



Who are the best of the best Oregon Soldiers? Check out Page 6



Oregon Soldiers train with multi-national force in Nepal: Page 8, 9

# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon hosts Vietnam delegation, kicks off partnership with workshop



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

*Oregon; one of few states partnered with two countries*

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

**PORTLAND, Ore.**--The Oregon National Guard hosted a delegation from the Vietnam People's Army as part of its ongoing State Partnership Program, April 14-19.

The Vietnam delegation visited the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Ore., and the State Capitol in Salem, where they met with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, and several Oregon legislators for a brown-bag lunch session.

Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People's Army, led the delegation, which included experts in law, marine shipping, military science, finance planning and investment, and international relations. Senior Col. Nguyen Xuan Kien, Vice Director of Military Medical Department of the Vietnam People's Army, was also a part of the delegation.

The week of visits to Oregon National Guard facilities culminated in an SPP workshop held in Portland, April 17-19. The workshop included experts in several fields including academics, economics, port and maritime security, humanitarian aid, search and rescue, and renewable energy.

"There are three of us here who in 1969

See **Organizers** on Page 12

A delegation from Vietnam joins Oregon National Guard leadership for a visit to the Vietnam War Memorial at Washington Park in Portland, Ore., April 17. From left to right: Senior Captain Mai Tat Thang, American Desk Officer, Vietnam People's Army; Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Assistant Adjutant General (Air); Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People's Army; and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon. The delegation's week-long visit to Oregon was part of the State Partnership Program, and included a workshop, April 17-19. Both Khue and Rees are veterans of the Vietnam War.

## Oregon's 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returns home

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were welcomed home during a demobilization ceremony, May 5, at the West Salem High School gymnasium, in Salem.

The unit mobilized 14 Citizen-Soldiers to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit commander is Maj. Jim Miller, and the first sergeant is 1st Sgt. William Boyd.

During their deployment, the public affairs team produced more than 700 broadcast products, 75 print stories, and more than 600 photos that were downloaded more than 2,500 times, and used by news media agencies around the world.

Their stories covered the ongoing retrograde in Afghanistan for all coalition forces. They also embedded more than 80 journalists from various news agencies throughout the world, to help tell the story of what was happening in Regional Command East.

The 115 MPAD mentored and provided training to the 201st Corps and 203rd Corps Afghan National Army (ANA) on public affairs operations.

They helped both Corps public affairs offices successfully embed journalists in their area of operations for the first time ever to tell the story of the ANA. This



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

Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard's 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment huddle together for a final team shout, marking the end of their mission during their demobilization ceremony at the West Salem High School gymnasium, in Salem, Ore., May 5. The ceremony celebrated the unit's return to Oregon from Afghanistan.

increased the ANA's capabilities to tell their own internal story and provided a basis for public affairs to be an integral part of operations at the Corps level.

This was the third deployment for the 115

MPAD. The unit was federally mobilized to Bosnia in 1998-1999 for Operation Joint Forge and to Iraq in 2007-2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and The Global War on Terror.

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## COMMAND

## Oregon and Vietnam: A Partnership I Never Imagined



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

**THE STATE PARTNERSHIP** Program over the last 20 years has been a phenomenal success, building good relations and promoting goodwill around the world.

But it recently became personally rewarding to me beyond anything I could imagine.

I graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in June 1966 and commissioned into the Regular Army. As author Rick Atkinson accurately described in his book *The Long Gray Line*, my graduating class knew that we were going to Vietnam.

And from December 1968 through November 1969, that is exactly where I was.

Just as it is for our soldiers today, a year in a combat zone provides many experiences.

But I never once thought about someday working with the people I was fighting.

Commanding a cavalry troop in the 101st Airborne Division in 1969 was

demanding. From Hue to the Ashau Valley, we faced North Vietnamese troops that were well equipped and motivated. The Viet Cong had been eviscerated after Tet '68.

Our base of operations was Camp Eagle, a sprawling outpost south of Hue. The launching and recovery of masses of helicopters was nearly constant. So was the threat of death. I lost five good men to enemy action.

Four decades later, when Oregon had



Capt. Raymond F. Rees at his desk at Camp Eagle near Hue in then-South Vietnam during the Vietnam War in 1969.

the opportunity to become a state partner with Vietnam, I most certainly had mixed emotions.

In 2011, the Oregon National Guard dedicated a new facility, the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Readiness Center in Clackamas, Ore. It was named after the Guard division that fought the Japanese all over the Pacific in World War II.

At the ceremony for the readiness center more than 65 years later, Americans and Japanese stood together with a shared vision of a 21st century partnership.

I am certain these men who fought so many years before had mixed emotions, but they were there not just to mark the past but to look ahead to the future.

This event, along with a successful Oregon relationship with Bangladesh in the State Partnership Program, led me to see the vision and validity of moving forward with Vietnam.

Our initial meetings with the Vietnamese were quite successful. There was professional rapport at all levels, but I felt a personal bond with Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, the Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People's Army.

While I was a 24 year-old troop commander in 1969, he was serving in the same area as a 19 or 20 year-old combat engineer/sapper on the other side of the wire.

It was obvious we had a mutual desire to not repeat those tragic circumstances, and to build a successful partnership beneficial to

our nations and our soldiers.

We signed an official partnership agreement last November at the Ministry of Defense in Hanoi.

Much has changed since 1969. Camp Eagle is unrecognizable, overgrown with trees and jungle. A major highway runs through the Ashau Valley. Khe Sanh is a coffee plantation, and Hanoi is a bustling, modern city.

I will retire in July, 44 years after departing the fight in Vietnam. In the weeks ahead, I will host an April seminar with our Vietnamese partners. I am excited about that, especially since it will provide the opportunity to visit with my new friend, General Khue.

The two of us will have memories to share, but the new generation of American, Oregon and Vietnamese leaders, with iPads and smartphones and global perspectives, will get the chance to create their own memories.

It is my hope that Staff Sgt. Raymond Torres, Sgt. Harry Yingling, Pfc. William Bobo, Spc. 4 Charles Stockbauer and Pfc. Santos Rivera Jr., D Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division, would approve of this initiative and find it a worthy tribute to their service.

*This article was previously published in the March 2013 issue of National Guard Magazine.*

*See related articles on the front page, and Page 4.*



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

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, recognized Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People's Army, following the conclusion of the State Partnership Program Workshop held in Portland, Ore., April 17-19.

## Air Force first sergeants need our full support

A first sergeants' duties and responsibilities are very demanding but also very rewarding. This is not a grade, but a special duty designation serving in a time-honored position, rich in custom and tradition.

Their main responsibility is as an advisor to the commander on a wide range of topics that impact our Airmen. These topics include but are not limited to their health, progressive discipline, career progression, professional development, and esprit de corps.

Further, they are expected to epitomize the highest qualities of the senior noncommissioned officer by always remaining perceptive and credible, and to exemplify the core values at all times. Those qualities and characteristics are identified during the selection and training process and observed throughout our wing.

The special duty position of the first sergeant starts with stringent screening and application process. Upon a commander's selection, the applicant attends the First Sergeant's Academy and following graduation, he/she is awarded the "diamond", the distinctive symbol of the first sergeant. The wearer of this prestigious emblem signifies the completion of three weeks of rigorous academics and physical training aiming to successfully prepare them for their First Sergeant roles.

The 142nd Fighter Wing has both drill and dual status Guardsmen assigned to the first sergeant positions-for a total of eight positions within our wing. Although there may be a variety of reasons for applying, the common motivator is to want to make a difference in the lives of Airmen.

Their sense of duty is extraordinary and doesn't end with the conclusion of any given drill. Without hesitation, first sergeants

respond to requests for assistance from distressed/concerned Airmen during all hours, deployed families, and commanders who require the "first shirt's" expertise in collecting data, researching, and/or formulating memorandums for administrative actions.

Appropriately, these distinctive NCOs are visible and are observed performing military duties outside of Unit Training Assemblies and Annual Training. There may be a need to balance the duties of both first sergeant and the technician. If that's the case, units are expected to resolve those issues at the lowest level.

Requiring dual-status first sergeants to remove the diamond between drills is not an accepted practice and will no longer be required.

Our first sergeants have earned the privilege of wearing the diamond as long as they hold the 8F000 AFSC, and they will be afforded the prestige of displaying the insignia as the primary uniform, especially while performing technician duties. They need our full support in being able to perform all duties assigned to them.



Command Chief Master  
Sgt. Julie Eddings,  
142nd FW Command  
Chief Master Sergeant

## NEWS

## Army Guard Soldiers take advantage of Army's new professional development program

Story by Sgt. Darron Salzer  
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (4/16/13) – For Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, the Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, the Army's new Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Program speaks to him not only as a Soldier taking care of troops, but also in his capacity as a former high school chemistry and physics teacher.

"My whole life I've been a teacher, whether in the military or in the civilian world," Conley said. "In the military we call it training, but if you're ... training Soldiers, you're teaching Soldiers."

Conley said he first heard about the "America's Army – Our Profession" program, which included information packets for NCOs to conduct professional development sessions, while attending a conference at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"I thought, 'Man, this is great.' Any NCO can pick this up and be ready to teach it a half-hour later," he said.

"When I saw all of this, I said to myself that I want to teach this; I want to share this with the Soldiers and show them that I think it's important."

Developed by the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic, the program is a way to enhance the education, training, and pride of service for Army professionals.

Conley said many Army leaders have been concerned with the Army's non-combat skills becoming a little "rusty," which led to the formation of the Army's

Center for the Army Profession and Ethic.

"What they've done is try to reinvigorate our Army values-based system and put together products so that we can knock a little bit of the rust off of our training that we do back at home so that we can keep getting better," he said.

And the training itself is designed to be easily integrated into the duty day.

"The good thing about these lesson plans is they are executable and easy to do, because let's face it, we know how busy Soldiers are during a drill weekend and usually the first thing to fall by the wayside is (professional development)," he said.

"I believe these lesson plans are very executable, but it has to start at the company level," he continued.

This is the program's first year and the topics being covered each quarter form a baseline for the Army to build upon in the future with more in-depth and critical thinking skills, said Conley, adding that the first four are the "bread and butter" of the NCO.

At the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., Conley himself has already conducted the first of the quarterly professional development sessions.

"I believe the program the CAPE has put together at West Point is phenomenal and I wanted to demonstrate and share it with our Soldiers in the Army National Guard," he said. "I've conducted (professional development) my entire career and have been a trainer my entire career."

Conley also said the Army he's always



Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer

known has been training based. "Every time I've been in a leadership position and had the opportunity to instill my own personal training values, I've [taken] advantage of that," he said. "I believe that training and education, and life-long learning is important and I wanted to demonstrate it from my

position."

It is the hope of Conley that the program and the focus on NCO development from the CAPE continue into the future.

"The product [the Army] has created is phenomenal and if we can't keep this up, it's going to be disappointing," he said.

## Do you have what it takes to be a warrant?

Story and photo by CW5 Terry Swartwout  
Oregon National Guard Command Chief Warrant Officer

The warrant officer is known as a "technical expert", an advisor to the Commanders and the Soldiers of the units they serve. The Warrant Officer Corps is a network of quiet professionals that are key instruments in every facet of our changing military structure.

The warrant officer corps is a valuable asset and is essential to our operational ready force and we want you to become a part of our team. If you are interested in learning more about the rewards and benefits of becoming a warrant officer in the Oregon Army National Guard, please contact us.

The first step in the process, whether enlisted or a commissioned officer, is to work with a WO Strength Manager (WOSM) to determine if you meet the requirements. The following are minimum eligibility requirements:

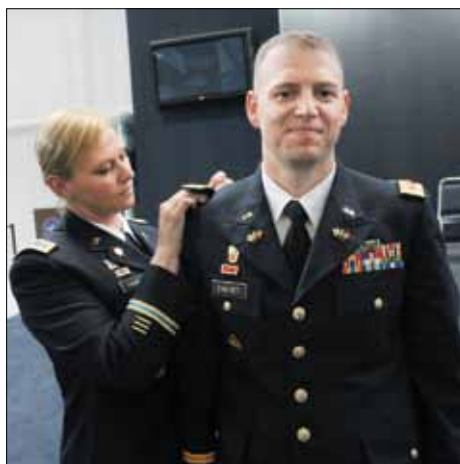
Mental Aptitude – An ASVAB minimum GT score of 110 is required. This cannot be waived; however, applicants can take an Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) to improve their scores. No further action should take place until this requirement is met. Applicants for WO aviator must pass a flight aptitude test to qualify. The flight aptitude test and the retake of the ASVAB are administered at the Education Branch Office, Military Department Salem, OR.

Age - Minimum age of 18 years and a maximum age of 46 on the date of initial appointment for technical WO MOSs. An age waiver is required over age 46. Applicants for WO aviator positions must be between the ages of 18 and 33 on the date starting Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) training.

Citizenship – Must be a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization.

Leadership – Must possess outstanding leadership traits.

Pay Grade – The minimum pay grade requirements vary by DA MOS proponent with SGT (E5) being the most common. Aviation and Signal Corps are exceptions.



WO1 Crystal Chairt (left), is a full-time technician with duty as the Lead State Security Representative. On drill weekends, she is a 350F, All Source Intel Tech MI WO in the HHC/41 IBCT. WO1 Krispin Chairt (right), is a full-time technician with duty as an IT Specialist with the DCSIM Shop. On drill weekends, he is a 251A Info Systems Tech SC WO at Joint Force Headquarters. While the Chairts are not the first ORARNG Warrant Officer Couple, they are currently the only Warrant Officer Couple in the ORARNG.

Former commissioned and Warrant Officers must also complete the predetermination process for approval into a WO MOS.

MOS – Five years' experience in an enlisted feeder MOS that builds to a WO is required by most DA MOS proponents. Reference the attached listing. Note, the WO Aviator MOS does not have an MOS or experience requirement.

The following are Pre-Determination Packet (PDP) requirements:

Resume and Letters of Recommendation (LOR) Soldiers must build a resume and secure a minimum of three LORs (CDR, first LTC in chain of command and a CW3 or higher in the WO MOS). The USAREC format must be used for the resume and LORs.

Certified copy of ERB  
Civilian Education – High school diploma or GED completion.

Some college level courses may be required depending on the DA WO MOS. Many require six credit hours of college level English.

NCOERs/OERs – Covering the period of service in the feeder MOS

Military Education – requirements vary per the DA WO MOS. With the exception of aviators, most require the Warrior Leadership Course (WLC) at a minimum with many requiring Advanced Leader Course (ALC – formerly BNCOC).

Civilian Skills – Civilian acquired skills and years of experience may be considered for some DA WO MOSs per the DA MOS proponent.

Physical – Must meet appointment physical standards in accordance with Chapter 2, AR 40-501 and height and weight standards of AR 600-9.

All applicants must pass a standard APFT. The last three DA Form 705s with the most current within the past 12 months. For exceptional applicants, waivers will be considered for the 2-mile run ONLY and will require approval by the DA G-3/5/7.

Security Clearance – A valid secret security clearance is required with some specialties, such as Military Intelligence requiring a higher than secret level (reference

## Don Bond retires



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Davis, JFHQ Public Affairs

Joint Chief of Staff Donald Bond (center) accepts a gift from Col. William Schutz (left) and Lt. Col. Karl Pond (right) in remembrance of the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations during his retirement ceremony, May 17, at the Oregon Military Department.

DA PAM 611-21).

Currently, there are three options for the completion of WOCS:

Soldiers who are an E5 and haven't graduated from Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC)/Warrior Leaders Course (WLC) or are an E1 thru E4, or are becoming aviation warrant officers, must attend the Phase One and Phase Two Resident Active Component WOCS (seven weeks, two days) at Fort Rucker, AL

Soldiers E5 and above who have completed WLC/PLDC or an E6 or higher must complete a WOCS Phase One via Distributed Learning (DL) and attend the Phase Two Resident Active Component WOCS (five weeks) at Fort Rucker, AL

Soldiers E5 and above who have WLC/PLDC are eligible to attend a WOCS-Reserve Component program at a State Regional Training Institute (RTI). The Washington and Idaho RTIs are programs most often used due to their geographical proximity to Oregon.

Graduation from WOCS will earn appointment as a WO1. WO Basic Course (WOBC) completion is required within two years of appointment as a WO1. WO1s are not qualified in their MOS until the WOBC is completed. The duration of each WOBC varies by MOS.

## NEWS

## National Guard Bureau Vice Chief visits 142 FW, SPP Workshop



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Raya (left), 125th Special Tactics Squadron, demonstrates field surveillance equipment to Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, (right), Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau, and Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, (center), Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, during a tour of the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., April 18.

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

**PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore.** (4/22/2013) — With a brief two-day visit to the Pacific Northwest, Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau, toured the Portland Air National Guard Base and attended the State Partnership Program workshop in Portland, Ore.

Lengyel took time to meet with the Airmen who call Oregon home, while receiving briefings on mission readiness from Oregon Air Guard leadership and later spoke before the Vietnam delegation in attendance for the Oregon State Partnership Program workshop, April 14-19.

"I can tell you that my father is a veteran of the Vietnam War, and this new partnership with Vietnam holds a special place for me," said Lengyel.

Following his speech, Lengyel presented a book of Americana imagery as a gift to Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Vietnam People's Army, who headed the delegation of Vietnamese military officials visiting Oregon.

The State Partnership Program with Vietnam allows both countries to pursue shared priorities such as disaster assistance, trade, education, training, health and environmental protection.

Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, escorted Lengyel around the Portland Air National Guard Base to view the diversity of units operating on station.

During the tour, he met with several Airmen who recently returned from deployments and operations in Afghanistan, and Airmen who support the full-time alert mission.

According to Wedan, the training that our team has put into place has been tested and has led to several high-visibility intercepts in just the past three years.

The 142nd Fighter Wing is one of 13 aerospace control alert units in the United States. These units maintain fully-armed jets that are always prepared to respond for national security threats.

In January, the 142nd Fighter Wing secured a new 50-year lease with the Port of Portland and the State of Oregon to safeguard the stability and long-range mission for the Oregon Air Guard.

A renewed emphasis on training and using the unique size and airspace of

Oregon was also briefed to Lengyel, as Oregon Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, highlighted the ongoing training that both the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings in Oregon carry out daily.

"Flying off the Oregon coast, we can do most of our training but we are looking at ways to expand our airspace so that the [173rd Fighter Wing] mission at Kinsley Field can grow as well," Gregg said.

The 173rd Fighter Wing's mission is training F-15 pilots for air-to-air combat. Lengyel was briefed on how the Oregon Air National Guard can adapt to changes in future training mission requirements, as well as developing long-range plans to host new missions from the Portland region.

The 50-year lease extension in Portland will allow the base to grow along with its missions. Maj. Brian Kroeller, an Intelligence Officer with the 142nd Fighter Wing, briefed Lengyel on a possible joint military training site, as a way to recapitalize building space that was once used by previous Air Force Reserve units in Oregon.

The Air Force, as well as the Navy and other reserve units, would be able to utilize the facilities here at Portland, Kroeller said.

During the final part of the tour, Lengyel received a hands-on demonstration from Airmen of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

He reviewed small vehicles that can be delivered airborne, a variety of communication equipment and other tools of the trade combat controllers use in the field.

According to Col. Michael Bieniewicz, Combat Operations Group commander, the geography of the Pacific Northwest offers a wide-range of surroundings and special challenges, which allows 125th STS members the conditions needed for their demanding training and high levels of readiness.

"Just as our guys were coming back from operations overseas, they were quickly repacking to fly out and support Hurricane Sandy efforts," Col. Bieniewicz said.

To the laughter of many, Gregg pointed out to Lengyel the toughness of his combat controllers.

"Some men fly machines, but some men are machines," he said.

Wedan highlighted the variety of units and missions that the Oregon Air Guard performs daily and the growth potential at

the Portland Air National Guard Base.

"I feel confident that the 142nd is grounded firmly here in the Pacific Northwest for another two generations. This is due to our mission, our location, our population, and our new 50-year lease with the Port of Portland," he said at the conclusion of the tour.

During his speech to the Vietnam delegation, Lengyel said how Oregon has always been one of his favorite places.

"Not only is this a unique place, but the units and missions here are just as unique," he said.

Following his speech, Lengyel exchanged gifts with Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army. Khue led the Vietnam delegation that visited Oregon National Guard facilities throughout the week.

The Vietnamese delegation also met with local, civic and business leaders throughout the region, including Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber at the State Capitol in Salem.



Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, Vice Chief, National Guard Bureau, speaks to a gathering at the Airport Sheraton Hotel, during Oregon's State Partnership Program Workshop, April 19. The National Guard Bureau oversees partnerships in the 54 states and territories. The partnership between Oregon and Vietnam was made official in November 2012.

## Airmen recognized at annual Oregon Air Guard awards banquet

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** — The Oregon Air National Guard held its annual awards banquet honoring top performers from 2012 in a ceremony at the Running Y Resort, in Klamath Falls, Ore., April 13, 2012.

Top officials of the Oregon Air National Guard attended including Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, ORANG Commander; Brig. Gen. Michael Stencil, Assistant Adjutant General, Air; and Col. Ronald Kessinger, ORANG Chief of Staff; among others.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, attended the ceremony as well.

The Oregon Air National Guard Overall Outstanding Airmen of the Year were Senior Airman Chadwick Boles, 125th Special Tactics Squadron in Category I; Tech. Sgt. Brett Burdick, 125th Special Tactics Squadron in Category II; and Senior Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton, 173rd Security Forces Squadron in Category III.

Staff Sgt. Mathew Volker, of the 142nd Fighter Wing, was named Major General Chester E. McCarty Outstanding Superior Performer for 2012 and there were several members of the three Oregon units who received special recognition.

Capt. William F. Maddalena, 173rd Medical Group, received special recognition for officer of the year; Staff Sgt. Paul Barron, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, was named wingman of the year for 2012; Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Baker, 142nd Fighter Wing was named honor guard member of the year; and Master Sgt. Jesus Rodriquez III, 173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, was named first sergeant of the year.

Also, Tech. Sgt. Joshua D. Paddock, Joint Force Headquarters, was named recruiter of the year, Staff Sgt. Roy C. Nunn, 142nd Maintenance Squadron was named unit career advisor of the year, and the civilian employee of the year award went to Cliff Bergstrom, 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

The evening culminated with the award for ORANG Unit of the Year.

After calling each of the commanders and command chiefs from the 173rd Fighter Wing, 142nd Fighter Wing, and Combat Operations Group, master of ceremony Tech. Sgt. Chuck Olson said, "May I present you all as the Oregon Air National Guard Outstanding Unit of the Year!"

This year the three elements making up the Oregon Air National Guard share the honor for unit of the year.



When the time arrived to present the Oregon Air National Guard Unit of the Year award, commanding officers and their senior enlisted representatives from the 173rd Fighter Wing, 142nd Fighter Wing and the Combat Operations Group made their way to the stage and master of ceremony Tech. Sgt. Chuck Olson announced, "this year's winner is.... the Oregon Air National Guard!" In other words all three units will share an equal portion of the award.

NEWS

## Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen participate in emergency preparedness exercises throughout the Portland-Metro area



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

Capt. Daniel Fay (center) and Maj. Patrick Birbeck (right), both with the Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team, evaluate first responders reacting to a simulated bioterrorism attack at the Armed Forces Reserve Center during the Portland Area Capabilities Exercise (PACE) Setter at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., May 22.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.**—A number of regional agencies participated in a week-long exercise to evaluate interagency and regional incident response, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., May 21-23.

The Portland Area Capabilities Exercise (PACE) involved agencies from Clackamas, Clark, Washington, Multnomah and Columbia Counties. Participants had an opportunity to practice and coordinate incident-related roles and responsibilities in response to mock domestic emergency response scenarios.

The exercise brought together several agencies, including Clackamas Fire District #1, the fire departments of Canby, Gladstone and Boring, American Medical Response, Metro West Ambulance, Lifeflight, Clackamas County Medical Examiner, The American Red Cross, and Clackamas County's Office of Emergency Management, and Department of Communications.

The Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team provided observers and evaluators for the exercise.

"This exercise will strengthen inter-agency cooperation and help participants understand the bigger training picture when it comes to emergency response and working with other first responders," said Gregg Ramirez, Emergency Manager for Clackamas Fire District #1.



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

Members of the Oregon National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Search & Extraction Team train with personnel from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue during the CERFP's training exercise at the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue training facility in Sherwood, Ore., on May 23. The CERFP provides support to local and regional first responders during incidents of man-made and natural emergencies. The Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue was part of the exercise that ran from May 20-24, which was designed to test the unit's ability to assist local and regional first-responders following man-made or natural incidents.

## Armed Forces Day honors Oregonians in uniform



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

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber recognizes Oregon National Guard Airmen and Soldiers who recently returned from overseas deployments during the Armed Forces Day celebration, May 16, at the Capitol Mall, in Salem, Ore. From left: Tech. Sgt. Alan Baker, Senior Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton, Capt. Scot Berg, and Staff Sgt. Sarah Summers.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**SALEM, Ore.** – The Oregon National Guard celebrated Armed Forces Day to honor all military members in a ceremony at the State Capitol Mall in Salem, Ore., May 16.

The event featured military equipment displays from various units throughout the Oregon National Guard and a Howitzer salute by the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion.

The Oregon Army National Guard's 234th Army Band and high school Junior ROTC teams from local communities were also featured.

In addition to honoring all military members, the event also honored Korean War veterans to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Armed Forces Day was originally created in 1949 to honor Americans serving in all of the branches of the military, and was designated as an official holiday in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

## 102 Civil Support Team members assist with security for Dalai Lama visit to Oregon



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

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, poses for a photo with members of the Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team at the University of Oregon's Matthew Knight Arena, in Eugene, Ore., May 10.

The 102 CST provided chemical, biological, radiological, and other detection capabilities to prevent potentially dangerous materials from entering the arena during the Dalai Lama's visit.

The U.S. Department of State requested the Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team to assist law enforcement with events in Portland and Eugene featuring the Dalai Lama, the week of May 6-10.

The team set up communications, hazardous materials detection devices, and provided personnel to augment the security team during the events.

## NEWS

# Oregon's Soldiers compete for top honors in Best Warrior competition

Story and photos by Sgt. Betty Boyce,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The Oregon Army National Guard hosted the Region VI Best Warrior Competition at three locations around the state, May 13-17.

Thirteen competitors from eight different states (Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, Washington, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota) contended for the title of best Soldier and best noncommissioned officer of the year.

"Every competitor proved their grit during this competition," said Oregon's State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake. "They truly embody the spirit of the Citizen-Soldier."

The competition events included rappelling, rifle marksmanship, physical fitness testing, obstacle course, and Soldier knowledge evaluation boards. The objective of the event was to select the best qualified noncommissioned officer and Soldier in Region VI to compete



Competitors in the Region VI Best Warrior Competition, hosted by the Oregon Army National Guard, begin a five-mile ruck march at the Umatilla Army Depot, Umatilla Ore., May 14. The Region VI Best Warrior Competition involved 13 service members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and Oregon, vying for the opportunity to compete in the national Best Warrior competition.

*I feel so blessed to have been a part of this competition.*

- Spc. Benjamin S. Herrmann



Sgt. Ernesto A. Ventura, with the Alaska Army National Guard, rappels off a tower, during an event at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton Ore., as part of the Region VI Best Warrior Competition, May 15.

in the national Best Warrior Challenge competition later this year.

Sgt. Teal M. McLean, with the Montana Army National Guard, scored the highest Army Physical Fitness Test score in his unit and was selected to compete.

"It's a good opportunity to do things you don't normally do," McLean said. "Everyone's here to win, so it's going to be a tight competition, but it's going to be a lot of fun."

Each participant began the competition with a formal board at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Clackamas, Ore. The boards consisted of four sergeants major from the competing states; the competitors were asked a series of questions and graded based on their answers.

The physical tests started early Tuesday morning, May 14. The competitors were on the road by 5:00 a.m., travelling to the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., where a CH-47 Chinook helicopter was waiting on the flight pad. Their first stop on this week-long trek was the Umatilla Army Depot, in Umatilla, Ore.

The thundering sound of stomping feet racing by marked the beginning of the five-mile ruck march through the dry and dusty countryside. The soldiers carried a 35-pound ruck sack along with their rifles and Kevlar helmets.

After the ruck march was completed, competitors strove for the overall best score with rifles and pistols at the firing range, followed by two hours of land navigation in the increasing heat.

Tired and hot, competitors got a chance to cool down at the pool later that evening. This portion of the event had them diving in with their Kevlar and tactical vest on, quickly removing them under the surface and treading water for five minutes before ending the event with a four-lap swim.

The 13 Citizen-Soldiers boarded the CH-47 Chinook again, this time headed to Camp Rilea on Oregon's coast in Warrenton, Ore. Arriving shortly after midnight, the competitors began a night land navigation course, struggling through the darkness to find pre-positioned points.

A short rest in the barracks and they were at it again. Pandora's Box greeted them when they walked into the room for their next event. Blindfolded, the competitors assembled a mix match of parts from three separate weapons into the correct configurations.

With very little time to warm-up during their Pandora's Box challenge, the 13 Soldiers headed out to the obstacle course, battling wind and rain as they navigated the course. The obstacle course consisted of nine separate parts, ending in a jump off the rappel tower.

"That was a great course," said Spc. Jerardo Lopez, the Alaska Army National Guard competitor, when he finished. "I'm tired, but you have to keep going. This is such a great competition and no one wants to quit."

The rest of the afternoon was spent on firing ranges, shooting the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, demonstrating their reflexive fire skills with the M-16 assault rifle and finishing up in a live shoot-house event.

By the final day of the competition, the competitors said they were feeling the pain.

"My feet hurt, but it isn't an excuse to quit," said Spc. James R. Furry, with the South Dakota National Guard.

The final day of the event arrived and the tempo was only speeding up. From mock grenades to casualty evacuation exercises with smoke grenades, the competitors were getting hit hard. With smiles all around, the 13 Citizen-Soldiers prepared for the final challenge, called "Omaha Beach".

"You didn't think you were coming to the Oregon Coast and not getting in the Ocean, did you?" Sgt. 1st Class Steven Warming, cadre member with the 249 Regional



Spc. Benjamin S. Herrmann, with the Oregon Army National Guard's 3670th Maintenance Company, emerges from the water after high-crawling approximately 20-yards through the surf while competing in the Region VI Best Warrior Competition, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton Ore., May 16. Herrmann won the title of Region VI Soldier of the Year, earning the opportunity to compete in the national Best Warrior competition.

Training Institute, asked the competitors.

Worn-out and exhausted from the first three days, the Soldiers high-crawled through the pounding surf to reach a pair of concrete-filled ammunition cans they had to carry up a sand dune before running back to the finish line.

Only two of the 13 who competed will move on to the national Best Warrior Challenge later this year. The winners of the 2013 Region VI Best Warrior Competition

were Spc. Benjamin S. Herrmann, of Oregon Army National Guard, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy A. Carver, also with the Oregon Army National Guard.

"I feel so blessed to have been a part of this competition and the fact I had the opportunity to train with Sergeant 1st Class Carver was amazing," said Spc. Herrmann.

"This was a hard competition, but I am glad I went through it and am looking forward to nationals."



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver, with the Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion, evacuates a simulated casualty through an urban operations course during the Region VI Best Warrior Competition, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton Ore., May 16. Carver won the title of Region VI noncommissioned officer of the Year, earning the opportunity to compete in the national Best Warrior competition.

**FEATURES**

# Oregon's OEM attends event celebrating seismic upgrades to local school

*Story and photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs*

**ALBANY, Ore.**—Central Elementary School in Albany, Ore., conducted an earthquake drill followed by a building tour after an assembly, Apr. 24, celebrating \$1.5 million in seismic upgrades that the school was awarded through the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program managed by Oregon Emergency Management.

Since 2009, state-funded seismic retrofit grants have been awarded to 21 K-12 schools, three Oregon community college and university campuses, and 18 public safety facilities deemed in danger during an earthquake. The governor's budget requests \$30 million for this priority for the next two years, and legislators will decide the final funding level later this spring.

The program has already awarded \$30 million to provide structural integrity and preserve historical schools and emergency service buildings in Oregon and hopes to do more good for the state, said Martin Plotner, Oregon Emergency Management director.

"They've been able to retrofit a number of schools and we're hoping that the legislature decides to extend that program and continue to designate funds for schools and first responders," Plotner said to a group of guests after the assembly.

Distinguished guests and experts at

the event included: Sen. Betsy Close (R) Albany; Albany School District Superintendent Maria Delapoer; Dr. Chris Goldfinger, one of the world's leading subduction zone earthquake experts from Oregon State University; Albany Mayor Sharon Canopa; Jay Raskin, a commissioner with the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission; and Ryan McGoldrick, Preparedness Program Coordinator for the Oregon region.

David McKay, director of Project Solutions Group, Willamette Education Service District, who was project manager at Central Elementary, led a tour of the building and said the renovations make many students and teachers feel like they are in a new building. The historic site that has hosted two Oregon State vs. Oregon rivalry football games was built in 1915.

"It just seemed new when the teachers came back to school—they just thought the school was new in so many ways because you had fresh paint, you had new carpet and much more," McKay said.

Emilia Watts, a fifth grade student at Central Elementary said she learned a lot about earthquakes at the assembly.

"I do feel more prepared and know that if it did happen I would know what to do," Watts remarked.

Raskin said examples in Japan and Chile are good guidelines for Oregon to follow when it comes to earthquake preparedness.

"If you are attentive and make things better and stronger you can make things



Dr. Chris Goldfinger, one of the world's leading subduction zone earthquake experts from Oregon State University, talks to students at Central Elementary School in Albany, Ore., April 24, during an assembly that was followed by an earthquake drill and building walk-through. The event was held to raise awareness and celebrate \$1.5 million in seismic upgrades the school was awarded through the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program managed by Oregon Emergency Management.

a lot safer, and that's what we're trying to do for the state of Oregon," Raskin said.

Edward Wolf, a writer, parent and advocate for seismic safety in schools said seismic issues have entered the Oregon consciousness. Wolf is the co-founder of Oregon Parents for Quake Resistant Schools.

"The pilot phase of the program was a

hugely intelligent, successful, impactful public investment and we can grow it," Wolf explained. "I am grateful to Oregon Emergency Management for growing this program and demonstrating the professionalism that every school district who has had one of these projects praises."

# Oregon begins preparing coastal communities for emergencies

*Story and photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs*

**SEASIDE, Ore.**—Two people from different agencies are working together to help Oregonians become ready for emergencies by bringing diverse skill sets, and a passion for helping communities and families, to send their message of disaster preparedness.

March was earthquake awareness month in Oregon, and communities up and down the Oregon Coast got a special presentation from CeCi Pratt, a Red Cross readiness specialist for Lincoln, Clatsop and Tillamook counties; and Althea Rizzo, geologic hazards program coordinator for Oregon Emergency Management. The two said they have been working together since 2006 to make sure communities in Oregon will be more prepared if a large earthquake and tsunami strikes.

Pratt and Rizzo made one of their stops in Seaside, Ore., March 11 for the fourth annual, 16-day long Tsunami Road Show that happened in 17 coastal communities from March 10-25, spanning the Oregon Coast.

The Seaside event, like many others, saw a strong turnout filling the Broadway Middle School library with approximately 60 people for a Tsunami preparation talk.

Rizzo said the earthquake and tsunami road show concept was her idea, and is only one of its' kind as far as she knows.

"Oregon Emergency Management is mandated by legislature to improve life in Oregon after a disaster, and if something were to happen, I would not be able to sleep at night knowing I had left something undone," Rizzo said.

Rizzo said she is very happy to have Pratt involved because they have different strengths that help create a stronger unified message.

"I have a lot of respect for CeCi, she has great energy and people really relate to her message about taking care of family and community by being prepared," Rizzo explained.

"I very much enjoy working with CeCi Pratt of the American Red Cross because she is always so inspiring with her passion and love, helping people become better



CeCi Pratt, a Red Cross readiness specialist from Oregon Region Red Cross shows an emergency preparedness backpack to an audience at Broadway Middle School in Seaside, Ore., during tsunami preparation talks given by the Oregon Red Cross and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), March 11. The audience received giveaways at the event.

prepared for all emergencies and natural hazards."

Rizzo has a doctorate degree from Oregon State University and has been working as an expert at OEM for five years. Pratt said the feeling is mutual and that she respects Rizzo's knowledge, as well.

"I love working with Althea because she is an expert and this is a great way for us to do outreach and cater to a variety of audience members to generate a lot of interest," Pratt said. "Our relationship helps ensure we are getting the best message out so the public will know about the situation and what to do if it ever occurs."

Douglas C. Dougherty, Ph.D., superintendent for the Seaside School District, said he was impressed with the presentation, mentioning that even though the audience was diverse, it was valuable for everyone.

"The presenters addressed a variety of specific concerns and were able to communicate well to a group with a large

variety of knowledge about the subject," Dougherty said. "This is worthwhile for the community because we are in a unique geologic situation and it helps our local community understand what the threat is."

Pratt, who has been a readiness specialist for seven years, said she and Rizzo want to give a simplistic message for a practical response.

"We are both passionate about getting the word out to families so they will be safe and we don't want people to become complacent," Pratt said.

Rizzo echoed that sentiment.

"It is my job is to save lives, to protect property, and motivate people to get families and businesses ready to protect their property," added Rizzo. "If people want me to visit I will get them on the schedule and let them know everyone is responsible for their own preparedness."

Rizzo said it is a good idea to have food, water and medicine for a month, to be prepared to camp out if necessary, and to know people in higher places when you live in a low lying tsunami danger zone.

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FEATURES

# Nepal holds multi-national exercise, hosts 23 countries: With 55 years' experience, Nepal called world leader in peacekeeping

## Preparing peacekeepers to save lives: Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers train in Nepal, praised by event organizers for their work at multinational exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. April Davis and Sgt. Cory Grogan  
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Darrin Culp, medic instructor with 249th Regional Training Institute, Oregon Army National Guard, observes a platoon member from Indonesia treat a simulated casualty at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center as part of Shanti Prayas-2, a Global Peace Operations Initiative peacekeeping training exercise. Shanti Prayas-2 is a multinational event led by the Nepalese Army and sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, that took place March 25 to April 7, bringing together military representatives from 23 nations to train United Nations standards for operating in future peacekeeping missions.

**PANCHKHAL, Nepal** - Two Oregon Citizen-Soldiers displayed their proficiency and professionalism to a multinational audience using military and civilian experience to teach combat lifesaver techniques.

Staff Sergeants Darrin Culp and Joel Wilson, medic instructors with the 249 Regional Training Institute, Oregon Army National Guard, based in Monmouth, Ore., participated in Shanti Prayas-2, hosted by the Nepalese Army and sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command as part of the Global Peace Operations Initiative program, at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center in Panchkhal, Nepal.

Exercise Shanti Prayas-2 encompasses a senior training seminar, staff officer exercise, and field training exercise.

The GPOI program is a U.S.-funded security assistance program designed to enhance international capacity to conduct United Nations and regional peace support operations by building partner country capabilities.

The exercise took place March 25 to April 7, bringing together military representatives from 23 nations to train United Nations standards for operating in future peacekeeping missions.

Culp, who lives in Grande Ronde, Ore., has been a fire fighter and Emergency Medical Technician for 15 years. He currently works for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and has served in the Oregon Army National Guard for 14 years.

Last year, Culp performed medical training assistance for Shanti Doot-3, which was also a GPOI peacekeeping exercise in Bangladesh.

Oregon currently has a State Partnership with Vietnam and Bangladesh.

He said the work done there was part of the reason he and Wilson were invited to Shanti Prayas-2, and that being a firefighter and EMT is part of the reason for his success as a medical trainer.

"I do this every day and we train on a regular basis," Culp explained. "U.S. Pacific Command invited medics to assist with first aid training during Shanti Prayas-2 in Nepal due to the great success of the training last year," Culp said.

The Oregon National Guard medics developed a training class on field medical care for Shanti Prayas-2 based on guidance from U.S. Pacific Command which included treatment of abdominal wounds, head trauma, open chest wounds, sucking chest wounds, splinting, improvised tourniquets, and techniques for evacuating wounded personnel from the field, such as buddy-carries and improvised litters.

Culp said the medical training was expanded this year. "Last year's training was more like a first aid class for improvised field care. This year's training is more like a Combat Life-Saver Course with more advanced techniques," he said.

Platoons from 11 nations, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan (with a squad from Kazakhstan embedded in the Jordanian platoon), Mongolia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, and Rwanda, participated in the field-training portion of Exercise Shanti Prayas-2.

The platoons spent a full day of training on the medical lanes. The Oregon National Guard medic trainers provide classroom training and then worked with



U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. Theresa Donnelly, U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Joel Wilson, medic instructor with 249th Regional Training Institute, Oregon Army National Guard, evaluates medical training as soldiers from Bangladesh treat realistic wounds on a simulated casualty at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center as part of Shanti Prayas-2, a Global Peace Operations Initiative peacekeeping training exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Nepalese Maj. Bhudhip marches for the opening ceremony of Shanti Prayas-2, Apr. 25, at Birendra Peace Operations Center in Panchkhal, Nepal. Shanti Prayas-2 is a multinational partnership exercise designed to increase the number of capable military troops and formed police units available for United Nations deployment. The two-week training exercise, led by the Nepalese Army was organized by the United Nations, U.S. State Department and U.S. Pacific Command's Global Peace Operations Initiative.

10 Nepalese Army counterparts who led the practical exercise portion where platoons treated simulated casualties.

"Working with platoons from other countries has been very enjoyable," said Culp. "Each platoon is very different."

Culp added that being in Nepal is a meaningful experience and that he enjoys learning about new cultures.

"I feel like I'm doing something worthwhile here," said Culp. "This is valuable training for them. They are all learning new things and they all seem

happy to be here."

Culp said soldiers from all of the platoons like the training and most want a video copy of the class to incorporate in their training back home.

Pfc. Agus Jarkahih, of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, said the training was great because he thinks it will help him if he ever needs to use it on a mission.

"This is good training and we really like it because our knowledge about how to help the casualty and to face and overcome the enemy is better," said



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Joel Wilson, medic instructor with 249th Regional Training Institute, Oregon Army National Guard, explains life saving medical skills to a platoon member from Indonesia at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center as part of Shanti Prayas-2, a Global Peace Operations Initiative peacekeeping training exercise.



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Balloons carry a banner during the opening ceremony of Shanti Prayas-2, Apr. 25, at Birendra Peace Operations Center in Panchkhal, Nepal. Shanti Prayas-2 is a multinational partnership exercise designed to increase the number of capable military troops and formed police units available for United Nations deployment. The two-week training exercise, led by the Nepalese Army was organized by the United Nations, U.S. State Department and U.S. Pacific Command's Global Peace Operations Initiative.

Jarkahih.

Wilson, a real estate agent in Portland, Ore. who grew up in Damascus, Ore., also, attributed his civilian experience as a reason for great success at the multinational training exercise.

"I am a real estate agent, so I am used to talking to people and using good communication skills," Wilson explained.

He has been in the Oregon Army National Guard for nine years and said his experience in Nepal has been great.

"It's new and exciting, the people are very friendly," said Wilson. "They are very appreciative and respectful."

Wilson said he is impressed with the drive and ambition of the platoons at Shanti Prayas-2.

"They all pay attention and listen to what we have to say," said Wilson. "They ask a lot of 'what-if' questions to ensure they are doing everything the right way."

Wilson said he embraces the opportunity to learn from others too.

"We've also learned new things from them that we can take back to Oregon and incorporate in our training at the RTI," he said. "They can make something out of nothing. They're like MacGyver with some of their homemade tourniquets and splints, and some of their improvised litters that they use to carry casualties."

Wilson said one of the great things about training in Nepal is seeing the bigger picture about what the nations at Shanti Prayas-2 are trying to accomplish.

"It's rewarding to work with these platoons and help them train for peacekeeping missions," explained Wilson.

Capt. Shakhur Gurung, a Nepalese Army trainer, said the class was specifically requested at the Shanti Prayas-2 because it is practical and can be used by anyone. He was particularly



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

impressed with how Culp and Wilson taught the curriculum.

"With the help of Culp and Wilson we have been able to figure out some of the things we were missing," Gurung said. "We know that if we do this it will be easier to save life on a mission if we need to."

He said Wilson and Culp did a great job

teaching their life saving skills the right way and praised the Oregon medics for their experience and patience with some of the inexperienced peacekeepers. To help the platoons understand the training, interpreters were assigned to each platoon.

To see the rest of the photos from this mission, visit <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPeaceOperationsInitiative>.



Courtesy photo

The U.S. Pacific Command's Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) requested public affairs' assistance from the Oregon National Guard for Exercise Shanti Prayas-2 due to the success of Oregon Guard PAOs telling the story of Exercise Shanti Doot-3 in one of Oregon's partner states, Bangladesh, last year. Four Oregon Army National Guard PAOs answered the call to join the GPOI public affairs team in Nepal. The team released 22 videos, 35 articles and more than 600 photos, reaching an audience of more than 20,000 people worldwide. From left: Pfc. Mackenzie Layne, Oregon's 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; Staff Sgt. April Davis, 115 MPAD; U.S. Navy Lt. Theresa Donnelly, U.S. PACOM; Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 MPAD; Master Sgt. Thomas Hovie, Oregon's Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs; and Capt. Andi Hahn, Kentucky National Guard Public Affairs.



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Indonesian Soldiers perform a motivational yell after finishing a training lane at Prayas-2 at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center. The Field Training Exercise includes platoons from 11 nations learning tactical procedures for reacting to real-world peacekeeping scenarios.

### Peacekeeping training exercise unites multiple nations in Nepal

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

**PANCHKHAL, Nepal** - A torch of peace was lit at the Birendra Peace Operations Training Center (BPOTC) in Panchkhal, Nepal, March 25, during the opening ceremony for Shanti Prayas-2, a Global Peace Operations Initiative training exercise.

The multinational exercise, led by the Nepalese Army and sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, took place March 25-April 7, bringing together military representatives from 23 nations to train in United Nations standards for operating in future peacekeeping missions.

A parade of platoons from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, and Rwanda marched together during the opening ceremony.

"It was a very good ceremony, I really enjoyed watching the troops marching in the parade," said Maj. Kamal Amarakoon, an exercise participant with the Sri Lanka armed forces. "It is the United Nations responsibility to look after people all over the world; that's why it is so important for nations to be involved in peacekeeping."

Nepal's Chairman of the Interim Election Council Khil Raj Regmi inaugurated the exercise during the festivities, which also included the laying of ceremonial wreaths, unveiling of a monument, lighting the torch of peace and a Nepalese Army helicopter flyover.

Lt. Gen. Thomas L. Conant, deputy commander, spoke on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command, describing the GPOI program as a U.S. funded security assistance program to enhance international capacity to conduct United Nations and regional peace support operations by building partner country capabilities.

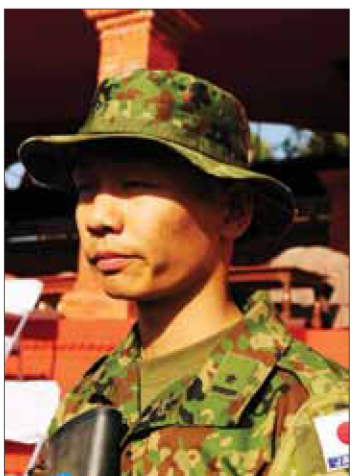
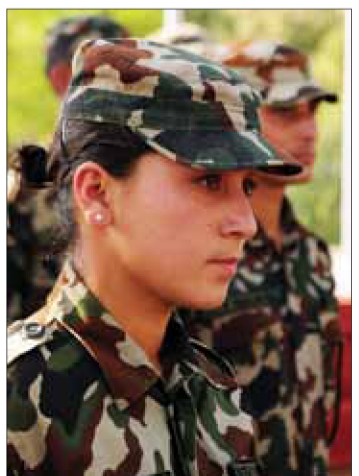
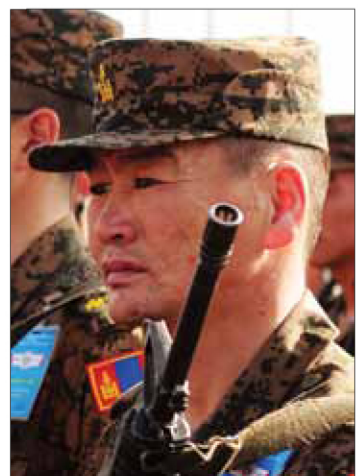
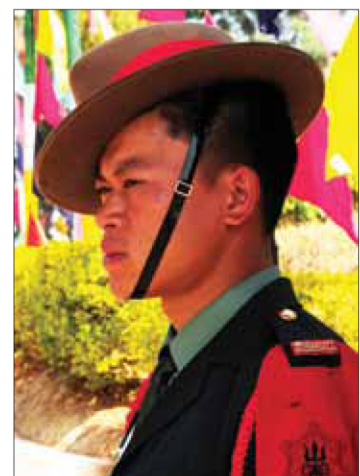
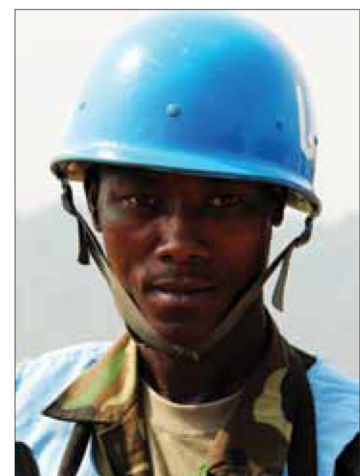
"Like you, I was a UN peacekeeper in Somalia in 1994," he said to the exercise participants at the ceremony. "I wear the UN badge proudly."

The Shanti Prayas-2 exercise encompassed a senior training seminar and staff exercise at the Nepal Army Headquarters in Kathmandu, as well as a field training exercise at BPOTC in Panchkhal.

The senior training seminar included participants from 10 nations. The seminar allowed senior military officers to network with each other and addressed the challenges of modern United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The staff exercise includes participants from 23 nations. Military staff officers rehearsed planning, coordination, and problem-solving using simulated scenarios that peacekeepers typically face during real-world UN missions.

The field training exercise included platoons from 11 nations where they learned tactical procedures for reacting to real-world peacekeeping scenarios.





## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## The Bigelow brothers turn 142nd FW into a family business

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

**PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore. (4/23/2013)** — A unique aspect of the National Guard is that members of the same family often serve in the military at the same time together or perchance, even in the same unit.

The odds are, at almost any given time on the flight line of the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., any member of the 142nd Fighter Wing can bump into a Bigelow brother generating a fighter jet into flight.

The three Bigelow brothers each contribute to various maintenance aspects with the F-15 jets the 142nd Fighter Wing pilots fly.

Although they have three different jobs, it was older brother Ricky who arrived first and eventually guided his younger brothers, Jordan and Sean, into joining the Oregon Air National Guard.

"I happened to be tagging along with my friend Honorio Colipano, when the recruiter was working to bring him into the unit," recalled Ricky Bigelow.

into the cockpit of an F-15 to perform pre-flight maintenance. So too, is his tireless smile that greets those who frequently ask for his advice.

Ricky says it was an important step to take on the responsibilities of becoming a first sergeant, yet he took it on with the same passion and commitment he brings to keeping jets repaired.

"The job of being a first sergeant can be extremely difficult at times with trying to balance my technician job and being a really good first shirt," he said.

When he first applied for the job as the first sergeant for the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron two years ago, a conflict of interest kept him from getting that honor, as younger brother Sean and Jordan are members of that squadron.

There's a good reason they have that regulation in the books, Ricky Bigelow said, laughing.

"I defiantly would have abused the power," he said.

Being six years older than Sean and almost two years ahead of Jordan, the chance to blaze a trail with the Air Guard allowed Ricky a chance to later bring his



The three Bigelow brothers stand together on an F-15 Eagle at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., April 3. From left to right are; Master Sgt. Ricky Bigelow, Senior Airman Sean Bigelow and Tech. Sgt. Jordan Bigelow. All three brothers are members of the 142nd Fighter Wing and perform various maintenance trades on the supersonic air-to-air fighter jet.

**What keeps me out here is family. Not just mine, but the sense that the Wing is an extension of my family.**

- Master Sgt. Ricky Bigelow, First Sergeant, ORANG



Oregon Air National Guard Senior Airman Sean Bigelow stands next to the F-15 Eagle that he maintains with the 142nd Fighter Wing at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., April 4. Sean Bigelow has been with unit for almost six years working as a crew chief.

Ironically, Honorio's father, Senior Master Sgt. Norio Colipano was already a member of the wing.

"By the time we had toured the base and had seen the jets, Honorio still had questions but I was ready to enlist," said Ricky Bigelow, now a master sergeant working as a flight line avionics technician. He is also the first sergeant for the Maintenance Squadron.

After basic training and technical school, Ricky returned to Portland to work a month of training before enrolling in college in the fall of 2001.

"A month after finishing my military school training, I was just about to start college when, 'Boom', September 11th happens and I went right onto Noble Eagle orders," he said.

Eventually his Noble Eagle assignment turned into a full-time technician job more than 12 years ago.

"What keeps me interested still in working on aircraft is that little kid voice inside me. I love seeing what people can do -- like putting a rocket into space," he said.

His energy and enthusiasm are instantly apparent when he climbs up the ladder and

brothers into the military.

"The three of us have always been close and nothing has changed since we have been working in the Fighter Wing," said Sean Bigelow.

The youngest Bigelow is the biggest. His relaxed grin and unpretentious manner allows him to take the brunt of his older brother's punch lines, yet taking it all in stride with poise and confidence.

"I saw how much pride my brothers had for being in the military and it made me see them excited to serve," said Sean Bigelow.

Having his two older brothers around gives him a sounding board which has benefits for his military life.

The mentorship bonus from having two NCOs in the family allows Sean a broader sense of perspective as he balances working full-time in construction and drilling part-time, he said.

"Ricky sort of nudged me toward aircraft maintenance," he added.

As a crew chief and a member of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Senior Airman Bigelow has been deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as other short term assignments to places around the globe.

"In just six short years, I've done things that people can only dream about with

traveling and working on these jets," recalls Sean.

Over the past few years, Sean had worked temporary tours at the 142nd, taking time off from his civilian job to support the Wing's daily mission.

The extra work has only sharpened his maintenance skills and readiness.

"Drill weekends and not being out here full-time, really is not that difficult," he said.

"The hardest part is probably the paperwork aspect; working on the jets has become second nature to me," Sean said.

Two years ago Sean had a severe back injury that required him to miss extended time away from both jobs.

It was older brother Ricky that gave Sean a place to live and helped him recover.

I would wake up at night in pain and Ricky would just be there to talk me through it, Sean said. "I've never had that kind of love and support."

When Jordan Bigelow joined the unit two years after Ricky, he quickly connected with the weapons team.

Having an older brother in the unit, Jordan knew what to expect when he went to basic training.

"I understood what to expect even though the drill instructors were showing



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Jordan Bigelow pauses for a photograph at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., April 4. Sean has been with the 142nd Fighter Wing for more than 10 years, working as a weapons loader.

us the footage of the first waves of deployments to Iraqi," Jordan said.

With dark hair and an unassuming confident manner, Jordan has been a member of the unit more than 10 years, with the last three as a full-time Guardsman.

"I enjoyed my civilian job which related to my work here in the aircraft and manufacturing industry," Jordan said.

"The chance to work here at the Wing everyday was something I really wanted to do," he added.

When he applied for this current job he actually got passed over the first time around, but got the job the next time the opportunity presented itself.

"Yes, I was late to the interview because I went to the wrong office where the interviews were being held," he said.

"I can laugh about it now, but I am who I am; a Bigelow and this is what you get," he continued.

There are times when other members of the wing have looked up the wrong Bigelow.

"It can be confusing to some, as our shops have some similarities and we overlap on the flight line," Jordan said.

"There is a Bigelow in every shop," Ricky Bigelow says with a laugh.

When the three brothers are not at work, they all enjoy physical fitness activities; Ricky finds enjoyment in skiing the slopes of Mount Hood, Jordan often finds himself in the woods bow hunting and Sean loves fishing.

"When we do hang out, it's not so much work related topics that come up," said Sean.

Ricky reiterated the theme all three brothers share with their professions in the military.

"What keeps me out here is family. Not just mine, but the sense that the Wing is an extension of my family," Ricky said.



Master Sgt. Ricky Bigelow, First Sergeant, and avionics maintenance technician, pauses during his work on an F-15 eagle at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., April 4. Ricky Bigelow is a member of the 142nd Fighter Wing and has been with the unit for more than 13 years.

## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## Walden spearheads effort to save Kingsley Field control tower

Story and photo by

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

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- The Associated Press reported March 8, 2013, that Kingsley Field's air traffic control tower was selected for closure under the terms of sequestration, a term describing a budget impasse in the U.S. Congress.

Although the details are complex, the reality of the situation struck home first with the threat of furloughs for Kingsley's federal technician force of nearly 300 Airmen, and shortly thereafter with the prospect of a tower closure.

In response to the situation, Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) wrote a letter asking the Federal Aviation Administration to consider alternatives to closing the tower at Kingsley Field.

"The federal government must prioritize funding as we strive to utilize tax dollars more efficiently," he wrote. "However in this case, closing the Kingsley Field control tower poses a risk to both public safety and national defense."

Many more made the case for the Kingsley tower as well. Klamath Falls Airport Director John Longley helped draft a petition to keep the tower open with County Commissioner Jim Bellet, Klamath Falls Mayor Todd Kellstrom, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Jeremy Baenen,

members of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, the Klamath Falls Airtanker Base, and the Klamath County Economic Development Association.

They made the case that although this tower is below the FAA's stated criteria for closure, "fewer than 150,000 movements and fewer than 10,000 airline operations annually," in the words of Doug Cunningham, a 270th air traffic controller, "complexity," needs to play a major role in the decision as well.

Cunningham pointed out that 173rd Fighter Wing F-15s comprise more than a third of the traffic, and that when you throw in a tanker base for firefighting efforts, as well as commercial and general aviation traffic, a tower is a necessity to safely conduct operations.

He summed up the effects of a tower closure saying, "Best case scenario? A lot of inefficiencies. Worst case—catastrophes."

And so it was with an air of relief that while Rep. Walden stood in the tower during a visit to the base to discuss the effects of the closure, March 22, the FAA released a list of a few towers that would be spared due to national security concerns. The tower at Kingsley is one of them.

Four other towers in Oregon were not able to make the case to FAA top administrator, Michael Huerta to remain open and closed in April, along with 145 others around the country.



Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) is briefed by Doug Cunningham, a civilian air traffic controller, at the Kingsley Field Air Traffic Control Tower. Walden visited the tower in the wake of proposed sequestration cuts, which threatened its closure, March 22, 2013. During his tour of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron's tower, personnel learned the tower had been removed from the FAA's closure list, prompting Walden to applaud and cite the cost effectiveness of the tower and its role in national security.

Walden noted that with the good stewardship of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron this tower costs about one-third what another would cost with no

Air National Guard affiliation.

He noted that with its contribution to national security, "For once common sense prevailed."

## 173rd FW F-15 Crew Chief earns Mighty Eagle Award

Story by 2nd Lt. Joe Young,

173rd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The Mighty Eagle Program is a morale-building reward program, created to recognize the top flying aircraft and give recognition to the Dedicated Crew Chief (DCC) assigned to that jet.

Historically there are two names painted on the side of an F-15; the pilot and the DCC. The names are displayed on the side of an aircraft to show pride in one's equipment and create a sense of ownership.

Although the pilot's name is on the jet, they do not always fly that specific aircraft when they go up. However, a DCC is permanently assigned to a specific tail-number and will remain with that aircraft every time it launches, and can genuinely call the jet "their own".

Most times the DCC is charged with the responsibility to monitor any maintenance conducted ensuring the availability and reliability of their assigned aircraft; such is the responsibility of Airplane General Element (APG).

It is not meant to imply that a DCC is the only person involved with aircraft maintenance and keeping the jet in the air.

Since the DCC is attached to and remains with a specific aircraft, it is not a stretch of the imagination to say that the DCC directly contributes to the maintenance, which in turn contributes directly to the achievements of the aircraft.

That is why this reward program is unique to the APG section and formally recognizes the members of this unit.

Programs similar to this one exist across the Air Force and other air frames, but the idea for our Mighty Eagle program was created by an Oregon crew chief using a unique scoring criteria.

The program was first implemented by the APG Element in 2010 with help from the Maintenance Operations Flight (MOF) to track and report flying stats. The MOF records a multitude of stats and metrics related to aircraft performance throughout the calendar year, and acts as an impartial third party to the score keeping.

Aircraft stats are compiled and scrutinized, and a final score is calculated to determine a ranking of aircraft performance.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aimee Whaling

Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. James Whaling, of the 173rd Fighter Wing, (top right), launched his jet 169 times in 2012 and it returned Code-1 a total of 142 times. With that record he received the Mighty Eagle award for the year and retains current bragging rights.

These scores are compiled and published monthly for each jet assigned to Kingsley Field. Rankings are adjusted and official scores are updated quarterly.

The jet and DCC with the highest point standing at each quarter is awarded a custom t-shirt, and is formally recognized among their peers.

At the end of the year, the DCC with the highest point standing is presented with a three-day pass, and their accomplishments are memorialized with a customized tail-flash plaque.

The plaques are placed on the wall of the APG ready room for all competitors to see, and to secure all bragging rights for the next year of maintenance.

Currently, Master Sgt. James Whaling and his aircraft, tail number 78-0487, hold the top spot for 2012. His aircraft flew 169 sorties with 142 Code Ones. In the

parlance of a maintainer, a Code-1 is a perfect jet.

In 2011, then-Tech. Sgt. Mike Curry held the top spot. His aircraft, tail number 78-0547, flew 133 sorties with 99 Code Ones.

The 173rd Fighter Wing Mighty Eagle Program is a home-grown recognition program, that provides a measureable sample of performance with quantified results.

It formally recognizes the efforts of the DCCs assigned to the APG Element, and falls right in line with creating camaraderie and esprit-de-corps, organizers say.

The program showcases a culture of excellence at Kingsley Field and recognizes those providing safe reliable aircraft for air superiority training, they add.

## Oregon's first war ace passes at 95



Story and photo contributed by Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

Oregon's first air war ace, P-47 test pilot and former Flying Tiger Ken Jernstedt passed away Feb. 5, 2013, at age 95.

A Marine Corps pilot, Jernstedt became one of the original members of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) hired by China in mid-1941 to protect Chinese military assets.

He was the Hell's Angels squadron leader fighting primarily over the Burma Road to assist China in resisting the Japanese invasion. He destroyed more than 10 Japanese aircraft before and after the start of World War II.

After the AVG was disbanded in 1942, he became a test pilot (1943-45) for Republic Aviation in New York. Jernstedt served in the Oregon House and Senate from 1966-89 and was twice elected mayor of Hood River.

The regional airport at Hood River and the main gate at the Portland Air National Guard base bear his name. He was a member of the Evergreen Aviation Hall of Fame. Jernstedt is also featured prominently in the ODVA's *150 Years of Oregon Veterans* history book.

## NEWS

## Ontario's JTAP member challenges businesses to join H2H, help vets

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



ONTARIO, Ore. – A distinctive online resource designed specifically to aid members of the Guard and Reserves, to find employment is gaining momentum in eastern Oregon and throughout the state, according to a regional veteran transition specialist.

Ontario's Rick Gloria, a retired Oregon Army National Guard lieutenant colonel and a member of the Oregon Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP) said the new Web site is intended to link qualified firms across the state with veterans.

The site, dubbed H2H, is just one of an array of veteran agendas the JTAP instituted since 2012, Gloria said.

"H2H is a cutting edge program that uses modern technology and job fairs to linked employers with qualified veterans," he said.

Gloria oversees La Grande, Baker City and the Ontario area for the JTAP program. Early on, Gloria said the focus of JTAP was to assist Citizen-Soldiers transition from a combat deployment to civilian life. Now, though, JTAP's current focus is on another important attribute to a successful reintegration for Guardsmen: Finding a job. H2H is a key component to that effort, he said.

"Qualified veteran job seekers can build a profile on the site, post a resume or an application. At the same time, employers can search resumes by a key word, zip code or city," he said.

The Web site is sponsored through the

Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon Program and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), according to Craig Snitker. Snitker is the Employment Transition Coordinator for Oregon and said the site is all about helping veterans.

"H2H gives the opportunity for service members to connect with military-friendly employers. The site is extremely easy for the job seeker and the employer to use. It is a great instrument for bringing both parties together efficiently," Snitker said.

For one area veteran and his family, H2H proved to be a solid resource. Richard Standley and his wife Linda, recently left service in the active duty Army and moved to Ontario.

Standley spent the past five years as a full-time Soldier and deployed overseas four times.

The deployment schedule was a chief reason he said he wished to get back into civilian life.

After he moved to Ontario, Standley said he jumped right into search for a job.

Linda Standley said her husband spent a lot of time looking for work but did not start to find success until he learned about H2H and signed up.

"H2H is an awesome program. (It) helped us create a resume and it is easily



Ricardo Gloria, a member of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program stands next to a H2H banner at an Ontario veteran's awareness event. Gloria said the H2H Web site furnishes an innovative and viable platform for veterans who seek employment.

accessible," Linda Standley said.

Richard Standley said he is still searching for a job. However, he said, by using H2H he can cast a far wider net regarding potential employment opportunities.

While Gloria concedes the veteran piece of the new site is critical, he pointed out that employers also benefit from H2H.

"Employers get exposure. But we need more employers to enroll," he said.

Gloria said the new site is a bridge between job fairs, federal-level eagerness to help post-9/11 veterans secure employment and the Guard. He said the

site allows interested firms to broaden their horizons in terms of qualified applicants.

"They (companies) can post as my jobs as they want. And, best of all, there is no cost for them to do that," Gloria said.

Employment initiatives for veterans are in the news at the federal level because of a program kicked off by First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, Ph.D., wife of Vice-President Joe Biden. Their program, called Joining Forces, started in June 2011 as a way to rally support from across America to help veterans and military spouses find employment.

President Barack Obama also challenged American firms to hire 100,000 jobless veterans by 2013.

At least one major American firm - Wal-Mart pledged to hire any honorably discharged veteran within their first 12 months off active duty in the wake of the President's call.

Closer to home, Gloria said the effort to ensure that area Guard units remain ready is connected to how many Citizen-Soldiers are employed.

"We are trying to improve readiness by having an employed Soldier. An employed Guardsman is, typically, a happy Guardsman. Which in turn means his or her family is better off as well," he said.

Gloria said H2H simplifies what can be a lengthy and time-consuming job search process.

"It (H2H) is streamlined for a straighter job landing," he said.

To find out more about H2H, contact Gloria at (503) 269-3216 or go online to: <https://h2h.jobs/>.

## Organizers call Vietnam State Partnership workshop a 'successful start'

Continued from Front Page

were on opposite sides of very serious circumstances," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, referring to himself, Dr. Blair Craig, Program Manager for Joint Directorate of Military Support, and Lt. Gen. Khue. The three met to discuss the location of some of the battles Khue and Rees were involved in during their time in Vietnam.

Earlier in the day, Craig showed Rees and Khue a map of the region in Vietnam where the two generals had been on opposing sides during the Vietnam War in 1969 -- Rees as a 24-year old troop commander, and Khue as a young combat engineer. They both recalled battles in the same areas on the map.

"We see a better way ahead, where people can share understanding and common goals in a peaceful and cooperative way, and perhaps all the sacrifice will have been for good in the long term for both countries," said Rees, "We have come a long way in 44 years."

The Oregon National Guard's State Partnership with Vietnam is poised to

greatly benefit all those involved in the program, with cross-cultural awareness, domestic emergency preparedness training, and the enhancement of international relationships, said Capt. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office.

"We hope to build upon the established success with our SPP partner, Bangladesh, and work just as effectively with our new partner, the National Committee for Search and Rescue of Vietnam, to create a foundation for future success in the areas of search and rescue and emergency response," Bomar added.

Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen bring a wealth of critical, real-world experience to issues deemed important in Vietnam, in particular, domestic emergency response and natural disaster preparedness and response, he said.

The partnership between the Oregon National Guard and Vietnam was made official in November 2012 as part of the National Guard Bureau-sanctioned program, which pairs emerging democracies with National Guard states.



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

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (right), Adjutant General, Oregon, and Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue (second from right), Deputy Chief of General Staff for the Vietnam People's Army, discuss a map of Vietnam during the State Partnership Program Workshop, in Portland, Ore., April 19. Dr. D. Blair Craig (far left), Program Manager for Joint Directorate of Military Support, presented the map to Khue and Rees, while Senior Captain Mai Tat Thang, American Desk Officer, Vietnam People's Army, helped translate. The map represents the region in Vietnam where both Khue and Rees fought on opposite sides of the Vietnam War in 1969. See related story on Page 4.

Oregon currently has both Vietnam and Bangladesh as its state partners.

The State Partnership program complements broader U.S. engagement with Vietnam in pursuit of shared priorities such as disaster relief, education, health, trade and the environment.

The program directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation

goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels.

Vietnam, located in Southeast Asia, has a population of about 91.5 million. It is bordered by the Gulf of Thailand, Gulf of Tonkin, and South China Sea, as well as China, Laos, and Cambodia.



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

Tom Milligan (left), Vice President and Executive Officer for Government Systems at Flir, welcomes Lt. Gen. Tran Quang Khue (second from left); Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (right), The Adjutant General, Oregon; and a Vietnam delegation to the Flir Corporate Headquarters in Wilsonville, Ore., April 15.

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## FEATURES

## Family Assistance Specialists see cost of war first-hand



Tara Howie, the Region III Family Support Specialist based in Ontario, Ore., has spent the past few years helping the families of Guardsmen and veterans of all ages find the right resources to secure a viable future.

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell  
JTAP Public Affairs**

**ONTARIO, Ore.** – Nearly every week, Payette, Idaho's Tara Howie secures the chance to observe first-hand the cost of a decade of war.

The human fragments of battle filter into her office at the Ontario Armory at different times; sometimes they arrive with a wife or a girlfriend or a friend. Nearly always they seek help.

Howie, the area Family Assistance Specialist (or FAS) for the Oregon National Guard's Family Program, understands the cost of freedom.

She sees it every day.

At first glance Howie's job appears straight-forward. As a contract employee in support of the National Guard Family Assistance Program, Howie's role is to provide services for family members of Guardsmen across eastern Oregon. From assisting with legal queries to answering questions about finances to assisting in crisis intervention, family assistance specialists often furnish a crucial link between families and local Guard units.

Howie, along with FAS teammate Jody Marsh, in La Grande, deliver services to 10 counties in eastern and central Oregon. Though based in Ontario, Howie is often called to assist with cases in places like Hermiston or Burns.

The vast distances of eastern Oregon – from the wide open desert steppe to the Blue Mountains – means Howie must find a way to bridge the gap in distance to be effective. One way, she said, is simple: build relationships with community stakeholders across the arc of eastern Oregon.

"As you can imagine, there are some challenges we face because of the vast area which we serve. We are considered subject matter experts in our region which extends from Malheur to Sherman County, so we do a lot of networking on the phone," she said.

While the collective spotlight during the War on Terror rested, justifiably, on the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform who fought in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, the plight of those left behind often fell into the background.

Standing behind every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or reservists that deployed during the War on Terror

was usually an extended family. Just as often that family included a spouse and children.

The impact of conflict, of long absences of a parent to a combat zone on children remains a lingering by-product of America's longest war and is likely to reverberate into the future, Howie said. The impact of deployment differs in each individual family, she added.

"Reactions have varied depending on the age and developmental stage of each child. I have had parents come in with young children that were having temper tantrums and separation anxiety," Howie said.

Older children, Howie said, often deal with the trauma of deployment in different ways.

"School age kids deal more with worry and increased responsibilities around the house," she said.

Howie was touched by the deployment cycle when her son was sent to Afghanistan with his Oregon National Guard unit.

"My younger two children avoided the news media while my older son was deployed to Afghanistan because they were afraid of hearing that someone died and wondering if it was their brother," she said.

Howie pointed to statistics generated by the Guard's Family Assistance Program as ample evidence the tentacles of the war on terror reached deep into the social fabric of Oregon's rural population. Those statistics show that more than 500 children in eastern Oregon were touched by an overseas deployment in the past 10 years.

One chief reason for the significant regional impact of the war on terror centers on two separate deployments during a six-year period of eastern Oregon's Guard combat outfit, the 3 Battalion, 116 Cavalry Regiment. The Citizen-Soldier unit, with its headquarters in La Grande, deployed to Iraq in 2004 and again in 2010.

Children and families of Guardsmen and reservists faced an unusual set of challenges during the war on terror according to Linda Davidson, the co-founder and executive director of Our Military Kids, Inc.

Our Military Kids is a non-profit organization devoted to helping military families, and was launched in 2004.

Davidson said the fact Guard and Reserve families are, by their very nature, are situated away from active duty military bases. That often means the challenges they face because of a deployment can slip under the collective radar.

"Because they are not near a military base, the general population does not connect them to the military," Davidson said.

Davidson's non-profit organization is designed to furnish support for children of deployed or injured Guard and Reserve personnel with grants for sports, arts and tutoring. The program is all about nurturing, Davidson said. So far, she said,

the program achieved notable successes across America.

"We recognized early on this was an effective program. It helps them (children of deployed Soldiers) with physical and emotional stress. There are a lot of residual impacts on our children from deployment," she said.

Our Military Kids distributed more than 41,000 grants – totaling about \$16.5 million – to children of deployed service members of every service branch across America during the decade-long war on terror. In Oregon, the organization handed out 167 grants in 2011, 45 grants in 2012 and six so far in 2013.

Davidson said her organization also puts a focus on the reintegration process for returning Guardsmen and Reservists.

"We've found through our program the adjustment (for service members returning from a combat zone) is much smoother," she said.

Davidson said the simplicity of her program – in terms of the process to apply for and secure approval of a grant – paid dividends.

"Military families are used to filling out lots of paperwork. (With our program, you fill out a one-page application. We process it in a week's time," she said.

Davidson, like Howie, secured a front-row seat at the War on Terror. She said her major concern now is the peculiar dilemma of Guard and Reserve families will fade as the war rolls to a close.

"My fear is that the last to serve over there will be forgotten. They will continue to need our support. There is a misconception that all of our service members are back. It is kind of an untold story," she said.

Howie, too, wonders what will happen once the last American service member leaves Afghanistan and the war on terror is regulated to the history books. Yet she said the awareness level regarding the challenges children and families of deployed Guardsmen face is growing.

"Great strides have been made to assist Soldiers and their families over the past decade but there is always room for more," she said. "For instance, in the area of mental health, many veterans, service and family members are going without mental health care because of the limited availability of such care and the barriers to accessing care."

## Family, Soldiers, clergy come together for Partners in Care event



Oregon Army National Guard Chaplain Terry Larkin discusses an overview of Partners In Care during a summit at Life Community Church, April 30, in Corvallis, Ore. The summit encouraged clergy and community members to support local military families.

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

A summit to join community forces, Partners In Care, brought military and clergy members together at Life Community Church in Corvallis, Ore., April 30.

Partners in Care, a faith-based (non-evangelistic) initiative of the Oregon National Guard State Chaplain's Office, is a program partnering with communities in support of service members and their families.

The program is an offshoot from Family Assistance Specialists/Family Support Groups to recognize the Citizen-Soldiers and their families as integral parts of local communities, and connect them to the uniquely equipped local congregations and faith-based organizations that can offer support in times of crisis, stress, and need.

"Be the other resource that's not the chain of command," said Maj. Jessica Dunn, who spoke about the issues, challenges, and needs related to military service.

Dunn explained that service members are more likely to open up for help when they can relate in some way to a person outside the military, but who still understands military culture.

Partners In Care is a proactive, grass-roots ministry, with each community participant able to help in different ways. Often times, just having a familiar face outside of the chain of command genuinely check-in on a struggling Soldier has a positive impact.

Rev. Dr. Deb Patterson, Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries, explained the program's goal.

"There are more churches than gas stations across the country," he said. "Just imagine all the support for our troops that can come from that."

The program is voluntary, and training is provided to understand the various situations with which a service member may need assistance.

The service, which is more of a "buddy" system, is free and without obligation to the service member and their family.

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## FEATURES

# All-Star Salute brings out the stars, brings in the donations

Story and photos by Sgt. Cory Grogan  
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Some might say Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer has done many great things in his life, including raising five successful children; one of whom happens to be lead guitarist for the rock band KISS.

Thayer became widely known in business and political circles as one of Oregon's most prominent figures after a distinguished military career.

James Thayer joined the United States Army in 1942, earning the prestigious Silver and Bronze Stars for his combat heroics during World War II. Second Lt. Thayer's anti-tank mine platoon discovered and liberated the Nazi death camp, *Gunskirchen Lager*, near Wels, Austria, saving the lives of more than 15,000 Hungarian Jewish refugees.

After the war, Thayer married Patricia Cunningham in 1954 and pursued a career as a community and business leader in Oregon.

Thayer established the successful J. Thayer Office Products Company in 1955 and subsequently served on advisory boards for the Port of Portland, the World Affairs Council, General Telephone, Reed College, the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, as well as the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and the Boys and Girls Aid Society.

After leaving the Army as a colonel, Thayer was promoted to brigadier general and commander of the Oregon State Defense Force.

It is for his heroic military accomplishments and civic leadership that the new Oregon Military Museum will be named in his honor.

The capital campaign for the museum — with leadership from Thayer's sons Tommy, Jim Jr., John, and Mike — has secured more than \$2.5 million, including this year's 2013 All Star Salute proceeds of more than \$400,000.

"My sons are unbelievable," the elder Thayer said. "It's unbelievable how enthusiastic they are to make this thing work."

The Thayers have helped spearhead a \$6.5 million capital campaign to renovate and construct the Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore.

That effort was kicked off with the 2012 All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, which was lauded as a success, raised more than \$300,000, said Oregon Historical Outreach Foundation Executive Director, Alisha Hamel.

Hamel said the 2013 All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, held Apr. 20, at

the Governor Hotel in Portland, is doing something great for Oregon.

"This museum will be a regional attraction that will bring visitors from around the world to see the museum's amazing collections," Hamel said.

The 2013 All-Star Salute boasted a distinguished guest list including Honorary Co-Chairs and Oregon Governors Victor Atiyeh (1979-1987) and Ted Kulongoski (2003-2011); Master of Ceremonies and voice of the Portland Trail Blazers, Bill Schonely; KGW TV's Brenda Braxton; KISS lead guitarist Tommy Thayer and popular Oregon musicians Patrick Lamb, Linda Hornbuckle and Liv Warfield.

"I'm honored to be part of this outstanding event to recognize, not only my father, but all veterans who have sacrificed for our country," Tommy Thayer said.

This year's All-Star Salute recognized Oregon's Korean War veterans. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating 2012-2013 as the "Year of the Korean War Veteran," recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Korean War, and honoring the contributions and sacrifices made by Korean War veterans.

One memorable moment at the event was a \$75,000 donation announced by Lee Holzman, President and CEO of Reliable Credit Association, son of Irwin Holzman, a Korean War veteran honored at the event. Irwin Holzman served under James Thayer during the Korean War.



Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS, shares a moment with his father, 91-year old Brig. Gen. (Oregon State Defense Force) James B. Thayer at the 2013 All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, held at the Governor Hotel in Portland, Ore., April 20.



Ninety-one year old WWII veteran, Brig. Gen. (Oregon State Defense Force) James B. Thayer, receives a standing ovation at the 2013 All-Star Salute to the Oregon Military, held at the Governor Hotel in Portland, Ore., April 20. The event is part of a two-year, \$6.5 million capital campaign fundraiser for the Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore. The museum will be named in honor of James Thayer, a World War II veteran who helped liberate a concentration camp in the waning days of WWII.

When asked why he made the pledge, Lee Holzman said he is grateful for the opportunity to honor thousands of Oregon veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

"In particular, we are pleased to commemorate Irwin Holzman, our company founder and Chairman, for his service to our country during the Korean War," he added.

Lee Holzman explained that he wanted to contribute because Oregon boasts one of the richest military histories in the nation.

During World War II, Oregon Soldiers from the 41 Infantry Division based in the Pacific Northwest, were sent overseas after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to be the first American division trained in jungle warfare.

The division, nicknamed the "Jungleers," spent 45 months fighting overseas, and was also the first division to confront Japanese Imperial forces in an offensive operation in New Guinea. The tour was the longest of any division in World War II.

Another example of Oregon's remarkable military history can be seen hanging on the armory wall of the Oregon National Guard's Bravo Company, 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment in Corvallis, Ore. The company received the Presidential Unit Citation, which is the highest award bestowed upon a military unit.



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom Hovie, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

James Thayer at home with some of his awards.

Helen Gundlach, Oregon Historical Outreach Foundation director of development, said the process of hiring an architect and engineer for the Oregon Heritage Military Park renovation and construction is underway, and 2015 has been announced as the date for the museum's grand opening. However, the Park will open much sooner, Gundlach explained.

"It's a place to honor all Oregonians who have served their country and to learn about their sacrifices and triumphs," added Gundlach. "The museum will become a place to educate future generations about Oregon's role in state, national, and world history from the Native American warrior days through the present."

## Oregon National Guard showcases unmanned aerial system at Umatilla

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

The Oregon National Guard unveiled its latest cutting-edge war-fighting technology here Tuesday during a short demonstration flight of the RQ-7 unmanned aerial vehicle.

The RQ-7 UAV is a critical resource for a commander in a war zone such as Afghanistan, Oregon Guardsman and Pendleton resident, Sgt. Sean Fuqua said.

"In combat they want us up 24-7," he said.

Fuqua and his crew of Guardsmen from Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were on hand at the event to spearhead a demonstration for local media and other officials at the flight facility.

Guard leaders said there will be four RQ-7 UAVs eventually stationed at the Pendleton Flight Facility. The UAVs will be used exclusively for training, Oregon Guard Lt. Col. Alan Gronewold, the commander of the Pendleton Flight Facility said.

"We are not doing testing or research

with them. And we are not flying them for any outside sources," he said.

The RQ-7 is about eleven feet long and boasts a 14-foot wingspan. The unmanned aerial vehicle weighs about 400 pounds and can fly up to 15,000 feet while it utilizes two cameras — including an infrared device — to be the eyes of a ground commander in a combat zone.

Unlike the bigger Predator, unmanned vehicles used by the military to hunt down terrorists, the RQ-7 is strictly an information-gathering platform for Guardsmen in combat and is not armed.

The event on Tuesday marked another milestone for the Guard. The flight of the RQ-7 was the culmination of a multi-year certification process between the Oregon Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration designed to allow flights of UAVs outside of military airspace.

Until Tuesday, the Guard was limited to using the U.S. Navy's Boardman Training Area. Now, in the wake of FAA approval, the Guardsmen secure more flexibility regarding practice with the UAVs.

"It really broadens our training ability. We can train right here," Gronewold said.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Braeme, the commander of Det. 1, Bravo Company, said the capability to train at the Pendleton Airport is easier for the Guard and cheaper in the long run for eastern Oregon taxpayers.

"Normally we flew out of Boardman. That took three or four days to set up. Here we can set up and train in one day," he said.

Sgt. Eric Smidt, another member of Det. 1, Bravo Company, said the Guard is restricted regarding how low the RQ-7 can fly.

"We are not allowed to do any flights, other than take-offs and landings, below 2,000 to 4,000 feet," he said.

Guard leaders said the UAV training will be a gradual process.

"We will ease into it. We have to be comfortable with it, take it slow, fly safe," Braeme said.

Gronewold said the ceremony Tuesday was significant for another reason.

"We've also shown the world you can integrate manned and unmanned aviation operations in the national airspace system," he said.



Spc. 4 Marcus Kellogg and Spc. 4 Max Kellogg make final adjustments to the RQ-7 UAV at the Oregon National Guard's Pendleton Flight Facility while Sgt. Sean Fuqua, (right), looks on. All three Guardsmen are from Pendleton and assigned to Det. 1, Bravo Company, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Miss Oregon meets museum namesake**

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

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** -- Miss Oregon Nichole Meade (front) joins Oregon State Defense Force Brig Gen. James B. Thayer (second from far right), former Oregon Governors Ted Kulongoski and Vic Atiyeh, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Director Cameron Smith, President of Emmert International Terry Emmert, and John, Jim and Mike Thayer, for a photo in front of the new sign for the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., April 11.

The group was also able to watch the old Camp Withycombe guard shack being moved off the premises, during their tour of the facility. Several individuals from the group attended a sold-out fundraiser event on April 20, which featured entertainment by Tommy Thayer of the rock band KISS.

Proceeds from the gala event went toward the two-year capital campaign to raise funds for the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Museum located at Camp Withycombe.

See related story on Page 14.

**The rescued meets her rescuers**

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

**SALEM, Ore.** -- Mary Owen, 23 of Newberg, Ore., and her family paid a visit to the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., May 9, to thank the Oregon Army National Guard soldiers who rescued her from Mount Hood.

Owen was injured during a hike and stranded for six days when a helicopter crew from Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation, located her and hoisted her off the mountain on March 30.

She posed for a photo with her rescuers, Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers during her visit, in front of the Blackhawk helicopter in which the crew hoisted her off of Mount Hood.

From left: Chief Warrant Officer 3 Devin Wickenhagen, Capt. Nathan Edgecomb, Mary Owen, Sgt. Michael Buchan, and Sgt. Daniel Cleveland.

**UHCCF to award grants for child health care**

**LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. (May 16, 2013)** – The United Healthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) is seeking grant applications from families in need of financial assistance to help pay for their child's health care treatments, services or equipment not covered, or not fully covered, by their commercial health insurance plan.

Qualifying families can receive up to \$5,000 per grant to help pay for medical services and equipment such as physical, occupational and speech therapy, counseling services, surgeries, prescriptions, wheelchairs, orthotics, eyeglasses and hearing aids.

To be eligible for a grant, children must be 16 years or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, reside in the U.S., and have a commercial health insurance plan. Grants are available for medical expenses families have incurred 60 days prior to the date of application as well as for ongoing and future medical needs.

Parents or legal guardians may apply for grants at [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org), and there is no application deadline. Organizations or private donors can make tax-deductible donations to UHCCF at [www.uhccf.org](http://www.uhccf.org). Donations are used for grants to help children and families in the region in which they are received.

"The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation is dedicated to improving a child's health and quality of life by making it easier to access needed medical-related services.

The grants enable families to focus on their children's health instead of worrying about how they'll pay their medical bills," said David Hansen, CEO, UnitedHealthcare of Oregon. "Eligible families are encouraged to apply online for a medical grant today and take advantage of this valuable resource."

In 2012, UHCCF awarded 23 grants totaling more than \$44,000 to families in Oregon. Nationwide, more than 1,300 grants, worth more than \$4.1 million, were awarded for treatments associated with medical conditions such as cancer, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, diabetes, hearing loss, autism, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, ADHD and cerebral palsy.

As successful fund-raising efforts continue to grow, UHCCF is hoping to help more children and families in 2013.

**US Coast Guard has MWR housing in Bend**

The U.S. Coast Guard, based in North Bend, Ore., has a 3-bedroom, 2-bath house, for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) rental. All appliances, including TV and DVD player are provided. During a recent stay, a LTC O-5 paid \$40.00 per night, and found the house to be spacious and comfortable for his group of three couples.

You'll need your military ID card and there is a \$40 cleaning deposit.

Your stay is just like being at home, as you just bring the groceries. (Shopping is about a mile away!) This isn't really camping.

Like at home, there is a washer/dryer and dishwasher, and you make your bed, enjoy your stay, and then wash and fold the linens for the next occupant, vacuum the carpets, and clean the floors, sinks, and counters.

Yes, take out the garbage and recycling, too!

Full information and photos can be accessed at: <http://www.uscg.mil/mwr/lodging/NorthBendRecLodging.asp> (Might have to copy to your browser to view it.)

The house is located in the USCG housing area in North Bend and the POC is: Mr. Hubert Lynn, Housing Manager, @ (541) 756-9203, or (541) 297-7508. Contact him for more information.

**Every month is motorcycle safety month!**

Story by CW3 Josiah Zeiner, State Safety Specialist

The month of May was Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Col. Kelly Smothers, General Foreman for the Oregon Sustainment Maintenance Site, used May 28 as an opportunity to not only promote motorcycle safety awareness but to raise awareness for both The Army Safety Program, AR 385-10 and the US Air Force Traffic Safety Program Instruction AFI 91-207 and the Adjutant General's Command Policy Memorandum #153 Motorcycle Safety Policy.

The OSMS along with Clackamas County Sheriff, Oregon National Guard Safety Office and Team Oregon hosted 25 riders from Camp Withycombe to a meet-and-greet and question and answer session.

Riders who completed the army ap-

proved Motorcycle and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Checklist were entered into a raffle to win one of four motorcycle safety vests and a backpack. The checklist highlighted inspecting the bike itself. Inspection checklist included the chassis, tires, mirrors, headlights, and turn signals.

The inspection also included PPE requirements: DOT approved Helmet, Goggles or face shield, footwear, protective clothing to include long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, and full-fingered gloves. Riders were encouraged to incorporate PPE that used fluorescent colors and retro reflective materials.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rob Fraser

From left to right: Team Oregon Instructor Darryl Williams, Col. Kelly Smothers, Clackamas County Sheriff Deputies Jodi Westerman and Bryan Morris, and CW2 Robert Ryan.

Clackamas County Motorcycle Sheriff Deputies Jodi Westerman and Bryan Morris were on site to answer general questions and talk about their motorcycles. OSMS employee and Team Oregon Instructor Darryl Williams was on hand to answer questions about Oregon's new law requiring riders to have at a minimum basic riders training.

At the conclusion of the motorcycle inspection riders enjoyed a BBQ hot dog lunch.

Future motorcycle safety events are being planned.

"Next year, I would like to host local area Veterans Motorcycle Clubs in conjunction with AAFES and the Military Museum as a way to raise awareness for motorcycle safety while at the same time raising funds that could support such operations as the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles," Smothers said.

"It would also be a way to support the Army's Motorcycle Mentorship Program."

**Corrections**

In the Spring 2013 issue of the Sentinel, we incorrectly identified the destination of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation as Kuwait in the headline. The unit's members mobilized to Kosovo. We apologize for the error.



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.

**Retiree Service Office**

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

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

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

Email: [ng.or.orarng.list.mbmgt-j1-rso@mail.mil](mailto:ng.or.orarng.list.mbmgt-j1-rso@mail.mil)  
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## AZUWUR



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

**PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore., (5/24/2013)** — It was two weeks before Memorial Day, 1948, when the searchers found them. More than a month had passed in the spring of 1948 since three Oregon Air National Guard Airmen had gone missing in one of the 142nd Fighter Group's Douglas A-26 Invader light bombers.

Capt. Alexander J. McCorkel, 26, Master Sgt. John W. Shaylor, 30, and Pfc. Jack T. Tofte, 18, were returning to Portland Air Base, Portland, Ore., from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., in an A-26B aircraft on Friday, April 9, 1948. "They went up (to McChord A.F.B.) to get aircraft parts," remembers retired Chief Master Sgt. Jack Klein, Oregon Air National Guard, a member of the 142nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at the time.

The last communications received with the aircraft to the Portland Air Base was at 8:15 p.m., roughly 11 miles north of Portland, at 11,000 feet.

The aircraft was about to let down through the weather to 5,000 feet and expected to arrive at the base 14 minutes later. But the crew aboard the A-26 never arrived.

In the days that followed, Air National Guard aircraft flew hundreds of hours searching for the missing aircraft; Klein was on one of the early search missions.

The day after the A-26 went missing; he was an aerial observer aboard an Oregon Air National Guard Douglas C-47 transport.

"We flew up the Columbia River, east to The Dalles, Ore., searching the south bank, then back along the north shore, looking for the downed aircraft," but to no avail, said Klein.

## Memorial Day loss remembered by ORANG members

### Crash of 142nd Fighter Group's A-26, death of Airmen shocks unit in 1948

Local residents who heard the sound of an aircraft that day helped refine the search area; Chief Klein went out with three other Air National Guardsmen on a ground search party in a 3/4 ton weapons carrier truck, but only "poked around in the rain" on a road along the Kalama River in Washington. At one point the search was called off, proving fruitless.

But on May 15, 1948, Master Sgt. John Shaylor's body was found a few hundred yards from the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company's logging railroad line near Baird Mountain, some 25 miles east of Castle Rock, Wash. It lay near his partially-opened parachute; he apparently bailed out and successfully cleared the A-26, but was too close to the ground for his parachute to fully open.

With this discovery, searchers renewed their efforts, and the very next day, Paul Sanger, manager of the Kelso, Washington Airport, spotted the wreckage of the bomber on the south side of Baird Mountain, while flying his Aeronca aircraft as part of the search effort.

Searchers on the ground soon confirmed the loss of the other two Oregon Air National Guard crewmembers aboard the demolished A-26 airplane.

Retired Oregon Air National Guard Col. John Barden, who at the time served as an administrative clerk in 1948, remembered Capt. McCorkel, a World War II veteran, as very professional, a good leader, and highly thought of as the base detachment commander.

Barden worked in the Oregon Air National Guard Headquarters at the time. Capt. McCorkel was the Base Detachment Commander for the full-time Oregon Air National Guard employees, then called the "Caretakers," known as Air Technicians today. The Caretaker unit started out with 18 people in 1947, according to Col. Barden.

"What a fine man, an excellent pilot," said Klein about McCorkel.



Image from the 142nd Fighter Wing History Archives

This Douglas A-26C-30-DT Invader, serial number 44-35213, was one of several examples of the type assigned to the Oregon Air National Guard in the late 1940s. It was similar to the A-26B-40-DL, serial number 41-39526, lost on April 9, 1948. The A-26 bombers (designated B-26 in June, 1948) were used by the Oregon Air National Guard in a utility role. For example, this A-26C, possibly pictured at Gowen Field, Idaho, during the unit's summer training in 1950, towed aerial targets for the 142nd Fighter Group's P-51D Mustang fighter pilots upon which to practice their aerial gunnery skills.

Master Sgt. John "Jack" Shaylor was an original member of the Oregon National Guard's original aviation unit, the 123rd Observation Squadron, formed in April of 1941.

He stayed with the squadron as an aircraft mechanic and crew chief throughout the unit's World War II service, including his overseas assignment in China.

Tech. Sgt. Fred Parish, another founding member of the 123rd, recalls that Shaylor always seemed to be upbeat and had a good sense of humor.

Barden said Shaylor, whom he described as Capt. McCorkel's right-hand man, was a likeable guy.

Klein remembered Shaylor as the senior flight engineer on the base, and a wonderful mechanic.

Remembering Pfc. Tofte, Barden said

he was a very eager young recruit.

"He was a service-type man, liked the military, and loved airplanes," Barden said.

Barden added that the sudden loss of these three Oregon Air Guardsmen was a "tremendous blow, and totally unexpected."

"We were very sad," Klein recalls. This unfortunate event was followed shortly afterward by the catastrophic flooding of Portland Air Base by the Columbia River.

These twin tragedies had a significant impact on the Oregon Air National Guard, but the pioneering spirit of the early Oregon Air Guardsmen enabled them to overcome these dual setbacks, continue on with the mission, and develop the organization into the first-class operation it remains today, Barden added.

## Japanese-American WWII, Korea War vet inducted into museum Hall of Valor

Story by Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel,  
Command Historian, Oregon Military Museum

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — Four Oregonians were inducted in the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum's 2013 Hall of Valor this year at the 2013 All Star Salute to the Oregon Military held on April 20.

The sold-out event, held at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland, honored Mineo Inuzuka, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Inuzuka was a teenager in Portland when WWII started. As a Japanese-American he and his family — like many others who shared his ethnic background — were rounded up and sent to the Exposition Hall in Portland before eventually being sent off to internment camps located throughout the west and Midwest.

Inuzuka and his family ended up at the Minidoka Relocation Camp in Idaho, and took the option to move further east, eventually settling into a camp near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Shortly after arriving in Salt Lake City, he received a draft notice and reported for duty, training on the East Coast before being sent as a replacement to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team — the renowned all Japanese-American unit which garnered more medals than any other during WWII.

He arrived at Sospel, France when the 442nd was in need of replacements following the rescue of the "Lost Battalion".

Inuzuka participated in the Gothic Line penetration and Po Valley Campaign, which drove the Germans out of Italy.

Inuzuka returned home to Portland and used the G.I. Bill to attend college at Lewis



Photo courtesy of the Oregon Military Museum

Mineo Inuzuka, as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII.

and Clark.

He said he soon grew restless, and decided to visit Japan. He wanted to return as a civilian, but he rejoined the Army and was sent to Japan to be an interpreter. Unfortunately, Inuzuka had never learned Japanese.

He was assigned to the interpreter section anyway, but since he couldn't really conduct his job, he ended up as a runner just as the conflict in Korea started heating up. Inuzuka volunteered to go.

Since he had some combat experience in WWII, he was made a squad leader. He

said the big, tall white guys questioned this 5'3" Japanese-American; could he really lead them, they wondered? After their first battle, they knew they could trust Inuzuka to take care of them.

Inuzuka seemed to have an innate sense of where to set up the fields of fire during their missions, which resulted in no casualties in his squad. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming the platoon sergeant.

His buddies in Japan were astounded that every time he came back for rest and recuperation he had another stripe. In short time, he was given a battlefield commission as second lieutenant.

It was while he was a second lieutenant that he was given the mission for which he was recommended a Distinguished Service Cross. Inuzuka said it was the worst battle he had ever seen.

According to the citation, while serving with Company F, 2d Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, 2nd Lt. Inuzuka distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Chango-ri, Korea, on 27 May 1951.

On that date 2nd Lt. Inuzuka's unit was assigned the mission of attacking and securing a commanding terrain feature

from a well-entrenched and determined enemy force. Advancing with his men to within 600 yards of the objective, his platoon was suddenly subjected to intense enemy automatic weapons fire.

Realizing that the present position was untenable, he moved forward alone in an attempt to locate the enemy machine-gun emplacements. Moving from one vantage point to another under a heavy volume of fire, he discovered the camouflaged positions and adjusted mortar fire on them.

The men moved forward to attack once more but were again slowed by heavy and accurate enemy fire. Disregarding his own safety, 2nd Lt. Inuzuka moved among them, encouraging his men and pointing out individual routes of attack to them.

His display of courage so inspired the men that they moved onward in a spontaneous attack that secured the objective, the citation continued. Selecting their positions and personally directing the fire of his men, Inuzuka was directly responsible for the successful suppression of the numerous fierce counterattacks hurled at the platoon by the enemy.

Before Inuzuka was scheduled to leave Korea, he was asked to be an observer in an AT-6 Texan—an observation plane used to fly over the enemy forces as a scout, and to call in air and ground strikes on them.

Inuzuka ended up flying 110 missions 10 more than the requirements needed to rotate home. On one of those missions, his pilot was hit and Inuzuka was forced to fly the airplane back to the base.

Mineo Inuzuka is the recipient of a Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars (one with Valor), Commendation Medals and Achievement Medals.



Mineo Inuzuka, today.