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**Airmen provide medical care in Sri Lanka: Page 12**

# Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron returns from Qatar deployment

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

**PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore.** – After more than six months deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 26 members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron returned to the excitement of family, friends and co-workers who were on hand to greet them, Aug. 8.

The Airmen departed for Al Udeid, Qatar in January 2013 following pre-deployment training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel addressed the Airmen and related his experience at Qatar, having been deployed there a year before.

“It feels especially good to welcome you back having gone through that exact experience,” he said.

As part of their assignment of providing 24/7 protection, members separated into different shifts and sectors, covering flight line security, base patrol, vehicle search areas and supply.

“I can already tell that you have matured and gone through many challenges during your time away,” said Stencel.

Stencel discussed changes within the Oregon National Guard that took place during their deployment and introduced Oregon’s new Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, to the Airmen. Hokanson officially took over for Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, who retired on July 31.

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Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, greets Tech. Sgt. Devin Boise and other Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron during the unit’s demobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., Nov. 3.

## Oregon, Bangladesh partner in preparedness

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Barto, Oregon State Partnership Program

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** – Members of the Oregon National Guard traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the Oregon State Partnership Program in support of U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (PR DREE), from Aug. 18-21.

The PR DREE provided a forum for disaster management and response experts from USARPAC, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, Bangladeshi Governmental and Civil authorities, and members of the Oregon National Guard to come together to discuss and evaluate Bangladeshi disaster response capabilities.

The Oregon National Guard provided eight members with expertise ranging from medical first-response, search and extraction, to structural engineering, logistics and command and control. They were paired with USARPAC subject matter experts to exchange ideas and engage their Bangladeshi counterparts in discussions relating to earthquake response.

The DREE included two days of tabletop exercises focused on earthquake response scenarios and a field training exercise where Bangladeshi first-responders conducted hands-on rescue techniques with Oregon National Guard members and role-players in a rubble pile built to simulate a collapsed building.

Oregon Army National Guard Capt.



Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Adam Lulay (left) shares a laugh with Bangladeshi firefighters during preparations for a training exercise with the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division at the Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aug. 20.

Adam Lulay, one of Oregon’s leading search and extraction experts who attended the PR DREE, was impressed by the hard work and motivation of the Bangladeshi first-responders.

“The Bangladesh Fire Department and Army were very impressive,” Lulay said. “(They were) extremely hard working, motivated, and thorough in their

preparation and execution. I look forward to future training opportunities with them.”

Officials say Bangladesh capabilities in earthquake preparedness and response have serious and high-level dedication at all levels in the country. Bangladesh sits on three fault lines and, according to

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**COMMAND**

**Adjutant General shares his vision for future direction**

*To the Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians of the Oregon National Guard,*

The Oregon National Guard has helped maintain the peace and security of our State and Nation for over 170 years. Our history began with the first militias formed in the Oregon Territory, continued with the Spanish American War and Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Korea, Operations Desert Storm, Northern Watch, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom, and continues today with Operation Enduring Freedom. Oregonians have a long history of selfless service to the defense of our State and Nation.

Throughout our history, we also served our communities, State and Nation, responding to emergencies and natural disasters. Your competence, confidence, courage and commitment assures our communities that when we are needed, we are there.

To ensure we move forward in the right direction, and continue our dedicated and selfless service to our State and Nation, we must re-examine our organization from top to bottom. In support of this effort, I met with our Governor, our civilian and military strategic partners, key leaders in our organization, and fellow Guard members to guide the development of my initial strategic direction to the Oregon National Guard.

My vision for our organization:

The Oregon National Guard is a ready, professional organization of Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians dedicated to the highest quality service to our communities, State and Nation. We stand Always Ready, Always There!

To achieve this vision, our mission going forward is:

The Oregon National Guard provides the state of Oregon and the

United States with a ready force of Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians, trained and equipped to respond to any contingency, natural or man-made.

In support of our vision and mission, we will:

1. Provide trained and ready operational forces to our State and Nation
2. Be effective stewards of our resources
3. Sustain the Oregon National Guard community
4. Forge and maintain partnerships

I am proud to be part of such a professional organization. I have the utmost confidence in your ability to move forward in support of our vision, mission and priorities; and continue the Oregon National Guard's legacy of exemplary service to our communities, State and Nation.

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



**Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson,**  
The Adjutant General,  
Oregon

**Chief warrant officers commission around the globe**

Due to the vague verbiage in AR 600-101, many chief warrant officers, including myself, did not have a correctly filled out Oath of Office DA Form 71 in their personnel file.

The current DA Form 71 contains a warrant officer column and a commissioned officer column. Checking the "Reserve Warrant Officer" box for chief warrant officer oaths is a common mistake. For chief warrant officer ranks (CW2-CW5) the correct box to check is "Reserve Commissioned Officer" because they become commissioned and take the same oath as regular commissioned officers.

This wasn't just a matter of fixing paperwork. We take our oath as commissioned officers seriously, so we needed to do this the right way. In an attempt to correct this situation, we held oath ceremonies around the

world for our chief warrant officers who needed to re-take their oath and update their documentation.

I presided over an official oath ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., during November drill. Meanwhile, a similar oath ceremony was held at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Pendleton, Ore.

Capt. Brady Phillips administered the oath for our chief warrant officers serving in Kosovo with Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth Tinseth administered the oath for Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Rhoden serving in Afghanistan with Detachment 47.

Photos were taken at each location to capture the moment of chief warrant officers commissioning around the world. We did this



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

for you and your fellow warrants. You earned it and you deserve it.

In the future, a new form may be created with three options to eliminate confusion; commissioned officer, commissioned warrant officer, and warrant officer.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing, JFHQ Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Terry Swartwout administers the oath of office during a chief warrant officer commissioning ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., Nov. 3.



Photo courtesy CW2 Andrew Rhoden

CW5 Kenneth Tinseth (left) administers the oath of office to CW2 Andrew Rhoden (right) while serving in Afghanistan with Detachment 47.



Photo courtesy CW2 Anson Smith

Chief warrant officers take the oath of office at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Pendleton, Ore. From left to right: CW2 Jacob D. Murphy, CW2 Jeremi L. Uhrig, CW2 William M. Barker, CW2 Anson G.S. Smith, and CW2 Raymond E. Talkington.



Photo courtesy Charlie Co. 7-158th Aviation

Capt. Brady A. Phillips (right) administers the oath of office to CW2 Lars L. Larson, CW2 Steven A. Huson, and CW2 Logan K. Bass while serving in Kosovo with Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation.

## OPINION

**American Legion Commander: 'Let's serve veterans as well as they served us'**

Daniel M. Dellinger is national commander of the 2.4 million-member American Legion.

**Story and by Daniel M. Dellinger,  
American Legion Commander**

During the recent government shutdown many numbers were thrown around. There is one number that stands out and it has nothing to do with the debate over the federal budget.

More than one a day. That is how many members of our active-duty military, National Guard and Reserve forces have committed suicide over the last year.

Simply put, we are losing more service members by their own hands than we are

by the enemy in Afghanistan.

Only those who experienced firsthand the horrors of combat can understand why most of these young men and women feel compelled to take such drastic and permanent measures.

As Veterans Day ceremonies and parades occurred throughout the country, it was important that we commit ourselves to doing everything possible to prevent these needless and tragic deaths.

We are their friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors. It is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans. There are many tangible ways that we can acknowledge their sacrifice, but the easiest is to simply say, "Thank you for what you have done for our country."

If he is showing signs of unhappiness or depression, encourage him to seek help through the VA immediately. If she has had difficulty obtaining the benefits that she is entitled to, let her know that The American Legion has thousands of trained service officers nationwide that will help her navigate the bureaucracy free of charge. If that veteran has made the Supreme Sacrifice, remember the price that has been paid for our freedom and offer your support to the loved ones left behind.

Veterans Day is a time to honor not just those who have fought for us in battle, but, in fact, all of the outstanding men and

women who served in our nation's Armed Forces since our founding more than 237 years ago. Not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation.

Perhaps most significant in preserving our way of life are the battles that America does not have to fight because those who wish us harm slink away in fear of the Navy aircraft carrier, the Coast Guard cutter, the Air Force fighter squadron or the Army Soldier on patrol.

Or they have heard the words that recently retired General James Mattis shared with his Marines: "Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everybody you meet."

While we should all be grateful for the remarkable advancements made in military medicine and prosthetics, the fighting spirit and inspirational stories of our veterans are not due to technology.

These traits come from the heart.

And many of these veterans are women, such as Army Chief Warrant Officer Lori Hill. While piloting her helicopter over Iraq in 2006, she maneuvered her chopper to draw enemy gunfire away from another helicopter and provide suppressive fire for troops on the ground.

Despite flying a damaged aircraft and suffering injuries, she landed the helicopter safely, saving her crew. For her actions, she became the first woman to receive the

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Women are major contributors to our military presence in Afghanistan and many have given their lives in the War on Terrorism. The American Legion recently issued a report calling upon VA to improve its response to the unique needs of women veterans.

The VA and military health systems need to adequately treat breast and cervical cancer as well as trauma that resulted from domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault. America is home to more than 1.2 million women veterans and they deserve our support.

In the poem "Tommy," the great writer Rudyard Kipling lamented over the rude treatment a British Soldier received at a pub.

Writing in classical old English, Kipling compared the abuse with the more favorable treatment that "Tommy" receives by the public during war.

*"For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' 'Chuck him out, the brute!"*

*But it's 'Savior of 'is country' when the guns begin to shoot;*

*An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' anything you please;*

*An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool – you bet that Tommy sees!"*

Let us always treat our 23 million veterans as the saviors of our country that they are. Even when the guns are no longer shooting.

**More to learn from a Soldier than meets the eye**

**Story and photo by Master Sgt. Tom Hovie,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs**

This past November, I was once again sent on assignment to cover a myriad of ceremonies for Veterans Day. The Albany parade, the VFW dinner the night before, comprised the typical line up of events.

But one ceremony on November 13 somehow struck me a little different than most. The audience was made up mostly of students from Stayton High School, but included members of the community and of course, Oregon National Guard Soldiers.

The event consisted of a flag folding demonstration, complete with narrative explaining what each fold of the flag represented. It was accompanied by a short speech focusing on the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Armed Forces to keep this country free and on the concept of the "destiny of oneself".

"People who say they can, and people that say they can't are probably both right,"

said Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Adam Lulay, commander of the HHC, 2-641st Aviation Battalion, and a graduate of Stayton High School.

Well-spoken words, I thought. A very good message to deliver to these young people who are just starting to define themselves and their lives.

"You have to believe in yourself before anyone else will believe in you," Lulay continued.

These words surely bolster the self-confidence it takes to compete in a world which seems to be growing tougher and more competitive every year.

As I left this ceremony, I thought about his messages of hope and self-determination. He not only acknowledged the sacrifices made by all those in uniform who have served our state and nation, but also those who create their own destiny.

His message of self-reliance and how we all have the power to attain our own dreams



and create our own success are important to our younger generation — something we can all learn from and to which we can all aspire.

In some way, all of us who wear this uniform can affect changes in those we come in contact with. Talking about sacrifice is a noble effort, but I believe our presence at that school in uniform will hopefully make an impact on those students.

**Air Force cuts to PME threaten "diversity of thought"**

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

When Air Force leadership put out a call to all Airmen for ideas to help save money in the face of growing DoD budget cuts, Air Force Master Sgt. Jason Eden responded with an article (published in the March 18, 2013 issue of the Air Force Times), which proposed calling an end to in-residence Professional Military Education (PME).

I could not disagree more.

Master Sgt. Eden, a superintendent at the 42nd Force Support Squadron at Maxwell AFB, in Alabama, admitted the idea was radical, and would result in a heated debate on both sides of the issue. What he didn't count on however, was how receptive Air Force senior leaders would be to the idea.

As part of the Every Dollar Counts Campaign, unveiled in March by Gen. Larry Spencer, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, the idea is actually being considered as part of a plan to backfill the \$1.8 billion shortfall due largely to the cost of overseas contingency operations and looming cuts as a result of sequestration.

There has been a firestorm of responses, both in favor and against, published in

various online and print publications.

As a career Airman with more than 25 years of military service, including prior service in the U.S. Coast Guard, I have found in-residence PME to be one of the most valuable networking and learning tools available to our service members. And you notice, I didn't just say "to our Airmen." I believe that if the Air Force goes forward with cuts to its in-residence PME program, other military branches will closely follow suit.

That would be a travesty.

In every in-residence PME course I have attended, from technical schools to military continuing education, I have formed valuable professional relationships which I continue to cultivate till this day. When faced with a challenge, I reach out to experts in my peer group, which includes individuals in the field who I met at in-residence PME courses.

Regardless of our status—Drill Status Guardsman or Active Guard & Reserve—I believe we get so busy in our "daily grind" that we end up in a homogenous stovepipe of knowledge. If we continue to operate autonomously, we miss tapping into a potentially valuable network of individuals

we can meet at in-residence courses—individuals who can help keep our thought process and problem-solving skills sharp and diverse.

Eden estimates the Air Force spends between \$10 million and \$20 million each year on in-residence PME. Granted, there could be additional savings, as his estimate doesn't include housing for officers and dependents.

However, while Eden's idea is one option, I don't think it should be considered as a serious one. In my opinion, cutting off access to experts in our peer group throughout the Air Force, and indeed the rest of the military by slashing in-residence PME courses, is short-sighted and wrong. No amount of budgetary savings is worth losing access to this invaluable knowledge base.

Remember, we cannot solve all the problems we face in our daily lives, but we can certainly tap into our collective community of expert fellow Airmen and their "diversity of thought" to help us overcome challenges we may face. This alone, should be the biggest argument to keeping in-residence PME as an option to our Airmen.

**Resilience is more about self-awareness**

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

Here is a hypothetical scenario: You are on the West Coast and have to drive across country to the East Coast by a specific time.

For this trip you have to borrow a friend's car. It is an old car and the dashboard instrument panel doesn't work, it sometimes overheats, a strange noises comes from the engine.

On your trip you listen to the car, trying to guess its condition. You wonder if you should stop at the nearby hotel or if you can make it through long stretches of lonely highway.

Do you have enough gas? When is the next station? Do you ignore some of the strange noises from the engine? Do you keep going?

Self-Awareness is one of the Core Competencies of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Just like driving the car is more difficult when you cannot gauge its condition, so too our effectiveness as Soldiers are limited when we cannot accurately assess our current state of being.

Self Awareness is not about giving in to the pain, it is about knowing the difference between mere muscle soreness or serious ligament damage after a 26 mile run.

Having greater Self Awareness allows for better planning, which leads to increased chance of completing the mission.

Information on the Resiliency Program can be found under G1 on SharePoint, or visit <http://www.army.mil/readyandresilient>

For individual resilience information visit the Soldier Fitness Tracker at <https://www.sft.army.mil/>.

## NEWS

## Logisticians learn skills 'affecting the lives of every Soldier' at annual workshop

Story and photos by

Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**WARRENTON, Ore.** – Oregon Army National Guard logisticians from across the state gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., for the Director of Logistics (G4) annual State Logistics Workshop, Dec. 2-6. The week-long conference gave logisticians a chance to network and brush up on their skills with workshops covering every aspect of their field.

"Logistics is where the rubber meets the road; we all depend on the supply chain no matter what the mission is," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chuck Stewart, Quartermaster Branch Chief for the Oregon Army National Guard.

A town-hall session gave subject matter experts a chance to address questions from the field. Round-robin classes included hands-on computer based training with the systems logisticians use to order and track their supplies. A range of topics were covered including, the Qualified Recycling Program, government purchase cards, sizing Soldiers for deployment gear, unit sub hand receipts, budget forecasting, preparing for inspections, logistics support during state emergencies, among many others.

"We have been doing this annually for about 13 years," said Col. Donald L. Rolph, the Oregon Army National Guard's Director of Logistics (G4). "The training



Staff Sgt. Stephanie Schloesser (center), with the 3670th Maintenance Company, helps Staff Sgt. Jason Blain (left), with Charlie Company, 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, and Spc. Humberto Gonzalez (right), with Detachment 1, 1186th Military Police Company, navigate the Army Food Management Information System during the State Logistics Workshop at Camp Rilea, Dec. 4.

we provide here supplements what they receive at their professional logistics schools and gives them the tools they need to be successful supply sergeants."

Rolph said this supplemental training is especially important due to the 67 percent turnover rate for supply sergeants over the last year.

"We have to keep the new people trained, provide them the support they need, and help raise their confidence," agreed Stewart.

Newly-hired supply sergeants such as, Spc. Humberto Gonzalez, with Detachment 1, 1186th Military Police Company, from Milton-Freewater, Ore., said the State Logistics Workshop was beneficial.

"I've only been a supply sergeant for two months, so I need the practice," said Gonzalez, as he navigated the Army Food Management Information System to order food rations during a classroom practical exercise.

"The networking that takes place here will help anyone in the long run," said Staff Sgt. Jason Blain, who will take over as supply sergeant for the rear detachment during the upcoming deployment of Charlie Co., 2-162nd Infantry Battalion in Gresham, Ore. "You can take the information back to your unit and you'll know who to call when you have questions."

Logistics representatives from National Guard Bureau, Col. Michael J. Bouchard,

Army National Guard Deputy Chief of Staff of Installations, Logistics and Environment (ARNG G4), and the ARNG G4 Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Guy Hahs, were also in attendance at the State Logistics Workshop.

"Everything starts and ends with logistics," said Bouchard as he addressed the audience of logisticians. "You affect the

lives of every Soldier whether it's through their food, their clothing, or their equipment."

Bouchard lauded Oregon as a "great state with a great reputation," saying the Oregon Army National Guard is leading the Army in logistics as a top performing state, evidenced by the awards it has earned.

At the awards banquet on Dec. 3, many individual logisticians were recognized for going above and beyond in their work. Among those recognized were Sgt. 1st Class Linda G. Cassle, Staff Sgt. Nicole F. Herron and Staff Sgt. Scott A. Young, who were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Martin for "demonstrating the highest standards of integrity, moral character, and displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence."

The Honorable Order of Saint Martin recognizes individuals who have served the United States Army Quartermaster Corps with selfless service, and has contributed to the promotion of esprit de corps in ways that stands out in the eyes of the recipient's superiors, subordinates and peers. It is part of the Regimental Awards Program for the Association of Quartermasters and is an equivalent award to the National Infantry Association Order of Saint Maurice Legionnaire or the U.S. Field Artillery Association Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Currently, there are less than 20 actively serving members of the Oregon Army National Guard who have been inducted into the Order of Saint Martin.



Col. Michael J. Bouchard, Army National Guard Deputy Chief of Staff of Installations, Logistics and Environment (ARNG G4), speaks to Oregon Army National Guard logisticians during the awards banquet dinner, Dec. 3, at the State Logistics Workshop at Camp Rilea.



Oregon Army National Guard logisticians were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Martin for going above and beyond in their work during the awards banquet dinner, Dec. 3, at the State Logistics Workshop at Camp Rilea. From left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Linda G. Cassle, Staff Sgt. Scott A. Young and Staff Sgt. Nicole F. Herron.

## Bangladesh rehearses earthquake response with Oregon Guard



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Barto, Oregon State Partnership Program

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pearson (center) works with firefighters from the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division during preparations for an earthquake scenario training exercise simulating a collapsed building at the Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aug. 20.

Continued from Front Page

historical data, is well overdue for a major earthquake.

Hundreds of buildings across the country, especially in the capital city of Dhaka, the country's most populous city, have poor structural integrity. Tragedies such as the Rana Plaza building collapse in April 2013, which left more than 1,100 dead, have strengthened the resolve for Bangladesh to build their capabilities in areas of disaster response—specifically in earthquake preparedness.

U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena, often emphasizes that it is not a question of "if" Dhaka will be hit by a large magnitude earthquake, but a question of "when."

"If Dhaka were hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, about 20 percent of the 350,000 buildings in this great mega city would collapse," Mozena said during his opening comments at the PR DREE.

Given these numbers, an earthquake in Dhaka has the potential to be ten times more devastating than the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The Bangladesh government and military are well aware of the situation and have been taking necessary steps

to proactively mitigate the effect of this potential disaster. This has led to a specific area of support that the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (BD AFD) has requested from the Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon National Guard has been partnered with Bangladesh since October 2008. The Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program is currently working with the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, as well as the BD AFD to develop engagements in 2014 as follow-on to the DREE, with additional subject matter expert exchanges focusing on search and extraction, medical first response, and structural engineering. These engagements are intended to reinforce lessons learned and continue to develop the country's capabilities in areas of disaster response and preparedness.

The National Guard's State Partnership Program provides unique, cost-effective, partner capacity-building capabilities in support of U.S. National Security objectives by developing sustainable, cooperative partnerships between individual U.S. States, Territories and the District of Columbia and foreign partner countries.

NEWS

### Artillery traditions honored at banquet



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

Above: Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara during the 25th Annual Molly Pitcher Banquet at the Jackson Armory in Portland, Ore., Dec. 7. From left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Reeves, Maj. Vincent Habeck, Capt. Richard Helzer, Master Sgt. Morgan Olsen and Sgt. 1st Class Jon Keas. Saint Barbara is the patron saint of artillerymen.

The Artillery Order of Molly Pitcher was also awarded to Mrs. Mindy Barella, 2013 Oregon Military Spouse of the Year and wife of Staff Sgt. Thomas Barella, of Alpha Battery. Mrs. Terry Cornwell also received the award for her volunteer support of Bravo Battery's Family Readiness Group.

The Molly Pitcher award is given in the tradition of an artillery wife, Mary Ludwig Hayes McCauley, whom shared the rigors of Valley Forge with her first husband, bringing pitchers of water to thirsty men and tending to the wounded. She also stepped forward when her husband fell wounded and manned the gun. Gen. George Washington issued her a warrant as a noncommissioned officer and she was widely hailed as "Sergeant Molly."

### Combat engineers compete in Sapper Stakes



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jalayna Lagomarsino, 41st Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

Combat engineers from the 162nd Engineer Mobility Company approach the shore of Camp Rilea's Slusher Lake, near Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 7. The Soldiers participated in a timed rowing event during the 1249th Engineer Battalion's 2013 "Sapper Stakes" combat engineer competition.

### Military Police train with Tasers



Soldiers of the 1186th Military Police Company received familiarization training with Tasers at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Nov. 6.

Above: Soldiers learn what it feels like to be tased in order to familiarize themselves with the effects the Taser has on the body.

Left: Staff Sgt. David Brown learns how to safely operate a Taser.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Zach Holden, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

### SOU cadets active in school, community



Southern Oregon University ROTC cadets conduct a quarterly Field Training Exercise.

Story and photo courtesy Southern Oregon University ROTC Program

Southern Oregon University ROTC is a program developing future officers for the Oregon Army National Guard and their communities. SOU's ROTC cadets are learning to be critically thinking, technically and tactically proficient leaders through weekly classroom instruction, leadership laboratories and quarterly field training exercises.

Recently the program's Fall 2013 Field Training Exercise (FTX) was highlighted by the Medford ABC affiliate KDRV. The Fall FTX was the first of four events the cadets will attend in preparation for their final examination Leader Development and Assessment Course during the summer between their junior and senior year.

The cadet commander, Cadet Shane Corley, observed the cadet's success during the FTX and remarked, "despite the blisters, early mornings and long distances between land navigation points, the cadets retained positive attitudes and motivated each other to keep working hard."

In August the university acknowledged the program's success by moving the program to a larger facility and gifting 34 dorm rooms at no cost to cadets. Housing scholarships have eased financial burden on many of the cadets and is improving their ability to focus more on their education.

The scholarships have begun to improve retention and are an added incentive for ORARNG recruiters to use when discussing the program with applicants.

Another facet to the program's success is in part due to its partnership with the

athletic department and its coaches and athletic recruiters. SOU ROTC had seven student-athletes playing sports this Fall; five football, one women's soccer and one men's rugby.

Six of the seven student-athletes are Oregon National Guard members who hail from all over the West Coast ranging from southern California throughout Oregon and southern Washington. Daniel Abernethy is a sophomore outside linebacker, majoring in health and physical education; Ledontrae Gooden is a freshman strong safety, majoring in pre-medicine; Kurtis Catron is a freshman defensive end, majoring in communications; Adan Madera is a freshman running back, majoring in health and physical education; Monti Wilson is a strong safety, majoring in criminal justice; Devon Walker is a junior goalie, majoring in sociology; and Shane Corley is a hooker on the rugby team and a graduate student pursuing a Masters degree in management.

The culminating event for SOU's cadets this term was the execution of "Operation Green Santa". The senior class planned, developed and conducted a holiday toy drive for underprivileged children in conjunction with the southern Oregon Chapter of the Marine Corps League's Toys For Tots toy drive in south Medford and Ashland, Ore.

The cadets distributed collection boxes to Ashland businesses and collected toys at the south Medford Wal-Mart.

Follow SOU's cadets on their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/156489054412424/>

### McMinnville signs community covenant

Story by Capt. Timothy Merritt, Joint Transition Assistance Program

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. – Mayors, members of the business community, faith-based organizations, veterans service organizations, and the Oregon National Guard gathered at the Yamhill County Fair, Aug. 2, to sign a Joining Community Forces (JCF) Covenant

The Covenant signing is the culmination of months of planning and preparation for the JCF. The program seeks to expand and reinforce the network of care available to service members and families of Oregon veterans.

"Basically the community is pledging to take care of their veterans," said Jerry Wilson, the Yamhill County Veterans Service Officer, and a 30-year veteran.

Symbolic of the partnership between veterans and the local community, the American Legion opened and closed the ceremony with a Color Guard comprised of local veterans, which included two Soldiers who served in World War II. A survivor of Pearl Harbor, retired Lt. Col. Leonard DeWitt, Purple Heart and

Distinguished Service Cross recipient, also attended the event.

Paul Partridge, program manager for Yamhill County Health and Human Services, gave particular credit to Elán Lambert, special projects officer from the Oregon Army National Guard, for organizing the event. Lambert served on the original JCF steering committee in January, and helped all of the various agencies and organizations to see new ways they could work together to assist service members and families.

"We do everything we can do to help veterans locally," said Kathy George, a Yamhill County Commissioner. Moving forward, the committee will continue to focus on trying to identify and close any gaps in coverage for those in need.

The Covenant signing ceremony concluded with an Armed Forces Medley sung by the local musical group In Accord.

"I'm very pleased with the turn-out in attendance," said Consuelo Christenson, a retired Air Force first sergeant. "It has all gone so smoothly and we're excited about working together."

## NEWS

# First sergeant major of the Army Guard runs Army 10-miler on 80th birthday

## Retired Sgt. Maj. Hunt runs course with current command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard

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

ARLINGTON, Va. (10/21/13) - More than 35,000 runners took part in the 29th Annual Army 10-Miler Sunday marking the biggest turnout for the run in its nearly 30 year history. But, for one runner taking part in the event, it marked a different sort of milestone.

For retired Command Sgt. Maj. Al Hunt Jr., who from 1976-1978 served as the first sergeant major of the Army National Guard, the day also marked his 80th birthday.

To mark the occasion, Hunt ran this year's course with Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, the current sergeant major of the Army Guard, as well as Soldiers assigned to the Army National Guard Readiness Center.

"Today is my 80th birthday," said Hunt after the race.

"I ran ten miles and I finished. It's an experience that everybody needs to challenge themselves."

Hunt finished the course in just under three hours, but it wasn't his first time taking part in the 10-Miler. In 1994 he ran in the 10th 10-Miler and has also taken part in a number of marathons as well. Running, for Hunt, goes back more than six decades.

"I started running in high school to become part of a team that could challenge you both physically and mentally," he said. "It also provided individual measurements of ones limits."

And testing your limits was one of the reasons Hunt said he chose to run in this year's 10-Miler. Age alone presented Hunt with limits to test, made even more challenging, many may say, as Hunt is visually impaired and legally blind.

"When you're hearing impaired or visually impaired you don't ever let that stop you," Hunt said. "You can overcome."

Hunt, however, said there were others who kept him motivated.

"The people that really inspired me were the wounded warriors," he said. "I mean, they're coming back with limbs missing,

It's just a generation of "you can do anything." All you have to do is just step out and do it."

Hunt said that this was his way of stepping out and doing it.

"You see all these people around you and they're doing things with no limbs," he said. "They're accomplishing something so I figured I might be blind, I might be deaf but I'm gonna do it."

**The people that really inspired me were the wounded warriors.**

- Retired CSM Al Hunt Jr.

It also represented a homecoming of sorts for Hunt.

"My kids used to run with me. When I was stationed here at the Pentagon and lived on Fort Myer, we used to run these same bridges and around all these monuments," he said. "It was a challenge to come back here and do it again."

It was also a homecoming in other ways as well.

"It means that I had returned and experienced running with a team and that's what the Guard is all about," he said.

And for Conley, it was a chance to reconnect with the Army Guard's past as a way to shape the future.

"The back of the (Army Guard 10-Miler) shirt says 'a tradition of excellence,' but excellence has to start with the first," said Conley.

"You can't start until the first gets the ball rolling in the right direction. You're looking at where excellence started. Everybody that has followed on since then has built on that tradition of excellence."

And watching Hunt take part and complete the event, for some, served as a way to inspire that tradition of excellence in others.

"They say running is 90 percent mental,



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, center, the current sergeant major of the Army National Guard, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Al Hunt Jr., with glasses, the first sergeant major of the Army Guard, run toward the finish line of the Army 10-Miler, Oct. 20, 2013. Hunt, who turned 80 the day of the race, completed the run in just under three hours with Conley and other Soldiers assigned to the Army National Guard Readiness Center running alongside him.

and I strongly believe that," said Army Capt. Emilygrace Mate, who headed up the 10-Miler teams and the Army Guard's participation in the event. "I think it's a tremendous feat what he just did and gives us the motivation, especially for those of us that aren't runners, to go out next year and run. I think it's tremendous that he came out here and ran and set the standard for everyone."

This year's event also saw a large turnout for runners from the Army Guard.

"We had 2025 runners registered, last year we had 1500 registered, so that was a big increase for us this year," said Mate, adding that the Guard also had two teams—one male team and one female team—running the 10-Miler competitively with both teams taking second place in their respective divisions.

And for Hunt, it all comes back to preparing for and accepting the challenge.

I started (preparing for the 10-Miler) in December because you need to at least do 10 months preparation," said Hunt, who previously coached both child and adult runners.

"You can't just go out and start running. Even at that pace and that amount of training I still had muscle cramps but that's just normal. You get to a certain age and you just expect that to happen. But, you just don't quit. That's what this is all about."

And Conley, the tenth Army Guard sergeant major, said he has similar challenge in mind.

"I hope that when I'm 80 I can run with the 20th sergeant major of the Army Guard," he said.

The chance to run with Hunt was an exceptional experience, said Conley.

"It was a pleasure. It was an honor," he said.

## How does the Affordable Healthcare Act impact you?

Story courtesy of  
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

The new Health Insurance Marketplace opened as part of the Affordable Care Act implementation on October 1.

While the Affordable Care Act is designed to provide quality and affordable health insurance to people, Veterans Affairs Health Care also remains a viable option for those who qualify for benefits.

The VA's health program, the Civilian Health and Medical program (CHAMPVA), and the Spina Bifida health care program all meet the minimum essential coverage requirements under the new health care law so veterans do not have to take any additional steps to secure health coverage.

With VA health care programs, there is still no enrollment fee, monthly premium, or deductibles. Many veterans will still have no out-of-pocket costs and can still use Medicare, TRICARE, or private insurance under the VA's program.

Those who remain uninsured, including veterans, will have to pay either a flat fee or a percentage of their taxable income depending on which amount is higher starting in 2014.

Enrolled veterans will also receive an informational letter through the mail from VA discussing the details of their current plan.

The letter is being used as another means to inform veterans that there is no need to take any additional steps to obtain health insurance to comply with the health care law coverage standards going into effect in



January 2014.

VA medical care is rated as one of the best in the country and veterans may apply for VA health care at any time. Most veterans have no out-of-pocket costs. Some veterans may have to pay small copayments for health care or prescription drugs.

Currently there are more than 1,700 locations available to get your care. This means your coverage can go with you if you travel or move.

Veterans may also choose to enroll in the Marketplace options provided by the Affordable Care Act that could lower the cost of their health insurance.

Uninsured spouses of veterans who do not have access to VA benefits can also enter the Marketplace to access quality

health insurance with eligibility for financial assistance.

The Veterans Health Administration is America's largest integrated health care system serving 8.76 million veterans annually. Nationally, 1.3 million non-elderly veterans do not have health insurance which means one in every 10 of those veterans is uninsured.

For more information about your health benefits, visit [www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., or Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (EST).

If you are a veteran and currently don't qualify for VA health care, Cover Oregon is another option for all state residents. For more information please visit their website at [www.coveroregon.com](http://www.coveroregon.com).

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## NEWS

## Women in the military see changes over span of careers

Story by Ursulla Bichoff,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was created as an auxiliary unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on May 15, 1942 and converted to full status as the WAC in 1943.

The WAC as a branch was disbanded in 1978. The Oregon National Guard's very own recently-retired Patricia Woodbury was one of the last WAC members still serving in the military.

Woodbury began her military career in 1974. She comes from a strong military family and sought to follow in the footsteps her grandfathers' who were Army Veterans. Her father retired from the Navy, her oldest brother, Patrick, retired from the Air Force and her brother, Steven, was a Marine. Her younger brother, Rick, also joined the Army.

"Honestly, I thought the Marines had the sharpest, coolest uniforms, but I decided that wasn't a compelling reason to join any organization except maybe cheerleaders. I am very patriotic and wanted to serve my country," Woodbury said.

She expressed her frustration with how Vietnam War Veterans and returning service members were being treated and she wanted to honor them in her own way.

According to Patricia, in 1974 joining the Army wasn't exactly the coolest thing for a 20 year old, vegetarian, Theater Arts major. Next thing she knew, she was in a recruiter's office talking about what MOS (Military Occupational Skill) she could have that incorporated theater arts.

"I literally joined the Army undecided and chose to go where ever and do whatever the Army needed me to do. I figured I could do anything for two years. Somewhere between signing enlistment

papers and boot camp the choice was made to send me to air traffic control school. This was something I never would have thought of doing," she said.

Boot camp was special to Patricia. There were only women training with other women and all the cadre were women as well.

"I remember saluting the command sergeant major and her correcting me saying she was not a commissioned officer," she said.

"I don't get star struck too easily, but I was so impressed with this woman's accomplishments making it to the highest enlisted rank in the Army. Even if I had known I wasn't supposed to salute her, I think I would have anyway," she added.

Patricia felt there were some odd things about basic training back then. They turned in their fatigues at the end of basic training because few MOS' required them to wear them, but they did get to keep their boots.

Woodbury also said they had to participate in a class on the proper application of cosmetics and starch their fatigues so they would look good. They wore a pastel green PT uniform that consisted of an opaque, short sleeve button down collared shirt, button on the side Bermuda shorts, a wraparound knee length skirt, white bobby socks and pointy toed, white sneakers.

"We laughed, cried, worked hard, learned a lot and even played some practical jokes on our drill sergeants," Woodbury said.

Her next stop was advanced individual training (AIT). She got about half way through training and her FAA license when her class two flight physical results came back. This was normally done before an individual signs up for air traffic control school.

"It turns out the Army and the FAA have an aversion to "blind as a bat" without my glasses," Woodbury added.

She was then sent to biomedical equipment repair school at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Colorado.

"I was the second woman to go through the school. I was the first woman that all of the men at Womack Army Hospital repair shop on Fort Bragg, North Carolina had ever worked with as a peer. There were many adjustments to make, not the least of which was my uniform," she said.

Patricia thought she would like to make the Army a lifetime career. Three weeks before the end of her enlistment she joined the California Army National Guard 40th Medical Battalion stationed in Long Beach.

She remembers the difference in military culture between the regular Army in a place like Ft Bragg and the laid back National Guard in California. There were still men who were drafted into military service. This was a totally different Army than what she "grew up" in. Guys had sideburns and mustaches that framed their mouths. People wore partial uniforms and showed up late for formation. She stuck out like a sore thumb in very shiny boots. It worked well for her though. She was seen as a squared away Soldier and was soon promoted to Sergeant (E-5).

During her last year in the Guard she gave birth to her oldest son. At that time they were no longer forced out of the military if they were pregnant, but it was an option to get out early if they wanted to. She chose to stay and complete her enlistment. She decided not to re-enlist though and took an 18 year break in service. Woodbury went back to school, took a job as a medical equipment repair tech and eventually became a Doula. She moved to Oregon and worked as a Quality Technician at Gage Industries.

"While I was at work one day, one of my co-workers showed up in uniform. We started talking and come to find out I could still re-enlist at age 43 with my previous



Photo courtesy of Patricia Woodbury

Patricia Woodbury was one of the last members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps still serving. She retired from the Oregon Army National Guard in October.

time in service," she said.

She later joined the Oregon Army National Guard's 82nd Brigade, eventually changing her MOS to 42A, Human Resource Specialist.

"I have been working in S3, the Operations and Training Section of 82nd Brigade for the past 15 years," she added. "My main function has been to work behind the scenes to support my section and any other section with everything from marching in Veteran's Day Parades to supporting operations during the many SRPs since 9-11 and all the deployments."

Her last drill was in October and she is now officially retired from military service. She is currently a volunteer Family Readiness Group Coordinator.

"I am retiring my need to wear boots, but I will still march on," Woodbury said with a smile.

## Environmental Program Section bids farewell to long-time employee

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

The Environmental Program Section of the Oregon Military Department (OMD) began with one man, Gerald E. Elliott, in 1983. Thirty years later the program has developed into a staff of 11 with more than 220 years of combined environmental experience.

Elliott and his staff are directly responsible for monitoring and resolving issues of air quality, water quality, pollution prevention, pest management, noise management, hazardous waste and numerous other areas for the Oregon Military Department.

Elliott began his career learning how the OMD and the Oregon Air National Guard (ORARNG) worked; who did what, how it all fit together, etc.

He participated in focus groups to network and share information with different states. He said this furthered his knowledge of environmental programs and helped him establish policies, procedures, rules and regulations for the agency.

He soon realized the key to making everything work well was to establish a good working relationship with the National Guard Bureau (NGB), maintenance managers and aviation flag facilities.

"Partnership and teamwork really made things work well," said Elliott. "Once you build a relationship everything else falls into place."

In 1983, one of his first major assignments was to attend an Oregon silverspot butterfly recovery group meeting and collect sufficient data to prepare a Habitat Management Plan, which was mandated by United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) in 1989.

Elliott spent years creating a plan to

manage the 68 acres on Camp Rilea for the silverspot butterfly habitat.

Today's staff still monitor the grounds to ensure that a specific mowing schedule is kept, verify the butterflies food source is available and count any butterflies they locate.

According to Elliott, by 2014 the project will be complete and they will no longer be responsible for managing the habitat at Camp Rilea.

"When Gerry started with the Department he was the first and only employee in the Environmental Section. To see what expertise and professionalism he has created is a tremendous credit to him and the Military Department as a whole," said retired Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, former Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department.

Recently, Elliott's staff noticed a lead build-up at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. where Guard members train. In order to minimize the amount of waste, they used a technique similar to panning for gold to assist in the grounds clean-up.

Over 280 tons of bullets were pulled from the shooting range hillside. The mining process used a device to sift out the lead and leave the soil behind.

The bullets were then sent to a smelter for recycling. This process also allowed the majority of the soil to be reused.

"This year alone our budget was reduced by \$200,000" said Elliott. As he departs the Oregon Military Department, he said his section's biggest challenge will be balancing increased demands with fiscal responsibility.

"I have been blessed. I have had a tremendous opportunity to work here. I appreciate the support from Gen. Rees and Gen. Caldwell," said Elliott. "It has been a fun trip. I could never have planned a job like this with so much satisfaction."



Gerald Elliott (fourth from the right), with his family following his retirement ceremony at the Oregon Military Department, July 14.

"Elliott has developed one of the top Environmental Programs in the entire National Guard," Caldwell said. "His team is second to none and has been recognized

on numerous occasions by the National Guard Bureau and the Department of the Army. We will most certainly miss his presence!"

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## FEATURES

# Two services, one mission: joint CERFP trains to save lives

Story by Maj. Caleb Westfall and Maj. James Ryan, CERFP, 142nd Fighter Wing

**PORTLAND, Ore.** - With its home at the 142nd Fighter Wing, commanded by Col. Rick Wedan, a newly-validated joint team comprised of approximately 197 Airmen and Soldiers known as the Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), stands ready for call-up by state or federal authorities.

The unit's mission is to respond to man-made or natural events and provide a robust, quick-response search and extraction, with the varied capacities of decontamination, medical triage, treatment and stabilization, and fatality recovery.

With Soldiers from various units around the state providing the majority of the search and recovery and decontamination efforts on the team, two groups from the 142 Fighter Wing provide the medical support (to include a trained medical team embedded within the search and

extraction team), and fatality recovery elements.

Led by Lt. Col. Eric Schadler, the medical element is comprised of 47 Airmen assigned to the 142nd Medical Group, which is commanded by Col. Heidi Kjos—who also participates as a physician on the team. The medical element brings an expert mix of doctors, physician assistants, nurses, medics, bioenvironmental engineers, public health experts, and administrative support.

The CERFP has the ability to decontaminate and medically stabilize up to 200 patients per hour through its ambulatory and non-ambulatory lines, with a focus on providing life-saving stabilization and allows for rapid evacuation from the incident area to local or regional medical centers.

The fatality search and recovery (SAR) team, led by Maj. Dawn Choy and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Pate, are staffed by members from the 142nd Fighter Wing's Force Support Squadron, which is commanded by Lt. Col. Donna Prigmore. The Squadron Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Victoria, is the Air Component Director on the CERFP's command and control element, and fills a critical role which interfaces between the joint elements of the CERFP.

The fatality SAR team's primary role is to enter into the incident zone, locate and recover fatalities, and remove them from the area so that they can be safely returned to families. This effort is also critical in providing much-needed technical data for investigators if there is the possibility of a terrorist or criminal event having occurred.

The Oregon CERFP is one of the nation's newest validated teams. It completed its required external validation in May 2012, which evaluated members in the technical aspects required for their mission. In March



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 3670th Maintenance Company move a simulated casualty, Cadet Eduarde Ramierez, through a simulated decontamination process during the (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) training exercise at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue training station in Sherwood, Ore., Aug. 14.

2013, the team also underwent a Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team (SEAT) inspection, which evaluated its fiscal and administrative responsibilities. The team's excellent results allowed for its ultimate validation and mission readiness status by the former Adjutant General of Oregon, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

The CERFP has a busy 2014 schedule and must remain prepared for its FEMA Region-10 mission. The unit will conduct multiple training missions in the Portland metropolitan area in January and February, to prepare for another external evaluation in March.

Immediately following that evaluation, the unit will join other CERFP units in Alaska to take part in an exercise simulating a large earthquake event. In July, Oregon's CERFP will again travel to another mass-casualty exercise in Wisconsin, followed in October by another SEAT inspection, where the unit's administrative processes will again be tested by federal inspectors.



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

Oregon Air National Guard 2nd Lt. Naomi Desir examines Soldier during the Oregon National Guard's (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) training exercise at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue training station in Sherwood, Ore., Aug. 14.

## Lewis uses radio skills as Soldier and emergency management volunteer

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

**SALEM, Ore.** - Sgt. Patrick Lewis, a signal support system specialist with the Oregon National Guard, has a passion for the power of communication and using his skills to help others.

In addition to his military service, Lewis is an amateur radio volunteer for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. His office provides important functions and programs for the state of Oregon revolving around preparation, response, recovery and mitigation for emergencies and disasters.

The 24-year-old Lewis, who has been an amateur radio operator since he was a junior in high school, said he became interested in emergency communications when he found out amateur radio may be the only form of communication in a disaster.

"If an event like Oregon Cascadia happens we know it will be the only form of communication out there in many places," said Lewis.

The Oregon Cascadia event is described as an earthquake event with an estimated magnitude of 7-9 on the Richter scale. This earthquake event historically occurs every 200-300 years, and is estimated to be about 75-100 years overdue.

The Amateur Radio Unit in which Lewis volunteers his time is one example of the important resources the Office of Emergency Management provides for Oregon. The unit can be activated to provide statewide backup and alternate communications during times of emergency when other methods or modes of communication are overloaded or disrupted.

"This Unit will utilize HF, VHF, UHF, and Digital Modes to provide communications between county and

state emergency management offices, and to border states, as required," said Fred Molesworth, communications officer for Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

"Counties have no other resource for back up communication other than amateur radio and volunteers like Lewis, who will be critical in a disaster scenario," Molesworth added.

Lewis said his job with Oregon National Guard involves work with electronic equipment that sends signals.

"I joined the Guard because I was an amateur radio operator, and being an amateur radio operator has helped me throughout my military career," Lewis said. "It gives me more depth of knowledge about radio waves, and going above and beyond to learn radio theory, and how radio waves work."

Molesworth added that there are several emergency and disaster scenarios that can happen in Oregon where normal cell, telephone and internet communication would be lost.

"When we are activated to counties our backup is all via amateur radio," Molesworth said. "We have highly flexible amateurs with licenses and training all over states that are very versatile and capable of providing emergency communication."

Molesworth said the amateur radio unit he manages consists of 25 members, and that Lewis is the assistant emergency coordinator and operations chief for the unit. Lewis wrote the operations plan for the unit and was chosen for the leadership position for a reason, he added.

"I chose him because of experience, ability and tremendous enthusiasm," Molesworth explained. "He had the qualifications we were looking for to make this unit work—he was a good choice."

Molesworth added that Lewis is a model amateur radio volunteer who brings a level of discipline and experience

in communication from his military background.

"He has a real sense of mission," Molesworth said. "Right now in the state of Oregon people with his degree of dedication and sense of mission are vital for our state."

Lewis said he was inspired even more when in 2011 while on leave from Afghanistan, he got to put his skill to work during a tornado in Minnesota.

"I heard tornado sirens and provided emergency communication to help speed up critical communication," he said. "It felt really good to be able to use my skills to help people."

Molesworth explained that there are 680 trained volunteers out of 17,000 licensed radio operators in Oregon, and if

something like the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake (similar to the event in Japan) were to occur, 680 volunteers would simply not be enough.

Lewis says he will continue to volunteer well into the future, and that he hopes more of the 17,000 licensed operators will volunteer to expand the backup emergency communication network across the state.

"This makes me feel like I've achieved something. I like being in the role because I have ideas and want to put them to use," said Lewis. "I really believe in the importance of amateur radio so it feels good to be in a leadership role."

If you are interested in learning more about what the Office of Emergency Management amateur radio operators do, or how to volunteer, go to W7oem.org.



Oregon Office of Emergency Management Communication Officer Fred Molesworth (left), and amateur radio volunteer Patrick Lewis do a demonstration at the Oregon State Fair, Aug. 27, where a display informed the public about the importance of amateur radio.



FEATURES

# The Oregon National Guard is 'Always There' ...



*with Pride,*

Left: A joint Oregon National Guard color guard presents the American flag during the Portland Trailblazers Military Appreciation Night at the Moda Center in Portland, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Sgt. Philip Steiner, Recruiting and Retention Battalion)



*with Honor,*

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors team members, Sgt. Scott Fox (right) and Pfc. Everett Mayers (left), fold the American flag in honor of fallen service members during the Portland Timbers Military Appreciation Night at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, Ore., Aug. 17. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



*with Patriotism,*

Left: Oregon National Guard members display the American flag during the Portland Timbers military appreciation night at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, Ore., Aug. 17. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Below: Col. William J. Edwards, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, salutes Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, as the unit passes the reviewing stand during the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



*with Tradition,*



*with Professionalism,*

Above: The Oregon National Guard's Adjutant General Select Honor Guard team leads the 2013 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Portland, Ore., Nov. 29. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Right: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier waves to spectators along the parade route during the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



*when we are Needed,*



*lending a Hand,*

Above: Members of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, greet children along the parade route during the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

History re-enactors display artifacts from the Oregon Military Museum during an Open House at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., Nov. 7. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



*... throughout History.*

**OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**Oregon Air National Guard changes command as Brig. Gen. Gregg retires**

*Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff*



Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg (second from left) is recognized for 29 years of service by Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, during his retirement ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Oct. 4. Gregg's wife, Linda (center), and their sons, William and Tyler (right), were also recognized for their support.

**SALEM, Ore.** - Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg relinquished command of the Oregon Air National Guard to Brig. Gen. Mike Stencil in a change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

Stencil now has the overall responsibility for the organization, training and equipping of seven Oregon Air Guard units with more than 2,300 personnel throughout the state.

Prior to his assignment as commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Stencil previously served in various command positions, including commander of the Civil Engineering Squadron, 142nd Mission Support Group, 142nd Fighter Wing, and most recently as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air), Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard, in Salem, Ore.

Gregg retired after 29 years of service during a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Oct. 4. He joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1984. His many assignments consisted of Flight Instructor, Flight Examiner, Functional Check Pilot, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Flight Commander, and Operations Officer.

Gregg commanded the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, and the 142nd Fighter Wing as Vice Commander and then Wing Commander. He also served as the Director of Operations (Air) and then became the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) at Oregon Joint Force Headquarters, in Salem, Ore. prior to taking command of the Oregon Air National Guard in January 2011.



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

Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, exchanges the Oregon Air National Guard flag with Brig. Gen. Michael Stencil (right) symbolizing the new commander taking control of the organization during a change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

**Silver promoted as Assistant Adjutant General - Air**

*Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jeffrey M. Silver was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Oct. 5.

Silver, who formerly served as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, has been assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air), at Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard, in Salem, Ore. He is responsible for establishing policy and maintaining oversight of more than 2,300 Air National Guard personnel within the state.

Silver graduated from Oregon State University in 1984 with a bachelor degree in business administration. He received his commission the same year, through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science, and was named a distinguished graduate. He was initially assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., as a Weapon Systems Officer in the F-4C and was selected to represent the wing in the 1988 William Tell Air-to-Air Competition.

He previously served in various command positions in the 142nd Fighter Wing, including commander of Operations Support Flight, Maintenance Squadron, Maintenance Group, Operations Group Commander, and



Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon (left) administers the oath of office to Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, during his promotion ceremony held Oct. 5 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., as his wife Theresa holds the Bible.

Vice Commander.

In September 2011, he became wing commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., serving in this position until January 2013.

Silver is an Outstanding Graduate of Undergraduate Pilot Training and a Distinguished Graduate of the F-15 Replacement Training Unit. He has more than 3,600 total military flying hours and has flown combat sorties in support of Operation Southern Watch and Operation Northern Watch.

**Oregon Air Guard welcomes new Chief**



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

Brig. Gen. Michael Stencil (center) passes the Oregon Air National Guard flag from Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell to Chief Master Sgt. Patrick "Andy" Gauntz during a change of authority ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

*Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff*

**SALEM, Ore.** - The Oregon Air National Guard State Command Chief changed as Command Chief Master Sgt. Patrick "Andy" Gauntz replaced Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

Russell served as the state's top Air Guard enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer since Jan. 11, 2011. He is scheduled to retire in a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Jan. 3.

Russell began his military career in 1980 as a Weather Observer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1987, he enlisted in the Oregon Air National Guard's 123rd Weather Flight, where he later became a Active Guard Reserve member. He held positions as Weather Forecaster, Meteorological Technician, Operations NCOIC, Station Chief, Training NCO, Security Manager and Resource Advisor.

Gauntz previously served with the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., before being selected to lead as the new Oregon State Command Chief.

**Oregon National Guard Airmen awarded Bronze Star Medals**



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

Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, awards the Bronze Star Medal to Maj. Casey Dierickx (pictured left), of the 142nd Fighter Wing, and Senior Master Sgt. Brian Wade (pictured right), of the 142nd Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Nov. 3, for their service during Operation Enduring Freedom.

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

## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**173rd Fighter Wing helps 144th Fighter Wing transition to F-15s**

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** – The 173rd Fighter Wing opened a new chapter in its history when four F-15s and approximately 35-40 personnel from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., arrived Dec. 4, 2013. The aircraft and personnel will integrate seamlessly into Kingsley operations to help stave off a looming pilot shortage at the 144th FW.

According to Lt. Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Maintenance Group Deputy Commander, as the 144th converts from the F-16 to the F-15 they have the aircraft and the maintenance personnel for the mission, but lack trained F-15 pilots to fill the cockpits.



Four F-15Cs from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., fly over the skies of Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4.

“This was a major problem,” said Smith. “They came to us and said, ‘what can we do to help you guys increase the number of pilots you are training?’”

Leadership from both wings sat down and hammered out a plan that would allow the 173rd to train additional 144th track-one students, pilots who have flight experience in a different fighter aircraft, and meet the production needs of the 144th. The 144th sent four F-15s and a group of maintenance and support personnel to Kingsley Field, allowing the 173rd to increase their flying by four additional aircraft flights in a day. In turn, this facilitates the 173rd the opportunity to train four additional Fresno F-15 pilots.

“This is the 173rd looking at the challenges and finding solutions,” said Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander. “We are willing and able to expand and meet the challenges that are presented to the National Guard Bureau. We are flexible and adaptable.”

Smith added, “We are showing we can step up. It is part of our culture - we have a challenge, Kingsley is the solution. Give us the resources and we are expandable.”

There were multiple reasons for the limited number of trained pilots at the 144th, including the delay in transferring the aircraft from the Montana Guard, sequestration, and the resulting furloughs.

Fresno personnel will rotate through Kingsley Field on a 60-day cycle, and will comprise various job specialties, primarily in the maintenance group. These personnel will integrate seamlessly into the 173rd shops, working side by side with Kingsley Airmen.

“This is a great opportunity for their maintainers to get the hands-on experience



An F-15C from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., taxis down the runway at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4. The 173rd Fighter Wing is teaming up with the 144th FW to increase the number of students trained in order to meet an increased demand for F-15 pilots at the 144th.

fixing jets that they need,” added Smith. “As they stand up their mission they will be prepared to meet the day-to-day challenges having spent that time with us.”

The 173rd benefits by providing pilots and students a chance to fly an aircraft with V-1 radar, a more modern and upgraded version of the V-0 radar found in the Kingsley aircraft.

“The V-1 radar is one of the primary ‘go to war’ radar types in the F-15 with newer hardware and upgraded software,” noted Smith. “This is an excellent opportunity for our instructors and students.”

Smith expects the increase in flights to have minimal noise impact on the community.

“We currently typically fly a 10 turn 8

schedule; this will increase to a 12 turn 10,” he said. “The community should not hear much of a difference in the noise level.”

Smith also points to the benefit to the community, namely the visiting Airmen shopping, eating, and staying in the basin for the next eight months.

Fresno people and aircraft are scheduled to leave Kingsley in the mid-June time frame.

The 144th Fighter Wing is responsible for providing air defense on the west coast as well as air superiority in support of worldwide joint operations. The 173rd Fighter Wing is the home to the sole F-15 Eagle pilot training unit for the United States Air Force.

**NGB awards Kingsley for P4 Program**

Members of the Public-Public, Public-Private (P4) Partnership team at Kingsley Field, including Klamath Falls Mayor Tom Kellstrom (center), gather for a trophy presentation by Retired Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Asher (left of center), a representative from the National Guard Bureau, Sept. 26. The team is made up of community members including the 173rd Fighter Wing, Klamath Community College leadership, chamber of commerce members and local city government officials.

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** – The National Guard Bureau awarded the Air Force Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award for the Air National Guard to the 173rd Fighter Wing for its Klamath Basin Public-Public, Public Private (P4) team.

Brenda Asher, of the Air National Guard Bureau, presented the Air National Guard Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award trophy to Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, in a ceremony at Kingsley Field, Sept. 26.

Members of the P4 Partnership team at Kingsley Field, including

Klamath Falls City Mayor Tom Kellstrom, Klamath Community College President Roberto Gutierrez, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeremy Baenen, and many others participated in the ceremony.

P4 is an initiative designed to find new and innovative ways to partner with the local community. Among its successes base officials point to a new agreement with Klamath Community College which provides higher education for base personnel while increasing the schools enrollment, as a signature accomplishment.

Additionally, officials say the P4 initiative made the total renovation of the runway and surrounding areas possible while saving funds.

**Airmen share Qatar experience**

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

Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel (left) and Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (second from left), Adjutant General, Oregon, talk with Staff Sgt. Matthew Ritchie (right) and other members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron about their Qatar deployment during a USO event at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Aug. 9.

**Continued from Front Page**

“Your reputation precedes you, having had Major General Rees tell me everything about your work prior to going into this deployment,” said Hokanson.

Working on multiple mission sets, the group conducted a wide range of security operations for the largest transit hub in the U.S. Central Command.

“I know you did a great job and everything I’ve heard about your work has been extremely positive,” said Hokanson.

As part of their in-processing, the Airmen gathered to take time to reflect on their mission with refreshments donated by local businesses and sponsored by the United Service Organizations (USO). This gave Oregon National Guard leaders a chance to spend some time with the Airmen and thank them in a less formal manner.

“It’s just good to have you guys home and safe,” said Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, as he interacted

with unit members one-on-one.

Hearing stories from the Airmen about the extreme heat and temperatures in Qatar while they were deployed, Wedan joked about the conditions in his office over the last few months.

“A few times, I have complained about the air conditioning not working in my office during the summer, but I’ve got nothing on you guys,” he said.

Airmen later had briefings from Family Programs, finance office, personnel, medical and others, as they began the process of reintegration.

A formal demobilization ceremony was held Nov. 3.

Prior to this deployment, the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces has served three prior assignments to Iraq and also supported relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon Airmen provide medical care in Sri Lanka during Pacific Angel

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

Photos courtesy Tech. Sgt. Misty Ray,  
142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group

**PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore.** - Five members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group traveled nearly half way around the world to take part in Pacific Angel in Sri Lanka, Aug. 4-18.

Pacific Angel is an annual United States Pacific Air Forces exercise sponsored by United States Pacific Command. The exercise is designed to enhance relations with partner nations in the Pacific region and build medical and civil assistance capacity in those nations.

This year, Pacific Angel 2013-04 was a combined joint operation between U.S. Pacific Forces and the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. The joint-force mission focused on humanitarian assistance, medical and other events that directly impacted the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka.

The Oregon Airmen who participated in the exercise and helped provide health services outreach included Dr. (Lt. Col.) Jonathon Vinson, Dr. (Lt. Col.) Thuy Tran, Master Sgt. Dana Furnia, Tech. Sgt. Misty Ray and Tech. Sgt. Chau Stevens. They worked in two local villages during their two-weeks in the region and were part of a larger medical group made up of active duty, Air National Guard and other nations supporting the total force objectives.

Before the medical groups arrived, civil engineers began renovating schools and setting up facilities in the area, allowing



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group pause for a group photo in front of boxes of medical supplies during their work as part of the Pacific Angel Mission in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, July 28- Aug. 18. From left to right: Lt. Col. Thuy Tran, Tech. Sgt. Chau Stevens, Master Sgt. Dana Furnia, Tech. Sgt. Misty Ray, and Lt. Col. Jonathon Vinson.

the medical teams to help take on the large volume of patients.

Many of the Airmen said the chance to work abroad was a unique experience for them. Ray, an Aerospace Medical Technician and a 12-year member of the Air National Guard, focused on the family practice aspect, seeing a variety of illnesses, injuries and other basic complaints.

"The (medical) teams that we had worked very well together and it was awesome to interact with another culture," said Ray.

Between treating spider bites, waterborne illness and cases of tuberculosis, the biggest hurdle was the language barrier. The medical teams had assigned translators to assist, both with patient interactions and administrative paperwork.

"At times we had enough help but often there just were not enough translators," Ray recalled. "We had civilian medical students as our translators but there were periods where it was a challenge to keep up with the high numbers of patients."

Medical teams, made up of 30 staff members, were able to treat basic cases, often prescribed vitamins and

follow-up treatments with local doctors.

By the end of the Pacific Angel exercise 3,505 patients had been processed at the two main locations, entailing the treatment of 522 dental, 389 physical therapy, 506 optometry and 2,115 general medical cases.

"Everyone was very patient but at times it was a gaggle," said Ray.

Ray said the success of treating the high numbers of patients was a great result of the U.S. and Australian military medical teams working alongside their Sri Lankan

of shared interest, exchange knowledge while encouraging understanding in engineering and medical practices.

Logistically, the Oregon Airmen spent four days of time traveling to Jaffna and then almost five days to return home.

"It was a terrific adventure, something everyone should try and participate in during their military career," said Ray.

Leadership within the Fighter Wing Medical Group has begun to push for more training opportunities like Pacific Angel in the future.

***It felt like what we did made a huge difference.***

- Master Sgt. Dana Furnia, Health Administrator,  
142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Misty Ray, 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group, holds a child prior to a medical examination during the Pacific Angel Mission in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, July 28- Aug. 18.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Danielle Fahlbush, an Aerospace Medical Technician, helps patients during the Pacific Angel Mission in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, July 28- Aug. 18.

counterparts. "Getting them comfortable with their own military was all part of this experience," she said.

The conditions in Jaffna, Sri Lanka presented their own challenges. The staff was advised to only drink bottled water and not eat some local food items due to the water contamination issue. Rice and noodles was something the staff ate in abundance.

The heat and humidity was another concern, but the civil engineers set-up air conditioning in the sleeping quarters prior to their arrival, which gave the staff some relief at night.

Having been deployed in 2005 to Panama, Master Sgt. Dana Furnia, a health administrator with the 142nd Fighter Wing, had some experience with the high temperature conditions.

"Staying hydrated was important for all of us but having some relief from the heat at night helped," she said.

Furnia compared the two deployment experiences and praised how well-prepared and organized the Pacific Angel exercise was.

"After each duty day there was a 'hot-wash' to talk about what we learned from the day and how to make the next day better," she said. "The cooperation was really strong."

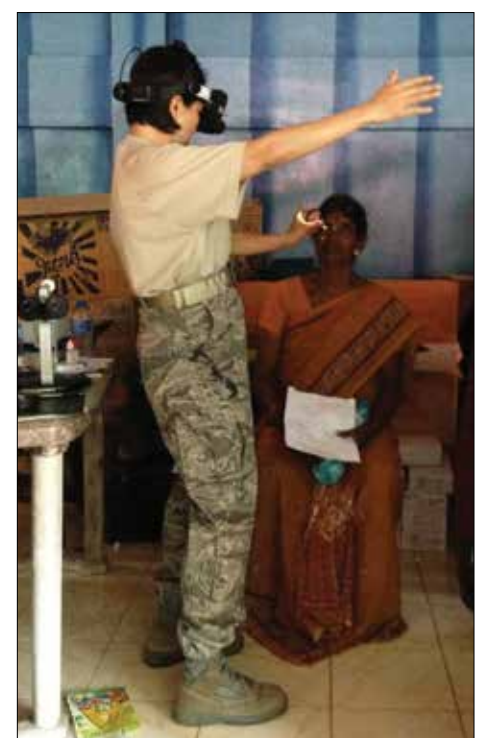
There were some opportunities to take in some of the culture of the region and enjoy the experience.

"The people were very nice, it felt like what we did made a huge difference," said Furnia.

The Pacific Angel exercise represented an opportunity for military engineers and medical professionals to take part on issues

Furnia summed up the experience from Pacific Angel. She said there is a really positive attitude about taking on more types of training like this with the (Medical) Group.

"Leadership has been instrumental in lighting a fire, and we are getting our people out the door to take on challenges like this."



Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Thuy Tran, 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group, performs optometry examinations with a patient during the Pacific Angel Mission in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, July 28- Aug. 18.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## OEM employee not slowing down after nearly 30 years of service

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

**SALEM, Ore.** - Joseph Murray hasn't skipped a beat as he nears his 30-year anniversary with Oregon's Office of Emergency Management. Although his tenure is the longest with the agency, he still brings a strong work ethic and a passion for service with him to the office every day.

Murray says he endures a long commute from Springfield, Ore., where his family lives because he believes he is making a difference, working for an agency that plays an important role in preparation, response, recovery and mitigation for emergencies in Oregon.

When you ask other employees at the agency what stands out about Murray, one of the things many of them will tell you is his work ethic.

Murray started as a staff engineer for OEM before becoming the emergency planner, and now he works in Mitigation and Recovery as well as serving as OEM's Human Services and Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (ORVOAD) lead. He said a high level of curiosity is what drives his work ethic.

"I love this work because the more I learn, the more I realize what I don't know — that is what makes me want to explore and be able to help our customers," said Murray.

Murray said the agency has changed a lot since he started when there were only 12 employees working in the basement of the state capitol building.

"We were a much smaller agency with one computer

when I started in the fall of 1984, and one thing that stands out is that technology has tremendously changed how we communicate with email and cell phones," he explained. "Back then, we were on the road a lot and if you went to a meeting in Baker County you were out of reach until you got there."

Murray has been a part of Presidential Disaster Declarations and Disaster Recoveries for numerous events where he says painstaking work is what makes him most proud of his job.

"There are several federal disaster assistance programs and each has its own criteria for how a federal disaster declaration is triggered — it is my job to know about those programs to help people know what they qualify for," he said. "It sure feels good to get help to local people and governments that have been affected by a disaster."

Murray said that in addition to his duties in Mitigation and Recovery, he takes great pride in his work with Human Services and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

"Many events have no federal assistance, but if it's your house it's still a disaster — I feel terrible if I can't help, or find help," Murray explained. "Having the lead for human services and working with the VOADs around the state helps me stay fresh and engaged because these are jobs that are directly connected with people."

Murray is passionate about doing everything he can to help.

"If we do our jobs well, we have a real opportunity to reduce pain and suffering; fewer people will get hurt or killed, there will be less loss of homes and personal possessions, and that is the ultimate reward."



Joseph Murray works in Mitigation and Recovery and serves as Human Services and Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (ORVOAD) lead for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Murray says he has a passion for his work and helping others.

## Mass casualty exercise tests Salem's emergency response



Photo by Cory Grogan, Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

Paul Richardson, with the City of Salem Fire Department, assesses notional victims as a first responder during the Salem Airport Exercise 2013, coordinated by City of Salem Emergency Management, Sept. 20. The exercise allowed first responders to prepare in the event of a mass casualty incident.

Story by OEM staff

**SALEM, Ore.** - On approach to the runway at the Salem Airport a turbo prop aircraft carrying more than 50 people strikes a flock of geese before crashing.

This was the scenario at the Salem Airport for an exercise that tested emergency response capabilities to real world events where emergency response personnel and equipment are critical for saving lives in an actual event.

The Salem Airport Exercise 2013 coordinated by City of Salem Emergency Management Emergency Manager Roger Stevenson, Sept. 20, prepared responders for a potential mass casualty incident in Salem.

Stevenson, who has been a part of five full scale emergency response exercises, said in addition to preparing responders for potential scenarios, that the exercise also meets FAA mandatory requirements every three years.

Jim Stewart, city of Salem Fire Department public information officer said his organization has developed great partnerships with organizations like Cherriots Bus, Salem Health and Salem Community Emergency Response Teams.

"This is a good test of our command structure and emergency response capabilities," he added.

## Oregon drops, covers and holds for statewide earthquake drill

Story by OEM staff

**SALEM, Ore.** - The Oregon Office of Emergency Management encouraged individuals, businesses, and schools to participate in the nationwide earthquake drill known as ShakeOut on Oct. 17 at 10:17 a.m. Governor John Kitzhaber signed a proclamation declaring October as Oregon Great ShakeOut month.

More than 200,000 Oregonians registered for the Oregon Great ShakeOut, and joined 19 million people worldwide in the largest drop, cover, and hold drill in history.

"A major earthquake will strike our state sometime in the future, it's critical Oregonians know what to do when the big one hits," said Dave Stuckey, director of the Office of Emergency Management.

Scientific findings indicate Oregon is at risk for a magnitude 9.0 or higher earthquake within the next 50 years. Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a fault line stretching from California to British Columbia that is due for a major quake.

In support of the ShakeOut, the City of Portland, OEM and several other agencies held an earthquake preparedness fair on Oct. 16, at Portland City Hall.

It was the third annual ShakeOut for the state of Oregon. More than 37 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Province of British Columbia took part in earthquake drills on the same day.

For more information about the ShakeOut, go to [www.Shakeout.org](http://www.Shakeout.org).



Photo by Cory Grogan, Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

Students at Candaleria Elementary School in Salem, Ore., participate in an earthquake drill during the Great Oregon Shakeout, Oct. 17, where they rehearse drop, cover and hold on prior to evacuating the building after shaking stops. More than 270,000 Oregonians participated in the nationwide drill this year.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Oregon Soldiers join Australians to honor WWII vets in Rockhampton

Story courtesy of 41st Infantry Division

“Lest we forget”, the sacrifice of the greatest generation has made for the freedom of the citizens of Australia and the United States.

July of each year for past 60-plus years, the citizens of the Queensland area of Rockhampton and Yeppoon gather to memorialize the American and Australian veterans of WWII at the St. Christopher’s Chapel in Rockhampton.

This year was more than a memorial. The Historical Capicorn Society of Rockhampton, led by Director, Peter Cook, along with Norma Heppenstall, author of two books, “Remembrance of 1939 – 1945” and “When the Americans came to Rockhampton.”

Their idea was to remember the citizens who supported the 41st Infantry Division, who according to many, gave their all in support of their country during the time of need in the unforgiving war in the Pacific.

The Historical Capicorn Society sponsored the event.

On July 6, the unveiling of the “Seat of Remembrance” in Yeppoon, brought out the citizens of the Queensland area, Mayor of Rockhampton Regional Council, and Regional Council and Parliamentary members.

It was also at time to show respect to the citizens who opened their homes to the 41st Infantry Division. The surrounding area served as training grounds for the Soldiers, and a recreation and recovery area during WWII.

Attending the ceremony was David Funk, as representative of the 41st Infantry Division Association.

Representing the Oregon National Guard, State Command Sergeant Major Shane Lake, a former 41st Brigade command sergeant major.

At the Yeppoon ceremony, Funk expressed gratitude to the citizens of Australia and to the 41st Soldiers who served in the area during WWII.

He also recognized the Mayor of the town, Margaret Strelow, who echoed his thanks to the citizens for organizing this “Seat of Remembrance”.

Funk gave Mayor Strelow a special pin of an American/Australia flag.

After the dedication of the “Seat of Remembrance”, a cake cutting ceremony followed to honor the 41st Infantry Division with Funk and Elsie Balchin of Rockhampton.

Balchin was present during WWII and one of the “coffee and cookie ladies” who served refreshments to the 41st Division Soldiers while they were encamped in Rockhampton during WWII.

On July 7, a ceremony was held at the St. Christopher’s Chapel to honor one of the 41st Division Soldier, Jack Quincy Fleming. The Chapel was originally built in 1943 by the 542nd Special Engineers Regiment of the 41st Division.

Fleming stayed in Rockhampton after the war, marrying a woman from Rockhampton. Then Staff Sgt. Jack Fleming, of 741rd Ordnance Company of the 41st Infantry Division served throughout the War in the Pacific. He earned a Silver Star and several Pacific Campaign medals.

Fleming liked Rockhampton so much, he settled in Emu Park area along the coast, and went on to become a homebuilder in Rockhampton area.

Fleming also took care of the St. Christopher’s Chapel for the next 65 years along with support of the Reserved Service League (RSL) of Rockhampton. The RSL is similar to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the United States.

Fleming passed away in 2010 at 94 years of age preceding his wife, Joyce who died in 2009.

The Rockhampton City Council wanted to recognize Fleming for his dedication to the Chapel that honored his fellow comrades of WWII, and his 65 years of service in the community. They changed the name of the chapel to the “Jack



Photo by John Fleming

Oregon National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (second from left), and Mr. David Funk, Director of the 41st Infantry Association, Portland, Ore., Chapter (left), present a framed photo of the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center to members of the Rockhampton Regional Council during the renaming ceremony of the St. Christopher’s Chapel, in Rockhampton, Australia, July 7 while visiting Australia to commemorate the annual Australia-New Zealand Day (ANZAC) observances. The Chapel was renamed, the “Jack Quincy Fleming Memorial Reserve”. From left to right: Funk; Lake; Tony Williams, Rockhampton Deputy Mayor; Margaret Strelow, Rockhampton Mayor; Rose Swadling, Regional Council Community Service Director; and other members of the Rockhampton Regional Council.

Quincy Fleming Memorial Reserve.”

The members of the Rockhampton Regional Council, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor took part in the renaming ceremony.

At the ceremony, Funk expressed his gratefulness to those who served in the area during WWII, and also recognized Mayor Strelow for her support.

Funk gave Rose Swadling, Rockhampton Regional Council Member a bottle of 41st Infantry Division wine and an American, Australia flag pin.

Tony Williams, Deputy Mayor, served as the master of ceremonies at the commemoration and renaming ceremony, and was also given a bottle of commemorative 41st Division wine.

Lake recognized the Rockhampton City

Council members, Mayor and the Member of Parliament, Bruce Young attending for their support.

Lake and Funk both presented to the Mayor of Rockhampton, a framed photo of the Dedication of the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Ore.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were the citizens of Rockhampton, Australian Armed Forces, and American Armed Forces who were serving on a military exercise, called “Talber Sword” in the Queensland area.

The Salvation Army played both the Australian and American National Anthem during the raising of the U.S. and Australian flags by the Australian Boy Scouts.

## Hoping for SAFE and happy holidays

Courtesy of Oregon Military Department Safety Office

It’s that time of year again for season changes in Oregon. This is a time when people get to look forward to activities such as skiing, snowboarding and traveling for the holidays. Along with these activities comes driving in dangerous conditions such as ice, snow, fog and high winds.

A common mistake skiers and snowboarders make is failing to adequately prepare their bodies for the rigorous demands of skiing. Most ski-related deaths and injuries are due to collisions that frequently happen late in the day, and fatigue is often a prime reason.

Other tips include:

- People ahead have the right of way. It is each skier’s responsibility to respect that rule.
- Skiers must not stop where they obstruct trails or aren’t visible from above.
- Whenever starting downhill or merging onto a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
- Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
- Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
- Prior to using any lift, skiers must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), December and January are the peak months for home fires, deaths and injuries. Families looking to spread holiday cheer should be aware that each year an average of 240 home fires start with Christmas trees and an additional 1,300 begin with various other seasonal decorations. Keep the following

tips in mind:

1. **Trees** - Fire is the primary concern with a live Christmas tree, which is often brought on by the combination of electrical malfunctions and a drying tree. A good test of a tree’s freshness is to hold a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pull your hand toward you. If the tree is fresh, it should lose very few needles.

2. **Lights** - Another concern with a live Christmas tree is the fire danger brought on by electrical malfunctions. Examine holiday lights, extension cords and other electrical items whether they are new or old.

3. **Candles** - Candles should be kept away from decorations, curtains, walls, bedding, paper, furniture and other combustible material, as well as places or paths where they could be accidentally knocked over. Make sure you use sturdy, noncombustible candleholders that will collect dripping wax. Remember to always blow out your candles before you leave your home or go to sleep.

Another safety issue over the winter is driver safety. Ice and snow on the roads can cause many accidents while trying to drive on them in these conditions. Some safety tips to remember are:

Check your vehicle before you drive in these conditions for fluids, ignition, brakes, air, tread on the tires, etc.

Have the necessary equipment in case your vehicle gets stuck, such as spare tires, shovel, jumper cables, tire chains, tool kit, and flares.

Have the necessary “survival kit” if you get stuck and plan on staying with the vehicle such as flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, ice scraper and snow brush, and non-perishable food and water.

## Oregon’s Liberty Truck inducted into MVPA Hall of Fame



The Military Vehicle Preservation Association inducted the Oregon Military Museum’s 1918 Model B Liberty Truck into its Hall of Fame, following the 2013 MVPA Convention held in Portland, Ore.

The vehicle was chosen for its uniqueness, impact on the hobby of restoration, the degree of work involved in the restoration project, and/or the manner in which it was prepared and displayed. For more information visit the MVPA online at [www.mvpa.org](http://www.mvpa.org).

## New members inducted into 162nd Hall of Honor

The 2013 162nd Regimental Hall of Honor Inductees include Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Creed Hammond, Col. (Ret.) Ralph Palmer, Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Ret.) Lloyd Goff, Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Paul Warnock, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) James Richards, and Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Brian Hambright.

## Want to be a Teacher?

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

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

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

For more information, visit:

[www.ProudToServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudToServeAgain.com)

or call

**Edward Brands**  
1-800-438-6851  
[info@mptt.org](mailto:info@mptt.org)

## NEWS BRIEFS

**TSA Pre-Check changes rules for travelers**

TSA Pre✓™ is a voluntary, expedited security screening process that allows participants to keep on their shoes, belt, and light jacket, and leave laptops and 3-1-1 compliant liquids in their carry-on bags.

After December 20, 2013, the process that Service members use to qualify for TSA Pre✓™ will change. Under the new process, Service members will use their DoD ID number as the "Known Traveler Number" when making official travel or leisure airline reservations. Participants may use the dedicated TSA Pre✓™ security lanes at any of the 100 airports that offer the program. For a list of participating airports, go to: <http://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck/tsa-precheck-participating-airports>

The TSA Pre✓™ program is currently open to active Service members, Reservists, National Guardsmen, and members of the Coast Guard, who have a valid Common Access Card (CAC).

Eligible Service members do not need to be on official travel or in uniform to take advantage of TSA Pre✓™. Family members ages 12 and under traveling with an eligible Service member can process through expedited screening as well. However, family members 13 and older must go through regular security lines or may apply for TSA Trusted Traveler program (for a fee).

The program will be expanded to DoD and Coast Guard civilians in April 2014.

As of December 20, 2013, Service members can participate in the TSA Pre✓™ program by providing their DoD ID number (found on the back of their CAC) as the "Known Traveler Number" when making reservations through DTS, through a Commercial Travel Office/Travel Management Center or when booking leisure travel through the airline or travel websites.

When using DTS, Members must enter their DoD ID number in the "Known Traveler Number" field when prompted to verify their Secure Flight Information (name, DOB, gender). To ensure Service members always participate in the program, they should save their DoD ID number in the "Known Traveler Number" field of their DTS profile. For further instructions on how to enter a DoD ID Number and update a DTS profile, go to: [http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/How\\_to\\_Enter\\_Your\\_DoD\\_ID.pdf](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/How_to_Enter_Your_DoD_ID.pdf).

If making a reservation through a Commercial Travel Office, Service members must provide their DoD ID number as the Known Traveler Number when asked to verify their Secure Flight Information.

Boarding passes must have TSA Pre✓™ eligibility information embedded in the barcode when scanned on the boarding pass scanner system in order to use the TSA Pre✓™ security lanes. Please be aware that not all airlines print a TSA Pre✓™ approved indicator on the boarding pass. However, if Members used their DoD ID number as the "Known Traveler Number," they may proceed to a dedicated Pre✓™ security lane to check eligibility.

For additional information about TSA Pre✓™, visit DTMO's website <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/news.cfm?ID=18> or TSA's website <http://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck/active-duty-military>.

For a list of participating airports, visit <http://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck/tsa-precheck-participating-airports>.

**ESGR needs nominations for Freedom Award**

ARLINGTON, Va. – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen and Reservists, or family members acting

on their behalf, to submit nominations at [www.FreedomAward.mil](http://www.FreedomAward.mil) by January 20, 2014.

Guard and Reserve members comprise nearly one-half of the nation's military force, providing essential services to national security and humanitarian efforts at home and abroad. Supportive employers, with their enduring commitment, have helped keep our military strong and our Nation secure.

"Across the Nation, employers have shown noteworthy support to their service member employees and families," said Paul Mock, ESGR National Chair.

"Whether on routine duty, responding to natural disasters or serving in a deployed location, employers who encourage military service make it easier to serve. By submitting a Freedom Award nomination, a member of the National Guard or Reserve can acknowledge and thank their employer for the critical role they play in our Nation's defense."

Each year, up to 15 deserving employers are selected as Freedom Award recipients and honored in Washington, D.C.

Examples of past recipient support include continued benefits and healthcare for deployed service members, home maintenance and childcare support and veteran hiring initiatives. Service members who have received exemplary employer support should submit their nominations for the Freedom Award as soon as possible.

**Army Tuition Assistance to change Jan. 1**

On Jan. 1, 2014, the Army's FY14 Tuition Assistance (TA) program will change which will disqualify some Soldiers from receiving TA. TA requests approved prior to 1 January for Soldiers whose eligibility will be affected by the policy changes will be honored.

Soldiers that will be disqualified due to the policy change can still receive TA for winter term if they submit a TA request through [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com) in time for it to be approved prior to Jan. 1, 2014.

Soldiers should request TA by mid-December to provide time to correct any issues with the TA request and ensure it is approved prior to January 1.

The TA policy changes effective Jan. 1, 2014 are as follows:

- Soldiers may only use TA after successful completion of their first year of service after graduating from either AIT, OCS or BOLC.

- Soldiers may only receive TA for 16 semester or 24 quarter hours per Fiscal Year.

- TA cannot be used for first- professional degrees, e.g., PhD, MD or JD.

- Soldiers may only use TA for a second, higher-level post-bachelor's degree after completion of 10 years of service. (The second degree time in service requirement applies to movement from a bachelor's to a master's degree and not from an associate's to a bachelor's degree. Also, the 10-year requirement only applies if Army TA was used to pay for any portion of the undergraduate coursework.)

Soldiers will continue to receive up to \$250 per semester hour and the current policy limits of 130 semester hours for completion of a bachelor's degree and up to 39 semester hours for a Master's degree remain in effect.

All courses must be part of an approved degree plan. Soldiers cannot use TA for a second equivalent degree, i.e., no second bachelor's or master's degree. Soldiers who have a DA adverse action flag, as well as those flagged for APFT or AWCP are not eligible to utilize TA.

**IRS changes credits for college expenses**

There have been recent changes to the tax credits for college expenses that can affect veterans taxes when using their education benefits.

The American Opportunity tax credit, which expanded and renamed the already-existing Hope scholarship credit, can now be claimed in tax-years 2009 through 2017 for expenses paid for tuition, certain fees and course materials for higher education.

The tax credit can also be claimed for expenses for the first four years of post-secondary education instead of just the first two.

Unlike the other education tax credits, the American opportunity tax credit includes expenses for course-related books, supplies and equipment that are not necessarily paid to the educational institution with the Post 9/11 GI Bill. It also differs from the Hope scholarship credit because it allows the credit to be claimed for four years of post-secondary education instead of two.

This tax credit is worth up to \$2,500 of the cost of tuition, fees and course materials paid during the taxable year. Also, 40 percent of the credit (up to \$1,000) is refundable. This means veterans can get it even if they owe no taxes.

In general, qualified expenses for the education tax credits for veterans include tuition and required fees for the enrollment or attendance at an eligible post-secondary educational institution. To be creditable, the expenses paid during a taxable year must relate to: (1) an academic period that begins in the same taxable year; or (2) an academic period that begins in the first three months of the following taxable year.

The following expenses do not qualify: room and board, transportation, insurance, medical expenses, student fees unless required as a condition of enrollment or attendance, same expenses paid with tax-free educational assistance, same expenses used for any other tax deduction, credit or educational benefit.

For the American opportunity tax credit, qualified expenses have also been expanded to include expenditures for course materials, as well as tuition and required fees. The term "course materials" means books, supplies and equipment needed for a course of study whether or not the materials are purchased from the educational institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.

Some or all of these expenses will be recorded on Form 1098-T, Tuition Statement. The veteran should receive a Form 1098-T from the educational institution that they attended. If the veteran does not receive a Form 1098-T, they should contact the educational institution and request the form.

Veterans will also be able to reduce their tax liability by one dollar for each dollar of credit for which they are eligible. If the amount of the American opportunity tax credit for which they're eligible exceeds their tax liability, the excess will be refunded to them up to the lesser of 40 percent of the credit or \$1,000.

With these new tax breaks, it is important for veterans to prepare their taxes wisely and make sure they are accurate. The IRS has an educational tax website that can assist veterans with any questions they may have concerning educational tax breaks at [www.irs.gov/Credits-&-Deductions](http://www.irs.gov/Credits-&-Deductions).

**TRICARE Service Center at ARC to close Feb. 15**

On February 15, 2013, the TRICARE Service Center at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon, will be closed per direction of the TRICARE Management Activity.

Your TRICARE benefits remain. What will change between February 15 and April 1, 2013 is which company you contact with questions about TRICARE.

After February 15, 2013, contact TriWest Healthcare Alliance ([www.TriWest.com](http://www.TriWest.com)) for authorization, customer service or other questions.

Contact UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans ([www.uhcilitarywest.com](http://www.uhcilitarywest.com) or 1-877-988-9378) for questions about enrollment or payments.

**Update your address for the Oregon Sentinel**

Retirees may update their contact information with the Retiree Service Office by calling 1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891.

Current members of the Army or Air National Guard need to update their contact information with your unit of assignment.

**Summary of state legislation affecting Oregon National Guard**

Listed below are the legislative bills relating to the Oregon National Guard and Oregon Military Department that were passed by the 2013 Legislature and signed by the Governor.

**Senate Bill 32** - Establishes Oregon Code of Military Justice as law governing state militia. This repeals conflicting provisions of state law.

**Senate Bill 34** - Removes limit on number of loans eligible individual may receive or assume from Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Senate Bill 35** - Modifies limit on amount of home and farm loans made by Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Senate Bill 124** - Directs court to consider evidence received during criminal proceeding regarding defendant's status as service member in determining aggravation or mitigation.

**Senate Bill 281** - Adds post-traumatic stress disorder to definition of "debilitating medical condition" for purposes of statutes authorizing medical use of marijuana.

**House Bill 2037** - Requires, under specified circumstances, certain professional regulatory boards to issue authorization to practice profession to spouse or domestic partner of active member of Armed Forces who is subject of military transfer to Oregon

**House Bill 2083** - Permits service member called into active service to suspend and reinstate provision of telecommunications, Internet, health spa and health club services. This prohibits service providers from imposing charges for suspension or reinstatement of provision of services.

**House Bill 2158** - Allows nonresident veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions to pay tuition and fees at Oregon resident rates.

**House Bill 2230** - Restructures statutes governing income tax subtractions allowable for military pay to taxpayers. This applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014. Please consult your tax professional for more details.

**House Bill 2421** - Requires Director of Transportation to notify Director of Veterans' Affairs upon receipt of certain written information from member or veteran of uniformed service, if authorized to do so by member or veteran. This restricts notification to name and address of member or veteran.

**House Bill 2422** - Requires Director of Human Services to inform Director of Veterans' Affairs of receipt of written information from member or veteran of uniformed service only when authorized by member or veteran and upon implementation or upgrade of electronic delivery system. This restricts notification to name and address of member or veteran.

**House Bill 2710** - Provides that a drone may not be used by law enforcement agency for purpose of surveillance of a person in place where a person has reasonable expectation of privacy except pursuant to warrant.

This requires destruction of images and other information acquired by use of drone within specified period of time unless information is needed as evidence in criminal prosecution.

It also requires that law enforcement agencies that use drones adopt policies on use of drones. In addition it requires procedure for notifying public of policies on use of drones. It prohibits use of weaponized drones by law enforcement agencies.

Questions can be directed to Mr. Dave Ferre at (503) 584-3985.

**Facebook page for Oregon Air Guard retirees**

The Oregon Air National Guard Retiree Group has a new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/183680131816975/>

**AZUWUR**



# Nisei WWII vets honored for service to U.S.

*VA Secretary Shinseki visits with Japanese-American WWII vets at event*

Story by Mike Allegre,  
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – In recognition of the uniquely challenging circumstances faced by Japanese-Americans (Nisei) who fought in World War II, a Congressional Gold Medal was minted two years ago to honor their service and sacrifice.

In late August, that medal went on display at the Portland History Museum along with photos and a memorabilia exhibit from Nisei servicemen and families from that era.

A day-long series of events in downtown Portland on Aug. 24, honored and paid tribute to Oregon’s Japanese-American veterans of World War II which coincided with a visit from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

Many U.S.-born Japanese volunteered from inside the government mandated detention camps. Some were already serving in uniform.

They were assigned into three all-Nisei

units and served with distinction receiving more than 18,000 individual honors, even as many of their families were confined to detention camps in the American West.

Shinseki, a retired Army four-star general of Japanese descent, addressed a luncheon crowd on the 24th.

“We all have a personal responsibility to share their stories and not let it pass with them,” he told the assembly. “To the veterans, thank you for your wonderful example of how to live our lives.”

The day before the event, Shinseki spoke

**“These men were the giants that we all talked about... most of us had no idea about the terrific work they did.”**

- Eric Shinseki, VA Secretary



Photo by Curtis Suyematsu

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki shakes hands with World War II Nisei veteran Lorry Nakatsu of Portland, in a private meeting before the luncheon.



Photo by Mike Allegre

ODVA Director Cameron Smith talks with World War II veterans and Congressional Gold Medal recipients Kaz Ota (left) and Shig Imai (far right) following a ceremonial luncheon in Portland.

at a media event where he was asked about the Nisei’s. He spoke about when he was a youngster growing up in the aftermath of World War II.

“In my community these men were the giants that we all talked about. They’d served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service - a secret unit nobody knew about until the 1970’s when the files were declassified. Most of us had no idea about the terrific work they did,” Shinseki said.

The secretary added that as a Regiment, the 442nd only existed about three and

one half years and were a special unit stood up for World War II. They were primarily Americans of Japanese ancestry commanded by caucasian officers.

“In that period of time, 21 Medals of Honor were awarded for actions in combat. That’s not to say there were only 21 heroes in that unit,” he said, “It just goes to say that was the level that they operated at.”

Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Cameron Smith also attended and spent time with many of the Nisei veterans. He called the loyalty, determination and courage of Nisei veterans and their families a true testament to them, especially when

many fellow Americans doubted their patriotic resolve.

“These men and their families are an inspiration. They fought and served in battle after battle – earning the highest military decorations – all while their families endured unimaginable discrimination here at home,” Smith said.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is responsible for administering benefit programs for veterans, their families, and their survivors. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary exercises authority, direction and control over the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## ‘Spirit of ‘45 Day,’ a new state holiday proposed to honor WWII veterans



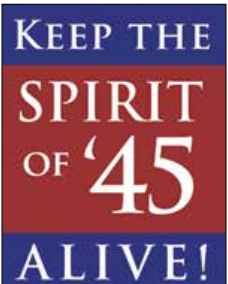
Speakers at the Spirit of ‘45 event gather for a group photo at Willson Park in Salem, Ore., Aug. 11.

Story and photo courtesy of  
Alisha Hamel,  
Oregon Historical Outreach Foundation

A new national holiday has been proposed and Oregon made it into a law this year.

Senate Bill 832 aims to designate the second Sunday of every August as “The Spirit of ‘45 Day in Oregon.”

Oregon is the third state in the nation to legislate such a holiday, which honors “the achievements of the men and women of the WWII generation so that their example of courage, self-sacrifice, can-do spirit, unity and service will forever inspire future generations of Americans.”



Oregon’s first celebration of the Spirit of ‘45 Day was held on August 11, 2013 at Willson Park next to the capitol building in Salem, Ore.

In addition to representatives from various veterans’ groups, World War II veterans were recognized and honored for their service. Some hoped to see themselves in the mural produced for this event.

The inaugural celebration honored two of Oregon’s most successful WWII veterans; Mark Hatfield, who served as both Oregon’s governor and a senator, along with other elected positions; and retired Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, a successful businessman, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, emeritus, and board member of several groups throughout the state.

The new Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum is also named in

Thayer’s honor.

A series of speakers were featured at the event. Three were WWII veterans: Ed Johann, a Pearl Harbor survivor; Leonard DeWitt, a Medal of Honor nominee who saved his company from Japanese invasion in their first real encounter against the Japanese in New Guinea; and Gerry Frank, a veteran of the European theater. Frank spoke about the WWII generation and Mark Hatfield’s contributions during the war and to Oregon following his military service.

Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel, the Oregon National Guard Command Historian and Vice President of Military History for the Columbia River Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, was the key note speaker who related the story of Oregon’s Role in WWII.

The Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Division was the first American Infantry Division to arrive in Australia, which then fought through New Guinea, the Philippines, and onto occupation duty in the Hiroshima district of Japan.

The 249th Coast Artillery, which was based at Fort Stevens, Ore., was the only unit in the continental U.S. who was fired upon during WWII, when a Japanese submarine fired 17 shells toward Fort Stevens.

Cameron Smith, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs was the emcee for program and orchestrated the laying of the wreath by Representatives Julie Parrish and Jim Weidner.

During the laying of the wreath, TAPS was played.

The event also included the Color Guard of the Oregon National Guard, WWII reenactors, and special music, including the “Spirit of ‘45 Anthem”, by Oregon songwriters Bret Lucich and Bonnie Karlyle.

According to the Oregon Department of Veteran’s Affairs, approximately 152,000 Oregonians served in WWII.

More than 3,700 service members were killed in action. Approximately 24,000 WWII veterans are still living in Oregon today.

For more information on the Spirit of ‘45 project, visit <http://www.spiritof45.org>.

All veterans are asked to upload their pictures and stories to [www.veteranslegacies.com](http://www.veteranslegacies.com).

For more information about the WWII Memorial, visit: <http://oregonwwiimemorial.com/>.

For information on the Historical Outreach Foundation, which is a 501(c) (3) non-profit associated with the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum, visit [www.historicaloutreach.com](http://www.historicaloutreach.com), or call 503-705-5965.

### 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.mbx.j1-rso2@mail.mil](mailto:ng.or.orarng.mbx.j1-rso2@mail.mil)  
Web: [www.ORNG-SMFS.org](http://www.ORNG-SMFS.org)

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