He commanded the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Iraq and served as Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in Afghanistan. His staff service includes National Guard Bureau Headquarters, a forward deployed Combined Joint Task Force, a Bi-National Command and Combatant Command.

Hokanson is best known for his membership in the United States World Helicopter Team and as founder of the National Guard's first Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST) and Military Air Rescue Team (MART) program.

As the commander of Oregon's 1042 Medical Company, Hokanson commanded nearly 100 air rescue and fire-fighting missions throughout the Pacific Northwest.

BG Bush takes new position in Korea

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Eric C. Bush, commander of the 82 Brigade Troop Command, has been assigned as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, J-3, Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces

In his new role, Bush will work directly with another Oregonian, Maj. Gen. David B. Enyeart, who is the Chief of Staff, J-3, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea. Enveart has held the position since February 2012.

The mission of the CJ3 is to provide operational direction for all Republic of Korea (ROK) and U.S. Forces assigned to and under the operational control of the Commander, United Nations Command/ Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea/Ground Component Command to properly train and prepare ROK and U.S. Alliance Forces.

Both Enyeart and Bush also serve as law enforcement officers in their respective communities; Enyeart as the Chief of Police for the City of Toledo, Ore., and Bush as the Prineville, Ore., Police Chief. Bush has served with the Prineville Police Department since 1990.

Bush is certified as a corrections officer. has worked as a narcotics detective, and, in 1997, received recognition as the Oregon Narcotics Enforcement Association Officer of the Year for his region. He is also a 1999 graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.



Brig. Gen. Eric C. Bush.

Bush holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and Communications from Western Baptist College and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

He is a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his awards include the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze

The United States and Korea are observing the 60th anniversary of the Korea War Armistice on July 27 with events planned in both countries. The Oregon National Guard plans to participate in the commemoration scheduled in Wilsonville,

MG Enyeart keynote at Korea War ceremony

Right: Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. David B. Enyeart, Chief of Staff, J-3, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea, speaks to an audience of Korean War Veterans during the commemoration ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice Agreement of 1953 at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, Ore., July 27.

Below: Oregon Choral performs a musical ensemble at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, Ore. during the commemoration ceremony for the 60th Anniversary of the Armistice Agreement of 1953.

Photos by Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs.





3-116 Cavalry first Army Guard unit to conduct trials with Abrams tanks

3-116th Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

CENTER, Idaho – Eastern Oregon's Oregon Army National Guard unit kicked-off one of its most important and revolutionary Annual Training sessions in July on the high-desert south of the Gem

State's capital. The Citizen-Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment began high-tempo operations centered around the newest, most modern and lethal main battle tank in the world.

The new tank, the M1A2 SEP Abrams is said. the latest version of the U.S. Army's armor mainstay but is a radical departure from previous models.

The nearly 70-ton M1A2 SEP showcases upgraded gun sights and armor, along with improved and superior electronics and color map displays all connected to a hightech computer system.

The tank boasts a top-quality communications frame and an enhanced turbine engine. The tank also features what is known as a "CROWS-II" system that is essentially a machine gun – with better sights – on top of the metal turret that can be controlled from inside the armored

Using a joystick and a digital display, the "CROWS-II" system nullifies the need for a Guardsman to open the hatch to fire the

The battalion is the only National Guard unit in the nation to field the new technologically-advanced tank.

Jason Lambert, of Hermiston, said about the new SEP tank. "It is the culmination of our NETT (new equipment) training."

Since the unit returned in 2011 from its

second tour of duty in Iraq, Guardsmen assigned to the battalion's two tank companies - one in Ontario and one in ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING Hermiston -spent their weekend drills at the Umatilla Army Depot learning how to operate the new tank.

> Now, with more than a year of instruction on the M1A2 SEP under their belts, Guardsmen will take the final test on the new tank during a three-week training period that began Monday.

Lambert said he wasn't too worried about how the tankers in the 3rd Battalion will perform.

"Problem solving is what we do," he

On a dusty isolated gunnery range south of Boise, members of the 3rd Battalion were busy conducting one of the first, and most crucial, tests for the new tank.

Because none of the tanks have fired in more than 18 months, each M1A2 SEP must be test-fired to ensure the gun tube works and the tank is safe. The process consists of the battalion master gunner, Master Sgt. Daniel Ishaug, and the unit's maintenance foreman, Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Bales – both of La Grande using a remote system to fire the tank main gun while the crew is out of the vehicle.

"It is an important safety feature to make sure the crew is safe. We are testing to make sure the computers and sensors are working, and make sure all the computer data is on," said Maj. Joseph Lundell, La Grande, the battalion's operation officer.

Once the crew loads a tank round in the gun tube, Bales and Ishaug hook up a remote cable to the trigger mechanism. "It is obviously an upgrade," Lt. Col. Then they retreat to the back deck of the tank, duck down and, after ensuring all safety measure are in place, fire the gun.

> "It's like a carnival ride," Ishaug said. Bales said the process is an efficient,



M1A2 SEP tanks from Ontario Oregon's Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment test fires on a gunnery range at the Orchard Combat Training Center. The 3rd Battalion was the first Army National Guard unit to conduct gunnery trials on the M1-A2 SEP tank. The 3rd Battalion is made up of Army National Guardsmen from Oregon and is one of the maneuver elements of the Idaho National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade

and safe, method to ensure the tanks can operate properly. "We kneel behind the turret. And as long as you take the proper precautions you're all right," Bales said.

Ishaug said much of the focus of the test fire revolves around the big gun inside the tank. "We make sure the recoil mechanism is operating properly. We only do this with new tanks." Ishaug said.

After the test fire, Bales and Ishaug crawl into the tank turret and begin a sequence of safety checks.

"He has his checks and I have mine," Bale said. "I'm looking at the cradle of the gun and where the breech attaches to it. We make sure the gun recoils right back to where it started," Bale said.

Ishaug and Bales double-check an array of items around the gun tube to ensure there are no leaks or other deficiencies that could harm the crew.

"We shoot (during the test fire) the same ammo we are going to use to qualify with. That gives the crew confidence in the tanks," Ishaug said.

The test fire, however, was only the first step toward the final exam for the tankers of the 3rd Battalion. Over the following 10 days, each tank crew qualified on a gunnery range with the new M1A2 SEP.

The 3rd Battalion consists of Guard units from Hood River, The Dalles, Hermiston, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City and

Battalion Master Gunner uses "tank mojo" to push unit to success

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell 3-116th Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING **CENTER, Idaho** – Oregon Army National Guard Master Sgt. Daniel Ishaug calls it "tank moio.'

For most of July, Ishaug has watched from a front-row seat on the desolate, high-desert of Idaho, whether the "mojo" is working for the Guardsman of eastern Oregon's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

And for Ishaug, the Master Gunner for the 3rd Battalion, the "mojo" it is a deadly serious combination of elements that ensure a tank crew makes it through combat alive.

The effort to find the right mix of people, personalities and skills to create a proficient his role as the battalion's Master Gunner, many months. doesn't end there. Not by a long shot.

Ishaug must also manage a bewildering array of other priorities regarding tank gunnery for the eastern Oregon citizensoldier unit. Ishaug, assisted by other Master Gunners in the battalion, directs which ranges will be used for gunnery, when they will be operated, and the sequence the battalion tanks will utilize on said. each range.

In the end, it is on Ishaug – the man trained by the Army to know everything there is to know about the Abrams main battle tank – where the responsibility falls regarding how well the 20 or more tanks in the battalion do during their gunnery qualification test. In short, he is the embodiment of the battalion's soul when it

battalion's tank crews may not succeed on live far away. So they are more likely to the critical Table 6 qualification range.

Table 6 is the final exam for the 3rd Battalion tankers. Each tank crew spends more than 10 days practicing on other crews is as old as the Roman Legions. ranges in preparation for the Table 6 And it revolves around a simple concept:

 successfully then the nearly three-week long Annual Training is a triumph.

If not, then it is back to the drawing Ishaug, a La Grande resident, doesn't

want to go back to the drawing board. Not unless he absolutely has to.

So everything – the ranges, the toil under the blistering southern Idaho sun, the long days and long nights on the high desert comes down to "tank mojo."

"Tank mojo," Ishaug added, "can't be taken for granted."

The "mojo" is a critical, albeit nebulous, factor for the tankers. The "Tank mojo" Ishaug said, just doesn't float on the thin air. It is something that is constructed in tank crew is a full-time job for Ishaug. Yet, a methodical, painstaking process over

> "It all starts with who is compatible," Ishaug said one day on a tank gunnery range last week.

He squinted into the bright glare of the desert sun as a M1A2 SEP tank from Hermiston's Delta Company prepared to test fire its big 120 millimeter main gun. "Then you start making adjustments," he troops.

Many items are factored into those adjustments, he said. One key component is each tank crewman's End Term of Service (ETS)s the final day of their Oregon tankers. military contract. When a citizen-soldier hits their ETS date their obligation to the state and nation is over.

"So, when I do my gunnery plan I go out three years. Then I look at stuff like, who hangs out together after drill. Who lives Without a strong "tank mojo" the out of town? I try to marry up people who be able to train together at the same time,"

The process Ishaug used for the tank

qualification run. If they negotiate Table Building teams. Each tank crew is a four-6 – which consists of each tank firing on man team. To be successful each team targets in a sequence of different scenarios must act in concert. They must know their jobs and know the strengths and weakness of their crewmates, Ishaug said.

Ishaug admitted that crew stability – the ability of a specific crew to stay together for a long time – is often a goal difficult to achieve. "If you get a crew together for two or three years you are lucky," he said.

If everything goes just right – if the crews mesh, if each tank company navigates each practice gunnery range efficiently, if the weather holds and tanks are not hampered by mechanical problems – then the battalion falls into what Ishaug terms "good gunnery."

"Then we are into healthy competition between companies and crews to see who can be the best," he said. Ishaug also plays a pivotal role in teaching tank crews the importance of tank gunnery.

"As a master gunner, we are taught that knowledge is something to give, not to keep," he said.

One of his biggest challenges is implanting the right mind set into his tank crews. Targets, for example, are plywood Master Sgt. Daniel Ishaug walks away replicas of armor vehicles and enemy from a fuel truck on the Orchard Combat

But to Ishaug, they are more than just chunks of plywood out on the high desert. They are, in his mind, the enemy. And that enemy has one focus: To kill eastern

"I tell them, 'look at it as if I don't hit it I die." He said. "It is not just shooting a plywood target. So if you, in your mind, are just happy doing OK against the enemy, I don't know what to say to that. Your mind has to be in the tank," he said.

Ishaug also promotes safety. Splashed against the backdrop of the M1A2 SEP he conceded learning the art of maneuver main battle tank, safety may not seem like is important too, he said gunnery must a key issue. After all, the Abrams tank is come first. designed to kill. Not be safe. Yet Ishaug said safety on the ranges is paramount.



Training Center south of Boise Idaho. Ishaug is the master gunner for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard. Ishaug manages the gunnery schedule for the battalion and said crew cohesion – what he terms 'tank mojo' - is a key element to success for tankers.

And I understand you can only put so many safety guards on a tank. But we error on the side of safety," he said.

Ishaug said gunnery is the single most important aspect to training tankers. While

"Look, you can shoot your way out of a bad maneuver. But you can't maneuver "That tank does not care who it hurts. your way out of a bad shoot," he said."

Oregon's 41 IBCT trains in Idaho for possible 2014 Afghanistan deployment



Photo by Sgt. Armondo Borboa, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment practices a low-profile beach landing via marine assault craft on the banks of the Owyhee river as part of an insertion and extraction mission at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, July 16.

Story by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell 3-116th Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

FALL 2013

NEWS

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho - The largest Oregon Army National Guard combat unit is now training on the high-desert south of Boise, Idaho for a potential 2014 deployment to Afghanistan, even as the American military begins to dismantle a decade-long presence there (statement was editorial).

Oregon's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) hit the desolate desert landscape of the Orchard Combat Training Center more than two weeks ago for its annual training cycle.

Yet instead of the two-week timeframe usually reserved for Guard units for annual training, this year the brigade will conduct three weeks of exercises to prepare for Afghanistan.

"This is the last annual training period before we mobilize. It is a week longer this year because of the deployment," said Col. Kevin Sheehy, the deputy commander of the brigade

The brigade contains more than 3,000 Guardsmen from nearly every town and city across a wide arc of western, southern and central Oregon.

A unit with a storied history, the brigade is already familiar with overseas deployments. The brigade logged three combat tours overseas since the War on Terror kicked-off, including two deployments to Iraq and a previous tour in Afghanistan. The previous deployments translate into a strong core of experienced leaders – a fact senior commanders of the brigade said will pay dividends.

"Because of the past 10 years of Guard deployments, there are a high number of combat vets in this brigade," Sheehy said.

The mission of the brigade in Afghanistan could fall into a number of different categories, Sheehy said.

"The training is multi-tiered because we may do garrison duty. Or we may act as security forces, or conduct airfield security about the opportunity to serve my country, or protect convoys," Sheehy, a Union, Pvt. Ben Phelps, 26, Gresham, Ore., said.



C Troop, 1-82 Cav. await aerial transport via CH-47 Chinook during a training exercise at Orchard Combat Training Center

Ore., native said.

Because the brigade is, at its core, an infantry unit, a good share of its training for the past 14 days focused on drills and techniques as old as war itself. Guardsmen in the brigade's infantry companies spent most of their time conducting mock ambushes, village clearing operations and live-fire exercises.

Each exercise is evaluated based on strict standards by a set of active duty U.S. Army assessors. Soldiers say the training under the often blistering southern Idaho

"The heat does not go away," Sgt. 1st Class Frank Rademacher, of Roseburg,

Rademacher, a platoon sergeant for Roseburg's Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, said his soldiers faced a number of obstacles - mainly centered on short timetables to conduct missions and the heat - but pushed through

"We are becoming more proficient," he

Nearly every Guardsman in the brigade is aware of the potential 2014 deployment to Iraq. Some, however, are not too concerned about it.

"It's what I enlisted to do. I'm excited

Soldiers from the 141 Brigade Support Battalion prepare to attach a vehicle sling to a

Chinook's underside in order to secure a vehicle for airlift as part of a sling load operation

at Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, June 22.

Charlie Company, 2-162 Infantry amps up training tempo and refines skills



Page 5

Pvt. Benjamin Phelps (left) clears his Squad Automatic Weapon while Staff Sqt. Angel A-House (center) listens to instructions from 2nd Lt. Kevin Johnson during a mock assault on a village complex on the Orchard Combat Training Center in late

Story by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell, 3-116th Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho – At first glance, the landscape soldiers traversed here last week during a training exercise seemed eerily familiar.

A panorama of high-desert silhouetted by tall, jagged mountains in the distance, the scene could easily be mistaken for any locale in Afghanistan or Iraq. Yet while those two familiar War on Terror hot spots recede from the headlines, for members of Gresham's Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Afghanistan carries a fresh immediacy.

That's because the Gresham Guard outfit, along with more than 1,100 other Guardsmen from 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan sometime next year.

"It's what we do. It's what we train for," said Lt. Col. Scott Caughran, commander of the 2-162 Infantry Battalion. As the commander of the battalion, Caughran directs more than 400 Guardsmen who attend armories in Gresham, Springfield, Hillsboro and Corvallis. For the past week Caughran's soldiers endured an intensive array of training exercises during the battalion's annual training cycle. Usually the annual training agenda for the battalion covers two weeks, but not this year. With the Afghanistan deployment looming on the horizon, the 2nd battalion and the rest of the 41 IBCT must sustain an extra week on the high-desert of Idaho's training area south of Boise.

As part of the deployment training, late last week, members of the Gresham Guard unit conducted a simulated assault on a mock "village" and then practiced techniques to treat wounded soldiers.

The "village" was in reality a large brown, portable hut positioned on a flat area surrounded by sagebrush. A small group of civilian contractors, garbed in camouflage fatigues and other distinctive attire, played the role of the enemy. Members of Charlie Company's 2nd Platoon approached the village in a coordinated attack pattern, racing across the rough desert terrain swathed in body armor and Kevlar helmets while clutching M-4 rifles and M-240 machine guns.

While seemingly simple, the exercise was just one of an array of high-tempo training agendas designed to prepare the Guardsmen for a combat deployment to Afghanistan. The members of Charlie Company sprinted across rugged terrain toward the "hostile" village and deployed in a combat assault formation.

As members of 2nd Platoon entered the "village", active duty Army observers evaluated their decisions and actions.

"The training of Gresham's Charlie Company, and the 2-162 Battalion as a whole, is multi-faceted," Caughran said.

"We are doing dismounted platoon live-fire, sniper live-fire, scouts live-fire and an assortment of different things to prepare."While the Guardsmen from the Gresham armory wade through combat instruction on the southern end of the vast Orchard Training Center, other units of the 41st IBCT are stationed across the area busy conducting their own specialized exercises.



The sun rises over Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho.

FALL 2013 — Oregon Sentinel — **FALL 2013** — Oregon Sentinel —

NEWS

Oregon's Soldiers make it to Best Warrior's national-level competition

Story Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. (7/26/13) - A combat medic from the Arkansas Army National Guard and an infantryman from the Florida Army National Guard have been named the Army National Guard's Soldier and Noncomissioned Officer of the Year.

Sgt. Piero Lopez, assigned to the Arkansas Army Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, was named Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Anthony Calvi, from the Florida Army Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, was named NCO of the Year in an awards ceremony following the 2013 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.

The winners now move on to represent the Army National Guard in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition, to be held at Fort Lee, Va., later in the year.

For the winners, the competition was a grueling one.

The physical and mental stamina of the competitors was tested in a variety of subjects to include weapons knowledge, casualty care, marksmanship and general Army doctrine. Additionally, competitors had to negotiate various tactical scenarios that involved engaging multiple targets, transporting a casualty and responding to a number of different challenges and surprises along the way.

For Calvi, the ruck march was among the more difficult events faced.

"Not knowing the distance (was tough)," he said. "Depending on the distance, depends how you pace yourself. Not knowing if it was going to be seven miles, eight, 10, 12, (was tough). You have to pace yourself but you can't fall too far behind."

Calvi said he just kept pushing himself

"Those two hills that were here (on the ruck march course), I underestimated them," he said. "I can't train for hills in Florida. I just kept pushing it. You never stop moving your feet. I just kept driving on and I knew the end of the hill was going to come sooner or later. Though, it came later rather than sooner.'

But getting through the competition- for me.'

and winning-wasn't something Lopez and Calvi did on their own. Both said they couldn't have done it without support from

"There was a lot of support from my coach and from my unit as well," said Lopez. "I definitely couldn't have done it without them. They provided so much for me, especially when I was emotionally unstable or when I was down from some event. They always told me to focus on the next event and it's key because it's how you do on your next event that matters." And the competitors themselves also

supported each other as they went through the non-stop, three-day competition.

"They may have been in competition with each other, but they were still comrades," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, the sergeant major of the Army National Guard. "They were pulling for each other and helping each other and rooting each other on. They didn't want to lose-they wanted to win-but, it wasn't at the expense of somebody getting hurt or somebody's pride or not being supportive of the others.'

And that, said Conley, ties into the Army's Warrior Ethos, which says to never leave a fallen comrade. Following the Warrior Ethos - placing the mission first, never quitting, never accepting defeat and never leaving a fallen comrade-was key to not only being able to win the competition, but also to simply compete in it as well.

"It's just never quitting," said Calvi. "I take the Warrior Ethos part of it and apply it to my performances. As long as you do your best, it will demonstrate out as seen

And each of the competitors embodied that same spirit, said Conley.

"It was a tough competition," he said. "It was tight. Any one of those 14 Soldiers (that competed) could have won Soldier or NCO of the Year and we would have been pleased.

For Calvi, the competition provided him

"We all have our strong points and our weaknesses here," he said. "Not every competitor here is going to get first place in every single event. It shifts around and you learn from the other competitors and their

Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Oregon National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver, with Recruiting and Retention Battalion, and Sqt. Benjamin Hermann of the 3670 Maintenance Company, prepare for an event where each competitor will complete seven tasks, including applying a tourniquet, and assembling and clearing an MK-19 grenade launcher, during the National Best Warrior Competition at National Guard Professional Education Center in North Little Rock Ark., July 23. Carver and Hermann advanced to the national level competition after winning at the regional event held at the Region IV Best Warrior Competition in Oregon in May. The two Oregon Soldiers are vying for the title of the country's "Best Warrior."

And Calvi said those things he learned will benefit other Soldiers in his unit.

"I explain to them everything I do, how I do it and what I've learned," he said. "I'm with a chance to learn from his competition. just going to pass on all that I can to them." That makes for stronger Soldiers throughout the Army Guard, said Conley.

"They are the best of the best," he said, of the competitors. "They're amazing. They live the Warrior Ethos every day. strengths. So that was really good training (This competition) gives them more tools to infect others with that attitude, that way

of doing business and the Guard wins from their experiences at this.'

For now, though, the focus for Calvi and Lopez is getting ready for the competition at Fort Lee.

"Right now, am I ready? I'm very sore," said Calvi. "But, I would say I have a lot of things to improve. I've been humbled in this competition and I'm going to work on (those weak areas) to make them my strengths instead of my weaknesses."

3-116 Cav snipers 'shoot straight' during training at Orchards, Idaho

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell 3-116 Cav. Public Affairs

ORCHARD TRAINING AREA. **Idaho** – For Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Ben Shelton the requirement to become a sniper rests on one very simple

"You have to shoot straight," he said. While Shelton's statement appears to be uttered tongue-in-cheek and with more than just a little humor, the La Grande, Ore. resident is deadly serious.

Shelton, the section leader for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment's sniper section, said the role of the sniper is all about the ability to be a good marksman, but it is also very much a job centered on the skill of stealth. Snipers, he said, perform two critical missions during war – destroying the enemy and scouting.

"Our mission (in wartime) would be to overmatch for the infantry. Provide them security. Over half our missions are recon," he said.

Shelton, who works at Grande Ronde Fitness in La Grande and attends Eastern Oregon University, guided his small sniper section onto the high-desert of Idaho's Orchard Combat Training Center last week for an Annual Training cycle that is as much about instruction as it is about rebuilding.

"It is basically starting from scratch," he said.

The battalion's sniper section is in a

rejuvenation phase, he said. The section was fully-manned before the 3rd Battalion deployed to Iraq in 2010.

Because the battalion's mission in Iraq did not include snipers, the section has broken up and its members farmed out to other units within the eastern Oregon Citizen-Soldier outfit.

now Shelton is the point-man of a renewal process to bring the section back up to full

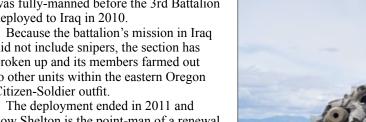
"We are looking for people. Someone with a combat MOS (Military Occupation Specialty), like a scout or infantry. But you do have to have some field craft," he

section demands other key attributes.

"You have to be dedicated, and disciplined and good at PT (Physical Training). Being a sniper is a special skillset. Some people have it. Some don't," he said.

Last week Shelton's small sniper detachment was deployed on a shooting range at the Orchard Combat Training Center getting acquainted with the M-107 .50-caliber, semi-automatic sniper rifle. The rifle is a powerful, lethal tool according sniper Private First Class Ryan Cooper, of Portland, Ore.

"It is amazing," he said. Spc. Michael Sanchez, of Hermiston, Ore., said the art of shooting the



Yet, people can't just join the sniper section, Shelton said.

Also, Shelton emphasized, the sniper



Spc. Ryan Johnson and Sgt. Christopher Sobremorte (both obscured), snipers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2-162 Infantry Battalion, practice sniperspotter operations at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho, June 21.

M-107 revolves around comprehensive preparation. Then, he said, everything comes down to making correct modifications

"You must know the distance and your wind variables," he said. "You have to make the proper adjustments."

For most of the afternoon, under a blistering sun, the small sniper section fired at long-range targets with the big .50

Even under the scorching, high-desert sun, Sanchez said the target shooting was good training.

"It is always fun," he said. The 3rd Battalion's Capt. Kevin Beckley, of Portland, Ore., was on hand at the range to supervise the snipers and said the training is critical.

"Getting these guys range time and the ammunition to hone their craft is the difference, possibly, between life and death," he said.

The 3rd Battalion consists of Oregon Army National Guard units from Hood River, The Dalles, Hermiston, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City, Ontario and Woodburn, Ore.

FEATURES

Resiliency keeps Soldiers on target



An M-240 "Brayo" machine our sits on the firing line ready for use by competitors attending

Commissioner grateful to

1249th Eng. for assistance

I am writing to thank you and the Oregon

National Guard for the work recently

completed at the Washington County Fair

Complex by the 1249th Engineer Battalion

1249th was deployed at the complex,

projects were completed that will

significantly improve the site for annual

county fair attendees and other events for

years to come. The volume and quality of

Nearly 200 Soldiers graded and leveled

areas for parking, in and around barns and

arenas, making them safer for pedestrians and livestock. They also fully-enclosed a

barn, and improved the electrical system.

This building will be a centerpiece during

the annual fair and provide increased rental

On May 15, I attended the dedication of

the Memorial Castle that the 1249th built

at the main entrance to the facility. For the

200,000 people who enter the facility each

year, the castle will be the first thing they

I was especially pleased to hear

comments from command staff regarding

having a site where the (Soldiers) can

train in a manner that replicates some

deployment conditions. The Oregon

National Guard will always be welcome in

Andy Duyck, Chair, Washington County

During the nearly two weeks that the

as part of their 2013 annual training.

work was extraordinary.

income at other times.

Washington County.

Board of Commissioners

Sincerely,

The Adjutant General marksmanship comptentition held at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton,

Story Staff Sgt. Eddie Black, Oregon Army National Guard R3SP Resiliency Coordinator

As a young Marine I was lazy about cleaning my rifle while on the rifle range. At the end of most days on the range I would turn in my weapon after shooting and go home. However, as poor as I had been in maintenance, I made up for it in Basic Rifle

Marksmanship and I was diligent about practicing my fundamentals. On qualification day, I had two-minutes to put 10 rounds on target but I had a filthy weapon and it shot gas into my eye, temporarily blinding me. However, I knew I had a

natural point of aim established. So when I fired that first round and the gas exploded into my eye, I didn't panic. I trusted my training; breathe in, breathe out, natural respiratory pause, squeeze the trigger,

recoil, settle into my natural point of aim, repeat. When I finished my 10 rounds, stood up and wiped my eye clear, I saw that I had all 10 rounds in the bulls-eye.

Train! Prepare for the pitfalls! And when something does happen (such as in life), you will have options and confidence to continue on.

Resilience isn't a feeling or looking on the bright side. It is the ability to roll with the punches, take what life throws at you and continue on.

One of the biggest barriers to the Army's Resiliency Program is the misconception that resiliency training is not real Army training, that it is something else. When in fact resiliency is a quality every Soldier needs to have, and it takes practice just like any other

We don't rise to the occasion; we sink to the level of our training.

For more information about resiliency training contact Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Black, Resiliency Program state coordinator, at (503) 584-3440 or eddie.s.black.mil@mail.mil.

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Oregon Citizen-Soldiers take

back TAG Match trophy

Spc. Douglas Seablom, Pfc. Matthew Allen, Spc. George Wierichs and Spc. Brandon Donovan from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, compete in The Adjutant General marksmanship competition at Camp Rilea, June 2, in Warrenton, Ore. The four Soldiers made up the overall winning team out of 19 teams participated in the event.

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

WARRENTON, Ore.—Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., for The Adjutant General marksmanship competition, known as "TAG Match", June 1-2.

The annual competition consisted of 19 teams, four service members per team, for a total of 76 competitors.

Sergeant 1st Class Marcus L. Merrick, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, has been the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the TAG Match for the past two years after competing in the competition himself since 1998.

"It's a great opportunity to shoot shoulder to shoulder with some of the best marksmen in the state," said Merrick. "They are very dedicated to what they do and this competition gives them the opportunity to come out here and have some fun."

This year's winning team was from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based in Springfield, Ore. The team members included Pfc. Matthew Allen, Spc. Douglas Seablom, Spc. Brandon Donovan and Spc. George Wierichs.

The team was able to beat a long-standing winning team from the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Ore.

Staff Sergeant Barry Prescott with Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based in Gresham, Ore., was the overall individual winner of the competition and walked away with three different achievement plaques.

Oregon Guard assists in search on Mount Hood for missing hiker



Photo by Sqt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affair

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-3 Jonathan Adams, a helicopter pilot with Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, (center) meets with a member of the Clackamas County Sheriff's department, Sean Collinson, (left center), at the helibase on Mount Hood during an ongoing search and rescue mission, June 28.

Incident commanders requested aviation support from the Oregon Army National Guard, which provided a HH-60-M Blackhawk and a CH-47 Chinook helicopters to assist in the search for Salem, Ore., hiker, Kinley Adams, who was missing on Mount Hood for five days.

FEATURES

is 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

> adjutant general under four

lifferent Oregon

As Oregon's

managed, and

supervised the

discipline,

organization,

administration,

adjutant general, Rees directed,

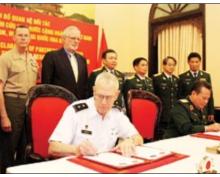
governors.



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



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.

West Point



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 eader 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, e would spearhead a successful partnership with the very people ne 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.

aviation school



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, benefitting 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 "I think (the partnership) also opened countries and I see a lot of closure for

1986 1987

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

- Mai. 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

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

serving as the commander of the 116th

Roberts reappointed him to the post as leader of Ôregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. Under Governors Robert and Kitzhaber,

general.

Rees also

high-level

command

positions

Director of

1994

served in many

throughout the

U.S. Army and

National Guard



general": Rees with his troops in 2012.

1991

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

Soldier in 2009.

The life of a general has a somber side:

Rees salutes the family of a fallen Oregon

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 Bureau including, redistribution of its force structure

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



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



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 worl 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



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, egion 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

2009

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



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

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



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



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

A TIMELINE OF RAYMOND REES' CAREER

1967 1968 1970 Troop commander in Germany Serves tour in Vietnam Student, Army **Graduates from**

Joins Oregon Guard, finishes law school

1973/1974

1962

Appointed adjutant general of Oregon, 1st term

Appointed acting chief, NGB in January, returns to Oregon in Aug. as adjutant general, 2nd term

Appointed vice chief,

Appointed chief of staff,

2005

Re-appointed Begins 3rd term as

2002 2003

acting chief, NGB Oregon's adjutant general Oregon's adjutant general

2008

Begins 4th and final term as Names MG Hokanson as successor

Rees retires

2012 2013

Appointed director Helps establish Vietnam as Oregon Promoted to colonel of Army Guard NGB, 2nd term NORAD/USNORTHCOM state partner (along with Bangadesh) XO, HHC, 3-116 CAV, La Grande

1999

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Former Oregon Airman remembers Memorial Day Vanport flood

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

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL

GUARD BASE, Ore. – June 2013 marked the 65th anniversary of one of the largest floods to hit Oregon's second largest city—a city most people don't hear about today, and few remember.

On Memorial Day, 1948 at about 4:15 p.m., the Columbia River broke through a levee, and a 10-foot wall of water engulfed the city of Vanport in north Portland. Within hours, most of what is now the industrial area in north Portland, including the Portland Air National Guard Base, was inundated.

Vanport City was a hastily constructed city located in Multnomah County, between the contemporary Portland city boundary and the Columbia River. It is currently the site of Delta Park and the Portland International Raceway. At its peak, the city was home to nearly 40,000 people who had been brought in to work the shipyards during World War II (1940-

The winter of 1947-48 brought substantial snowfall to the mountains of the Pacific Northwest and by the spring a high volume of rain. The Columbia River rose throughout May 1948 and by Memorial Day weekend was approaching the 30-foot level on the Vancouver, Wash., gauge on the north side of the river. Because it was a holiday weekend, many citizens were away at the time, yet 15 deaths were attributed to the flood.

Vanport was dramatically destroyed that day when a section of the dike holding back the Columbia River collapsed. The city was underwater by nightfall, leaving its inhabitants homeless.

Having spent most of Saturday, May 29, 1948 on duty, newly-promoted Sgt. Jack Klein, a radar operator with the 142nd

Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, was just returning home from work early Sunday morning. He had promised to take the Patton Church Scout Troop out for the day. When he returned that evening, his wife told him that Capt. Gemmel from the base had called.

"She was very anxious and told me to call the base as soon as I got home," said Klein, recalling that moment. "When I called, Capt. Gemmel informed me the west dike had just breached and I needed to report as soon as I could. She told me to wear a sidearm if I had one."

There were still a few hours before the water would begin to overwhelm the Portland Air Base. Klein arrived at the squadron headquarters where he was greeted by the commander, Maj. Cladius G. Farrow, and a small group of officers and non-commissioned officers. They began to load files, typewriters, and other equipment into vehicles for transport to an Airman's home, which was close to the base, but out of harm's way.

This small team of about 10 Airmen worked all that night and into the next morning. They moved weapons from the vault and secured most of the assets of the new unit's materials to the Colwood Golf Course on Alderwood Drive and Columbia Boulevard.

Klein remembers eating breakfast at Obie Nagel's Big Apple Restaurant.

"At breakfast, Maj. Farrow called me aside and told me to take charge of the intersection at Alderwood Drive and Columbia Boulevard."

Evetually Klein would have 30 young Airmen under his watch, all issued carbine rifles to keep order and protect the government property at the Colwood Golf Course's parking lot.

Before the flood, all of the unit's capable planes were flown to McNary Field in Salem, Ore. Planes that could



On Memorial Day, May 30, 1948, the Vanport flood engulfed the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore. This aerial image depicts the air base after the flood waters breached the Columbia River.

not fly were towed from the base up to Alderwood Drive and parked in the Colwood Golf Course parking lot.

By Tuesday afternoon, with no sleep or ability to change and bathe, Klein was able to finally get home and clean up. On Wednesday, June 2, the Airmen tasked for security began moving into the gymnasium at the Kennedy School at NE 33rd and Killingsworth Street.

"I got called into the Lieutenant's office, and he had a special job for me to do," Klein said.

The Army Corps of Engineers needed to borrow a portable power unit and had to get to the Fighter Group's motor pool to find a vehicle to deliver equipment. The only vehicle capable of getting through all the check points was a military ambulance. Klein would tow the PE-95 trailer; a gasoline-powered 10 Kilowatt AC power unit; to a Portland Police checkpoint at Marine Drive and North Interstate Avenue. When he met the Corps of Engineers' representative, he signed a simple hand receipt and turned over the power unit.

When he returned to the Kennedy School, the gym had become the unit's temporary orderly room. Klein recalls how lumber was brought in to cover the gymnasium's maple floor to protect the

"We needed to bring in the squadron's steel lockers and other equipment as we did not know how long the school would be our transitory base," he said.

Returning to the Portland Air Base

would still be many days away. On June 11, 1948, U.S. President Harry S. Truman flew to Portland to examine the damage caused by the flooding. The recovery effort for the city of Vanport was assisted by Vanport College and the Red Cross.

Work began anew at the Portland Air Base when the flood waters finally subsided. Klein remembers spending more than three days working for the Armament Chief, disassembling weapons and parts.

"We dipped wire baskets of parts in various chemical solutions then eventually into the 'Black Magic' plating solution, which left a black finish on the parts," said

The base would take time to clean up as well. Buildings had to be cleaned inside and out. Aircraft had to be returned to base and the temporary orderly room readied for school in the fall.

Vanport went away rather quickly that day in 1948, but it left its imprint on the neighboring city of Portland in many ways. The hastily-erected public housing that lured as many as 100,000 new residents to the area during the height of the war and played a pivotal role in providing victory for the United States during World War II at sea.

Today the Portland International Raceway and the Expo Center have replaced the flooded Vanport homes and shipyards. The Portland Air National Guard base weathered the flood and still remains mission ready today, Always Ready, Always There.

What does Memorial Day mean to you?

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

What does Memorial Dav mean for you? For many, Memorial Day is the unofficial beginning of summer. We fire our grills up and plan trips to the lake—there is palpable excitement as we discuss how to spend the extra-long weekend But Memorial Day is much more.

"Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those who have come before us and the sacrifices they made for our country," said Master Sgt. Michael

Shirar, from the 173rd Fighter Wing.

"I think it is important because those that have made the ultimate sacrifice deserve the respect and admiration of their peers and their fellow citizens,' he added.

Eighteen Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing headed to Mount Calvary cemetery in Klamath Falls, Ore. May 22 on a frigid morning to pay their respects to the veterans laid to rest

They carefully searched the rows of headstones for the names of veterans and solemnly placed an American flag on the graves. When they were done nearly 300 flags waved across the cemetery.

This is an annual project for the Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing, who have been laying flags on the veterans' graves on Memorial Day for the last ten years, said event coordinator Master Sgt. David Smith.

There was a general consensus among the Airmen as to why they wanted to be a part of this event.

Master Sgt. Jeff Horton said, "I am here to show my respect for the



Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jared Nanneman, of the 173rd Fighter Wing, places a flag on graves of local veterans at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Klamath Falls, Ore., May 23.

veterans who came before us."

"I believe I have a personal responsibility to honor those that have served their country in the past," added Shirar.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was officially observed May 30, 1868 after General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed the creation of the day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

Flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery in honorarium. It became an official federal holiday in 1971.

Commander of 1st Air Force visits 173rd FW



Photo by Airman 1st Class Penny Hamilton, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. William H. Etter, Commander First Air Force, (third from left) pays his first visit to the 173rd Fighter Wing after assuming his new command, Aug. 6, 2013. From left: Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, Etter, Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, Oregon Air National Guard commander, stand for a photo following a briefing on Kingsley Field's mission and capabilities, and on training F-15C fighter pilots.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Airmen train at Camp Rilea to share expertise, skills

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

CAMP RILEA, WARRENTON, Ore.

– Nearly 250 members of the Oregon Air National Guard's Combat Operations Group (COG) took part in skills and Airman training at Camp Rilea on Oregon's northern coast, June 19-22.

The five day training, which focused on constructing unit camaraderie, is the first time the unit's Airmen have trained together en-masse.

Speaking before the group on the first day of training, Col. Michael Bieniewicz, Combat Operations Group commander, emphasized the unit's objectives through the joint training program.

"As four distinct units we share common objectives with our combat communication missions," Bieniewicz

"(This) is why we want to come together, begin to blur the lines and share our expertise with each other in one setting," he added.

The occasion for Airmen to assemble, interact and train was filled with both scheduled events and opportunities for less-structured informal collaboration.

As a former member of the Oregon Air Guard, Chief Master Sgt. James T. Hotaling, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, returned to Oregon to host a town hall session in conjunction with the unit's training.

"I cannot tell you how good it is to be back home, see familiar faces and catch up with the everyone here," Hotaling said.

Hotaling discussed the strong direction of the Air National Guard, and spoke about how humbling it was to be back in his home state. Other key topics discussed were force development,

group to come together while honoring their nation's colors.

Building on the concept of teamwork, an entire day was spent with members of the different units cross training and becoming familiar with the equipment and procedures they employ.

Sitting atop one of the many larger generators housed at the 116th Air Control Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Richard Lowe reviewed start up procedures with Airmen of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron.

"Many of these guys are contractors so I am helping them stay current with start up and operating principles with the equipment we use every day," said Lowe.

Having worked in the 116th for more than eight years, Lowe said he went through the basic checklist with several groups moving through the training lanes.

"They want to know more about what we do to supply generator power to run all the equipment in the field to include phones, electronics as well as heating and air conditioning," Lowe added.

While some Airmen continued to train on ground equipment, fellow Airmen with the 125th Special Tactics Squadron were conducting airborne training operations in the skies above.

A group of combat controllers took advantage of the Pacific Ocean to train on water landings and later, a halo parachute demonstration for all the COG members at the parade grounds at Camp Rilea.

Pausing to reflect on the near-perfect training environment and weather conditions, Bieniewicz praised the weather staff with a bit of humor.

"I think we need to acknowledge the guys from the 123rd Weather Fight and Special Operations Weathermen of the 125th STS, for delivering remarkable conditions all weekend."

As members of the Profession of Arms we all hold a

- Chief Master Sgt. Jim Hotaling, Command Chief Master

unique trust and responsibility to the citizens we serve.

Air National Guard Senior Airman Brittani Schammen, 116th surveillance technician,

makes her way under an obstacle during the 'Monster Mash' training exercise, June 22,

2013 at Camp Rilea, Ore. The training was held over a five-day period in which the Combat

Operations Group (COG) made up of four individual Oregon Air Guard units; 125th STS,

116th ACS, 270th ATCS and the 123rd WF participated. The focus of the training was to

build unit morale, establish new professional networks and enhance military development.



Airmen of the Oregon Combat Operations Group work together during the 'Monster Mash' training exercise, June 22, at Camp Rilea. The training was held over a five-day period in which the Combat Operations Group (COG) made up of four individual Oregon Air Guard units; 125th STS, 116th ACS, 270th ATCS and the 123rd WF trained together. The focus was to build unit morale, establish new professional networks and enhance military

challenging tasks and improvised on the

Staff Sgt. Daniel Hicks of the 123rd Weather Flight noted how effective and timely the training was for members of his

"It was great," he said. "We even had one guy in our unit who has not even gone to basic training yet, but he was all over the confidence course.' As the week of training came to a close,

the COG members took part in a combat dinning-in ritual following the weekend of endurance and building bridges. Hotaling himself observed, and at times

took part in, the Monster Mash activities and the combat dinning-in.

He emphasized how important training and skill building is to Oregon's Citizen-

"The best part of the job is getting out to meet Airmen all over the country," Hotaling said. "There is one common factor I've found at every Air National Guard unit—the pride that our Airmen have in their military jobs.'

As the Airmen gathered for one last



Airmen of the Oregon Combat Operations Group conduct a water crossing maneuver during the 'Monster Mash' training exercise, June 22, 2013 at Camp Rilea, Ore.

enlisted performance appraisals, promotion benchmarks, Air Force core values, fitness and health standard in the Guard and how they configure with the

active duty Air Force. Hotaling challenged the Airmen in the audience about their roles as members of the National Guard.

"As members of the Profession of Arms, we all hold a unique trust and responsibility to the citizens we serve and protect," he said.

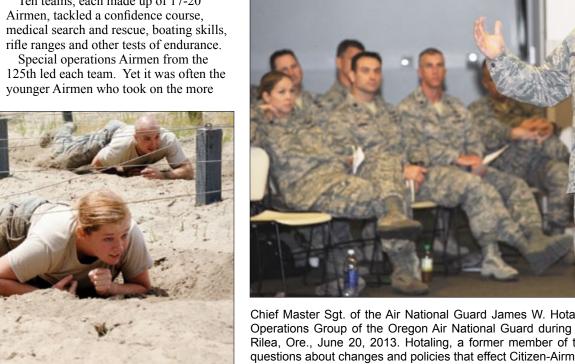
One unique ceremony was a reveille and retreat flag ceremony on the second day of training which allowed the entire

On June 22, the members of the COG took part in an all-day field exercise in order to enhance their individual fitness and unit morale. A ten-station "Monster Mash" course,

Sergeant of the Air National Guard

laid out throughout the camp challenged teams to quickly solve puzzling obstacles and to work together. Ten teams, each made up of 17-20 Airmen, tackled a confidence course,

rifle ranges and other tests of endurance. Special operations Airmen from the 125th led each team. Yet it was often the younger Airmen who took on the more



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard James W. Hotaling addresses the Combat Operations Group of the Oregon Air National Guard during a town hall event at Camp Rilea, Ore., June 20, 2013. Hotaling, a former member of the Oregon Air Guard, took questions about changes and policies that effect Citizen-Airmen during his visit.

muster on Sunday, Bieniewicz reflected on Squadron and 123rd Weather Flight, who the key aspects of the unit's training.

"(This training) is a chance to get back to the basics, to get eyeball to eyeball with each other, and to reach out and look at

new ways to work together," he said. The COG, which was formed in 2002, is comprised of the 125th Special Tactics

are both headquartered at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore. The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron

is located at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore., and the 116th Air Control Squadron is located at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.

NEWS

Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers step up to protect state from wild fires



Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detacl

An Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter dumps it's "bambi" bucket of water on a spot fire in the hills surrounding Glendale, Ore., while being directed by fire fighters with the Oregon Department of Forestry. The "bambi" bucket is dumped over large fires that are too big, or too far away, for Oregon Department of Forestry fire fighters to handle. The Oregon Army National Guard has provided five helicopters to aid the ODF with fire suppression efforts in southern Oregon

Continued from Front Page

pression for the Douglas Complex fires in Glendale. Ore., and with the Government Flats Complex fires near The Dalles, Ore.

Aviation assets including HH-60M Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook and UH-72 Lakota helicopters, in addition to ground personnel assisted in both locations.

Approximately 150 Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, assisted Douglas and Josephine County law enforcement agencies with traffic control in the evacuated areas in southern Oregon.

Additionally, four OMD firefighters and two 400-gallon engines from Biak Training Center are currently assigned to ODF's Prineville Unit Office, ready for dispatch as initial attack responders to any new fires.

With wildfires burning throughout the Pacific Northwest, firefighters and equipment are in short supply regionally and even nationally

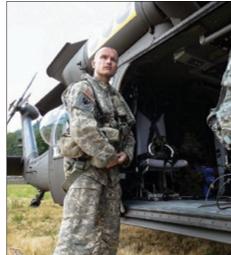
"I want you to know that you have excellent local leadership here, and an unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration," said Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, who visited the Douglas Complex fire incident command center in Glendale, Ore.

The Governor promised support and cooperation from his office, adding that the fires throughout the state are not just a regional issue.

"This is not a southern Oregon problem, it's an Oregon problem, and Oregon is with you, and together we will find the resources and perseverance to make sure we're successful," Kitzhaber added.

ODF's Prineville Unit Forester, Kevin Benton, believes this cooperative arrangement with OMD is critical to maintaining adequate wildfire suppression capacity in Central Oregon during extreme fire danger.

"With local cooperators and even our own local agency personnel being assigned



Photos by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th MPAD

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Cunningham, of Salem, Ore., a crew chief with Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation, prepares for flight in front of a Blackhawk helicopter in support of wildfire suppression in Glendale, Ore., Aug. 7.



to large fires elsewhere in the state, access to the military's firefighting expertise and equipment has already paid off," he said.

Benton said during thunderstorms, over 4,000 lightning strikes were detected in central Oregon. On private, state, and local government forest and rangelands protected by ODF, several new fires were started by lightning strikes.

"The OMD crews were instrumental in initial attack on nine of these fires and keeping them small," Benton added.

The OMD also benefits from working on wildland fires. Based at the 43,000-acre Biak Training Center east of Redmond, the first priority for their firefighters and engines is normally providing fire suppression capacity during Oregon National Guard training exercises.

"Fires resulting from training exercises are usually small and infrequent," says Seth Nickell, OMD Fire and Emergency Services Captain. "Working on wildfires on ODF-protected lands provides our firefighters with extensive experience they would not otherwise gain."

Nickell is no stranger to wildland firefighting. He worked five fire seasons for ODF's Central Oregon District before being hired by OMD and helping to form its Fire and Emergency Services Program three years ago.

"His (Nickell's) knowledge of the area and how my agency operates has been invaluable," said Benton.

One of the other crewmen staffing the National Guard's engines also has previous firefighting experience from work with the U.S. Forest Service.

OMD firefighters trained beside their ODF counterparts before fire season began and are fully qualified to provide initial attack on wildfires.

"Our hope is that with this fire season's experience we will be able to add to the qualifications of our employees so they can serve on a variety of fire suppression roles in the future," said Nickell.

"If possible, OMD would like to further expand its fire suppression capacity and develop additional cooperative agreements with ODF and other state, local, and fed-



Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon, (left), speaks with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber at the incident command post for the Douglas Complex fires near Glendale, Ore., Aug. 3. The Oregon Army National Guard is providing aviation assets to assist fire suppression and approximately 140 Soldiers to assist Douglas and Josephine County law enforcement agencies with road blocks and traffic control in evacuated areas near the Douglas Complex fires.

Until fire danger decreases, Benton expects both his own and the Guard's crews to remain on duty seven days a week.

"We will see how much rain will come with the next series of predicted lightning storms. We always hope for the best, but we are prepared for the worst," he said.

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Daniel Whalen, of the 1-186 Infantry Battalion based in Grant's Pass, Ore., says participating in battling wildfires is the reason he and many of his contemporaries joined the

each other in times of need "Whalen said Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

"This fire has dislocated a lot of people from their homes, and it's our job to make sure their area is going to be safe."

Whalen added that these types of domestic emergency response missions are an opportunity for members of the National Guard to protect the homeland and the citizens of Oregon

"Our first mission is safety for the citizens of Oregon," Whalen said.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is assisting with coordinating response to the fires. The fires are "We have to make sure we take care of being managed jointly by the ODF and the



Oregon Army National Guard Sqt. Mike Buchan, of Salem, Ore., a crew chief with Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, looks for spot fires around the larger Government Flats Complex fire (seen in the background) from an Oregon Army National Guard HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter, near The Dalles, Ore., Aug. 21.

FEATURES

VA partners with American Bar Assoc. to fix claims backlog ORNG J-9 holds

Story courtesy of Department of Veterans

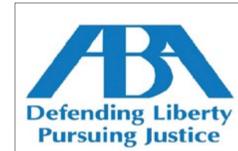
WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announced today a new partnership and pilot program aimed at reducing the claims backlog and making it easier for unrepresented Veterans to receive assistance developing their claims for disability pay.

"Ending the backlog is an 'all hands on deck' effort that requires teamwork, both in and out of government," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "This partnership between VA, ABA and LSC is aimed at surging resources to deliver earned benefits to veterans more quickly."

In the coming months, ABA and LSC attorneys will provide free assistance to a targeted group of unrepresented Veterans who request their help gathering and obtaining evidence required by law to support their disability claims.

The development of the claim is often the longest part of the process that determines whether a Veteran is entitled to VA compensation. These steps can take more than 200 days in the rating decision

The pilot will offer pro bono attorney assistance to Veterans with claims pending at the St. Petersburg and Chicago Regional Offices who do not currently have an authorized representative.



Veterans will choose whether to accept this pro-bono assistance. Similar Veterans with claims pending at other VA regional offices may also be considered for the pilot, if warranted.

'The ABA is proud to take the lead in connecting veterans with pro bono attorneys who will help them receive the aid our nation owes them for their selfless courage," said ABA President Laurel Bellows

"We hope that our initial focus on Chicago and St. Petersburg can swiftly be expanded across the nation," she continued.

The claims selected for this pilot program, which are currently -- or will soon be -- part of the claims backlog, will vary in terms of complexity and degree of completeness.

VA will accredit the attorneys who choose to participate, and the ABA and LSC will provide them with specialized training that will enable them to help evaluate and develop Veterans claims and make those claims ready for a rating decision.

SOU commissions new ORNG officers

Southern Oregon University's ROTC personnel join newly-commissioned 2nd

lieutenants on stage following the commissioning ceremony held at the SOU

ASHLAND, Ore.—Southern Oregon University's ROTC program commissioned

Cadets Kamie Blevins, Trevor McCarthy, Jamie Parkinson, Timothy Plaza and

Brandon Ritchie as second lieutenants in the Oregon Army National Guard on June

The guest speaker for the event was Col. William J. Prendergast, commander of

SOU's commissioning ceremony was attended by about one hundred family,

friends, and members of MOAA, the recruiting team from Recruiting and Retention

Battalion's Detachment 2 Alpha, and staffers from the office of U.S. Congressman

Representatives from Southern Oregon University included University President,

Dr. Mary Cullinan, Provost, Dr. James Klein and the Director of Enrollment

The first awarding of the "Bruno De Solinni Award for Leadership Excellence",

The award is named in honor of Capt. Bruno De Solinni, who was commissioned

De Solinni was killed near the Kandahar border by an IED on Sept. 20, 2008, along

Parkinson has trained as a medical service corpsman, and will join Charlie

Blevins has trained in the adjutant general corps, and is assigned to 1240 Engineer

Ritchie and McCarthy will join Alpha and Charley Companies of 1-186 Infantry

Plaza has chosen to become a tactical intelligence officer for Headquarters, 1st

with two of his Afghan interpreters during a deployment to Helmand, Afghanistan,

as an Infantry Combat Advisor with the Oregon Embedded Training Team.

which represents the Honor Graduate, was presented to 2nd Lt. Jamie Parkinson.

on May 2, 2001, and was a graduate of the SOU GOLD program

Story by First Sgt. Michael Walker, Southern Oregon University ROTC

14, at its campus in Ashland, Ore.

the 249 Regional Training Institute.

Services, Dr. Matt Stillman.

Battalion's S1 shop.

as Rifle Platoon leaders.

Battalion, 186th Infantry.

Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion.

The two initial pilot sites were selected based on proximity to ABA headquarters, and the opportunity for the biggest impact on the backlog.

In the coming months, VA will identify eligible Veterans to participate in the pilot program and send letters advising them of all their options for representation to help them advance their claims - from Veteran Service Organizations, attorneys and claims agents, to pro bono attorneys participating in this pilot.

The VA letter will inform Veterans of a 1-800 hotline and website to connect them to an attorney who is willing to assist with their claim, free of charge.

Under the partnership, the ABA and LSC will match interested Veterans and attorneys on several factors, including geographic location, complexity of the claim and the Veteran's and attorney's preferences on the nature and scope of representation.

VA is continuing to implement several initiatives to meet the Department's goal to eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. As a result of these initiatives, VA's total claims inventory has dropped to its lowest levels since March 2011.

The number of claims in the VA backlog - claims pending more than 125 days – has been reduced by 18 percent, compared to the highest point in March 2013.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense-VA web portal, eBenefits, at www.ebenefits.va.gov/.

community event

Story by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell, 3-116 Cav. Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. – Sometimes a little local help can go a long way, especially when it concerns assisting veterans.

Marion County made a giant leap forward in terms of the effort to help veterans with a Joining Community Forces Community Covenant Ceremony at the Marion County Fairgrounds.

The joint effort – between Marion County elected and public officials, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the Oregon National Guard – signaled a new and dedicated endeavor to reinforce the bond between local communities and

The event – held against the backdrop of the Marion County Fair - was highlighted by a Community Covenant Signing Ceremony where elected officials and community leaders pledged to promote greater understanding of the sacrifice the men and women – and their families - of the nation's Armed Forces make every day.

The effort was spearheaded by the Oregon National Guard's J-9, Community Outreach Team.

'This (event) was almost a vear in the making," Chaplain (Col.) Terry Larkin

Larkin is the director of the Oregon National Guard's Service Member and Family Support program and he said the number of elected leaders in attendance Thursday was encouraging.

"I was so pleased with the diversity of the people. We had a judge, a district attorney and mayors from several cities," he said. Larkin also noted the presence of state elected leaders, law enforcement officials and a number of veteran's organizations.

Elan Lambert, special projects officer for the J-9 Community Outreach Team, linked up with retired Oregon National Guard 1st Sgt. Mark Peterson to lay the groundwork for the event.

"Mark and I basically put the event together. It was very much a success. We had representatives from (Oregon) Sens. Ron Wyden and Merkley's offices, state legislators and mayors of the towns in the community," she said.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Thompson, a member of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program, said the event was a unique endeavor.

"It was really good. It was the first effort to organize counties to help military families," Thompson said.

Thompson said the program was designed to bring together an array of key area leaders, the public and veterans to raise awareness.

"It was and is a community-based event," he said.

With more than 20,000 veterans currently residing in Marion County the affair was an ideal showcase to create a bond between the public, elected leaders and military families, according to Lt. Col. (ret.) Dave Ferre, the Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department. He said the audience at the event was remarkable.

"From my perspective, I was very impressed with the turnout of Marion County elected officials. It was a really great event," Ferre said.

The signing covenant features the commitment of a local community to construct a link designed to enhance assistance, resiliency and readiness of service members with a strong focus on

"The whole community rallied behind the effort," Larkin said.

Lambert said one key attribute to the event's success was the united effort between political and civic leaders, the guard and community members.

"For example, Northwest Natural Gas gave us awnings for shade," she said.

Want to be a **Teacher?**



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

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

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

For more information, visit:

www.ProudToServeAgain. com

or call

Edward Brands 1-800-438-6851 info@mptt.org

FALL 2013 FALL 2013 - Oregon Sentinel ——

NEWS BRIEFS

Oregon Guard assists BLM during water crisis at Clay Creek campground

Story and photo by Michael Mascari, Bureau of Land Management Public Affairs

The National Guard stands ready to answer the call in a critical situation. In Springfield, Ore., the Higher Headquarters Company (HHC) of the 162 Infantry Battalion—known as the 'Volunteers' lived up to its name.

The unit answered a call for help from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District.

"This is a tremendous help to us in a tight situation," said Utilities Systems Operator Paul Walker. "The National Guard stepped up on short notice and we really appreciate

Each year, recreation demands on public lands increases. Over the last several years, the Eugene District in western Oregon has averaged over a million visitors a year to its nine developed recreation sites

With recreation season ready to start the next morning, a crew already rushing to ready the Clay Creek Campground for the Memorial Day weekend encountered some bad news. The system that delivers potable water for campers and the site host gave

With a very tight budget and no time to spare, Walker and recreation maintenance worker John Wardle approached BLM Staff Administrator Don Ehrich about asking the Guard unit for assistance. Fortunately, Ehrich did not have to go far. The District office is located in the Springfield Armory, home to the 162 Battalion Headquarters.

Story by Master Sgt. Michael Shirar,

Air Force degree!

effect in October of 2015.

173rd Maintenance Group Training Manager

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Good

news everybody, viable educational

opportunities have returned to the

Klamath Basin that can be used toward the

completion of a Community College of the

The Air Force has included an additional

standard for promotion for the grades

of E-8 and E-9 to include the CCAF

Associate's Degree. This change goes into

credits as well as what courses you still

provide credits that CCAF will accept.

Γuition Assistance or GI Bill.

simply passing a test.

details emerge.

Some of these schools may pose a

members who don't qualify for Federal

To this end, the 173rd Fighter Wing

has partnered with Klamath Community

College to provide college credit-awarding

options for members that CCAF will

accept. One of these options is CLEP

receive full college credit for courses by

payable to Klamath Community College.

DSST (another form of test-for-credits)

are coming soon and these are projected to

be administered free for military members.

We are also working toward paying the

administrative fee for the CLEP tests. We

soon and we will announce it, if and when

Wing leadership also endeavors to help

pay for KCC classes for members that do

The unit's Retention Non-Commissioned Officer Sgt. Curtis Winkelman lassoed up a 'water buffalo.' The Water Buffalo is the nickname of the M144 trailer, a 400-gallon container used to provide drinking water for Soldiers in the field.

"We go to some of the hottest, nastiest places in the world, "Winkelman said. "The (Water Buffalo) is a consistent performer and has a great design. It delivers drinking water, a lifeline. Every unit everywhere uses them. We couldn't go anywhere without one.'

The BLM employs several military veterans, which helps the agency foster good relationships with military organizations. Those relationships are key; the District shares facilities with military organizations.

The BLM and the US Forest Service's Willamette National Forest are co-located with Navv and Marine Reserve units, and the Battalion. The agencies can share facility costs and make maximum use of space in this energy-efficient building. This proximity and relationships between agencies proved beneficial right before the holiday weekend.

Ehrich, who coincidentally commanded the HHC unit during the 1980s, spoke with 1st Sgt. Alan Ezell. Ezell received approval from the present commander, Major Scot Caughran, making this possible.

"It's always an honor to serve the citizens and to work with another government agency. This is one more way we can help," Winkelman said. "Being able to answer

KCC at any time. KCC will work with

you to schedule a convenient time to

test. To register for a CLEP, contact Ms.

KCC is also developing modified courses

specifically designed for our members and

will generate enough credits to meet CCAF

minimums, and will be held at Kingsley

These evening classes are scheduled

to begin this September, and will kick

off with a writing and speech class. To

Ellen J. Jackson at (541) 880-2334 or

testingcenter@klamathcc.edu

CLEP testing for CCAF available at Kingsley



An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier with Headquarters and Headquarters Company. 162 Infantry, fills a 'water buffalo' at the Clay Creek Campground in preparation for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The campground lost its potable water supply, and reached out to the Oregon National Guard for assistance.

a call like this also helps us maintain our provide a better experience to campers at readiness. Soldiers always need training, and this was win-win.'

it was a cost saver to the BLM and to the

"In these uncertain times due to budget cuts, the Guard saved the day. We did Eugene District recreation program is not have the budget to cover this type available online at: http://www.blm.gov/ of unexpected hit and they helped us to or/districts/eugene/recreation/index.php

Clay Creek. We are really grateful.'

Michael Mascari is the Bureau of Land The assistance was not just a time saver; Management's Eugene District Public Affairs Officer and serves as a Human Resources Officer in the Army Reserve.

Additional information about the BLM's

Oregon Guard bids farewell to Bob Elliot



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Departmer

register for one of these courses (or any Anyone with AF Portal access can view subsequent class though KCC), contact their CCAF progress at any time. Log your Unit Training Manager and schedule onto AF Portal, click the AFVEC- Virtual for placement testing. Education Tab and, on the right hand side, Placement testing is designed to gauge click "my CCAF progress report." This

whether or not you currently meet the required level of proficiency to enter a will bring up the program in which you are currently enrolled, and will show your You must then register as a student with

KCC. To register with KCC, fill out the There are a wide variety of options online application via KCC's web page at available for members to obtain these www.klamathcc.edu/Admissions courses, including online schools which

Only those with a current registration will be given the limited available seats in these classes. There is no cost or obligation significant out-of-pocket expense for for registering.

When the Fall Registration period opens, you must register for the class. Classes are projected to cost \$500 and is payable with Federal Tuition Assistance for AGRs.

Technicians and DSGs will provide registration information to their Chief who, in-turn, submits for special financial testing; a process by which members can assistance for the course.

This program is working to ensure that our members not eligible for Tuition For military members, CLEP tests are Assistance receive at least some coverage available for a \$20 administrative fee, for these classes, START PLANNING

If you plan to attend any of the placement testing events, CLEP testing, or future classes in the fall, start working with your supervisor now to ensure minimal disruption to mission requirements. anticipate this process coming to fruition As always, the mission is the priority, however, your chiefs and supervisors are aware that these opportunities are unique and should make every reasonable effort to accommodate these requests.

not qualify for Federal Tuition Assistance. If you have questions about your We will announce more on that as the requirements for CCAF or would like to speak with a knowledgeable education CLEP testing is available now by specialist, contact your Unit Training manager or contact Mr. Tracy Heap at 541appointment. All military members can schedule for an exam directly with 885-7758 or heap@klamathcc.edu.

Retired Oregon Army National Guard Col. Robert E. Elliott was recognized on May 31, for his contribution to the Oregon National Guard.

Mr. Elliott served as the Program Support Technician for Oregon Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) from October 10, 2003 until May 31, 2013. He was awarded the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal for his effort to support Soldiers and Airmen in the State of Oregon.

He coordinated events throughout the state and as the full time lead employee for Oregon worked with 89 ESGR volunteers throughout the state to help ensure all mobilization, demobilization, annual briefing events and SRP's were coordinated and executed in an exemplary manner. He helped to ensure more than 8,500 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were

educated regarding their employment and reemployment rights under the USERRA

Mr. Elliott also educated employers throughout the state regarding Soldier/ Airmen employment rights. He encouraged the employers in all communities throughout the state to hire National Guard Service Members.

In addition, he assisted in obtaining more than 5,800 Statements of Support from local businesses who committed to not only supporting the National Guard Service Members, but hiring them as well.

Would you like to be a published author? Want to see your photo in the Sentinel?

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

NEWS BRIEFS

State Safety Office provides tips for safe fall hunting season

Courtesy of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



ber is here and hunting season right around the corner. Every hunter has the responsibility to enter the

Septem-

prepared to hunt in a safe, ethical manner; the future of our hunting heritage depends on it.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Hunter Education Program has outlined the following information to ensure that hunters are aware of the primary firearm safety rules and the most common causes of hunting inci-

The four primary rules of firearm

- Muzzle – Control the direction of your muzzle at all times.

- Trigger – Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until ready

- **Action** – Treat every firearm as though it were loaded – open the action and visually check if it is loaded. Firearms should be unloaded with actions open when not actually

- Target – Be sure of your target, what is in front of it and what is beyond it.

The most common causes of hunting incidents are: - Hunter judgment mistakes, such

as mistaking another person for game or not checking the foreground or background before firing.

- Safety rule violations, including pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction and ignoring proper procedures for crossing a fence, obstacle, or difficult terrain.

- Lack of control and practice, which can lead to accidental discharges and stray shots.

- Mechanical failure, such as an obstructed barrel, improper ammunition, or malfunctioning

To help avoid being mistaken for game, ODFW strongly advises hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts to wear blaze orange.

Blaze orange clothing makes it much easier for one hunter to spot and recognize another hunter or outdoors enthusiast because nothing in nature matches this color. Deer and elk see blaze orange as grey so your hunting will not be affected. Consider wearing both a blaze orange vest or jacket and a hat so you will be visible from all directions.

With the increase of unlawful marijuana growth being located on state and national land, hunters should be aware of their surroundings.

If you observe camp sites away from main roads, irrigation equipment, cultivated areas or marijuana plants, leave the area immediately from the same direction you entered.

Note the location of the suspicious activities and report that information to your local law enforcement agency or the Oregon State Police TIP line; 1-800-472-7888. No hunter enters the field expecting to be the cause of, or victim of, a hunting incident. The vast majority of incidents can be avoided by proper preparation and awareness.

USO Center opens at PDX

Story by Mike Allegre, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs



The United Service Organization (USO) Northwest will be opening the first USO center in Oregon in more than 60 years. The Port of Portland has generously provided space at Portland International Airport (PDX) for the new center that could open before 2014.

Portland is home to one of the few international airports in the U.S. that does not have a USO center serving the needs of local and traveling active-duty military, military families and veterans. The USO currently operates 183 locations around the world in the U.S., plus Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Italy, Japan, Guam, and South

"We're hopeful and very pleased to be able to extend the USO's worldclass care and comforts to local and traveling military, military families and veterans across Oregon and southwest Washington," said Joe Williams, the new center's senior volunteer. "People can show their support for our military with a monetary or in-kind contribution, and by encouraging your employees to volunteer for USO Northwest. We have nearly 100 people so far who have showed interest in volunteering."

Williams said the money donated to the USO nationally is not filtered to individual centers such as Portland, but used for programs at the national level along with supporting the centers and programs

"Donations for the USO Center at PDX must come from direct donations to help fund and operate this center. The estimated star-up cost is estimated at nearly \$197,000. We have achieved about half of this amount so far."

A new USO Northwest center at PDX will allow the USO to serve thousands of local military members, their families and veterans including the Oregon National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Brigade and 142nd Fighter Wing, the U.S. Army Reserve 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, and area U.S. Coast Guard stations.

The new PDX center will open when USO Northwest has gathered enough volunteers and funding to cover converting the space and for initial operating costs. It will be open daily from approximately 6 a m to 4 n m and staffed by the USO's allvolunteer "Army of Gratitude."

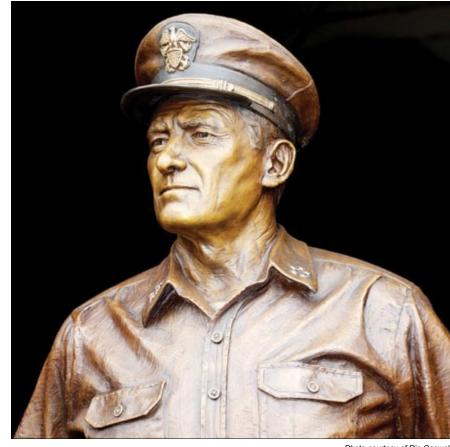
The center will provide a range of programs and services to include: a lounge, TV and movies, snacks and refreshments, discounts from airport restaurants and vendors, free Wifi access, laptop stations with Skype and email access, writing supplies, calling cards, travel assistance, luggage storage, XBOX 360 System, and a United Through Reading Program.

USO Northwest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and receives no funding from the government. A retired Army colonel, Williams said there are many ways to make a difference.

"We rely on the generosity of our community—corporate businesses, veteran's services organizations and donations from individuals—to continue our mission," Williams said.

Those interested may donate online by going to www.usonw.org/pdx.php or mail a check to USONW-PDX, 17801 International Blvd., PMB 313, Seattle, WA 98158. To learn more about volunteering contact Williams at 503.467.9775, or email pdx@usonw.org.

From Troutdale to Hawaii: Nimitz statue heads to Pearl Harbor



The statue of World War II Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, created by Oregon sculptor Rip Caswell, was bronzed and will be placed at the entry to the warship USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Story by Mike Allegre, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

TROUTDALE, Ore. -- When a statue of World War II Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz is delivered in August to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, it will permanently grace the entry to the famed Battleship Missouri Memorial. Notably, America's newest national monument began its trek to Hawaii from Portland on Aug. 2, following a celebratory community send-off in Troutdale.

The artist who sculpted Nimitz's likeness, Oregonian Rip Caswell, was joined by hundreds of guests at the monument's unveiling at Mayor's Square in Old Troutdale on July 31. Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Douglas Moore and Cameron Smith, the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, shared the podium.

Caswell said the Nimitz statue is very dear to him, but when he first got the commission to sculpt it, he didn't know who the admiral was.

"Then I immersed myself in his history and interviewed people who knew or photographed him. The resounding message," Caswell said, "was that he had great character and an inner strength about him. He inspired others and I associated him with my grandfather who served in the Navy during World War

"He and that generation inspire me. This project was personal and was a very rewarding and humbling experience."

That is how Director Smith reacted when he learned of the unveiling of Nimitz's statue. It was personal because Smith knew some of his family members would be in Hawaii in September when the admiral's statue will be unveiled.

"Admiral Nimitz is my great-grandfather," Smith said. "His son, Rear Admiral Chester Nimitz, Jr., was my grandfather on my mother's side of the family," Smith said. "While I have always had a tremendous pride in the Nimitz family connection, it is also a fact I have kept more to myself and it doesn't come up often given my common last name of Smith."

Prior to the unveiling, Smith told the crowd what it has meant to him to be a descendent of the decorated fleet admiral.

"There is no question that my service in the Marines was inspired by my greatgrandfather and grandfathers who all served in World War II," Smith said. "What is most telling, though, is that my story is not unique – almost every one of us can trace a line back to the amazing service and sacrifice of a family member from this 'Greatest Generation'."

The grandson of a retired sea captain, Nimitz graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905. He served during World War I, but later as World War II unfolded, the admiral would become commander-in-chief of Pacific Ocean Areas, while keeping his Pacific Fleet command. He would command the whole Pacific theater except for Gen. Douglas MacArthur's section of the Southwest Pacific and the inactive southeast.

He participated in seven separate major sea battles in the Pacific, including The Battles of Leyte Gulf, Midway and Iwo Jima. At war's end and after their unconditional surrender, Nimitz signed the peace treaty with Japan aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

On Dec. 15, 1945, Nimitz was named commander-in-chief of the United States Fleet, a five-star rank position he held for the next two years. In somewhat of an unofficial retirement, he was assigned to serve under the Secretary of the Navy.

Since the rank of fleet admiral is a lifetime appointment, the highly decorated Nimitz remained on active duty from the end of the war until his death, four days' short of his 81st birthday in Feb. 1966. He was the United States' last surviving

Nimitz's statue will be unveiled in a ceremony, September 2, at the USS Missouri on the 68th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific Theatre.

AZUWUR



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

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

J HANKINS • JAMES E HARMUN • DUNALU F RY HEIPLE · FREDDIE LEE HENSON · VIRGIL DMAR T HITCHNER · WARREN MERVIN HOFF C HUDSON JR .. JOHN P. HUGHES . JOHN R.IN INKINS · DALE ELLSWORTH JENSEN · ARTHU R KAUFMAN • ELMER W KEESEE JR • EDWARD ALL - DONALD R KING - RICHARD KLENZ - G

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.



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

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

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

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

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 wellwishers. 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



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

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

Retiree Service Office

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

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

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

Email: ng.or.orarng.list. mbmgt-j1-rso@mail.mil Web: www.ORNG-SMFS.org

> Via Mail: Retiree Service Office PO Box 14350 Salem, OR 97309

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 nationallyrecognized 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

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

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

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

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!"