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Maj. Gen. Rees inducted into Order of the Minuteman: Page 6

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Soldiers hold mob ceremony at State Capitol's Senate Chamber

Forward Support Medical Team of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation mobs to Kosovo



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jonathan Edwards holds his son, Grant, as he talks with family, following the mobilization ceremony of his unit at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 21. Soldiers with Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation, will deploy to Kosovo as a Forward Support Medical Evacuation Team (FSMT) using the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. See page 3 for the full story.

Detachment-47, 2-641 Aviation deploys to Kandahar, Afghanistan



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Sarah Fritts (right), commander of Detachment 47, 2-641 Aviation, passes the unit guidon to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, as Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, looks on during the mobilization ceremony for two aviation units in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 21. The governor keeps framed guidons of deployed Oregon National Guard units until they return home to Oregon. Five Soldiers with Detachment 47, 2-641 Aviation, will deploy to Afghanistan in support of the Communications Electronic Attack with Surveillance and Reconnaissance (CEASAR) mission. See page 3 for the full story.

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Airmen recognized with Bronze Stars, Purple Heart medals

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

PORTLAND, Ore.— In a rare break with normal ceremonial protocol, the commander of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), invited family members onto the stage for photos following the pinning of each of the five Bronze Star Medals and one Purple Heart Medal awarded to members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

"This ceremony is as much to honor the families of these Airmen as it is for the Airmen themselves," said Lt. Gen. Eric Fiel, who flew in from AFSOC headquarters in Hurlburt Field, Fla., to present the awards.

The six Airmen, in Air Force dress uniform, wearing their signature special operations scarlet beret, were honored during the afternoon ceremony in the Rosenbaum Hangar for their distinguished service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The crowd was comprised of Airmen, Soldiers, Oregon National Guard leadership, representatives from the Port of Portland, and family members and friends.

Five of the Airmen were awarded Bronze Stars, two of which included the "V" for valor, and another received the Purple Heart. The group are all trained combat controllers in an elite squadron of Special



Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron salute the honor guard during the posting of colors at a ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Jan. 23. The ceremony was to honor the group with five Bronze Star Medals and one Purple Heart medal.

Operations—a career field which has garnered the highest number of decorations in the entire Air Force, remarked Fiel.

"Between the demanding pace of today's global special operations and your community's commitment to the quiet professionals, we are all fortunate to be able to recognize these special tactic

Airmen on occasions like this," said Fiel. Recipients of the Bronze Star Medal were; Staff Sgt. David A. Albright, Tech. Sgt. Jeffery A. Dolezal, Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Guffey, Master Sgt. Scott A. Geisser and Senior Airman Chadwick J. Boles. Tech.

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COMMAND

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Oregon Guardsmen prepared to handle any challenge



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

Already this year, I've had the opportunity to welcome home elements of Charlie 7-158 Aviation's Forward Support Medical Team, while simultaneously, sending additional aviation teams on a separate deployment to Kosovo and Afghanistan. The

Oregon National Guard continues to support our Federal missions through small unit and individual augmentee mobilizations, with the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other units also gearing up for a potential deployment next year.

With the battle on Capitol Hill about budgets, our Nation's military is preparing for sweeping cuts across the board. Here in Oregon we are preparing for the anticipated cuts to our budgets and programs. Rest assured we are doing everything we can to continue our high level of training and support for the people of Oregon and the United States. We also continue to support overseas training missions, to include a multi-national training exercise in Nepal.

The threat of sequester hangs over the heads of every one of our full-time technician staff. The most recent version includes 14 furlough days for technicians before Oct. 1, 2013. While we don't know yet what the overall impacts of the sequester will be, we have built a plan to best mitigate costs while also continuing to provide a ready trained force to the support and be an operational force.

One area of concern is maintaining our strength. Although our numbers continue to be outstanding, now is the time to reach deep and be more than outstanding. It is the responsibility of leaders at all levels, from brigade commanders to fire team leaders, to create an environment of professionalism, outstanding training and enhanced morale.

The changes coming in the near future for our military forces will require adjustments across the board. We should keep in mind, as the Nation's Militia, we receive our authorization from the United States Constitution.

Article One, Section Eight gives power to Congress "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasion." As we look into the future at the potential drawdown of Active Duty forces, there will no doubt be a larger reliance on the cost effective National Guard and Reserve component forces. The Oregon National Guard is ready for the task.

During a Presidential Proclamation in 2011, President Obama stated, "The members of our National Guard and Reserve demonstrate the dignity and selflessness that are the course of the American spirit. These patriots serve not only in combat but also when disaster strikes at home, offering a strong hand to victims of floods, tornadoes, and fires across America."

These words highlight the unique capabilities of our organization. Not only do we support our Federal mission through activations, we also support our local emergency responders and come to the rescue of our fellow Oregonians in times of crisis.

The individual skills you learn, both in the Guard and your civilian occupations, are uniquely suited to the variety of missions we support throughout the year. Our State Partnership Program with Bangladesh and now Vietnam as well, continue to highlight the ability of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to bring a new perspective to the table. This perspective is what allows us to continuously be successful in everything we do.

Competence, Confidence, Courage and Commitment are not just a slogan. These are words that define who we are as Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen. Regardless of changes in the fiscal environment, the global theater or crises here at home, I know we are prepared to handle anything that comes our way.

Raymond F. Rees

Change is coming; choose to be prepared or surprised

I am breaking away from my traditional warrant officer issues addressed in this article to talk of a currently more important generic issue for guards' men and women. I am referring to "change".

I am referring to those instances, regardless what driving factors bring them about, that we have to initiate adjustments to our normal activities and thoughts to better deal with routine situations.

Never was that more evident for me than my recent experience of going through knee replacement surgery. My entire life changed.

Coping in the hospital, trying to meet all of their requirements for on-time or early discharge, dealing with pain medication, and forcing myself to inflict pain on myself so as not to prolong the recovery period to achieve complete healing, were just some of the challenges.

Did I mention that I hate hospitals? The experience has been a learning experience, and illustrates that challenges can teach valuable lessons.

Taking the current situations and/or projected ones, how do we go about accomplishing what must be done? What are we doing now that doesn't really have to be done? Is what we are currently doing the most efficient or economically sound for our organization?

The bottom line is change is inevitable. We can either prepare for it in advance or react to an impending crisis. It's a question of proactive versus reactive. Which makes more sense?

Now is the best time to be utilizing 'thinking out of the box' for addressing situational circumstances and to prepare



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

for those "moving targets". Time for the professional Warrant Officer to initiate and spearhead creative processes for our ORARNG in these turbulent times. Are you up for the challenge? For the Corps

Soldiers: Teach, coach and mentor, lead from the front

We must ensure, as Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and leaders, we are working as one team to produce the best trained Citizen-Soldiers in the Army, which allow us to move forward in the fight as the most professional and disciplined leaders of our units.

Everything we do, from maintenance to taking care of our families, affects our ability to accomplish this task. The most precious asset we have is each other, and above all, our Soldiers. They need to know that we truly care for them and their families.

We must continually challenge ourselves mentally and physically to ensure that we sustain our combat readiness and fighting spirit. I will never ask you to do something I myself have not done. We are Soldiers 24-hours a day.

Lead by example - from the front! Ensure all leaders do the same for their Soldiers. Ensure all noncommissioned officers maintain the highest standards of military appearance, bearing, courtesy, and discipline.

They must also enforce the standard throughout the ranks. Ensure all non-commissioned officers carry out their inherent responsibilities, and require them to set high standards for their Soldiers. Enforce all orders, for it is your unit; its standards reflect your standards. Be the best.

Take pride in the way you carry yourself and the work you do. It reflects in your actions and is contagious.

I am not a zero defect person. The key here is to understand that a mistake made in good faith while trying to accomplish the mission is acceptable, but I will expect you to learn from that mistake and move on. I have no tolerance for mistakes due to negligence or willful misconduct.

Professionalism and discipline are intangible traits that form the

backbone of any unit. These traits are learned and are continually being developed. Always choose the hard right over the easy wrong.

Do the right thing when nobody is watching, and if you catch someone doing this, reward them. Take care of, and look out for both your Soldiers and your senior leadership. Treat others with dignity and respect. Take time to ask yourself what you could do to make yourself a better Soldier or leader, and then do something about it.

Make your own professional development plan and commit yourself to finding the time to make it happen. Areas to consider are physical fitness, furthering your education, or acquiring new skills. As a leader, you should always be striving to improve yourself.

Teach, Coach, and Mentor. This is what we do. We as leaders must transition our knowledge to the next generation to perform our positions better than we did.

We must evolve to keep up with techniques and technology. Create an environment in your unit that fosters growth both personally and professionally.



State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake,
State Command Sergeant Major,
Oregon National Guard

COMMAND

Two units mobilize Oregon Soldiers to Middle East missions

Continued from Front Page

Story by Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore. - The Oregon Army National Guard mobilized two groups of aviation Soldiers during a ceremony in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 21.

Approximately 20 Soldiers of the Forward Support Medical Evacuation Team (FSMT) from Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation, will deploy to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

The nine-month deployment will support the ongoing Medical Evacuation (medevac) mission using UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

In addition, five Soldiers from Detachment 47, 2-641 Aviation, will deploy to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of the Communications Electronic Attack with Surveillance and Reconnaissance (CEASAR) mission using C-12 Huron aircraft.

The CEASAR mission includes a total of 10 Soldiers, five (four pilots and one flight operations sergeant) are from Oregon, and the remainder are from Idaho.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers stand in formation during a mobilization ceremony in the Senate Chamber at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 21. Soldiers from both Detachment 47, 2-641 Aviation, and Forward Support Medical Evacuation Team (FSMT) of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation took part in the ceremony.

Stencel promoted to brigadier general



Photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Oregon Air National Guard, receives his one-star general flag from Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg during a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Feb. 8. Stencel is now the Oregon National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General (Air). He formerly served as the commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing, based in Portland, Ore. He has been with the Oregon Air National Guard since his enlistment in 1984 and has served in various strategic positions throughout his career.

Oregon JAG elected Clackamas judge



Maj. Michael Wetzel, a Judge Advocate in the Oregon National Guard, was elected as Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge. He assumed the position in January 2013.

Wetzel is the senior trial defense counsel for Soldiers in separation and disciplinary matters.

Previously, he prosecuted misconduct cases and provided legal advice for deploying Soldiers and their families in a broad range of matters including domestic relations, landlord/tenant, consumer law, and other legal issues.

His civilian practice with Fitzwater Meyers LLP focused on estate planning and administration, business, real estate matters, tax controversies and tax litigation before being elected to the bench.

State Legislature recognizes Oregon Guard's first female brigadier general



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon State Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario, District 60), left, reads House Concurrent Resolution 11, honoring Brig. Gen. Julie A. Bentz (right) for being the first female brigadier general in the Oregon Army National Guard, to the 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly at the State Capitol, March 6. Rep. Bentz is Brig. Gen. Bentz's cousin.

Story by Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore.—Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Julie A. Bentz was honored by the 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly at the State Capitol, March 6, with the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 11. The House measure recognized her for being the first female brigadier general in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Her promotion to brigadier general in 2011 came with her assignment as the Director of Strategic Capabilities Policy on the National Security Staff in the Executive Office of the President. She is responsible for writing presidential policy, coordinating interagency dialogue, informing presidential budgetary decisions and building consensus on interagency initiatives in programs that develop United States strategic capabilities to meet 21st century requirements.

Bentz has served in a variety of active, reserve and National Guard assignments revolving around nuclear defense, homeland security, health physics, environmental sciences and traditional nuclear, biological and chemical officer assignments.

In the Oregon Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Bentz assisted with the initial stand-up of the 102 Civil Support Team in 1999 and served as the executive officer of the unit in 2003. She also served as the operations officer for 82 Troop Command Brigade from 2003-2004.

She then went on to serve in various positions in the Pentagon, developing a national nuclear response framework and shaping the Department of Defense's leading role in this effort. She served on the Homeland Security Council from 2004-2006 and the National Security Staff from 2009-2011, advising senior-level decision makers on nuclear defense policy.

Measure HCR 11 was carried by Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario, District 60), Brig. Gen. Bentz's cousin. Representative Bentz read a list of her accomplishments to the assembly, including the Legion of Merit award, Oregon Stater Award and induction into the Oregon State University Academy of Distinguished Engineers.

For the general's official biography, visit this link: www.ng.mil/ngbGomo/library/bio/2/2397.htm

234 Army Band member wins coveted award

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

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jesus Cruz, of the 234 Army Band, has earned one of the most prestigious awards within the military band, the Colonel Finely R. Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award.



Cruz was recognized during a ceremony held in Clackamas, Ore., on Feb. 2013.

The award is given to individuals who exhibit outstanding musical and leadership excellence.

Cruz is the piccolo player and a regular soloist in his unit, as well as involved in many community groups including South West Washington Wind Symphony, the Pacific Crest Symphonic Band, the Salem Concert Band, and the Oregon Symphonic Band.

"I take pride in being part of the 234 Army Band," said Cruz, "It's an honor to help Soldiers achieve their potential and grow into great leaders."

As the leader of the woodwind instruments group, Cruz is also the Outstanding Honor Graduate in Advanced Leaders Course and Senior Leaders Course.

The Finley R. Hamilton Outstanding Military Musician Award is awarded in honor of Col. Finley R. Hamilton who served 35 years in the Army Band Program before retiring from service as the commander and conductor of the United States Army Field Band.

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NEWS

Yakima JROTC aims for the 'gold'

Story by Cadet First Sergeant Foland
East Valley High School, Yakima, Wash.

The Reynolds High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program located in Troutdale Ore., had the honor of attending East Valley High School's JROTC drill competition between many of Oregon and Washington's very own JROTC programs.

Hoping to gain some experience and motivation, the Reynolds cadets boarded the school bus, awaiting a three-hour drive to Yakima Washington on Nov. 30, 2012.

Upon arrival, the cadets wasted no time. The Physical Training, Rifle, Color Guard and Drill teams set off to practice.

I was proud of my fellow cadets for taking responsibility into their own hands, preparing themselves for the long day that awaited them at dawn.

Everyone got to bed sometime in the early morning. The women decided to wake up early in order to practice some more for the Dual Unarmed Expeditionary Drill, and later awoke the men at a much later 0600.

After breakfast, some members of the rifle team left to compete in the Elementary School's gymnasium and Color Guard got dressed for their competition.

Color Guard was strictly inspected on their marching and response to commands. I was surprised by how impressive we have become, but the Drill Sergeants job was to pick apart every bit of the routine which they managed to do impeccably. Not one was without a clip board, constantly analyzing. I also had the privilege of viewing an inspection of North Salem JROTC, which helped put our goals into perspective.

Inspiring me to work harder with my fellow cadets to achieve what seemed to be unwavering confidence. Over in the Middle School, the PT team was hard at work, cranking out push-ups, sit-ups and a one-mile run.

The run, mind you, was outside in what felt like below freezing temperatures at 0900. Each of our cadets performed stunningly, even enough for Cadet Alli Escamilla to receive fifth place in the Women's Best PT scores.

After lunch, our DUED team performed in the main gym. After only a couple days of practice with their Drill & Ceremony (D&C) coach, our cadets gave their best performance.

A hundred or more eyes staring at you can really add some pressure, so I was very proud of them for choosing to perform and give it their all. Our rifle team had a great time at the shooting range and got to learn some new things.

Shooting at tiny targets from a range of different stances was stressful and tedious, but our cadets did their very best. We couldn't have asked for any better considering this was their first time ever shooting.

Our cadets performed excellently and at the end of the day, a select few competed in a last-man-standing D&C challenge. Cadet Clark was in the top ten left standing and Cadet Commander Moss performed well in the armed D&C portion.

After our long day we had some well-deserved pizza and East Valley threw a dance for all of the cadets so we could mingle with other schools.

This competition opened our eyes to what needs improvement and what we should sustain.

Soldiers with Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation demob

Story by Staff Sgt. April Davis,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - The Oregon Army National Guard held a demobilization ceremony March 9, at the Governor Theodore Kulongoski Army Aviation Support Facility.

The event welcomed home Soldiers with Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, following a year-long deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 20 Oregon Citizen-Soldiers from Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, based in Salem, Ore., joined Soldiers from Charlie Co., 1-126 Aviation, of the Maine Army National Guard, to form a Forward Support Medical Team (FSMT).

The FSMT provided Air Ambulance coverage in Kuwait using UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. They served under Task Force Liberty and Task Force Blackjack in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations.

"After a long year away, it's great to be back home in Oregon, spending time with our loved ones," said Capt. Tyler Eikenberry, the group leader for the Oregon contingent.

The unit worked with the U.S. Navy in taking over the aeromedical evacuation mission for Kuwait, including operations with the Kuwaiti Ministry of the Interior.

Soldiers in the unit performed 48 medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) missions and 1,200 sorties. The unit also supported the multi-national exercise, Operation Eager Lion, in Jordan.

The Soldiers trained with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. They also worked with the 74th Army Divers to develop Standard Operating Procedures for using



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

an Army MEDEVAC unit in over-water personnel recovery. They trained and hoisted 25 individuals out of the North Arabian Gulf.

"What an honor it was to serve with

such an elite group of Army Aviators this past year," said Eikenberry. "The success of our mission was profoundly due to the perseverance and expertise my Soldiers delivered every day."

3rd Battalion welcomes new Command Sgt. Major

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

LA GRANDE, Ore. - Transitions are a way of life in a military organization but that doesn't mean the process is easy.

The Change of Responsibility ceremony for the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment at the La Grande Army National Guard Readiness Center that welcomed Command Sgt. Maj., Ron Bloker is a good case in point.

A time-honored ritual, the change of responsibility is a formal procedure that signals the departure of a senior non-commissioned officer and the arrival of a new top NCO.

During the event, the Eastern Oregon National Guard unit officially welcomed Bloker, while it also said goodbye to longtime CSM Bill Wyllie.

"I've got mixed feelings watching a leader that has meant so much to this organization move on," said Lt. Col. Jason Lambert, the commander of the 3rd Battalion. "But I'm excited we are getting a new sergeant major who I think will do an excellent job."

Wyllie, of John Day, Ore., is now the Command Sgt. Major for the Oregon Guard's 41st Brigade. Wyllie spent the past six years as the Eastern Oregon Guard unit's top non-commissioned officer and deployed with the unit to Iraq in 2010.

"It was one of the best jobs you can have as a sergeant major," Wyllie said of his time with the battalion.

Bloker, who hails from Hillsboro, said he welcomes the challenge as the battalion's new command sergeant major.

"This is an amazing battalion and to be part of it is exciting," Bloker said.

Bloker, 41, is a math teacher for the Jewell School District. He said the 3rd Battalion is in the middle of a remarkable era because it is training on the U.S. Army's newest tank, the M1-A2 SEP 2.

"We have so much new equipment. Unless you are in the 3-116 you don't have the M1 SEP 2. So in a place like Ontario, you have 20 to 25 guys that get the opportunity to train on those tanks, an opportunity no one else has," he said.

Bloker said he is eager to get going in his new post and mentioned several key goals he would like to achieve early.

"I want to continue to help the battalion develop and grow," he said. "And help the battalion use the systems already in place."

While he lives in Hillsboro, Bloker is no stranger to the 3rd Battalion. In fact, the 42-year-old guard member said he spent his entire career in the Eastern Oregon unit.

"I enlisted in 1992 with the battalion's mortars," he said.

Bloker said when he joined the Guard he wanted to find a job that was unique from anything he could find outside the military.

"I asked, 'what do you guys do that I can't do in the civilian world?'" He said.

Bloker worked his way up through the ranks but left the Guard



in 2001. A few years later, though, he joined back up, again with the 3rd Battalion.

"By the time I was an E-5, I knew what I wanted but I also knew that meant a lot of time studying off duty," Bloker said.

Bloker conceded his job is not a one-weekend-a-month task anymore. The National Guard changed since he signed up in the early 1990s, he said.

"It is not once a month anymore. It is two or three weekends a month," he said.

Bloker said his main focus as sergeant major is simple: taking care of Soldiers. It is a job, he said, he loves.

"My worst day with Soldiers is better than my best day outside the Guard," he said.

The 3rd Battalion consists of Guard units in Hood River, The Dalles, Hermiston, Woodburn, Pendleton, La Grande, Baker City and Ontario.

FEATURES

Oregon Soldier assists authorities, takes down hit-and-run suspect

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

With a serious and chiseled look, a confident but humble Sgt. Michael Fox said he never thought twice about going after the individual who caused a hit-and-run incident before trying to evade police after a dangerous, high speed chase that ended in a crash in Vancouver, Wash. The confrontation happened near Fox's place of employment.

Dana Kenison, who was at the incident said she was impressed by Fox and described what she saw when the man who ran from police was chased by Fox.

"About a minute after the accident some onlookers said he ran in that direction and a good looking, built guy took off in that direction too," Kenison said pointing to the path where the driver who wrecked two vehicles ran — before Fox chased him.

As many others stood and watched, Fox said he used his military and civilian experience to find and apprehend the suspect before police arrived.

Fox, who is an infantryman with the Oregon Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based out of Gresham, Ore., is a loss-prevention and security officer for

the High School Pharmacy franchise.

He is also an experienced combat veteran who deployed to Iraq in 2006-07, and Afghanistan in 2008-09, with the Oregon National Guard.

Reports of the incident stated that after investigating the scene, Fox found Justin Taylor hiding underneath a car.

Fox asked Taylor to come out and give himself up. When the suspect refused, Fox dragged him out, wrestled him to the ground, and handcuffed the evader with the cuffs he carries for his work.

Fox explained that even though he was nervous he knew what needed to be done. Fox said he is glad the story of his heroic act is being told because he hopes it may make someone trying to get away with a crime think twice.

"I like to do what is right morally and socially," Fox said. "I think some people who get away with crimes have a misconception that no one will try to stop them."

Fox explained that he has aspirations of becoming a police officer and knows chasing the suspect was a dangerous move, but that his moral conviction would not allow him to stand by while a criminal got away.

Spc. David Horstman, a former Marine and fellow infantryman, grew up with

Fox and was recruited by him into Charlie Company. Horstman said he was not surprised about what Fox did.

"He has always been like a big brother to me," Horstman said. "He is as honest as the day is long, even if it means being a little bit harsh, but he is always fair and always there to help someone in need."

A platoon leader with Charlie Company, 2nd Lt. Kevin Johnson, said Fox is what you want as an infantryman.

"He is hard working, he holds his Soldiers to a high standard, and continues to learn," Johnson said before mentioning that he and Fox both have aspirations of getting into law enforcement.

"What he did doesn't surprise me one bit — he is going to be a great police officer," he added.

Johnson said Fox epitomizes what a National Guard Soldier should be.

"He's a veteran that wants to help his community and doesn't take his job lightly."

For his bold actions, a news report by KOIN 6 CBS News out of Portland, Ore., called Fox the "Hit-and-Run Hero."

"It is his to job to go after people who are running away from him and he got the job done here at 25th and Main today in Vancouver," said Kohr Harlan a reporter for KOIN 6 News.



Sgt. Michael Fox, an infantryman with the Oregon Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, cleans his weapon at the unit armory in Gresham, Ore., during drill weekend, Feb. 24. Fox apprehended a hit-and-run suspect following a dangerous, high speed chase that ended in a crash in Vancouver, Wash.

To see the television news story about Sgt. Fox go to the Oregon Military Department YouTube site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDVOm-JdET8>.

Newly promoted, Eastern Oregon Soldier accepts new position

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

LA GRANDE, Ore. — In January, before he departed the La Grande Armory, three small flags adorned the walls of Seth Musgrove's office.

The flags — called guidons — are often no more than interesting fixtures on an otherwise stark-white wall of the Oregon Army National Guard Captain's office.

Yet for Musgrove each guidon represents a chunk of time spent in his career defending his state and nation. Each flag symbolizes periods of triumph and moments of disappointment; days of training away from home or hours of tension and trauma in a combat zone. Up on the wall behind Musgrove's desk was the physical depiction of service and sacrifice.

The guidons now, of course, are gone and the files and the fragments of paperwork of a fulltime officer in the National Guard are packed away. Musgrove, a member of eastern Oregon's Army Guard outfit, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment for more than 13 years is on the other side of the state and at work for a different unit.

Musgrove, a long-time fixture in the local citizen-soldier unit, accepted a promotion to become the Logistics Officer for the Guard's 82nd Brigade stationed at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas.

"I'm looking forward to learning new job," Musgrove said.

Musgrove personifies the often deep family roots in area Guard units. His father, Greg, served as a recruiter for many years in the 3rd Battalion before he retired. There are still citizen-soldiers on the current 3rd Battalion roster who were recruited by the elder Musgrove.

Seth Musgrove often accompanied his father to monthly drills and, in a very real way, grew up in the Guard. Musgrove enlisted in the eastern Oregon unit as soon as he was of age, served four years an enlisted man and then went to Officers Candidate School to secure his commissions.

Not long after he earned his 2nd Lieutenant bars he was shipped to Iraq when the 3rd Battalion deployed to that war-torn nation in 2004.

Between the time he gained his commission until now, Musgrove served as the second-in-command of Ontario's Charlie Company, then took command



Capt. Seth Musgrove directs members of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment during a training exercise in this 2010 photo. Musgrove, a longtime member of the 3-116th recently accepted a promotion to the 82nd Troop Command Brigade.

of that unit and led it for more than three years. Most recently he was the commander of La Grande's Guard unit.

Through that time he served two combat tours in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion, married and started a family. At the end of January he said goodbye to a Guard unit that was more than simply another job.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity. But it is bittersweet. I'm leaving a unit I grew up in. My wife and I were born and raised in La Grande. But the new job is exciting. And change is good," Musgrove said.

Musgrove said he is most proud of his time as a platoon and company commander, both jobs he fulfilled with Ontario's Charlie Company. He also succeeded in both of those roles during combat operations.

"That (leading soldiers in combat) is your test, the culmination of all your training," Musgrove said.

Combat took its toll on the young officer. Twice during the first tour in Iraq Musgrove survived IED ambushes. While he was decorated for his actions, Musgrove brushed off any notion he did anything out of the ordinary.

"I didn't do anything heroic. I just got blown up," he said.

Musgrove said the move to the 82nd Brigade is, overall, a good one.

"I will most likely be promoted to major," he said.

His departure from the 3rd Battalion is not easy, he said, but he understands the necessity of moving in a military organization.

"Besides, I'm ready for a new challenge," he said.

As Musgrove relocates to Clackamas, he will likely have three guidons — one faded and torn from its service in Iraq — on the walls of his new office.

"I'm going to miss the Soldiers and my fellow officers," Musgrove said.

Zoesch assumes command of Golf Co., 141 Brigade Support Bn



Sgt. Julie Trotter, Training NCO, G-Co. (FA FSC) 141 BSB

Outgoing commander for Golf Company, (FA FSC) 141 Brigade Support Battalion, Capt. Richard Helzer, passes the company guidon to incoming commander 1st Lt. Jason Zoesch, during a ceremony, Jan. 13, at the Richard Miller Armory in Forest Grove, Ore.

Zoesch comes to G-Co. from the 2-162 Headquarters, Headquarters Company. This will be his first command. Helzer has been the commander of G-Co. since their return from deployment in 2010, and will now serve as the new 2 Battalion, 218 Field Artillery S4.

FEATURES

MG Rees inducted into Order of the Minuteman

Formal ceremony attended by more than 500 Oregon Guard members and guests

Story by Sentinel Staff

Senior enlisted members from across the Oregon National Guard inducted Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, into the Order of the Minuteman, during a ceremony held at the Spirit Mountain Casino, in Grand Ronde, Ore., Mar. 2.

The ceremony preceded the Oregon National Guard's annual Military Ball.

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

Rees 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. He also served as the governor's homeland security advisor.

The three-term adjutant general also served as an air operations officer and troop commander during the Vietnam War from December 1968 to November 1969. He also served in many high-level command positions throughout the U.S. Army and National Guard Bureau including, director of the Army National Guard, and then vice chief and acting chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. He also served as Chief of Staff at U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) / North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Rees' first term as Oregon's adjutant general began in May 1987, when he was appointed by then-Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt. His second term as adjutant general followed his appointment as acting chief of the National Guard Bureau in 1994, when Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts reappointed him to the post as the commander of Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

Rees' third and final term as adjutant general—his longest appointment—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.

In addition to serving as adjutant general for three different governors, Rees' long military career also spanned 10 U.S. Presidents. When Rees began his military career as a U.S. Army West Point cadet in 1962, President John F. Kennedy had been in office for only a year.

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



Oregon National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (left) presents the Order of the Minuteman statuette to Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, (center), as State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell holds the official scroll, during the Order of the Minuteman Ceremony held March 2 at the Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde, Ore.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Clifford Burwell, an instructor with the Regional Training Institute, and member of the Oregon National Joint Honor Guard salutes the American flag during the commencement of the Order of the Minuteman Ceremony, held to honor Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Chris Brown (foreground), and Spc. Turner Wise (background), of the 234 Army Band, play the drums and tamborine (respectively), during the 2013 Military Ball, at the Spirit Mountain Casino, in Grand Ronde, Ore., Mar. 2. The Military Ball followed the official ceremony which inducted Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, into the Order of the Minuteman.



Above: The Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, addresses attendees at the Order of the Minuteman Ceremony, held March 2 at the Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde, Ore. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, was inducted into the exclusive and prestigious Order of the Minuteman. Conley formerly served as the Oregon State Command Sergeant Major.

Left: State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell (far right), State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (center), applaud Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, following Rees' induction into the Order of the Minuteman. The ceremony was held March 2 at Spirit Mountain Casino, in Grande Ronde, Ore., in conjunction with the Oregon National Guard's annual Military Ball.

FEATURES

Vietnamese-Americans find many benefits in the Oregon National Guard

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

SALEM, Ore.—Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jay Nguyen has some pretty strong feelings about being a member of the National Guard.

And some equally strong feelings about his native culture.

As the full-time enlisted aide to the Army Chief of Staff at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Ore., the Vietnamese-American Nguyen said there is a definite upside to being a member of the National Guard.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jay Nguyen

Jay Nguyen, in Al Asad, Iraq, during his deployment in 2008.

Aside from the obvious benefits; education, retirement, training, and a paycheck, Nguyen feels a sense of cohesion and a sense of achievement—two factors which are held in very high esteem in the Vietnamese community, and indeed throughout the Asian culture.

“In the National Guard, we’re just like a family,” Nguyen said. “If you go into battle, you want to have your brother-in-arms next to you protecting you.”

Every unit in the Oregon Guard promotes a philosophy of cohesion, but it also extends out to the community, he said.

Nguyen, who emigrated to the United States when he was 14, is also a member of the nationally-recognized, and award winning TAG’s Select Honor Guard. Initially his mother didn’t want him to join the military, but he persisted.

After 12 years of military service, with two overseas deployments including Iraq in 2008-09, and a full-time AGR position, Nguyen says he has no regrets.

Thinking back to the Vietnam War and the observation of the 40th Anniversary of the conflict, Nguyen adds that there are so many opportunities for his native community—which includes more than 12,000 Vietnamese-Americans in Portland alone, ranking the city 13th in the nation during the 2010 census—to be involved with the Oregon National Guard, and vice-versa.

“Both sides are missing out on a lot,” Nguyen said. “The Vietnamese community is not asking us, but we’re not asking them. I think we’re missing out.”

Nguyen cites patriotic events, such as the Fourth of July, or the Vietnamese Flag Day, where Vietnamese celebrate the Freedom Flag, used by the former Republic of South Vietnam.

“We should be raising the flag together,” he said. “We fought the war side by side with the South Vietnamese. There’s things we do in the community that we can do together. Down the road, I’d like to see a strong relationship between the Vietnamese community and the Oregon Guard.”

“A lot of Vietnamese people are very patriotic,” he continues. “We lost our nation, and the U.S. is now our nation. To enhance that relationship is a critical piece in our Vietnamese community.”

Groups have sprung up around the nation which have combined Vietnamese-Americans’ patriotic duty and their love of their adopted country. Many are rooted in

U.S. military service.

One such group is the Vietnamese American Armed Forces Association. A non-profit, non-partisan association based in California, the VAAFA is comprised of Vietnamese-Americans who are current or former military service members from all branches of the U.S. military, who share mutual respect and selfless service.

According to the VAAFA website, its members are proud of their Vietnamese American heritage and are grateful for the privilege to live and partake in the American dream and way of life; for which they pledged to protect and defend.

They also highlight military service as a way to build pride and selfless service amongst members of the Vietnamese American community.

Nguyen said while the Vietnamese people may have lived in a “borrowed nation”, they have assimilated into their communities throughout Oregon and indeed the whole United States, and adopted the U.S. as their new home country.

According to a study by the Manhattan Institute in 2008, Vietnamese Americans are among the most assimilated immigrant groups in the United States.

While their rates of cultural and economic assimilation are unexceptional compared to other groups (perhaps due to language differences between English and Vietnamese), their rates of civic assimilation were the highest among all the large immigrant groups.

Vietnamese Americans, being political refugees, view their stay in the United States as permanent and became involved in the political process in higher rates than other groups, the study says.

Closer to home, one Vietnamese group which combines patriotism with a strong business acumen is the Vietnamese Community of Oregon (VNCO).

The group convenes every month in a non-descript meeting hall in SE Portland to discuss topics which encourage, develop and support activities which enable the Vietnamese in Oregon to thrive and continue to be contributing citizens.

Nguyen and several other Guardsmen are members of the VNCO.

At a recent meeting, VNCO members talked about the cultural pride felt throughout the local Vietnamese community.

As is typical with Asian cultures, food was served prior to the start of the meeting, and no business was conducted until everyone in attendance had eaten their fill.

At the front of the room, the United States flag shares prominent real estate with the “Vietnamese Freedom Flag” of three horizontal red stripes on a yellow background.

In spite of the support and patriotism of these groups, there are individuals in the Vietnamese community who may still mistrust those in uniform, according to Nguyen, but that has to change, he adds.

“I know in the community there’s a lot of mistrust of people in uniform,” Nguyen says. “We can’t live like that. Just remember, there are a lot of Asian Americans out there who have put on this uniform and died for this country because they believed in it.”

Unfortunately, Nguyen says his community of Vietnamese-Americans has been overlooked. Indeed, statistics which are tracked by the Oregon Military Department’s Human Resources Division support his view.

Out of some 8,800 Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen Airmen in Oregon, 182 are Asians. Of that, only 11 are Vietnamese.

“We are missing out,” Nguyen said. “And not just we as the Vietnamese community, but we as a nation.”

Oregon Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion Commander, Col. Kevin Dial, said breaking into the local Vietnamese-



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

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard meet with community leaders from the Vietnamese Community of Oregon during the group’s monthly meeting in SE Portland, Ore., Feb. 26.

American community requires more than just assigning a recruiter to the task. Leads in the community, regardless of ethnic breakdown, must be vetted by the recruiters, he added.

“You have to have built a relationship. Any good salesman will tell you if you have a product that is worth selling, you’ll be excited about it too,” Dial said.

Dial, who has deployed several times with the Oregon Army National Guard, recognizes why people come to the United States, and its allure of freedom.

“Many Americans don’t realize the benefit they have of being born here,” Dial said. “If you have never seen what change or freedom look like you can’t even hope or dream it.”

Studies show many Vietnamese parents pressure their children to excel in school and to enter professional fields such as science, medicine, or engineering because the parents feel insecurity stemming from their chaotic past and view education as the only ticket to a better life.

So why doesn’t the Oregon National Guard go after this untapped, highly upwardly mobile and educated population, Nguyen wonders.

Dial answers with a counter-challenge. “I say bring me those people who can represent these communities,” he says. “Bring me people who can be a recruiter in your community.”

Persons who possess native language skills, and more importantly, vital cultural awareness and sensitivity, receive preferential hiring status in the Oregon National Guard’s recruiting ranks, Dial says.

He cites the Oregon National Guard’s success in the local Hispanic community as one example.

“The best people to bring a message of hope to anyone are those who have gone through change,” Dial adds. “And these people are in our structure today.”

Dial invites all individuals who are un- or under-represented in the Oregon National Guard to step up and be a part of change.

“I need people who are ready and willing, and excited about (the National Guard) to be on my team and be a part of the solution,” Dial said. “We definitely take ideas about how to break into those markets.”

In the face of fiscal and cross-cultural challenges, Nguyen adds something which may make all the difference.

“I was not born here,” Nguyen said. “But this is my country now. My kids are here, and I want to protect their freedom. I would like the Vietnamese community to understand that. We are no longer two nations. We are one nation.”

Helicopter Pilots Wanted

The Oregon Army National Guard’s 2-641 Aviation Regiment is seeking applicants for its upcoming Initial Entry Rotary Wing Board, the first week of May, 2013.

Eligibility Criteria:

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

Preferred applicants will have (but not required):

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact:

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OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Former Oregon Airmen remember what many call the “forgotten” war Korea

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

The Korean War was the first conflict to see extensive employment of the Air National Guard (ANG) in combat service.

Many ANG units were activated, in whole or in part, and served directly in Korea, or in many other locations in the United States and around the world during the Cold War.

Oregon ANG members were among those who answered the call to duty.

It was late in the second summer of the Korean War. The see-saw campaigns over the Korean peninsula had given way to what would eventually become a more static phase of the conflict. At the time, however, that was unclear.

The first tentative cease-fire negotiations began at Kaesong in July, 1951, but the fighting continued. It was then that United Nations air forces received some timely help from members of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Some 60 years ago, Mr. Gregory James and Mr. Ernest Wakehouse were members of the Oregon Air National Guard (Ore ANG) in the organization's F-51 Mustang era. They were among a group of Oregon Air Guard pilots who flew 100 combat missions in Korea.

In recent conversations they shared some recollections of their Korean War experience.

“They sent nine of us,” said Ernie Wakehouse. “Seven of us completed 100 missions. Orval Tandy became a Prisoner of War.”

There were nine Oregon ANG pilots of the 142nd Fighter Group (142FG) who flew combat in Korea. As for how these individuals were selected for duty in Korea, James recalled that most of the pilots in the 142FG's 123rd Fighter Squadron had been overseas in World War II.

“The 123rd first checked for bachelors without any combat experience in WWII,” Wakehouse said. “But they needed more, so they checked for married men without combat in WWII. Two pilots, Dick Andrews and Jim Byers, had flown fighters in WWII but volunteered for duty in Korea.”

Overall, James thought this prioritization in candidate selection was pretty fair.

During World War II both Wakehouse and James went through flight training and were trained to fly fighter planes. James flew the P-39 and P-40 in training, and was in a P-51 pilot replacement pool in Florida awaiting overseas duty when that war ended.

Wakehouse flew P-40 and P-51 fighters during the war, including ferry flights in the United States. He also flew in fighter combat training units, and was ready to go overseas when the war came to a close.

He returned to civilian life, got into automobiles sales, and later signed up for the Oregon Air Guard. But as the Cold War developed, war came again.

“Korea was a rugged, hot war—the Forgotten War—they called it a police action, (but) the bullets in Korea were real,” Wakehouse said.

As pilots were selected for Korea, they had a week or two of notice before departure for some refresher training at the USAF's gunnery school. James left for training two weeks ahead of Wakehouse, and first went to Nellis AFB, Nev. But the gunnery school was in the process of moving so he was sent to Luke AFB, Ariz.

Wakehouse on the other hand proceeded directly to Luke Field. Only Robert Daggett, who went to F-80 fighter jet training, was sent elsewhere.

The gunnery training at Luke lasted about a month, during the summer of

1951. They employed the Mustang's six .50-caliber machine guns in air-to-ground and air-to-air gunnery and conducted a lot of dogfighting.

Wakehouse didn't think he really needed the dogfighting for what he was eventually assigned to do in Korea, which was mostly air-to-ground work. He also had previous air-to-air training during his time in the Ore ANG, having flown the F-51 since the summer of 1948. James also felt that the ANG pilots were ready, but the training at Luke would only help.

After completing the gunnery training, the pilots returned to Portland for a four- or five-day furlough, then flew to Sacramento to take a Military Air Transport Service (MATS) flight from Travis AFB to the Asian continent. Wakehouse had been to Sacramento the summer before, when the Ore ANG had ferried several F-51s to the naval base at Alameda.

Each guard unit equipped with the F-51 had to provide eight to ten Mustangs which were loaded aboard the Navy aircraft carrier Boxer and quickly sent to Asia during the first summer of the war. Later came the call for the same ANG units to send eight to ten F-51 pilots each to Korea to help the stretched active duty forces meet the burgeoning demand for aircrew and the lengthening operational requirements. The Ore ANG answered that call as well.

The pilots arrived in Tokyo, Japan, where they received their first theater indoctrination, some ground training, and paperwork. There was no operational flying in Japan prior to his going to Korea, recalled Wakehouse. When they got to Korea, first at Chinhae (also known as K-10), they performed a local check out in the F-51.

“Chinhae was a hard-top surface field, with a long runway. At that time our forces were fighting roughly along the 38th parallel. It was a nice base, with good quarters,” Wakehouse said.

Shortly thereafter, he flew on to Seoul City Airbase (also known as K-16) with a mesh steel runway which was not very long, and had smokestacks on each end, Wakehouse recalled. He flew combat missions in the F-51 with 1,850 rounds of .50-caliber machine gun ammunition, and carried four rockets and two general purpose bombs or two napalm bombs



Photo courtesy of <http://www.warbirdinformationexchange.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?p=156017>

Oregon Air Guardsman Greg James prepares to embark on a combat mission in an F-51 Mustang fighter-bomber. Note the “cobra” markings on the belly of his plane, indicating this was the aircraft of the fellow squadron member John “JET” Taylor. An intense warrior and candidate for the ultimate fighter pilot, Taylor had a cobra, representing the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, painted along the entire length of the bottom of the fuselage of his Mustang because he wanted the enemy to know who it was that killed him. He later rose to the rank of major general and commanded the Texas ANG.



Photo courtesy of <http://jetpilotoverseas.wordpress.com/category/f-51-mustang>

From left to right, Ernie Wakehouse, John “JET” Taylor, Devol “Rock” Brett, and Fred Rockmaker of the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron pose for the camera on an F-51 Mustang at an airfield in the Republic of Korea, possibly K-46, Hoengsong, 1951.

beneath the wings.

“Bring the engine up to 3,000 RPM, 61 inches manifold pressure and let off on the brakes,” he said, remembering the short runway takeoffs.

Most of the Oregon pilots served in the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (39FIS), known as the “Cobras.” The F-51 Mustang squadron was attached to the 18th Fighter Bomber Group (18FBG) from its parent 35th Fighter Interceptor Group.

Both James and Wakehouse flew in the 39th, but in different flights within the squadron. The 18FBG had four fighter squadrons during this time, including the 39FIS, the 12th and 67th Fighter Bomber Squadrons (FBS) and No. 2 Squadron, South African Air Force.

Aside from Daggett, who flew F-80s, Wakehouse said that Jim Byers was first assigned to the 39th but later transferred to the 12th FBS. In the 39FIS, James and Wakehouse flew a variety of combat missions, including close air support, interdiction and combat air patrol for search and rescue operations.

The Oregonians soon proved the capability the Air National Guard pilots.

“In Korea we had an operations officer by the name of Devol Brett. He was the only West Pointer to fly with us, and he flew a lot of missions with me,” said Wakehouse.

“We all ended up in his squadron and he



Photo courtesy of the Blue Book

Oregon Air National Guard pilot Wallace Parks attained the century mark of 100 combat missions flying the F-51 with the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, and then flew one more for a total of 101.

finished his 100 missions just like the rest of us. He always supported the National Guard from that point on, Wakehouse said.

(Note: Devol Brett also flew combat in Vietnam, was ultimately promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, and retired in 1978.)

During this phase of the Korean War in late 1951, the ground situation was stabilizing, as air and naval operations proceeded apace. The peace talks at Kaesong broke down on Aug. 23, 1951 and with concern about another possible communist ground offensive, Far East Air Forces initiated “Operation Strangle” on August 18, 1951.

Strangle was an aerial interdiction campaign designed to hamper communist supply operations. The attacks against the railroad network in northern Korea drew a response from the communist air forces, which began their own offensive from Chinese bases into Korean airspace on Sept. 1.

In three weeks time, enemy MiG jet fighters made it hazardous for any United Nations air force fighter-bombers such as the F-51 to operate in the area in the northwest part of Korea opposite the Chinese border known as “MiG Alley.”

But there were plenty of railroad targets further south which were battered, and by October and November, the rail cuts outpaced the enemy's ability to repair them. This drew a more aggressive response from the MiGs, as well as increased numbers of anti-aircraft artillery

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Wakehouse recalls Korea as a 'rugged, hot war'

Continued from Previous Page

along the enemy supply lines in this see-saw aerial interdiction battle. James and Wakehouse flew their 100 missions in this challenging environment.

For his first 20 combat missions Wakehouse flew out of Seoul City Airbase, and then the squadron moved to Hoengsong Airdrome (K-46), an airfield to the east near Wonju—which in his opinion was a bit better for flying with a mix of gravel and blacktop. He flew a total of 100 combat missions between 12 September and 16 December, 1951. On some days he flew two or three missions. On four or five days in this period he flew four missions, including three in the day and one at night. When he took off at dusk for a night mission, he dropped bombs only and didn't perform any strafing attacks.

James said the F-51 was the best aircraft for the mission and it performed great, though a hit in the engine could be a problem. He said he was hit twice during his 100 missions but it was nothing serious for the operations of the aircraft. He also thought that the aircraft maintainers did well in the rugged, hectic and demanding conditions in which they all worked.

"Our maintenance was good, once in a while there was a problem but they kept it up pretty good," James said.

Wakehouse also considered himself lucky, and was never hit in the radiator, a critical thing for the Mustang's liquid-cooled engine. If an F-51 took a hit in the radiator, it had about five minutes before the coolant was lost and the engine seized up.

"We lost a lot of buddies that would still be here if they flew the F-47. You could knock a whole cylinder off an F-47 and still fly," Wakehouse said.

(Author's note: The Republic P-47/F-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber had an air-cooled engine - requests for the propeller-driven F-47 by commanders in Korea were disapproved by HQ USAF for various reasons).

Still, the Mustang fighter-bombers performed well in the air-to-ground role, the pilots said. Wakehouse recalled one air-to-air encounter with the enemy, flying a jet fighter.

"I was dive bombing a railroad track up in MiG Alley and all at once I saw some red balls come across the top of my engine," he said. "And they were so close that I could hear them 'boomp, boomp, boomp'. I thought, 'What was that? How come those are coming horizontal?'"

Wakehouse said flak normally comes up from the ground, so taking evasive action, he dumped his bombs, looked off to his right side, and saw the MiG-15 with a big red star on the side.



Photo courtesy of the Blue Book

Oregon Air Guardsman Ernest Wakehouse celebrates completion of his 100th combat mission in Korea, which he flew on December 16, 1951.

"He made a pass on me," Wakehouse said. "(He) must have aimed for the cockpit, and just missed me by a couple of feet. I couldn't believe it. I looked over there and saw this MiG and he was just a little bit ahead of me. All this happened in five or six seconds, if I could have thought quick enough I would have kicked a little right rudder, got behind him and shot him down, but he took me for such a surprise. He had speed brakes out, he obviously overran me, and he tucked his speed brakes in then went straight up out of sight," Wakehouse said.

As for the ordnance employed in the air-to-ground missions, Wakehouse said they could either fire the rockets individually or all at once.

"It was not a very accurate weapon," Wakehouse said. "The .50-caliber machine guns—three in each wing—could be sighted to converge at 800, 1,000 or 1,500 feet in front of the aircraft. Napalm was a fearsome weapon. (I) didn't feel great about using it, but it was war."

James agreed.

"It (napalm) was awful, and we had to make sure we put it in the right place," said, James, who stressed that the most challenging aspect of weapons employment was getting the ordnance on the target.

"There were lots of misses. And lots of hits too," he said. "We blew up railroads, convoys, worked with the front line troops."

As an example of the weapons delivery challenge, the space between the rails of the enemy railroad tracks was 56-inches, and only a direct hit was effective against such a narrow target. Standard ordnance used by a fighter-bomber against the

railroad tracks was a pair of 500-lb bombs - about one-fourth of the total sorties obtained rail cuts, which was an improvement over WWII success rates against similar targets.

Wakehouse started out-flying the number four and number two wingman positions in a four-ship flight formation. Then after 30 missions, he became a flight leader. As he gained more combat experience, he took turns leading the whole squadron, and even the whole group.

James recalled an occasion when his flight was scrambled for a long seven-and-a-half-hour mission in support of a search and rescue operation for two B-29 bombers that were shot down and crashed into the Yellow Sea.

The Mustangs flew low and high cover in the area, and James recalled there were some British ships out there. This was probably the disastrous mission to Namsi on Oct. 23, 1951, also known as "Black Friday," in which communist MiG-15 jet fighters inflicted painful losses on the 307th Bomb Wing during its attack against Namsi Airfield in North Korea.



Photo courtesy of the Blue Book

Ore ANG pilot Ernest Wakehouse strikes a leisurely pose atop the nose of a Mustang in Korea during a break in operations. The name on the plane, "Myasis Dragon," described how he felt at times during his combat tour. Another F-51 pilot, Wallace Parks, looks on.

Of the 26 crewmen aboard these two bombers, five were rescued by friendly forces, including the Australian frigate HMAS Murchison and 3rd Air Rescue Squadron SA-16 "Dumbo" aircraft.

Wakehouse was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1952 for a notable mission he flew on Nov. 18, 1951. Excerpts from the citation reveal what a close fight this air war could be.

Wakehouse, then a first lieutenant, "... led a flight of four F-51 fighter planes to Sondong-ni in close support of a United Nations push," said the citation. "The flight annihilated 100 enemy troops, enabling a ROK force to take without opposition a hill which was the target of their advance. After the furious air attack, an unarmed T-6 spotter plane flew over the scene, counting the bodies of Wakehouse's 40 victims and 60 killed by the remainder of the four-plane flight," the citation continued.

Unfortunately, one Oregon Air Guardsman, 1st Lt. Orval Tandy, was brought down by enemy ground fire on his 57th mission on Sept. 5, 1951. He was captured by Chinese Communist Forces who marched him for four days to his first prisoner of war camp and he spent the rest of the war in a harsh environment.

Medical care was non-existent in the camps. No letters from home made it in or out of the camp in his first year, but back at home in Camas, Wash., Mrs. Tandy with her three small boys knew her husband was alive because of a picture that surfaced in a French communist newspaper. He eventually received seven or eight letters from home during his two years in confinement, and sent six out, badly cut up by censors.

Boredom and dysentery in the camps took their toll on the prisoners, and Tandy went from 170 pounds down to 128, but

fortunately, he survived. He was in the last group of prisoners returned after the armistice, exactly two years to the day and within an hour of the time of day at which he was shot down. He continued to serve on active duty until retirement as a lieutenant colonel in 1972, completing a 30-year career.

All together, Oregon's fighter pilots flew a total of 1,051 combat sorties in the Korean War, claimed one enemy aircraft destroyed and two more damaged. They dropped 1,056 bombs, fired 3,715 rockets, dropped 456 napalm bombs and expended 1,194,000 rounds of .50-caliber machine gun ammunition during their combat tours. Their contributions to the war effort in Operation Strangle helped forestall a communist offensive planned for the late summer of 1951 and ensured the enemy only had supplies for a static war situation.

Ironically and sadly, two of the Oregon pilots who flew combat in Korea, both World War II veterans, were lost in separate aircraft accidents after the war. Capt. Taylor White, Jr., was lost in an F-51 accident on a routine training mission from Portland on May 5, 1952, not long after surviving 100 combat missions in Korea. His Korean combat tour lasted from June 10, 1951 to December 10, 1951 and he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for "courage displayed in attacking anti-aircraft batteries in Singosan, Korea."

On June 25, 1956, Capt. Wallace Parks, who completed 101 combat missions; the extra mission "for good luck," was lost in an F-94B mishap at Gowen Field, Idaho, during the 142nd Fighter Group's summer training encampment.

At the time of his Korean War service, Wakehouse was 29 years old. He received a temporary captain's rank, but was returned to first lieutenant after he left Korea. Once he returned to the United States, he went through the ground school for the F-86 Sabre fighter jet. He had already qualified on the T-33 jet trainer, and was ready to make the transition into the jet age.

But when the Ore ANG told him he would have to sign on for a five-year commitment in order to fly the F-86, Wakehouse decided to retire from the Air Guard and returned to civilian life and his automobile dealership. James also returned to civilian life after the war to focus on raising his family.

James said flying in combat in Korea was worth the effort.

"(It was) a great, great, great feeling. There were 17 countries in Korea helping against the communists," he said.

Wakehouse visited Korea for the first time since the war, by special invitation from the South Korean government in 1995.

"They paid for the trip, as well as his stay at the best hotel in Seoul," he said.

He received an escort to the Demilitarized Zone to see Panmunjom, and North Korea beyond. Seeing how South Korea had developed since the war made him feel real good, he said.

In 2010, President Lee of the Republic of Korea sent him an invitation to visit Korea once more. James has not yet returned to Korea, but said he would like to someday.

Wakehouse and James, the last two Oregon ANG pilots who flew combat missions in Korea were reunited in April 2011 at the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Oregon Air National Guard. The two reminisced their war experiences, and caught up on things.

The two beamed with pride as they observed the modern organization they helped build, through their service in the "forgotten war."

This story is dedicated to the brave members of the Oregon Air National Guard who participated in the Korean War.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.warbirdinformationexchange.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?p=156017>

John Taylor (left) and Ernest Wakehouse stand in front of the 39FIS operations shack at an airfield in the Republic of Korea, 1951.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Witnesses in Tigard recall Valentine's Day P-51 crash

Story by Joel R. Miller,
Special to the Sentinel
Photos courtesy of Tigard Historical Assoc.

As a teenager in the 1960s, I lived at Southwest 69th Avenue and Baylor Street in the West Portland Heights area of Tigard. I knew that my next-door neighbor, Irven L. Shiley, had been an eyewitness to an aircraft crash in the mid-1940s, but he never spoke in detail of what he saw that day just a few blocks from our homes.

Recently, my interest in the incident was rekindled. I obtained a copy of the official accident report and discovered that Mr. Shiley had written one of the two witness statements included in the report.

Wanting to learn more, I searched the newspaper archives, enlisted help in finding more eyewitnesses, and thoroughly researched this event. What follows is the story.

Tragedy struck Tigard on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1946. At 2:55 p.m., 1st Lt. John W. Heaney of the 432nd AAF Base took off in a P-51H fighter plane from the Portland Army Air Base on a local training flight to check a malfunctioning compass.

A little over a half-hour into his flight, Heaney started experiencing engine trouble over southwest Portland. At 3:32, he radioed the tower that his plane's motor had died and he was going to bail out at about 2,500 feet.

However, as his aircraft rapidly descended through the thin overcast, he must have become concerned his fighter would crash into homes in the thickly populated area. He stayed with the plane as long as he could while aiming for a vacant patch of land.

Heaney finally jumped, but at an altitude of a mere 100 feet. Seconds later, at 3:33 p.m., his P-51 slammed into the ground just off Washington St., (now SW 69th Avenue)* near 5th St., (now SW Elmhurst St.), a couple of blocks west of where Landmark Ford Lincoln now is located. Miraculously, his goal of not hitting any homes proved successful.

Irven Shiley and a neighbor rushed from their homes to assist the downed pilot. Sadly, Heaney's parachute had failed to open fully and he died when he struck a



A P-51H, similar to the aircraft which 1st Lt. John Heaney was flying on Feb. 14, 1946. His plane crashed in Tigard, Ore., after experiencing mechanical problems. Heaney did not survive the crash.

power line and then a parked automobile in front of the Earl Waymire home on Washington Street near Third St., which is now SW Clinton St.

The next day, *The Oregonian* newspaper featured a story about the crash with observations from residents in the crash area. Six-year-old Sharon Sparks was walking along Washington Street when she saw the plane diving low toward her. "I ran and hid up Waymire's driveway," she said.

Mrs. Waymire was washing clothes and heard the plane's motor whistling and coughing and said, "I ran outside and there was the pilot with his open parachute around him."

Mrs. Sparks heard the plane and then her radio went dead. She then heard what she thought was someone blasting a tree stump, but what the sound turned out to be actually was the P-51 crashing with a dull boom. "Right outside the corner of the house I saw this plane. There was an awful smell of gasoline and dust filled the air," said Mrs. Sparks.

Orris Mayfield, who wrote the other statement included in the official accident report, said he saw the plane circle down just above the tree tops at which altitude the pilot jumped. Mayfield wrote, "The pilot hit the ground before the airplane and I rushed to his rescue but he was dead as I arrived..."

First Lieutenant John William Heaney was 26 years old at the time of his death. A native of Tacoma, Belmont County, Ohio, he enlisted in 1938 and attended pre-flight school in December 1942. He graduated from flight school in June 1943.

Heaney had logged 220 combat hours



Crash site photo of 1 Lt. John Heaney's P-51 aircraft, taken Feb. 14, 1946 in Tigard, Ore.

and a total flying time of 658 hours. A veteran of 65 missions over Europe in B-26 bombers during 1944, he was assigned to the Portland Army Air Base in December 1945 as an aircraft maintenance officer two months prior to his death. He was training in transition to the P-51H in which he had logged 4-1/2 hours flying time.

Among Heaney's awards were the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with nine bronze oak leaf clusters, and the European Theater of Operations (E.T.O.) Ribbon with five bronze battle stars. He is commemorated at the war memorial in Barnesville, Ohio.

John Heaney was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Heaney of Tacoma, Ohio, and a brother, Corporal George B. Heaney, who also was serving at the Air Base in Portland.

Many thanks go to my friend of 50 years and former neighbor, Leonard Shiley, whose father was Irven Shiley. Len was very young at the time but he still remembers the sounds of the sputtering P-51 and the thud of the crash. He and his mother ran down the street to see what had happened. Len put out word to his network of contacts that I was seeking information on the crash and he found two more witnesses.

Observing from a half-mile to the north near Highway 99W and Red Rock Road, which is now SW 72nd Ave. Hap Metzentine recalls seeing the P-51 going

down and his grandfather piling him into a car to drive to the scene of the crash.

An unusual recollection comes from John Winklebleck, who saw the plane go down from his grandmother's home on Varnes Rd., (now SW Varnes St.) a half-mile south of the accident.

John wrote, "How strange you should ask about this. I saw that crash. I was shooting at the aircraft with a stick and it was spooky because it was as though I had influenced it. The plane suddenly went into a nosedive and I could see the pilot and chute but he was too low and I don't think it opened."

Was John Heaney's P-51 an accident waiting to happen? One has to wonder, considering a previous problem with that particular aircraft.

On February 6, eight days before the crash, 1st Lt. A. S. Leiey flew the plane and reported that the engine momentarily cut out on takeoff and several times in the air. Whatever the answer, one thing is certain: On Valentine's Day in 1946 near Tigard, the Army Air Force lost a fine aviator in the prime of his life.

**In 1957, U. S. Post Office and Washington County officials agreed that a uniform system of street names and addresses should be extended throughout the unincorporated areas near Tigard. One result of that agreement was the street name changes in the vicinity of the P-51 crash.*

142nd Security Forces Squadron deploys



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

Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. Derek Moore, 142 Security Forces Squadron, passes the 142nd Security Forces Squadron guidon to Mr. Cameron Smith, who represented Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, during the unit's mobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Dec. 11. The unit guidon will hang in the governor's office throughout the 142 SFS deployment as a reminder of Oregon's sons and daughters who are answering the nation's call overseas.

142nd Fighter Wing honors Astoria



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

The City of Astoria becomes the 14th city in Oregon to be recognized by the 142nd Fighter Wing as part of its Cities of Honor program. The dedication ceremony was held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Feb. 21. From left to right are Mr. Jordan Schnitzer, Maj. Frank Page, Lt. Col. Chris Lantagne, Command Chief Master Sgt. Julie Eddings, Mr. Willis Van Dusen, Mayor of Astoria, Tech. Sgt. James Cripps, 142nd Fighter Wing Crew Chief, Lt. Col. Joe Harris, Chief Master Sgt. Bill Green, and Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Lt. Gen. Fiel: 125th Special Tactics Squadron is 'truly amazing'

Continued from Front Page

Purple Heart, the nation's oldest medal, first established by President George Washington on August 7, 1782, while he served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. The award features the likeness of Washington on its front.

The Bronze Star Medal is the fourth-highest combat decoration and the ninth highest U.S. military award in order of precedence. Established on Feb. 4, 1944, it may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone. When awarded for acts of heroism, the medal is awarded with the "V" device.

Fiel acknowledged the family members in the audience.

"Military families pay a heavy price in support of their loved ones in uniform so today this is your ceremony so please take the opportunity to take photographs and enjoy the time together," he said.

Presiding over the ceremony was Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard. "Today we have the opportunity to recognize the incredible work our Combat Controllers are doing when working with coalition forces to provide stabilization throughout Afghanistan," Gregg said, as the honorees sat in a row across the stage.

The current mobilization began for the unit in May 2011, as members began leaving in three separate cycles lasting six-months per deployment. The last of the three deployment cycles ended in March 2013. A total of 29 Oregon Citizen-Airmen from the 125th STS have deployed to Afghanistan since May 2011.

Combat controllers are highly-trained experts who deploy undetected into combat and hostile environments, where they perform a variety of tasks to include; establishing assault zones and air fields, conducting air traffic control, fire support, command and control, counter terrorism, as well as humanitarian missions.

During the latest cycle of deployments, the Airmen took part in over 800 combat missions, including 100 firefights, which averaged more than one every three days. Furthermore, they neutralized over 190 enemy combatants with no civilian casualties, Gregg said.

"The scope and the scale of what the combat controllers of the 125th have achieved on the battlefield in the past 15-months is nothing short of remarkable," he added. "The Airmen of the 125th are as accomplished as they are unique to the mission they support."

Master Sgt. Scott Geisser, who has been 125th STS since the unit formed in 2005, has played a critical role over the past eight years helping to build the squadron from the ground up. His actions during the deployment drew upon his tactical skills in command and control with over 100 fixed and rotary wing aircraft that supported

operations targeting Taliban insurgents in numerous fire fights.

A native of Gig Harbor, Wash., Staff Sgt. Jacob Guffey attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo for two years before joining the military, taking on two years' worth of training to become a combat controller with the 125th. In Afghanistan, he embedded with a Marine Special Operations team and Afghan Commando Battalion on complex operations to clear deeply entrenched insurgent pockets in the Helmand province. He also controlled four medical evacuations, including one while he performing treatment to a teammate who had been struck by sniper fire.

Staff Sgt. David Albright's Air Force career began as a crew chief repairing and maintaining many of the aircraft that would later support his role in theatre as a combat controller. A native of Taylor, Mich., he entered the demanding 'pipeline training' of the Combat Control courses as he transitioned to the Oregon Air National Guard in June 2008, following six years in the active duty Air Force. During his tour in Afghanistan, his team was ambushed by 20 insurgents while on patrol searching for an automatic anti-aircraft weapon. Albright quickly engaged the enemy while coordinating two close support A-10 aircraft with strafing attacks to counter the insurgents.

Once an Air Force captain, Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Dolezal traded in his commission after graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2002, to become a combat controller with the 720th Operational Support Squadron in Hurlburt Field, Fla. As a member of the Oregon Air National Guard, he is responsible for coordinating and executing training for operators in the 125th STS. He conducted more than 170 fixed wing and rotary wing attacks during his last deployment and his team was instrumental in improving relations with the local population, helping garner support for the local Afghan security forces.

Senior Airman Chadwick Boles lettered football and volleyball in high school before joining the Air Force in early 2005. Like Dolezal, he was previously assigned on active duty with the 720th Operational Support Squadron before joining the 125th STS as a drill status member. It was during his most recent deployment that Boles earned his Bronze Star with Valor for engaging the enemy under heavy fire, exposing himself to incoming rounds, while he helped save a teammate who had been shot. He also assisted in the urgent care of that member until a safe medical evacuation helicopter could be secured.

Currently a student at the University of Colorado, Tech. Sgt. Douglas Matthews first served on active duty in the Air Force from 2003 to 2008 and later became a member of the Oregon Air National Guard. Before being wounded and receiving the Purple Heart Medal from his latest deployment to Afghanistan, Matthews himself had been active in the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

"What a privilege it is to honor their extraordinary service here today," said Gregg.

In keeping with the domestic mission of the National Guard, within days of returning to Oregon, several members responded to search and rescue missions in support of "Super-Storm" Sandy.

"It is truly amazing what Air Force units like the 125th provide to the wider Special Operations teams," Fiel said.

Special operations teams are made up of Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines, and have been responsible over the last 11 years for killing or capturing more terrorist than all the conventional forces combined, Fiel added.

The 125th Special Tactics Squadron is one of only two Special Tactics units in the Air National Guard. Established on May 27, 2005, the 125th STS has deployed forces in support of numerous overseas combat deployments including; Operation



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

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Eric E. Fiel, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, speaks during an award ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Jan. 23. The event honored Airmen from the unit with five Bronze Star Medals and one Purple Heart Medal.

Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn in Iraq. They have also participated in domestic emergency response missions

such as the flooding in Vernonia, Ore., in 2007, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and the recent response efforts following Super Storm Sandy.

Kingsley Field welcomes new commander



Col. Jeremy Baenen (center) accepts the wing flag from Brigadier General Steven Gregg (left), commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, symbolizing his acceptance of command of the 173rd Fighter Wing during an official ceremony, January 13, 2013, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Col. Jeremy "Weed" Baenen, who has more than 20 years of military experience, took command of the 173rd Fighter Wing, during a change of command ceremony at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., Jan. 13.

Baenen's military experience includes 10 years with the active duty component before joining the Oregon Air National Guard in 2002. He most recently commanded the 173rd Operations Group after holding numerous positions at the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.

The official ceremony included the passing of the Wing guidon, a flag that represents the command, from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

According to Air Force protocol, the ceremony is rooted in military history, dating back to the 18th Century. During this time, organizational flags were developed representing the individual units. When a change of command took place, the outgoing commander would pass the flag to the individual assuming command. The ceremony was held in front of the entire unit so that all could witness the new commander assuming his position.

Additionally, Baenen's name was revealed on the Wing flagship F-15 Eagle as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Flowers were presented to the wives of both of the outgoing and incoming commander from the members of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Baenen replaced Col. Jeffrey "Hi-Ho" Silver, who commanded the 173rd Fighter Wing since September 11, 2011.



Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Rick Wedan, congratulates Tech. Sgt. Douglas J. Matthews, of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, following his awarding of the Purple Heart Medal at a ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Jan. 23. Matthews was joined by five of his fellow Airmen, who received Bronze Star Medals earned during recent deployments to the Middle East.

FEATURES

Gladstone High School holds leadership symposium at Withycombe



Oregon Army National Guard personnel with students from Gladstone High School, pose on the auditorium stage at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., following their Leadership Symposium, held Feb. 27.

**Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Fritsch
Oregon Army National Guard Recruiter**

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – Fifteen Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers participated in the first ever Gladstone High School Leadership Symposium at Camp Withycombe on Feb. 27.

Soldiers from Co. B, Recruiting and Retention Battalion greeted the over 80 students that arrived just past 8am, nearly all of whom had never been at Camp Withycombe before.

A combination of all grades, the students anxiously peered out the window of their school bus as they first noticed ‘Welcome Gladstone High School’ on the reader board and then the tanks located in front of the main building. But today wasn’t about tanks; it was about developing their leadership skills.

In a concept developed in partnership between Gladstone High School vice Principal Patti Alexander and Oregon Army Guard recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Pete Fritsch, the leadership symposium was designed to give the Gladstone students an opportunity to spend the day discussing leadership skills and then putting those skills to work.

“I’m very proud to be a part of this project. I’m a firm believer that the

Oregon Guard has a role in working with our community, helping these young leaders and problem solvers develop the potential that they all demonstrated today,” Fritsch said.

Prior to arriving at Camp Withycombe, the students were divided into four groups of 20, and each group decided on an issue at their school that they would like to address as students leaders.

Once the students were seated in the auditorium, State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake welcomed the students, discussed his personal leadership philosophy and then challenged the students to work hard in developing their leadership potential.

Lake then dismissed the students to their respective classrooms where their four Oregon Guard instructor teams would begin the breakout sessions and instruction.

Lt. Col. Kevin Dial, Oregon Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention commander, and Capt. Vincent Habeck, Recruiting and Retention Battalion Co. B commander, led the ‘Orange Team’ through the ‘Be, Know, Do’ process. Habeck was impressed with the students’ enthusiasm and level of engagement.

“As an instructor I was extremely proud to be able to work with the students and

want to thank them for the opportunity,” he said.

They then facilitated the group through the problem solving of their particular issue; equality for all sports teams and clubs throughout the school. After the morning training, the students all smiled as the doors opened and the pizza was delivered.

Once reconvened in the auditorium after lunch, the four student groups reported back to the larger group on what their issue was and the details of their problem solving strategy.

Faculty members said they were impressed with the students’ problem-solving skills and ideas for their respective issues.

Included in the ideas presented was the idea of a Gladstone Mentorship Program to assist incoming freshman feel comfortable in their new school.

Another novel solution was a Gladstone smart phone app which would serve as a clearing house to disseminate information on all sports events and club information throughout the week.

Assistant School Principal Alexander said the school was very proud to partner with the Oregon National Guard.

“We are grateful for this opportunity,” she said. “Our students learned a lot and

had a great day.”

Retired Sgt. Maj. Chuck Kovitch was the featured keynote speaker. He had the students on the edge of their chair as he talked to them about the power of ‘Yes’ and how attitude and motivation can be the foundation to effective problem solving and goal setting.

He said the event offered an opportunity to teach students about the basics of leadership.

“Gladstone High School and the Oregon Army National Guard now have a solid partnership educating the new leaders of tomorrow,” Kovitch said.

Each student went home with a cinch sack full of Oregon National Guard promotional items and a sweatshirt in the school’s distinctive orange and black colors, emblazoned with their Gladiator logo.

The group planned another meeting in late March to discuss the progress of their respective plans.

There is also a ROPES course at Camp Adair planned for this leadership group in early May as this unique partnership between Gladstone High School and the Oregon Guard continues to grow and develop.

Ontario recruiter settles in to new assignment in Treasure Valley

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

Roberto Gomez’s cell phone rings a lot. It rings in the middle of the day and in the morning and sometimes late at night.

Gomez isn’t a first-responder. The calls that light up his cell phone do not carry the hue of emergency musters or cries for assistance.

Instead, the calls to his cell phone symbolize the essence of his job as a recruiter for the Oregon Army National Guard.

The individuals who summon his attention on his cell phone range from young men and women to people in their late 20s or early 30s who, for one reason or another, are interested in the National Guard.

Gomez is new to the Treasure Valley. He started his new assignment at the Ontario Armory just last month but the 29-year-old staff sergeant and veteran said he is already enamored with the local area.

“I’m happy to be here,” Gomez said.

Gomez’s presence also represents a new era, not only for eastern Oregon’s Army Guard unit – the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment – but the broader military establishment.

As the 12 year war on terror fades, the American military is in the midst of change. No longer fighting two wars in different areas of the globe, the Defense Department is scaling back, cutting down its forces and actively seeking new ways to save money.

Not too long ago recruiters like Gomez could offer hefty bonus and other incentives to perspective recruits. Those days, though, are gone.

The military no longer needs the same number of soldiers it did at the height of the war on terror. Still, Gomez’s mission is unique because the unit he recruits for – the 3rd Battalion – is one of the few Guard outfits in America not locked into a cost-cutting mode. Instead the unit is actively seeking new recruits. And it has plenty of money.

The chief reason eastern Oregon’s Guard unit isn’t in the same fiscal pinch as the rest of the American military establishment is simple: A new tank.

The new battlewagon – the M1A2 SEP – is the latest high-tech upgrade to the familiar M1 Abrams main battle tank. Eastern Oregon’s 3rd Battalion is the only Guard unit in the nation to receive the new tank. Since the 3rd Battalion returned from its second deployment to Iraq in late 2011, the citizen-soldiers from eastern Oregon have been training on the new tank at the former Umatilla Army Depot.

The new armored vehicle in turn means the 3rd Battalion has a lot of space on its roster for new people and that is where Gomez fits in.

Gomez, 29, a former Milton-Freewater resident, said the Ontario area appears to be a place where service in a local Guard unit is a well-known job avenue.

“There is a lot of potential here,”

Gomez said.

Gomez said along with showing off the



Staff Sgt. Roberto Gomez, at his office in Treasure Valley, Ore. He began his assignment in January 2013, and sees lots of recruiting potential in the area.

new M1A2 SEP, his big focus is outlining the educational benefits the Guard can offer to prospective recruits. The Guard, he said, offers a host of programs to individuals who join the part-time organization and want to go to college.

“Money for many people right now is tight. So people are looking for ways to get through school,” Gomez said.

Student loan debt in America is an

often overlooked, but growing, challenge. Last May, for example, the total student loan debt load in America crossed the \$1 trillion mark.

Gomez said the Guard offers a tuition assistance program, a student loan repayment program along with two versions of the renowned GI Bill.*

Under the tuition assistance program, for example, Gomez said it is possible for the Guard to pay 100 percent of the tuition, or up to more than \$4,000 per year to a new recruit interested in college. He said the Guard’s college assistance program is a stable, but not well known, agenda.

“I’ve had a lot of kids come in and they don’t know about it,” Gomez said.

Gomez said he also offers a program called “Guard for a Day,” where prospective recruits can visit Ontario’s Guard outfit during drill one weekend a month.

“They sign a waiver and we take them to Umatilla and put them in one of the new tanks,” Gomez said.

The program pays off, Gomez said, because it offers a no-obligation opportunity for area residents interested in the Guard to secure a first-hand view of the training.

“They get a look at what they will be getting in to if they join,” Gomez said.

* Currently the National Guard’s Tuition Assistance Program has been put on hold in March due to budgetary concerns related to sequestration. As of this printing, the program is still on hold.

FEATURES



Train like you Fight

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

Nearby trees sway frantically as clouds of red smoke sweep across the empty meadow. The rotors of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter blur into nebulous dark streaks against the clear, blue sky as it hovers just inches over the rippling grass.

Soldiers, nestled into firing positions in the surrounding bushes, brace themselves against the turbulent wind, watching as their buddies move swiftly towards the helicopter to load the wounded for safe transport out of hostile territory.

This is how Soldiers with the Oregon Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spend their drill-weekend.

The infantry company conducted a large-scale training exercise simulating battlefield scenarios, March 9-10, at the Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore.

Bravo Company's headquarters is based in Coos Bay, Ore., and the unit's Detachment I, is located in St. Helens, Ore. The Fairview Training Center provided a central location where the two units could meet and train together.

"We mesh incredibly well considering we are stationed in two different places," said Sgt. Justin Gray, with Bravo Company headquarters in Coos Bay, Ore. "Today was all about

being able to adapt, overcome and succeed in what we do together, and we did just that."

The goal of the exercise was to provide realistic training for any given situation. Noise simulators provided grenade explosions.

Blank ammunition simulated an attack from the opposing force and triggered a firefight. Canisters of thick, red smoke billowed out a smoke-screen to reduce visibility.

"This is the best training we've had so far," said Spc. William Ashley, based in Coos Bay, Ore. "It's beneficial for us to be able to practice our situational awareness of any obstacles we may encounter in order to prepare us for the real thing."

The training exercise hit on key infantry skills, such as moving tactically in rough terrain, communications, obstacles, treating and evacuating the wounded, and being able to resolve any unexpected problems along the way.

"This training was great," said Cpl. Andrew J. Miller, also based out of Coos Bay, Ore. "Our commanding officer is working hard to make sure we have effective and useful training at all times."

Capt. Mark Timmons, commander of



Oregon infantry unit participates in 'challenging' training at Fairview



Left: Oregon Army National Guard Cpl. Andrew J. Miller, with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, provides roadside security in the blackberry bushes as the sun rises through the trees during a training exercise, March 9, at Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore. Photo by Spc. Erin J. Quirke.

Bravo Company, said his desire is to create challenging training to produce well-trained and motivated Soldiers for the state and nation.

"Seeking out new training areas improves the esprit de corps of the unit and challenges Soldiers with new situations and circumstances," he said.

Bravo Company took advantage of every minute during their drill weekend to 'train like they fight' by combining urban operations training with medical evacuation training using aviation assets from the Oregon National Guard's Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

Left: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers, with Bravo Co., 1-186 Infantry Regiment, carry a simulated casualty aboard a Blackhawk medical evacuation helicopter from Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation Reg., March 9, at Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore. Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

They also incorporated casualty role players who wore medical simulators which bled like real wounds until medics applied the bandages and tourniquets properly.

"The best thing about the drill this weekend with my Bravo Company was the all-out Oregon Guard effort to make it happen," said Timmons. "There were 80 Soldiers who got more out of that weekend than they have seen in a long time."

"[The combined efforts] brought a comprehensive combat view and feel to our operations that motivated my Soldiers all day and into the night," he added.

With the motivation of the Soldiers and dedication of their commander to provide new training opportunities, the unit can rise up to any challenge, emanating the 'Always Ready, Always There' motto of the Oregon National Guard.



Soldiers with the Oregon Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, prepare to assault an objective during an infantry training exercise at the Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore., March 9. Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs.

Left: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier, with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, runs to a firing position, March 9, at Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore. Infantry units based out of Coos Bay and St. Helens, Ore., met in Salem to participate in a training exercise which simulates battlefield scenarios. Photo by Spc. James Dilger, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

2013 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event – Bend, Oregon Armed Forces Reserve Center, Bend, Oregon April 11, 2013, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ESGR is proud to be a major sponsor of this upcoming hiring event at the Bend Armory. We encourage Soldiers, veterans and family members seeking employment or better employment to attend this event.

For more information on registration please visit: HOH.GreatJob.net

For registration questions, please contact us at hiringourheroes@uschamber.com or call 202-463-5807.

This American Legion sponsored hiring event is being conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the Oregon Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, Hero 2 Hired, WorkSource Oregon, the Bend, Ore., Chamber of Commerce, the Redmond, Ore., Chamber of Commerce, NBC News, and other local partners.

NEWS

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden visits town hall honoring Korea War veterans

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

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden visited the Oregon National Guard's Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas, Ore., Jan. 15, for a Polk County town hall meeting and ceremony honoring Korea War veterans.

The town hall was Wyden's 652nd in Oregon and is part of a commitment from the Senator to hold at least one town hall political forum in every Oregon county, each year.

Wyden praised the audience at the town hall for asking good questions.

"Thanks for keeping government working the way the Founding Fathers wanted it to be," Wyden said to the audience.

Wyden, who has been a strong supporter of the military and the Oregon National Guard, took the opportunity to recognize Korea War veterans in the wake of the U.S. Senate passing a declaration on Nov. 27, 2012, officially designating 2012-2013 the year of the Korea War vet.

The commemoration is occurring on the 60 year anniversary of the Korean War to honor contributions and sacrifices made by Korea War veterans.

In addition to recognizing Korea War veterans, Wyden mentioned the Oregon National Guard Service Member and Family Support Program, which he called a national leader in veterans' services.

"The Korea War has always been considered the forgotten war and we don't believe it should be forgotten," said Tom Towslee, communications director for Ron Wyden. "It was time to say thank you for your service."

Korea War veteran Jim "Jimbo" Fagundes proudly accepted a framed copy of the resolution from Wyden on behalf of Korea War veterans and said he felt like he was walking on air after receiving the award.

"This is for all the veterans of the Korea War," said Jimbo. "There were 53,000 men lost over there and we pray for their families, and pray for the veterans that are still with us."



Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, who visited the Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas, Ore. Jan. 15, for a Polk County town hall meeting and ceremony honoring Korea War veterans, presents Jim "Jimbo" Fagundes with a framed copy of a U.S. Senate resolution which was passed on Nov. 27, 2012, officially designated 2012-2013 the year of the Korea War vet.

Focus on Oregon veterans program redoubled

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

SALEM, Ore. – An Oregon National Guard jobs program geared toward veterans, is showing signs of progress against the lingering and troubling unemployment riddle among America's former warriors.

The agenda, dubbed the Joint Transition Program, was initially designed to help veterans of the global war on terror but expanded to furnish assistance to veterans of other conflicts.

In the past year the program found jobs for more than 300 veterans across Oregon. That effort translated into nearly \$8 million in savings for the state, according to the program's former manager, Oregon Guardsman Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques.

"We've also put a lot of people into college," Jacques said.

Jacques, a veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom, managed the JTAP program for more than a year. He said the Joint Transition Program is one of those "best-kept" secrets that made positive, and measurable, progress regarding veteran's employment.

"No one else in the country has documented their reintegration process like we have," Jacques said.

Reintegration is the military term used to describe the process a soldier wades through after they finish their time overseas or on active duty and return to civilian life. Oregon does not contain any active duty military bases but its Guard force spent the past 10 years weathering multiple deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

For example, eastern Oregon's biggest Guard unit, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, deployed to Iraq twice in six years – in 2004 and 2010. Other Oregon Guard units faced as similar deployment schedule since 2003.

Many of those Guardsmen returned home to a bleak economic picture and, in rural areas of the state like Eastern Oregon, faced the specter of long-term unemployment.

Midway through the global war on terror, top Oregon Guard leaders recognized that many of their citizen-soldiers, after spending 12 or more months overseas in a combat zone, faced a host of challenges – including unemployment – when they returned home from serving their state and nation.

The JTAP program, Jacques said, was originally crafted to be a full-spectrum resource for returning warriors. From assistance with mental health issues to helping Guardsmen utilize their educational benefits earned while deployed, JTAP assigned program managers to every part

of Oregon.

As the global war on terror winds down, though, JTAP increasingly shifted its focus to unemployed veterans.

The troubling unemployment picture for post 9/11 veterans, or Gulf War II era vets – those who served after the deadly Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks – continues to linger in America and Oregon. According to data released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Gulf War era II veterans soared from 9.1 in January 2012 to 11.7 percent in January 2013.

In Oregon, also, the unemployment picture for post 9/11 veterans also remains high. In 2012, according to the Oregon Employment Department, the unemployment rate for Gulf War II era veterans stood at 16.9 percent – up from the 9.9 percent nationwide rate for same group of returning warriors.

In contrast, the unemployment rate for World War II, Korea War and Vietnam-era veterans was 7.2 percent in 2012.

Guard and Reserve soldiers are often hit the hardest regarding job challenges, Ted Daywalt, the CEO and President of VetJobs, a leading military employment Web site, said.

"Veteran people in the Guard and Reserve today are getting screwed. Guys who separate totally (from active service) are getting jobs. Wounded warriors who can and want to, are, for the most part, getting jobs," Daywalt said.

Daywalt said the use of the Guard and Reserve during the past several years in the global war on terror translates into a "back-door draft." He added the unemployment challenge for post 9/11 veterans, including Guardsmen and Reservists, isn't going to go away anytime soon.

"It's been this big gorilla sitting in the corner. The use of the Guard and the Reserves is only going to go up. We have a unique situation where no longer is the active Army the biggest fighting force. Now it is the Guard," he said.

Yet the unemployment barricade for post 9/11 veterans isn't confined to Guard and Reservists. Just ask Katriel Calderon.

Calderon, who grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and joined the Army in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He spent four years on active duty, deployed and returned home and left the military on honorable terms. Yet when he started the process to find a job, he said the effort proved to be difficult and discouraging.

"It was terrible. A lot of people who interviewed me asked me if I deployed and I said, 'sure.' And then they'd be like 'Are you OK now?'" he said

Calderon said he began to prepare resumes and seek possible job leads even



Retired Lt. Col. Ricardo Gloria, a member of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program chats with a soldier at the Ontario Readiness Center. The JTAP program, with representatives across the state, has proved to be a success since its inception.

before he separated from the Army in the hope he could secure a head start on the process. The effort didn't help he said.

"I had three resumes done before I left the Army. I started (looking for a job) in January and by June and July I started to get a little worried," he said.

Eight months after he started his journey for employment, Calderon said he gave up. "I threw in the towel," he said.

Then Calderon took matters into his own hands and started his own property management company. Now, more than two years later, Calderon traces his success to the values he learned in the military.

"Adapt, overcome. I was tenacious in getting new clients. The tenacity I learned in the Army helped," he said.

Closer to home, Jacques said the very elements central to a successful military career on deployment translates into highly qualified job candidates for any firm. He said JTAP honed in on the distinctive work ethics of veterans to not only help them find jobs but also educate employers. Jacques said the success rate of the JTAP program speaks for itself.

"Without a doubt this is the most successful program in the nation," he said.

Jacques said the challenges faced by post 9/11 veterans – and all veterans – regarding employment and other issues will not disappear. Even as America winds down its war on terror, the aftereffect of more than 10 years of conflict will be felt into the future.

"The war is not wrapping up for these guys, for these veterans. It is not ever going to be over," he said.

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**Retiree Office has
new website and
access info**

The Oregon Retiree Service Office website, <http://ormretirees.info/> will soon be phased out.

It has been merged with the new Oregon National Guard "Service Member and Family Support" (SMFS) website

Please use the link www.ormg-smfs.org to access the new website then select the **RETIREMENT** menu tab for the retiree web pages.

To contact the Retiree Office, call 503-584-2891, or toll free 1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891, or email NG.OR.ORARNG.LIST.MBMGT-J1-RSO@MAIL.MIL

You can also visit the office on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. They are located at the Anderson Readiness Center, Room 243, located at 3225 State St., in Salem.

NEWS BRIEFS

March is National Women's History Month

Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination was the theme of National 2013 Women's History Month celebrated each March. The theme honors generations of women who throughout American history have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Those attributes describe Oregon aviatrix, Hazel Ying Lee of Portland, Ore., who was the first Chinese-American woman to not only fly a U.S. military aircraft during World War II, but also serve as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, (WASP). Look for her story on page 16.

DoD cuts tuition assistance to military

WASHINGTON (3/13/13) – The Air Force suspended military tuition funding the first week of March, in the wake of sequestration that led to the Army stop of such payments on March 8.

"This is an additional step the Air Force unfortunately had to take to operate within mandated budget limitations," said Michael Donley, the secretary of the Air Force.

"We know how education strengthens our force," he said. "We encourage Airmen to continue their pursuit of higher education through the variety of programs that are available."

Those include the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty, (Chapter 30), Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606), Reserve Education Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), the Post 9/11 GI Bill, federal grants and federal financial aid. National Guard Airmen may also be eligible for their state's individual TA benefits.

"Believe me, this was a tough decision because our Air Force truly values education," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody. "We're still looking at the impacts for fiscal year 14 and will do our best to have TA reinstated, although we'll likely need to review the eligibility requirements to ensure sustainability."

Airmen should contact their local education centers with questions and to get updates.

On the Army side:

Funding for tuition assistance ceased March 8 and Soldiers cannot submit new requests for tuition assistance, according to Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, deputy chief of staff, G-1.

Soldiers from both the active and reserve components are affected.

Those currently enrolled in courses approved for TA are not impacted and will be allowed to complete their funded coursework.

National Guard Soldiers may be eligible for state-funded TA benefits. Federal loans or grants are another option for all Soldiers, as well as their families.

Soldiers are encouraged to contact their local education centers with any question they may have regarding their education needs and planning, according to officials from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs/Army G-1. Also, updates on any changes to the TA funding will be posted to <http://www.goarmyed.com>.

This suspension in funding "is necessary given the significant budget execution challenges caused by the combined effects of a possible year-long continuing resolution and sequestration," the G-1 public affairs office wrote in a statement.

Soldiers can continue their education using alternate methods.

GI Bill funding, which is derived from the Department of Veterans Affairs, is available and Soldiers can continue their education using this benefit.

The GI Bill includes the Montgomery GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill and several other education programs listed on its website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/index.html>

Army Reserve offers trial defense services in Salem

The 4133 Regional Trial Defense Team Headquarters and 653rd Trial Defense Team, Oregon Element, JAG Trial Defense Service, Oregon Army National Guard, has moved to the Salem Reserve Center, room 202.

The Reserve Center is located at 775 Airport Road, SE, in Salem just down from the Oregon Military Department. The Oregon Trial Defense Service or "TDS" primarily provides military justice defense advice and representation, and assistance in adverse military administrative matters for members of the Oregon Army National Guard.

TDS is a Traditional Soldier organization with no full time manning. Office hours are 0830 - 1630 only during the JFHQ IDT drill weekends, and usually by appointment. The TDS does not provide representation in civilian court.

Information on services, requesting legal advice and military related legal subjects is available online at www.Oregon.gov/OMD/JAG. Contact TDS personnel by phone at (503) 269-5523 or by email at NG.OR.ORARNG.list.JAG-4133-TDS@mail.mil.

Certain disabled veterans may qualify for property tax exemptions

If you are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse or registered domestic partner (partner)* of a veteran, you may be entitled to exempt \$17,911 or \$21,493 of your homestead property's assessed value from property taxes.

The exemption amount increases by 3 percent each year. The exemption is first applied to your home and then to your taxable personal property.

If you are an Oregon resident and a qualifying veteran or a veteran's surviving spouse/partner and live in your home, you may file a claim and receive the exemption.

How do I qualify for a \$17,911 exemption? First, you must meet one of these requirements:

- Be a veteran who is officially certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as having disabilities of 40 percent or more; or

- Be a veteran who served with the United States Armed Forces and is certified each year by a licensed physician as being 40 percent or more disabled. However, there is an income limit. In the year prior to the exemption year, your total gross income cannot be more than 185percent of the annual Federal Poverty Level Guidelines.

Total gross income includes pensions, disability compensation, and retirement pay received for your military service. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes new Federal Poverty Level Guidelines every February. The updated current year guideline is used for that exemption year. You can see these guidelines online at aspe.hhs.gov/poverty; or,

- Be a veteran's surviving spouse/partner who has not entered into a new marriage or registered domestic partnership (partnership). You may file a claim for the exemption even though your spouse/partner was not disabled or never filed a claim for the exemption if disabled. (See the definition under "Who is a veteran?" to determine your eligibility as the surviving spouse/partner.) Second, you must own and live on your homestead property.

Buyers with recorded contracts of purchase and life estate holders are considered owners for the purposes of this exemption. Temporary absences due to vacation, travel or illness do not disqualify you from the program.

How do I qualify for a \$21,493 exemption?

First, you must meet one of these requirements:

- Be a veteran who is officially certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United

States Armed Forces as having service-connected disabilities of 40 percent or

more; or

- Be a veteran's surviving spouse/partner who has not entered into a new marriage or partnership and the veteran died due to service-connected injury or illness, or the veteran received at least one year of the maximum exemption. (See the definition under "Who is a veteran?" to determine your eligibility as the surviving spouse/partner.)

Second, you must own and live on your homestead property. Buyers with recorded contracts of purchase and life

estate holders are considered owners for the purposes of this exemption. Temporary absences due to vacation, travel or illness do not disqualify you from the program.

Who is a veteran?

To qualify for the exemption, you must be a U.S. citizen who has been a member of the United States Armed Forces and you were discharged or released under honorable conditions. At least one of these requirements must also be met:

- Served at least 91 consecutive days beginning on or before January 31, 1955.

- Served at least 179 consecutive days beginning after January 31, 1955.

- Served for 178 days or less and was discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions because of a service-connected disability.

- Served for 178 days or less and has a disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Served for at least one day in a combat zone.

- Received a combat or campaign ribbon or an expeditionary medal for service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

- Be receiving a non-service connected pension from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information, visit Oregon Taxpayer assistance at 503-378-4988, or toll free: 1-800-356-4222. You may also visit www.oregon.gov/dor.

Army CAC-holders migrate to new system

Starting in February 2013, NETCOM started migrating AKO mail users emails to the DoD Enterprise Email (EE) system.

The migration only includes AKO email. Calendars and contacts did not migrate.

This migration applied to Soldiers, government civilians and contractors who have a CAC, generally do not regularly use a government computer, or who do not use another Army-provided email service to do their job.

Deployed Soldiers who have not migrated to EE can continue to use AKO Webmail until they re-deploy.

Individuals who are retirees, even if they have a CAC for another role (e.g. a retiree who is also an Army civilian or contractor), will maintain their AKO email. Retirees, family members and other AKO users without CACs will continue to use AKO email; they will not be migrating to EE.

Once migrated, email addressed to AKO accounts (@us.army.mil) are automatically forwarded to EE accounts (@mail.mil).

Although AKO email addresses remain valid, the migrated user no longer has the associated AKO mail storage, mail handling capability, or mail interface previously provided by AKO.

EE requires the use of a CAC for login; EE accounts are only accessible through a Web browser on a computer with a CAC reader.

Since EE supports the use of virtually any Web browser and any operating system, almost any computer can be used. The only requirement is that the computer be configured to use the CAC reader for login.

Accessing EE by username and password is not allowed. Users who currently access AKO with a CAC will be able to access EE using the same computer(s). Those who currently access AKO webmail using only a username/password should take the steps necessary to configure their computer(s) to be accessible using a CAC. Waiting to address the issue until email migration begins could result in interrupted access.

There are several differences between AKO email and EE that users need to be aware of. Specifically, email cannot be

accessed:

- Via Outlook (and the AKO Outlook connector) using a non-government computer.

- From personal mobile devices, as these typically require either IMAP or POP protocols.

- Using IMAP/POP protocols from a commercial email client (e.g., Outlook or Thunderbird), as these do not support the mandated CAC PKI certificate authentication requirement.

DoD launches smart phone app for Safe Helpline

The Department of Defense announced its new DoD Safe Helpline Mobile Application. With this new app, service members transitioning to civilian life will have access to critical resources that assists in managing the short and long-term effects of sexual assault.

This new app is the latest in a string of technological innovations designed to support sexual assault victims in the military. The app contains the option for users to record their current emotional state and create tailored self-care plans to address sadness, hopelessness and disconnection. These self-care plans include suggested resources and exercises, and can be stored for future reference. This includes a list of breathing, stretching and visualization techniques that can reduce anxiety, depression and symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

"Victims want to choose when and where they get support so we are using technology to provide them as many options as possible," said DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office Director Maj. Gen. Gary S. Patton. "This new app tied into the Safe Helpline is another tool to provide support to military victims of sexual assault."

Users can connect with live sexual assault response professionals via phone or anonymous online chat from their mobile devices for support. Users can also navigate resources (e.g., disability assistance, medical benefits, housing help and employment assistance), or search for resources near their base or installation. The Safe Helpline mobile app is for short-term self-care and is not to be used as a substitute for professional medical advice or a mental health treatment plan.

The DoD Safe Helpline Mobile App is free and available for download from the Apple and Android app stores. DoD administers Safe Helpline via a contract with the non-profit Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

Additional information regarding the Department's Sexual Assault and Response Office can be found at <http://www.sapr.mil/>

Letters to the Editor**SFS commander grateful for unit mob support**

I just wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt "thank you" to all the folks that made today's mobilization ceremony a success.

It meant a lot to the families and the deployers. The efforts of everyone were truly appreciated, and were definitely noticed.

There are a myriad of unsung heroes that worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and you are among them.

The ceremony could not have gone any better and that success is a direct result of your dedication and commitment.

Thank you, from the men & women of the 142d Security Forces Squadron!

Maj. Richard T. Walmsley,
Commander,
142nd Security Forces Squadron

AZUWUR



WASP members contributed to WWII effort

Chinese-American and Portland native WASP one of 1,100 who served during war

Story by Mike Allegre,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

During World War II, a select group of young women pilots became pioneers, heroes, and role models. They were the members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) -- the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft.

The war was an historical time and aviation history was rewritten as nearly 1,100 WASP serve their nation during the 1940s. Portland native Hazel Ah Ying Lee added to that historical chapter when she became the first Chinese-American woman to fly a military plane and one of the few women to die in the line of duty.

Lee fell in love with flying at a time when less than one percent of American pilots were women. After earning her pilot's license in 1932, Lee couldn't serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps, so she wanted to fly for the Chinese Air Force against Japan.

Yet, there too, she was not allowed to fly for the Chinese. Lee remained in China until 1938 and contributed to that nation's war effort in other ways.

Upon returning to New York City, Lee worked for the Chinese government as a buyer of war materials for China, but by 1943, she learned about an opportunity to fly military aircraft as a WASP.

She applied and was accepted to begin



Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
Hazel Ah Ying Lee in uniform during WWII.

formal training at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas.

Lee was considered by her peers to be a fine aviator with an added strong, fun personality. Former WASP Anna (Flynn) Monkiewicz, 93, of The Dalles, Ore., was stationed with Lee in Michigan. She recalls the Portland native as a prankster and a nice person.

"Once while she was in a restaurant

with a bunch of the girls, Hazel pretended not to understand English and ordered in Chinese," Monkiewicz said.

"It was funny because the waiter wasn't sure what to do. I flew with her on a few missions from Michigan, but usually she was flying planes in one direction and I flew in another. She was a very good pilot," she added.

During one training flight, Lee made an emergency landing in a farmer's field in Kansas. Mistaking her for a Japanese pilot, the farmer held her at "pitchfork point." She finally stood her ground, told the farmer who she was and demanded that he put the pitchfork down. He complied.

After graduating Aug. 7, 1943 (Class 43 W-4), Lee joined the Air Transport Command's 3rd Ferrying Squadron at Romulus, Michigan and began ferrying trainer and liaison type aircraft. She and Flynn-Monkiewicz were two of only 134 WASP to complete Pursuit School which allowed them to ferry advanced fighter aircraft.

In late-November 1944, she was to fly a new Bell P-63 King Cobra to Great Falls, Mont. As a large number of P-63's approached the airport at the same time, there was confusion in the control tower.

While landing, Lee's plane and another P-63 collided. She survived the fiery crash, but died from the burns she received in the

accident.

Only three days after learning of Lee's death, her family received another telegram. Lee's brother, Victor had been killed in combat in France while serving with the U.S. Army Tank Corps.

As the family made funeral preparations they chose a burial site in Portland. Yet, the cemetery refused to allow the family to bury Lee and Victor in the chosen spot, citing cemetery policy that did not allow Asians to be buried "in the White section."

After a lengthy battle, the Lee family prevailed and the female aviatrix was laid to rest in a non-military funeral. She was buried alongside her brother on a sloping hill in Riverview Cemetery.

Her death at age 32 made Lee's personal history a little sadder. She was in love and had agreed to marry a man in China when the war ended. Although they had not yet wed, she listed him as next-of-kin on her WASP personnel records.

It took nearly a year before military officials could locate this man to notify him of Lee's death. He was serving in the mobile Chinese army.

Lee, one of 30 Oregonians who completed WASP flight training, was the last of the 38 WASP to die in service to their country. In her lifetime, she flew more than 70 different aircraft and died doing what she loved: flying.

USS Pueblo remembered as nation begins 50th anniversary of Vietnam War

Story by Mike Allegre,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

Historical wartime incidents are part of the fabric of how history is written. During the Vietnam War, one incident that resonated worldwide involved the capture of a United States Navy spy ship and the death of a sailor from Oregon.

With the U.S. battling the war in Southeast Asia on the front lines and protestors on the home front, the capture of the USS Pueblo (AGER-2) by the North Korean navy on Jan. 23, 1968 may be described as one of the Cold War's darkest moments. It would become known as the Pueblo incident or Pueblo crisis.

For years afterwards what had happened leading up to the incident, and if the crew was actually culpable, isn't totally clear. Yet the 11 month ordeal that followed for 82 members of that crew caught the free world's attention when North Korea captured the sailors and held them captive for allegedly spying while operating inside North Korean waters.

The newly refitted World War II merchant ship was on its first operational mission that was tasked by the U.S. Naval Security Group Command in Japan. It was to be a period primarily for testing. With no current information available on hostile activities by North Korean forces, the officer in charge at US CINCPACFLT assigned the mission a risk assessment of "minimal."

Following some refitting and repairs, Pueblo departed Sasebo, Japan on Jan. 11, and headed northward through the Tsushima Strait into the Sea of Japan to

begin her mission; the surveillance of North Korean naval activity, monitoring and recording of Korean coastal radars and surveillance of soviet naval units operating in Tsushima Strait.

Radio contact between Pueblo and the Naval Security Group was ongoing and Seventh Fleet command was soon fully aware of Pueblo's precarious and dangerous situation.

As the incident unfolded, crews from three North Korean gunboats and a sub chaser ordered Pueblo's captain, Lt. Commander Lloyd M. "Pete" Bucher, to halt. Bucher checked his bearings and announced to the North Koreans that he was in international waters.

The North Korean war vessels, armed with .57mm cannons and machine guns, signaled Bucher to "heave to or they would open fire."

Bullets then raked the ship's superstructure. A cannon round struck the radar mast and bridge wounding Bucher and two others. Orders were given to immediately destroy all classified material and go to a modified General Quarters (no hands above deck).

Pueblo's .50 caliber guns sat mounted on the starboard and stern rails wrapped in frozen tarps. With the ammunition stored below, no attempt was made to man them.

Bucher then ordered Pueblo to follow the escorting vessels, but later he ordered the ship stopped just outside of what he believed to be North Korean waters.

The North Koreans once again fired upon the ship. The last salvo killed Fireman Duane D. Hodges of Creswell, Ore. and injured several other men who had been destroying documents.

Pueblo then resumed her course towards Wonsan under escort. U.S. air cover had been promised but never arrived. After North Korean boat crews boarded Pueblo, her crew had their hands tied, they were blindfolded, beaten, and prodded with bayonets. This began an 11 month ordeal that would result in the physical and psychological torture of the crew and in particular their captain.

Some of the crew reported upon release that they were starved and regularly tortured while in North Korean custody. This treatment allegedly turned worse when the North Koreans realized that crewmen were



Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

The North Korean government moved the USS Pueblo from Wonsan to Pyongyang in the late-1990s. Last December, Florida Congressman Vern Buchanan asked the House Foreign Affairs Committee to request that North Korean return the 70 year-old vessel to the U.S.



Fireman Duane D. Hodges of Creswell, Ore.

secretly giving them "the finger" in staged propaganda photos.

Bucher was psychologically tortured. At one point he was put through a mock firing squad in an effort to make him confess. Eventually the Koreans threatened to execute his men in front of him, and

Bucher relented and agreed to "confess to his and the crew's transgression."

Following an apology, a written admission by the U.S. that Pueblo had been spying, and an assurance that the U.S. would not spy in the future, the North Korean government released the 82 remaining crew members. On Dec. 23, 1968, the crew was bussed to the DMZ border with South Korea and ordered to walk one by one south across the "Bridge of No Return."

Bucher led the long line of crewmen across the bridge. The U.S. then verbally retracted the ransom admission, apology, and assurance.

Bucher, his officers and crew subsequently appeared before a Navy Court of Inquiry. A court martial had been recommended for Bucher and the officer

in charge of the research dept., Lt. Steve Harris. Then-Secretary of the Navy, John H. Chafee, rejected the recommendation stating, "They have suffered enough."

U.S. Navy authorities and the Pueblo's crew insist that before the capture, Pueblo was miles outside North Korean territorial waters. The North Koreans claim the vessel was well within North Korean territory. The ship's former Executive Officer, Lt. Edward R. Murphy, Jr., stated years later in his book, *Second in Command*, "In fact, the 'Charts and records' do not support the intrusions claimed by North Korea, but show them to be navigational impossibilities."

Bucher was never found guilty of any indiscretions and continued his Navy career until retirement. He died in Jan. 2004.

The Pueblo's website reports only 66 of the 83 original crewmen survive today. Four of those sailors were reportedly Oregonians: Hodges, Earl M. Kisler of Canby, Kenneth R. Wadley, Woodburn, and Michael A. O'Bannon, Newberg. A memorial bearing Hodges' name is in Creswell, Ore., where he is buried.

Today, the Pueblo is the only commissioned ship of the U.S. Navy currently being held captive. It's tethered near the capital of Pyongyang, treated by the North Koreans as a war trophy.



Photo courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

The USS Pueblo at sea in late-1967 after being refitted in Bremerton, Wash. Named FS-344 in WWII, she was renamed the Pueblo in April 1966.