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Oregon CERFP travels to Alaska for Vigilant Guard: Page 9

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Army National Guard aviation Soldiers return home



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

Family members honor Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 2-641st Aviation Battalion following their recent return from deployment in a ceremony held at the Oregon National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8. Approximately 20 Soldiers from Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, mobilized as a Forward Support Medical Evacuation Team in March 2013 to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, to provide aero-medical evacuations and patient transportation in support of Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo. In addition, five Soldiers from Detachment 47 mobilized in February 2013 to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to perform the Communications Electronic Attack with Surveillance and Reconnaissance (CEASAR) mission utilizing the C-12 Huron airplane. See full story on page 8.

Oregon Airmen mobilize for duty in Afghanistan

Story by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore — Twenty-eight members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron participated in a formal deployment ceremony here, March 1, as they prepared to support Operation Enduring Freedom with members deploying to both Afghanistan and Bahrain.

Twenty-five Civil Engineer technicians will deploy to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and will provide support and maintenance services to facilities, airfields, and base infrastructure.

The three remaining members are firefighters with the wing and will deploy to Bahrain to perform fire and emergency services for both personnel and flight line support.

“Based on the ongoing drawdown in Afghanistan, we expect to be clearing and dismantling several facilities while the base population decreases, as well as adjusting to the many flying missions that will be coming in and out of the region through Bagram,” said Lt. Col. Jason Lay, 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

The training leading up to the unit’s deployment has been focused on going to a part of the world that will be unlike the Pacific Northwest.

“We already know how to do our main



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

Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron take part in a formal mobilization ceremony, March 1, held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore. The unit is scheduled to spend six months in Afghanistan and Bahrain in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

job skills, but we have spent time refreshing our wartime skills as well as receiving some cultural awareness training,” he said.

Seasoned members of the unit that have been deployed before will be an added asset for individuals whom this will be

their first deployment.

“The ones with experience are good about sharing and helping those who don’t really know what to expect about being

See **Engineer Squadron** on Page 10

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Electronic submissions, story ideas or questions to: Sentinel-Editor@mail.state.or.us. Hard copy submissions can be sent via U.S. Mail to: Oregon Sentinel Editor, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR, 97309.

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COMMAND

New adjutant general visits Soldiers, Airmen around state

I have had the opportunity to speak personally with many members of our fine organization while travelling throughout the state this year and was able to join in excellent unit level training with our dedicated Soldiers and Airmen.

My travels have been invaluable in the development of the Strategic Direction to the Oregon National Guard (SD2ORNG). It is essential for all units to be engaged in their communities and to communicate our mission to be a trained, capable, and ready-to-respond force of Citizen-Service Members. Forging and maintaining partnerships is essential at the local level and national level. The National Guard is truly the backbone of our nation's security strategy.

The citizens of Oregon look to their National Guard in times of emergency and disasters. They know we can be trusted to respond quickly and professionally. When the situation becomes dire, we provide a trained and ready force to assist local responders. Continue your training and be ready to answer the call. The Oregon National Guard is proud to be a part of Oregon's disaster and emergency response team.

There have been no specific decisions made on exactly how budget cuts and

downsizing the military will affect the Oregon National Guard. Regardless of budgetary changes in the upcoming years, the goals and mission of our organization will not change. First, we will sustain the Oregon National Guard community. I want everyone to work on retaining our best and to continue to bring in quality recruits to be a part of our team. Our Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees are our most valuable resource.

Secondly, we will complete our mission and take care of Soldiers, Airmen, our civilian workforce and their families. Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen have the best training, the best equipment, and the best facilities in the National Guard. If we remain focused on our people, we will excel at every mission that comes our way.

We recently welcomed home Soldiers from C Company, 7-158th Aviation Battalion and Detachment 47 from their deployments overseas. As we welcomed them home, Airmen with the 142nd Fighter Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron prepare for their deployment in support of operations in Afghanistan and Bahrain.

Over the next several months we will continue to train and prepare units across our state for upcoming mobilizations. More than a thousand of our fellow Citizen-Soldiers



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

and Airmen are scheduled for federal mobilization this summer. During a time of continued federal mobilizations, we need to ensure we remain focused on our domestic support mission and be prepared to assist first-responders here at home if the need should arise.

When Oregon and our nation find themselves in need, they turn to the Oregon National Guard for help. As the first and oldest state agency, we have a proud history of providing support to Oregonians from the Cayuse Wars of 1847 to today!

Your training, expertise and can-do attitudes are the lynchpin, which keeps our state and nation strong. Thank you for your service. Keep it up!

Warrant Corps more than a personal, professional calling

The Oregon Army National Guard has announced the National Guard's only warrant officer recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for Calendar Year 2013.

Chief Warrant Officer-2 Nicholas D. Thompson, of the Oregon Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, was recently honored with the prestigious award.

Thompson served as the Battalion Targeting Officer and Target Acquisition Platoon Leader for his unit, but he was also responsible for structuring the Forward Observer certification program for the Combat Observation Lasing Team (COLT) Soldiers, and played a key role in incorporating sister battalion and brigade headquarters involvement during multiple live fire exercises.

He transitioned from being a sergeant first-class to the Warrant program in April 2009, and pinned on CW2 in February 2010. In the civilian world, Thompson serves as a police officer with the Troutdale Police Department, but his contributions to his community don't stop there.

Thompson is one of six elected board members at his local church in Gresham. He also serves as the church's youth leader, responsible for students from sixth grade through college. As if that weren't enough, he also serves as his church's music and worship leader, organizing and leading worship time for a congregation of about 75



parishioners, and managing 10 musicians to include music organization and leading practice sessions.

Thompson has volunteered at Camp Rosenbaum, since 2013, and also participated in a fundraiser for Special Olympics that same year. He is also certified in Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T), and teaches sixth grade classes three times per week about the risks associated with gang-related activities.

What does all this mean for you? First, as a member of the Oregon National Guard, you ARE the best representation of YOUR community. You have the opportunity to take the best of what you are, and what you know, and "pay it forward" into your local communities. As a warrant officer, your influence on your fellow Soldiers is equally important.

CW2 Thompson is a fine example of a Citizen-Soldier. He is able to balance his military service as a platoon leader and officer with his civilian/community service as a law enforcement officer and outstanding member of his local community.

If you know anyone who is ready to step up to serve their state, nation and community as a technical expert, then the Warrant Officer Corps can provide the opportunity for that higher level of contribution.

Contact the Warrant Officer Strength Manager, CW4 Jennifer Knight, at 503-584-3570, or at jennifer.i.knight.mil@mail.mil.



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

Rule of thumb for servicemembers: politics and military service don't mix

Story by Maj. Bryan Libel, Staff Judge Advocate, Oregon Military Department

"It's an incredible moment for me. I can't believe it. It's like meeting a rock star," Corporal Jesse Thorsen, U.S. Army Reserve, said on stage at a political rally on CNN while in uniform.

After his General Officer Letter of Reprimand, Specialist Thorsen might regret forgetting a basic rule; never mix politics with military service.

With national, state and local elections looming, it is easy to get caught-up in the political fever. However, it is good to remember that when we chose to serve, we also chose to uphold the nation's liberties enshrined in the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. Defending our country's freedoms sometimes requires not exercising these very freedoms ourselves.

The rule of thumb is to never do anything that may be viewed as directly or indirectly

associating the Department of Defense (DoD) or Oregon National Guard with politics.

But what does that really mean? If the activity or event is political, don't participate or attend in uniform; wear civilian clothes. Political campaign events, parades, holding signs, meeting candidates, and attending open houses are all great, but they can cause trouble if done in uniform—so don't do it!

Be careful when talking about politics while in uniform so no one gains the impression that you are speaking in your military capacity or as a spokesperson for the National Guard.

The National Guard readily and proudly serves our government leaders and the citizens of Oregon, without regard to political affiliation. It doesn't endorse or promote any particular elected official, candidate or issue.

It's alright to disagree with civic

leaders—like the President, our governor or Congress—just don't bad-mouth them or show disrespect, especially when actions or comments could be construed as the official position of the Oregon National Guard. This perception typically occurs when in uniform or by stating you are a member of the Oregon National Guard.

A traditional Guardsman may run for political office, list military service as a qualification, and use pictures while in uniform. Military service and pictures may be part—but not the primary focus—of the political campaign. Full-time Guardsmen must get permission from DoD before they run for elected office.

The bottom line is to enjoy and support the political season and process. Be active and get involved. Just don't involve the Oregon National Guard or DoD.

Do you have specific questions? Please contact OSJA at 503-584-3571.

COMMAND

Oregon hosts FORSCOM, FEMA Region-10 adjutants general

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

CLACKAMAS, Ore. — The Oregon National Guard hosted the commanding general for U.S. Army Forces Command, and the adjutants general from across Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Region 10, during a meeting at the Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Feb. 21.

Gen. Dan Allyn, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command, spoke to a gathering of adjutants general, assistant adjutants general and other leadership from Washington, Alaska, Idaho and Oregon about issues important to the FEMA Region 10.

Allyn said the discussion contributed to overall readiness and preparedness for emergency response incidents—given the natural environment in the Pacific Northwest—and may require a total-force response.

“The relationships we forge in discussions such as this and the open dialog about the challenges that each of our adjutants general face with emergency response, is important,” Allyn said.

Indeed, the goal of the meeting was to discuss operational and domestic emergency response priorities and best practices, and to build relationships throughout the region in order to strengthen collaborative efforts during disaster response efforts.

Allyn said these relationships lead to important partnerships, not only between states, but across the entire Army, including active duty, Guard and Reserve forces.

“I think when we practice this type of cooperation and exercise our response and when we have a clear understanding of how each member of the total force contributes to the response, it increases our readiness,” Allyn added.

In attendance were Brig. Gen. Catherine Jorgensen, Assistant Adjutant General, Alaska; Maj. Gen. Kendall Penn, Deputy Commanding General for 1st Army; Maj. Gen. Scott Thoele, Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Forces Command; Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor, Adjutant General, Idaho; Gen. Allyn; Col. Wallace Turner, Assistant



Gen. Dan Allyn, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command (center), speaks to FEMA Region X Adjutants General from Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska, during meeting, held at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Feb. 21.

Adjutant General, Washington; Brig. Gen. John Goodale, Assistant Adjutant General, Idaho; Col. Mark Rathburn, Chief of Staff, Oregon Military Department. (See photo below).

Maj. Gen. Dan Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, hosted the meeting.

“It’s obvious Gen. Hokanson has a great relationship with the leadership at Joint Base Lewis McChord, and the future is very bright with that partnership and the ability for the active duty and the Guard to work together to make the readiness of the total force the best that it can be,” Allyn said.

Following the meeting, the group posed for a group photo in front of a WWII tank on display in front of the AFRC.

Rathburn said the meeting was a great success, and supported well by FORSCOM and the Oregon National Guard.

“The topics of discussion varied from what keeps adjutants general up at night, to integrated active-duty, reserve component partnering, to potential force structure losses and fiscal way-ahead,” he said.

Rathburn added that feedback from FORSCOM and First Army following the meeting was very positive.

“FORSCOM and First Army said this was on one of the best organized and attended TAG Huddles they have seen,” Rathburn said.

Allyn said he felt a sense of pride in what the Oregon National Guard had accomplished over the past 12 years, to include overseas deployments and homeland emergency response. He highlighted Oregon’s storied history dating back to well before current global conflicts.

“The history of your units goes back to well beyond WWII and in many cases it preceded even our commitments in WWI,” Allyn said.

“We are going to continue to leverage not only your lineage but also your commitment to your nation,” he added.



Adjutants General from FEMA Region X join Gen. Dan Allyn, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command (center), for a group photo in front of a WWII tank on display in front of the Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Feb. 21.

Kessinger set to retire

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Ronald G. Kessinger, Director of Staff-Air, is scheduled to retire from the Oregon National Guard on Sunday, May 4th at 10:00 a.m., in a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore.



In his present position, which he has held since March 2008, Kessinger has the overall responsibility for the support of all state activities, organization, training, resources, equipping, and planning of Oregon Air National Guard units and personnel within the state.

Kessinger enlisted in the active Air Force in November 1981 and served until his palace-chase transfer to the Oregon Air National Guard in May 1986, as a traditional Guard member. In 1988, he was recognized as Security Police NCO of the Year for the entire Air National Guard and in 1989, his selection to the Air Force Team of the Year brought him national recognition as one of five top Security NCOs in the Air Force on the Air Force’s “Team of the Year.”

He was commissioned in September 1990 as an Air Force Reserve Officer and the Air National Guard of the United States. Over the next six years, he was a Flight Commander and then the Squadron Operations Officer in the 142nd Security Force Squadron.

In 1996, he was appointed as the full-time Detachment Commander and Chief of Security Forces for the Portland ANG Base. In 1999, he assumed full command of the 142nd Security Force Squadron.

In January 2001, he was selected to be the State ANG Director of Personnel at the Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Oregon. During this assignment, his additional duties included serving as the Executive Officer for both the Oregon ANG Commander and Oregon Chief of Staff.

In December 2004, he was selected as the Vice Commander of the Oregon Combat Operations Group and State Director of Support. In June 2006, he assumed full command of the Combat Operations Group. In addition, he served as the Vice President of Air for the Oregon National Guard Association.

Kessinger holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Oregon State University, in Corvallis, Ore., and is a graduate of Air Force Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. He is married to Kathleen. The couple has one son, and live in Newberg, Ore.

Quality Airmen invaluable to states’ governors, combatant commanders

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. David Eichaker, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (2/9/2014) — Emphasizing the importance of embracing a “one Air Force” concept, Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, addressed newly minted Air Force chief master sergeants attending the Air Force District of Washington Chief’s Orientation and Recognition Ceremony in Arlington, Va., to educate them about the Air Guard and to further build upon relationships between the active and reserve components.

As part of that, Hotaling, the 11th command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, talked about the National Guard’s 377-year history; performing both state and federal missions.

He then focused on three missions where he said the Air Guard excels: protecting the homeland, fighting America’s wars and building global partnerships through the State Partnership Program.

The Air Guard is the first choice for homeland operations, said Hotaling, noting that Air Guard personnel were among the first to respond to the tornado that tore through Moore, Okla., in May. And, more recently, Airmen had boots on the ground when winter storms ravaged the Midwest and water contamination threatened areas

of West Virginia.

“It’s that link that we have,” said Hotaling, adding the Air Guard is the tie between the community, state, local and federal levels.

“The Air National Guard provides that bridge where they can bounce between Title 32 (state active duty) and Title 10 (federal active duty),” he said.

And, the command chief noted, the Air National Guard has played a major part in fighting America’s wars, particularly in the time since 2001.

“There are 16 Air National Guard bases around the United States that are providing air coverage (around the clock) for Operation Noble Eagle,” he said, adding the Air Guard also runs the joint air defense operations center in the nation’s capital and has deployed units worldwide.

Hotaling also praised Air Guard members for their long-term involvement in the SPP, where National Guard units conduct military and civilian engagements with foreign nations that help build stronger allies and support defense security goals.

“Every one of the 54 (states, territories and the District of Columbia) is partnered with at least one other country,” Hotaling said, adding the program is run in conjunction with the State Department.

“The State Department utilizes the National Guard to create those military-to-



Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, speaks with newly minted Air Force chief master sergeants attending the Air Force District of Washington Chief’s Orientation and Recognition Ceremony at Joint Base Bolling-Anacostia, Washington, D.C., Feb. 6, 2014. Hotaling touched on the history of the Air Guard and how Air Guard members have been part of both operations here at home and in deployed locations overseas.

military relationships that are long term.”

Quality training and real world experience is why today’s more than 105,000 Air Guard members have been invaluable to governors and combatant commanders alike, said Hotaling.

“The status (of Guardmembers) may

be different,” said Hotaling, “but the standards will be the same. That’s why they are a relevant choice to combatant commanders.”

“We are all just American Airman,” he said.

NEWS

Oregon Legislature lauds Rees for life's accomplishments



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

Retired Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (left), former adjutant general of Oregon, is recognized by the Oregon State Legislature for his distinguished service to the state and nation during a session in the Senate Chamber at the Oregon State Capitol, Feb. 5. Senate Concurrent Resolution 204, honoring Rees, was sponsored by Senator Bill Hansell (R-District 29).

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

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon State Legislature recognized the distinguished career and service of retired Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, former adjutant general of Oregon, during a session in the Senate Chamber at the Oregon State Capitol, Feb. 5.

Rees, who began his military career as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, had numerous active duty and Army National Guard assignments, including service in the Vietnam War as a cavalry troop commander.

Domestically, Rees distinguished himself as Director of the Army National Guard, Vice Chief and then Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau, as well as Chief of Staff of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

As a three-term adjutant general for Oregon, Rees' pioneering efforts in Oregon, and at the national level, helped shape policy decisions, resulting in successful increases in readiness, training and competence of service members throughout the Oregon National Guard.

Under Rees' leadership, Oregonians in uniform served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and responded to domestic emergencies, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Rees helped pave the way for Oregon to partner with two countries as part of The National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP); first with Bangladesh in 2008, and then with Vietnam in 2012.

These partnerships help build lasting relationships and help bolster emerging democracies around the world.

Rees was also responsible for opening and improving Oregon National Guard facilities across the state, and was a key advocate for the 50-year lease signed between the Port of Portland and the Portland Air National Guard Base—ensuring the future of the Oregon Air Guard's mission to protect the skies over the Pacific Northwest for another generation.

He also helped establish a nationally-recognized Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, which reaches across Oregon to provide service members and their families with the best resources and assistance programs to help them prepare for deployments and transition back home.

Rees retired from his position as adjutant general of Oregon with 17 years of service to four different governors and the longest service period as adjutant general during wartime.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204 may be viewed at the following link: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SCR204>

Eastern Oregon U: A very military friendly campus

Story by Cadet Caitlyn Newkirk

LA GRANDE, Ore. — The military-friendly Eastern Oregon University campus, with dorm scholarships and a Service to Country Scholarship for Guardsmen and veterans, has led to more than doubling the size of the program in the last two years on EOU's 2,000 student campus.

National Guard members and cadets alike enjoy a college education at little to no cost, as a benefit of choosing to serve our state and nation.

With local outdoor activities and programs readily available, this is a great location to get an education and good training in preparation to lead America's finest young people. EOU ROTC, and the EOU as a whole, provides low instructor-to-student ratios, which leads to high performing cadets and future officers.

Due to the location, the school has ample local training areas directly off campus, which make it easy for cadets to attend Field Training Exercises (FTX), thus becoming more proficient in military tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Eastern's ROTC program has recently had training opportunities such as aviation support from 1-168th Aviation Battalion in Pendleton to transport cadets to FTXs, making the training more realistic.

The summer of 2013 proved to be fruitful for the EOU ROTC program. In June, four cadets successfully completed the Air Assault Course at Camp Rilea, on Oregon's northern coast. Each cadet learned aircraft capabilities, sling load operations, and rappelled out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The cadets endured strenuous training and testing, such as a twelve-mile ruck march, and an obstacle course.

In July, the program had two cadets attend the Jungle Survival Course in Guyana, South America, as part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program. These cadets spent a month learning a variety of tasks and cultural proficiencies. One week was spent surviving in the jungles alongside the Guyanese Special Forces, while the rest of their time was spent interacting and learning the ways of a foreign culture.

Understanding the need to be good community members, the EOU cadets participated in supporting the Walk for Warmth. Cadets fielded three teams and ruck-marched the three mile course. The program also donated \$105 to help local low-income families pay for heat during the winter months due to not qualifying for government assistance. Additionally, Cadet Dakota Olson arranged and led a program for the Veteran's Retirement Home, where the community donated canned food and everyday necessities to the home.

EOU, and its ROTC Mountaineer ROTC program is a great recommendation to not only further your education, but also to prepare you to lead.



Wounded Warriors inspire Ducks on rehab facility visit

Story by Rob Moseley, Editor, GoDucks.com, reprinted with permission

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Katie Mitcheltree was with her husband, Army veteran Wade Mitcheltree, when she saw a notice that some football players would be visiting the facility where he and other wounded warriors receive rehabilitation.

To Katie, a native of Gresham, Ore., they weren't just any football players.

"My team is coming to see me," Mitcheltree exclaimed upon realizing several Oregon Ducks would visit Brooke Army Medical Center's Intrepid Center four days before the Ducks faced Texas in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 30.

That Thursday afternoon prior to the game, Katie, Wade and their two kids were waiting in the lobby when nine Ducks arrived to tour the rehabilitation center and meet several of the veterans recovering there. The Mitcheltrees shook hands with the players and received a jersey, gloves and stickers from Oregon's recent spring game tributes to the military.

The contingent of Oregon players was supposed to number seven, but quarterback Marcus Mariota and receiver Keanon Lowe saw teammates leaving for the tour and wanted to come along. The others were center Hroniss Grasu, defensive lineman Taylor Hart, punter Alejandro Maldonado, safety Ben Butterfield, receiver Chad Delaney, receiver Daryle Hawkins and long snapper Drew Howell, with strength and conditioning coach Jim Radcliffe on hand as well.

Players expected to encounter a group of veterans struggling with their circumstances, in need of some encouragement. Instead, the tables were turned.

"I've never experienced anything like that, never experienced that much positive energy in one spot," Lowe said.

The Ducks first met the Mitcheltrees, including their oldest son, Joseph, 12, whose bedroom is decked out in Oregon gear right down to the bedsheets, according to his mother. Players then began to tour the facility, only to have veteran Jason Walker track them down for photos with his family of Oregonians.

The tour included three floors of the four-story, 65,000-square-foot facility. The Center for the Intrepid opened eight years ago to "provide service members with



Photo by Eric Evens, Go Ducks.com

Army veteran and Wounded Warrior Wade Mitcheltree (sitting) of Gresham shakes hands with Oregon football players as several Ducks visited the Mitcheltree family on Dec. 26, at the Brooke Army Medical Center near San Antonio, Texas.

severe extremity injuries and amputations the opportunity to maximize their ability to live and work productively."

The center included the expected rehab equipment, such as weights and a pool. It also housed a model of an apartment, and the cab of a pickup truck, so veterans can encounter any difficulties that arise in those situations before being discharged.

And there was more high-tech equipment, including the CAREN (computer assisted rehabilitation environment), a 21-foot dome housing a 300-degree projection screen and adjustable floor. It's used to simulate various environments and terrain patients can expect to encounter out in the world, including those returning to combat zones.

But for all of that high-tech equipment, the most memorable part of the visit was the last 15 or 20 minutes. That's when players mingled with and signed autographs for the handful of veterans who dropped by the outpatient facility on the day after Christmas.

"They're so focused, they're locked in, they're positive," Delaney said. "We see injuries all the time in football, but

they handled it much better than I see my teammates handle it. They were so positive, had such a good vibe about it."

Before the players left Oregon's practice facility for the rehab center, they were handed boxes of jerseys, gloves and stickers by an equipment manager who told them, "don't bring any of it back." They handed out about a dozen of the 15 jerseys they brought, and left the rest to be distributed by Center for the Intrepid staff when other patients drop in.

Not lost on the Ducks was the fact the average age of the facility's patients was 22 to 25, not much older than the players themselves.

Mark Phillips, who works in logistics at Brooke Army Medical Center, is the father and father-in-law to Oregon journalism school graduates. He got a sweatshirt signed by players, and spoke to the impact their visit could have on the wounded veterans.

"For them to see somebody like this group come in, it's uplifting for them," Phillips said.

It turns out, though, he could have just as easily been talking about the players, too.

NEWS

Citizen-Soldiers turn citizen-lifesavers to help save coworker's life

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

When 1st Sgt. Jeremy McLoud, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver and Spc. Michael Cutone showed up for work at the Hillsboro Armory on the morning of Dec. 18, 2013, they never envisioned they'd be called "heroes" by the time the sun set that day.

The trio, who work with the Recruiting & Retention Battalion, were attending a day-long meeting at the armory, and chose to conduct a working lunch.

At the same time outside the armory, two passersby noticed a figure laying on the ground in the parking lot. It was the unconscious form of Paul Perone, Hillsboro Armory Maintenance Manager, who had just suffered a heart attack.

"Those kids are the real heroes because they came in (the building) and got us. Most people would just pass by," said Carver.

As it turned out for Perone, luck and timing was on his side. Through a series of events, the right people with the right training were in place at the right time, Carver said.

"If those kids weren't there, and we didn't stay there for the working lunch, and 1st Sgt. McLoud wasn't a volunteer on the fire department, I don't know what would



Savior and the saved: Hillsboro Armory building maintenance manager Paul Perone (right) with 1st Sgt. Jeremy McLoud and Perone's fiancé Lorna Wolfington, outside the Hillsboro Auditorium in Hillsboro, Ore., prior to the award ceremony honoring McLoud and fellow Oregon Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver and Spc. Michael Cutone, with the Hillsboro Fire Department's Life-Saver Award.

have happened," Carver continued.

Cutone ran outside and immediately jumped into action. After a quick assessment of Perone's condition, he began administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) until Carver and McLoud arrived to assist.

The Soldiers continued CPR until Metro West Ambulance Unit #30 arrived on scene, followed by Hillsboro firefighters. McLoud, who is also a volunteer firefighter, continued to assist EMS upon their arrival.

Perone was defibrillated twice before being transported to a local hospital for additional treatment, and remained there until he was released on Dec. 29, with no apparent neurological effects.

The Soldiers' courageous actions didn't go unnoticed by the City of Hillsboro.

On Jan. 6, the Hillsboro Fire Department presented Carver, McLoud and Cutone with the agency's Life-Saver Award for their actions in saving Perone, at a ceremony held during the City of Hillsboro's Council meeting at the Hillsboro Civic Center Auditorium.

Carver's parents, Gregg and Marilee, who attended the Hillsboro ceremony, said their son was always quick to help anyone in need.

"He's always been quick to jump in and help people," said his father, Gregg, a former Soldier and Vietnam War veteran.

Indeed, when Carver was deployed to Iraq, he rushed in to help a group of British Soldiers who were injured in an IED attack.

"He was awarded a medal for that," his father said. "He's done everything in the military that I had hoped to do when I was in. The only problem is he gets really emotionally involved, and had a hard time for a few days until he knew Paul was okay," he added.

According to McLoud, the tight-knit group at the armory is not only familiar with each other, but also each other's family members.

"I had a conversation (with Paul) the Wednesday prior, and so it was really hard to see him laying there on the ground," McLoud said of the incident.

Hillsboro firefighters and medics credited the Soldiers' quick decisive actions and application of CPR with saving Perone's



Three Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers are honored with the Life-Saver Award in a ceremony during the Hillsboro City Council meeting, in Hillsboro, Ore., Jan. 7, for their heroic action on Dec. 18 when a coworker, Paul Perone, collapsed outside the Hillsboro Armory. The three Soldiers administered CPR to Perone until medics arrived on the scene. Medical personnel credited the Soldiers' quick decisive actions and application of CPR with saving his life. From left to right: Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey, Spc. Michael Cutone, Paul Perone, 1st Sgt. Jeremy McLoud, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver and Hillsboro Fire Division Chief Nathan Leek.

life, and the attending physician at Tuality Hospital praised the efforts of McLoud, Carver and Cutone in helping to stave off any long-lasting effects.

"I actually went to the hospital to visit him, because being a volunteer firefighter, I know this is really difficult to come back from," McLoud said.

"I've done CPR five or six times, and I've seen the heartbeat come back," McLoud continued. "But the patient is either lost in the ambulance on the way to the hospital or in the hospital that night or the next day. I've never seen someone become that active right after (the heart attack), so just hearing about that, I was walking on clouds."

Perone says he feels great.

"Like a newborn baby," he says with a laugh. "I owe these Soldiers my life. They tell me I was in the hospital on the 18th, but I can only recall everything coming back on Sunday, which is five days later.

They said I was conscious and talking, but I don't remember one bit of that."

Perone's fiancé, Lorna Wolfington, who also attended the award ceremony at the Hillsboro Auditorium in January, was thankful for the Soldiers' training and decisive action in December.

"I thank them (the Soldiers) so much for not only saving Paul's life, but saving our families' life," she said.

Perhaps the best tribute to the three Citizen-Soldiers and their ability to use their training to help someone else comes from Perone himself.

"Thank you for being there for me when I needed you the most," Perone said.

Editor's Note: McLoud, Carver and Cutone were also awarded the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal with Gold Star during a ceremony held at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Ore., Mar. 26.

Kingsley Field employee assists injured motorist

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — A 270th Air Traffic Controller potentially saved the life of an injured motorist on Oregon Highway 58, Jan. 19.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. John Crowe, now a civilian air traffic controller, was driving home from the Portland Airport when he spotted an illuminated tail light on an obviously wrecked vehicle in the dark hours just before dawn.

"Since the tail light was on, I just felt it was my responsibility to stop and check it out," he said. As he scrambled down a hill, he could see someone remained in the car.

The driver was conscious but in obvious shock from his injuries.

"He asked me who I was and I said, 'my name is John, I'm here to help get you out of here,'" said Crowe.

After carefully checking the man for injuries, he could tell that he suffered a broken femur and had a possible broken arm and multiple lacerations. Because the area was outside cell service, he faced the dilemma of either moving the man to his vehicle or leaving him and calling paramedics.

Temperatures were well below freezing, so he decided it was critical to get the man warm and to medical help as soon as possible and pulled him from the vehicle. He carried the man to his truck and drove until he could call paramedics.

At first he said he simply reacted to the situation using his Air Force training, but



John Crowe, 270th Air Traffic Controller and retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt., conducts an interview with KOTI, the NBC affiliate in Klamath Falls, Ore., following his rescue of an injured motorist on Hwy. 58 east of Eugene, Ore. Crowe stopped to investigate upon seeing a glowing tail light in the predawn hours on Jan. 19.

as he drove the man to safety he reflected on the situation and was extremely glad he had been in the right place at the right time.

"Because it was dark, I could see the tail light and that was why I stopped, but after the sun came up he might have been in trouble," said Crowe, who is uncomfortable with the publicity he has received, but nonetheless happy he was able to help a person in need.

"I really think anyone would stop and help and that was all I was doing," he said. "Everyone I know would do the same thing."

Soldiers rescue elderly couple from crash in creek near Detroit Lake

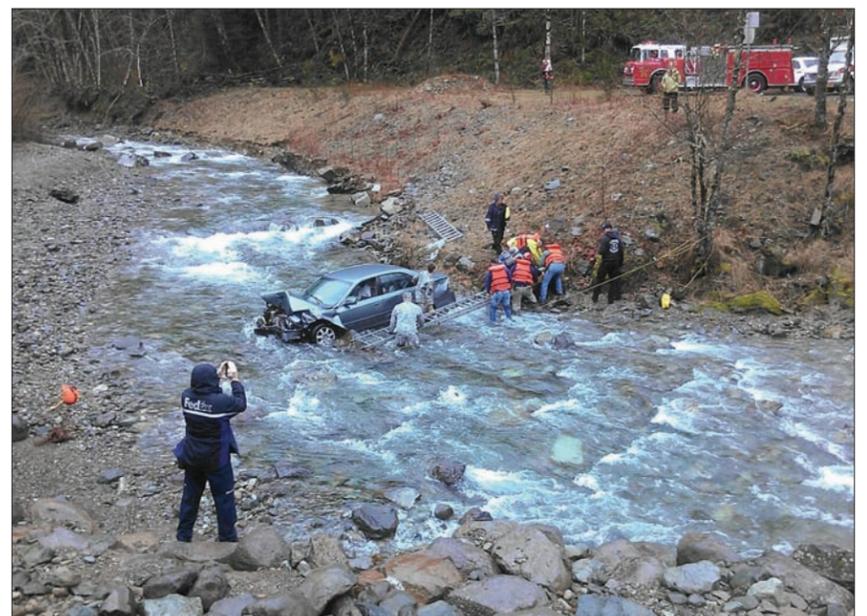


Photo courtesy Oregon State Police

Two Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers came to the rescue when they witnessed a car crash into a creek off Highway 22, near Big Cliff Dam west of Detroit, Ore., Feb. 27. Staff Sgt. Nathan Brushe, with the 162nd Engineer Company, and Staff Sgt. Joshua Cooper, with the 224th Engineer Company, of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, assisted first responders and helped remove two senior citizens from the car. Police said they arrived to find the 2001 Toyota Avalon in Sardine Creek with serious front-end damage. According to witnesses, the car failed to negotiate a curve, drove straight off the highway, through a guardrail, down an embankment and into the creek. The driver as Kathryn Spice, 69, and the passenger was her husband, Byron Spice, 78. Investigators said driver fatigue was a contributing factor in the crash.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Schools prepare for emergencies, thanks to Oregon's OEM grants

Story and photo courtesy of Oregon Emergency Management

Oregon Emergency Management donated supplies to the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

"Oregon is due for a major 9.0 or higher Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake at any time, preparing our coastal schools is imperative," said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator, and Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The Cache is located at Taft High 7-12 School in the southeast area of the parking lot, next to the softball field.

Supplies are stored in two secured 20-foot shipping containers which are wind and water tight. It contains basic survival supplies including food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management donated eight large tents valued at \$2,000 for the project. Other goods donated by partnering agencies include rain ponchos, Mylar blankets, and water barrels.

"We realize that while we cannot prevent an earthquake and tsunami, preparing in advance with basic survival supplies will greatly reduce suffering and promote resiliency during and after a disaster," said Sue Graves, Safety Coordinator, Lincoln County School District.

The project was made possible through matching grants from the Lincoln



Volunteers assemble one of the donated tents for the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

County Commissioners and partnering organizations including the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, City of Lincoln City, and North Lincoln County Fire and Rescue.

"It took a lot of people with a clear understanding of the risks we face here in Lincoln County to make this project a reality," said Graves.

"One of our hopes in putting this cache together was that it would inspire others in Lincoln County to put similar caches together in their areas - which has already started to happen," she added.

Those interested in learning more about the cache project or wishing to donate may send an email to: susan.graves@lincoln.k12.or.us or call her at 541-270-4367.

OEM hosts Josephine County Commissioner



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

Matt Marheine (right), Section Manager for Plans and Training at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), highlights the Real Time Assessment Planning Tool for Oregon (RAPTOR), for Cheryl Walker, Josephine County Commissioner, in the OEM Emergency Operations Center at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Jan. 10. The Oregon Military Department and OEM provided assistance to firefighters and first responders in Josephine County during August 2013 when wild land fires ravaged the area near Grants Pass, Ore. The RAPTOR system is a common situation map viewer designed to help emergency management personnel make better decisions during emergency activation.

Officials mark ominous anniversary



Photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Emergency Management

Barrels inside tsunami preparedness containers in Cannon Beach, Ore., contain emergency items for local residents. The containers include family cache items, medical, administrative, and tool chest support containers as well as tourist, employee and visitor kits. The containers sit at approximately 100 feet, 20 feet above what earthquake experts believe to be the maximum tsunami inundation zone in Cannon Beach and other areas along the Oregon Coast.

Story and photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Emergency Management

January 26th marked the anniversary of the great Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that shook the Pacific Northwest in the year 1700.

The magnitude 9.0 "megathrust" quake struck off the coastline of Oregon, Washington, Northern California and British Columbia.

Scientists believe Oregon is within a window of time where another massive earthquake could occur.

"We know a major earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that struck off the coast of Japan could hit Oregon at any time," said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is recognized as one of the world's most dangerous faults, posing a significant earthquake hazard for Oregon and other Western States. Many of the region's most highly populated cities including Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver in British Columbia would be affected.

Experts say impacts to the Oregon Coast would be similar to that along the coastline of Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and are encouraging individuals, families and communities to prepare.

Rizzo said there are many actions that can be taken to prepare for the next earthquake including talking with your family about an emergency plan, creating a supply cache, and learning basic first aid skills.

"Prepare now and be your own survival story," Rizzo added.

To learn more about the threat in Oregon and find resources that can help you prepare go to: http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/preparedness_information.aspx at Oregon Office of Emergency Management website, or the American Red Cross website at <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake>.

Pilot project upgrades Portland homes



Photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Emergency Management

Portland resident, Stacey Schubert pauses next to a display, Feb. 20, during the announcement of a pilot project which provides seismic upgrades on 30 Portland homes for earthquake resiliency. Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Portland City Commissioner Steve Novick and representatives from the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, and FEMA attended the event. The innovative project is possible thanks to a partnership between the City of Portland, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, Clean Energy Works, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA. Novick called the project a good investment for the city.

Are you prepared for emergencies?

Being prepared means being equipped with the proper supplies you may need in the event of an emergency or disaster. Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

For more information, or to build a kit, visit the Red Cross website at:

www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit

Be a survivor, not a statistic!

RESILIENCE

Don't eat the marshmallow



Story by Staff Sgt. Eddie Black,
Resilience Program Coordinator, Oregon National Guard

There was a famous experiment done by Stanford University child psychologists in the 1970s where four-year olds are placed in a room with a single marshmallow. They are told that if they can last fifteen minutes without eating the marshmallow they will earn a second one.

Most of the kids fail, many in under four minutes, but one-third of them succeed. This ability to delay instant gratification is correlated with generally greater success. At first glance it makes sense, we all know the story of the grasshopper and the cricket. But why were some kids able to do this task while others couldn't?

In thinking about this experiment, we sometimes focus on how many of the kids struggle under the temptation of the marshmallow before them.

A slightly different, and in my opinion, a key view, is that the successful kids weren't suffering *without* the present marshmallow, they were suffering *for* the future marshmallow. Bottom line: their focus is different.

Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist, as well as Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl said, "Those who have a *why* to live, can bear with almost any *how*."

Our military training, our missions, routinely call for difficult actions now for a better future.

There are a variety of skills available to 'not eat the marshmallow', many of which are components of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) program, such as PIIP, Energy Management, Detect Icebergs, and more.

Ask your unit Master Resilience Trainer (MRT) on how to incorporate this into your training plan.

Airmen honored with Silver, Bronze Star



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

The Oregon Air National Guard honored a group of Airmen from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron with a Silver Star and Bronze Star medals, during a ceremony held March 24, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore.

Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, Director, Air National Guard, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon were among those in attendance.

"The 125th STS has a proud history of displaying valor and heroism in combat," said Maj. TJ Awada, commander of the 125th STS. "The actions of Sergeants Matthews, Jones, Matlock, and Thompson are in keeping with the highest traditions of this squadron and the Oregon National Guard."

Following the ceremony, the combat controllers posed for a group photo with Hokanson. From left: Hokanson; Tech. Sgt. George Thompson, who received the Bronze Star; Staff Sgt. Christopher Jones received the Bronze Star with Valor and first Oak Leaf Cluster; Staff Sgt. Matthew Matlock received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and second Oak Leaf Cluster; and Tech. Sgt. Doug Matthews received the rarely awarded Silver Star.

The 125th STS was officially established on May 1, 2005, and is headquartered at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore.

FEATURES

Skier credits Olympic participation to her Oregon Army Guard father

Story by Gary Sheftick,
Army News Service
Photos courtesy Col. David Wiles,
Judge Advocate General, JFHQ, Oregon

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — U.S. Olympic skier Jacqueline Wiles, 21, said the support of her Army father has been instrumental in allowing her to ski competitively and achieve her dream of getting to Sochi for the winter games.

Wiles competed in the Olympic ladies downhill event Feb. 12, finishing 26th with a time of 1:44.35, as her father, Col. David Wiles, watched from the stands.

She finished just 2.78 seconds behind Slovenia's Tina Maze and Switzerland's Dominique Gisin, who tied for the gold, both crossing the finish with a time of 1:41.57. Switzerland's Lara Gut took the bronze with a time of 1:41.67.

USA's Julia Mancuso finished in 8th place, just under a second behind the leader. Her speed at the bottom was just over 100 kilometers per hour, while Wiles was clocked at 99.44.

Even though her time wasn't as fast as what she hoped, Wiles said just competing and representing her country in the Olympics was a dream come true. She finished fourth among U.S. skiers in the final downhill training run at Rosa Khutor, Feb. 8, qualifying her to compete in the Olympic downhill event.

Wiles said she was somewhat surprised just over three weeks ago when she found out that she definitely would be coming to Sochi. Nominations for Team USA at the Olympic Winter Games are made based on World Cup standings, and Wiles has only been competing on the circuit for a few months.

She was named to the U.S. Ski Team in November at Copper Mountain, Colo.

Then in December, she won the Nature Valley Alpine Championship downhill title at Copper Mountain. On Jan. 10, she won the downhill championship at Squaw Valley, Calif.



Jacqueline Wiles (center), brother Steele, and David Wiles at Beaver Creek, Colo., following her first world cup race.

Wiles has been skiing since age two, almost since she began to walk. She said her father took her and the family to Mount Hood, Ore., for regular ski outings.

"My brother and I loved to go fast," she said about her need for speed and decision to take up downhill racing at age 5. She said her father has always been supportive.

"He's so supportive of everything I do," she said. "If it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be here. I'm very lucky."

Both skiing and the military have been family traditions for Wiles.

Her father, who has served nearly 34 years in the Army, has been the state judge advocate of the Oregon National Guard since 2005. He left active duty in 1984, after serving at Fort Irwin, Calif.; the Presidio of San Francisco and the Military District of Washington.

Her grandparents also were Army officers during World War II. Her grandmother, then-1st Lt. Jane Wilcken, was an Army nurse in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. Her grandfather was an Army dentist in the Pacific theater during the war.

When her father commanded Camp Rilea, Ore., from July 2011 to 2012, Wiles went there to observe Army training for a weekend.

"There was a little area set up to look like Afghanistan," Wiles said, adding that



Jacqueline Wiles placed 15th during the World Cup Downhill race in Cortina, Italy, held in January 2014, qualifying her for the U.S. Olympic Ski Team.

she was impressed with the training.

"Jacqueline grew up in a traditional National Guard family," the colonel said. "One weekend a month she'd see me dress up in uniform and take off."

Now the younger Wiles is known among U.S. Ski Team members for her military luggage bag.

"Everybody loves my military bag," she said. "It helps me out at the airport."

Wiles was a three-sport athlete in high school until her softball coach made her choose a sport to focus on, and she decided skiing was her future.

In 2012, she was named to the national

junior team.

Now she attends Westminster College in Salt Lake City on a merit scholarship. She trains half days in skiing at the location of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

This summer, she wants to work on agility and strength training in order to get "explosive power" and endurance. Her plans are to "sleep, eat and breathe skiing."

Wiles said she definitely plans to be back to the Olympics in 2018 to try it again in Korea. And she looks forward to seeing the president in May when the U.S. Ski Team visits the White House.

NEWS

Ceremony lauds Soldiers, thanks families following Kosovo, Afghanistan missions

Continued from **Front Page**

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore. — Set against a backdrop of HH-60-M Blackhawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters, and Oregon Soldiers standing in formation, friends, family and fellow Oregon National Guard members welcomed home Soldiers of the 2-641st Aviation Battalion.

The Soldiers were honored during a demobilization ceremony, held at the Governor Theodore Kulongoski Army Aviation Support Facility, in Salem, Ore., March 8.

Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-OR, 5th District); Heidi Moawad, representing Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, commander of 82nd Troop Command Brigade; and Lt. Col. Pete Derouin, commander of 2-641st Aviation Battalion, were among the many in attendance.

Approximately 20 Soldiers from C Company, 7-158th Aviation, mobilized as a Forward Support Medical Evacuation Team (FSMT) in March 2013 to Camp

Bondsteel, Kosovo, to provide aeromedical evacuations and patient transportation in support of Operation Joint Guardian, Kosovo (KFOR 17).

The nine-month deployment supported the ongoing medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) mission with UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

The task force returned in January 2014. The unit conducted a total of 350 missions, which consisted of 600 total flight hours, including 23 medical evacuations.

Oregon Soldiers also trained more than 2,000 Multi-National Soldiers in MEDEVAC 101, 201, and 301 training programs.

Training included helicopter safety, patient loading and unloading, landing zone preparation, hoist operations, and self-aid and buddy care.

The group also trained on rescue operations in mountainous and steep terrain integrating the hoist with ground rescue personnel using rope systems.

The Soldiers accomplished 100 flight hours using night-vision goggles (NVG). Crewmembers each averaged 150 hours of flight time.

In addition, the 2-641st Aviation Battalion also mobilized approximately five Soldiers from Detachment 47 in February 2013 to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to perform the Communications Electronic Attack with Surveillance and Reconnaissance (CEASAR) mission utilizing the C-12 Huron airplane.

The CEASAR mission included Soldiers from Oregon and Idaho. The Soldiers returned to their respective states in December 2013.

The CEASAR mission utilizes devices specifically built to conduct aerial electronic jamming operations from CEASAR equipped, fixed-wing aircraft. The CEASAR airplane is similar to the C-12 aircraft that the unit operates in Oregon.

While deployed, the Soldiers from Det. 47 provided the observation, security and transportation platforms necessary for successful operations on the ground.

Task Force CEASAR was placed under operational control of the Electronic Warfare Element of Regional Command South, receiving their missions directly from the 3rd Infantry Division, and later the 4th Infantry Division.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Geoffrey Vallee gives Heidi Moawad, who represents Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, a tour of the UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter following the demobilization ceremony for Soldiers with 2-641st Aviation Battalion, held at the Oregon National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8.



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

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, meets with Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 2-641st Aviation Battalion, during the unit's demobilization ceremony held at the Oregon National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8.

The Soldiers of TF CEASAR broke the record for hours flown and missions supported in their second month of deployment, and continued to break their own record every month thereafter.

Det. 47 attained their flight goal of 300 hours on two planes in one month prior to their return to Oregon in December 2014.

While deployed, members of Det. 47 completely overhauled all sections within TF CEASAR in anticipation of the training requirements ahead.

They evaluated dismantled and redesigned the areas of Flight Standards, Safety, and Maintenance, and rebuilt them in order to train an entirely new unit in anticipation of sending them to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, with two new planes from the another unit.

The 14-person unit (eight pilots, four electronics warfare officers, and two operations Non-Commissioned Officers) was trained and evaluated in every aspect of the mission prior to establishing the sister unit at Bagram.

The group was able to implement the Developed Electronic Warfare mission

sets which were previously not offered to ground forces in Afghanistan.

Moawad thanked the Soldiers for their life-saving missions, saying they truly lived up to the Oregon National Guard motto of; 'When we are needed, we are there!'"

She also thanked the Soldiers' friends, family and loved ones for their sacrifice.

"Without your enduring support, our Citizen-Soldiers would not have the amazing reputation of success they have today," she told the gathering.

Moawad also highlighted the unique dual-nature of the National Guard.

"As a whole, the battalion conducted domestic support operations here at home, while simultaneously conducting successful overseas missions," she said. "Amazing job, and thank you for your dedication."

Hokanson thanked the unit for the exemplary work overseas, taking time following the official ceremony to greet each of the Soldiers standing in formation.

"Congratulations to both units on a job well done! Welcome home," he said.

Oregon Senate Bill allows college credit for military training

Story by CW4 Diane Beach, State Education Officer

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 275, which requires local community college boards, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), to develop standards for community colleges to award credits for education and training obtained by individuals who served in the Armed Forces.

The legislation also requires learning institutions to inform interested persons the opportunity to receive this credit for their military training and professional military education.

Senate Bill 275 does not guarantee that colleges will award college credit based on military training, but it simply requires community colleges to develop a standard by which they will award credit.

Local Oregon community colleges are familiar with the deployments Oregon has experienced, and are committed to helping the large number of Oregon military members who pursue post-secondary education during their deployments and after their return home, said Krissa Caldwell, Deputy Commissioner for Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

"This bill is about helping Oregon's veterans transfer their military acquired knowledge and skills to civilian life and careers," she said.

Coupled with the complications of multiple deployments, the way students pursue their education has prompted colleges to adjust their practices of recognizing and awarding credits, she added.

The Joint Services Transcript (JST) is the military transcript that lists the recommended college credits based on military training. The JST replaced the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART).

JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a Service Member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations. The official military transcript can be requested through the JST website at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

Due to concerns with college accreditation, colleges want to ensure that students receive the entire course of training within their degree program and that credits are not awarded for training that does not fulfill the all course objectives. Many colleges will award one to three physical education credits, but any other courses often require additional documentation to substantiate equivalency between college and military course objectives.

"There is a shared concern to work with



veterans to help them jump-start civilian education and training," Caldwell said.

"Oregon's community colleges stand ready to continue to help veterans pursue post-secondary education as they return from active duty around the world," she added.

For more information on this bill, or to read the various committee meeting minutes, visit <http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2011/SB275/>.

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 or call:

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

NEWS

Vigilant Guard Alaska Exercise tests Oregon CERFP's agility, training

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

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nearly 200 Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard's emergency response team participated with the Hawai'i National Guard during Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 training exercise, near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, March 24 - April 3.



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

Members of the Oregon and Hawai'i National Guard's CERFP work together to quickly transport a simulated victim caught in a debris pile during the Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 exercise, March 30.

As members of the Oregon National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), the team works with civilian authorities to respond to manmade and natural disasters.

Deploying for the first time to train outside of Oregon, aircraft of every size from the C-130 Hercules, to C-17 Globemaster IIIs, KC-135 Stratotankers and the legendary C-5 Galaxy, arrived in Portland, Ore., to move the gear and manpower to support the exercise in the 'Land of the Midnight Sun.'

"This is a training exercise, that brings together civilian agencies as well as military and National Guard assets to learn to work together," said Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Mike Moffit, Oregon CERFP commander.

The exercise in Alaska had both the Oregon and Hawai'i teams assisting victims after a simulated earthquake.

With a variety of simulated injuries and medical conditions revealed from the episode, some of the casualties were found trapped under debris, and were 'rescued' by members of the CERFP's search and extraction teams, who practiced pre-



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

Capt. Adrian Remington, (left), 154th Wing, Hawai'i Air National Guard and Maj. Dawn Choy, (right), 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, review a map of the training site during the Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 exercise, March 27. Remington and Choy serve as their units' Force Support Search and Recovery Team (FSRT) lead officers and worked in tandem

planned rescue scenarios, all under the supervision and guidance of inspectors from National Guard Bureau.

The disaster scenario was modeled after the March 27, 1964 earthquake and the resulting tsunami that hit Anchorage and affected other parts of the state of Alaska.

"We're here to help the Alaska fire chief practice search and extraction on collapsed buildings and treat victims of the earthquake," Moffit said.

Event organizers said having the two CERFP teams work together provided continuous support for the civilian authority under the conditions factored into the exercise mission. This allowed both teams to ascertain each other's best practices and learn to integrate those procedures.

"We have conducted several training events in preparation for this exercise. There are several schools that our Soldiers and Airmen have attended, from online testing to actual onsite classrooms," Moffit said.

The training has occurred on every level from victim extraction, ropes courses, decontamination and chemical response, and administrative accountability.

Moffit also noted the similarities in how the military task can begin to mirror the civilian mission.

"Our command element attends many schools in conjunction with civilian response forces so that we all learn how to use the same language, use the same forms, use the same command structure and how we can create the military into a civilian force."

Within the structure of the CERFP, the unit is a joint mission, with Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen taking on different roles to create the team with the command and control structure being a blend of both forces.

We abandon the things that don't work and gravitate toward the things that do work in order to get the mission done.

- Maj. James Faumuina, 154th Medical Group Operations Officer, Hawai'i Air National Guard

The Army National Guard provides the Soldiers who do search and extraction as well as the decontamination group. The medical element and the fatality search and recovery teams are made up of Air National Guard members.

The Alaska trip is Oregon's first rapid deployment on a military aircraft, and the first time a CERFP unit in the nation has sent the new decontamination trailer anywhere by airlift.

"It has three different types of showers and water heating elements, no one else in the country has flown this on a military aircraft until now," Moffit said.

As part of Air National Guard mission requirements, the medical teams took on both the training mission and a series of real-world medical requirements that surfaced with deploying service members to a much colder environment which included having to adjust to changing mission requirements and longer work days.

"It was a little rough at the start, but as the Army likes to say, 'We corrected our fire,' and it was really incredible after that point," said Maj. Alex Charney Cohen, the biological public health flight commander and the acting medical commander for the deployment.

"We dealt with a great deal of real-world issues; more than I expected, but my medical team was amazing," Charney Cohen added.

"The Hawai'i CERFP has a longer history than Oregon with many years of experience under their belts, so their assistance played a role into streamlining issues early," he said.



Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Members of the Oregon and Hawai'i National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) medical teams work jointly to assess a simulated casualty, while participating in the Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 exercise, March 29, near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska.

Working together allowed for corrections to be adjusted as the exercise went on and improved problem solving from different perspectives, he added.

"I was interested in meeting the Hawai'i element and see how another CERFP does business," Charney Cohen said.

He remarked on how well the Hawai'ians handled the workflow of communication, adding he was impressed with how they had "an excellent grasp on how information works and how to make it flow."

On a lighter note, he said, "Somehow we all managed to stay warm too."

proper gear in place for each team member as they arrive to accomplish their mission.

Choy said the recovery and caretaking of human remains is a careful and thoughtful process.

Each member of the team keeps a thoughtful sense of solemnity in their work. Their mission is to give full dignity to the remains and a thoughtful approach by each team member to carefully recover the deceased individual, she said.

"The Oregon and Hawai'i [teams] integrated very well when the opportunities to collaborate their efforts happened during the exercise," Choy said.

With a majority of the exercise initially committed to the medical response and saving lives, the FSRT portion of the training picked up toward the second half of the exercise.

For Oregon Airmen like Staff Sgt. Andrew Kalmbach, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing services flight and FSRT, the exercise really started on the second and third days.

"We got the tents up, and then got half-suited up and ready to go; we were on our 'A-game'. Our teamwork was excellent, especially once our tempo of work began to pick up toward the end of the exercise," he said.

The environment and location of Alaska allowed the two states to break up the routine of their normal training surroundings.

Adding in the ability to work with civilian first-responders and local authorities from different states was an additional benefit as well, Moffit said.

"Overall this has been an excellent training opportunity - not only for ourselves, but for the firefighters and the civilian search and extraction teams. They are getting familiar with our equipment and our overall capabilities," he added.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Specialist James Hensley, (left), and Igor Bondar, (right), members of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP, carefully check for contaminants during the Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 exercise, March 28.

"It is only after the extraction team has returned to base that we begin the procedure," Choy said.

The process involves having all the

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Port of Portland honored as Employer of the Year by 142nd FW



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

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Rick Wedan, (left), 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, talks with Col. Mark Crosby (center), the Port of Portland's Chief of Public Safety and the Director of the Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program, and Mr. Bill Wyatt (right), Executive Director for the Port of Portland, following a ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Feb. 20, to honor the Portland of Portland as the Oregon Air National Guard Employer of the Year for 2013.

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

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing honored the Port of Portland with their Employer of the Year award for 2013, during a ceremony at the Portland Air Guard Base on Feb. 20.

The Oregon Air National Guard Employer of the Year Award program began in 2002, as a way for Oregon Airmen to recognize the support of their full-time employers. Previous recipients include Alaska Airlines, UPS Aviation Technologies, City of Wilsonville and Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The 2013 nominee, Port of Portland, is "very supportive of its employees, providing support to National Guard members through financial support and incentives, patriotic partnerships, and internal communications and business accommodations," the award reads.

Among some of the Port of Portland's accomplishments are; collaboration with the Oregon Air National Guard on a new 50-year property lease for the Portland Air Base, rent-free space for the new USO facility at the Portland International Airport, development of a military appreciation program for military travelers, and the partnership with Alaska Airlines for the implementation of a Fallen Soldier Program which honors and respects all fallen service members whose remains arrive or pass through Portland International Airport.

Oregon Air Guard brings another Airman into the 'family business'



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

Oregon Army National Guard Col. Todd Farmer, State Army Aviation Officer, administers the oath of enlistment to his son, Joel Farmer as he becomes a member of the Oregon Air National Guard, Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., Feb. 12. With his enlistment with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Joel Farmer will be a member of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron's Munitions Flight after first attending basic training and technical schools with the U.S. Air Force.

142nd FW unveils new nose art, pays tribute to City of McMinnville

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing honored the City of McMinnville with an unveiling of new F-15 nose art during a Cities of Honor ceremony held at the Portland Air Base in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 20.

The Oregon Air National Guard's Cities of Honor program started in 2007, during the planning for the ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the United States Air Force.

The cities of Beaverton, Corvallis, Gresham, Hillsboro, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Portland, Salem and Vancouver were formally recognized during the original ceremony for their support of Oregon's Citizen-Airmen.

The artwork was specially created for each jet, including the names and iconic images of each of these cities, honoring the relationship between the local communities and the Citizen-Airmen who reside there.

Historically nose art was used to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. World War II was an era where artwork was in high demand, and extravagant creations highlighted unit pride and cohesion. Today, the Air Force allows for specialized artwork for fighter aircraft that is distinctive, symbolic and in good taste to enhance unit morale.



Portland Air Base recognized by Energy Trust of Oregon for energy reduction efforts

Story by 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing was recognized by Energy Trust of Oregon during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Jan. 30.

The wing was recognized for their work in energy efficiency upgrades. Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and generating renewable power.

The Portland Air National Guard Base implemented energy efficiency projects for exterior lighting, aircraft hangar lighting, vehicle maintenance facilities, and flight line lighting, helping to achieve federal energy mandates of reducing energy consumption by three percent each year for 10 years.

Engineer Squadron to assist with construction, repair, ordnance disposal



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

Airmen from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, pose for a group photo prior to the unit's mobilization ceremony.

Continued from Front Page

gone for several months at a time," said Lay.

All their experiences help facilitate the mission to completion, as well as keeping people safe and secure to do their jobs.

"We have about 10 individuals that this will be their first deployment; most of us have deployed at least once before and for some this is their third or fourth deployment," Lay said.

The primary mission of 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron is to provide civil engineer support for the bed down of personnel and aircraft worldwide. Key capabilities include construction, repair and maintenance of airfields, facilities, and infrastructure; fire and emergency services; as well as, explosive ordnance disposal.

For the past 45 years, the men and women of the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron have faithfully performed their mission throughout the world on all seven continents.

The 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron remains ready to support its community during state emergencies.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Klamath Falls jets repainted to match desert environment

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — The 173rd Fighter Wing welcomed a distinctive new F-15C aircraft to its growing fleet Feb. 7, 2014. The jet sports a tan, desert paint scheme rather than the typical grey-blue worn by all the other aircraft at the wing.

The aircraft comes from the aggressor squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where it simulated adversary aircraft. Two more aircraft from Nellis are scheduled to arrive between now and June 2014, but those will have the standard F-15 paint.

“There was a scheduling conflict for [this] aircraft that prevented it from being painted prior to transfer,” said Lt. Col. Jeff “Sled” Smith, 173rd Maintenance Group Deputy Commander. “When asked if we would accept a brown “lizard” paint scheme, we agreed to it!”

The arrival of this aircraft and six others scheduled between now and June will bring the total number of assigned to Kingsley Field to 32. Smith says seeing the unique aircraft in the skies over Klamath Falls is significant.

“It’s a visible sign to the base and local community that Kingsley’s mission is growing despite budgetary challenges across the Air Force and DOD as a whole,” he said.

Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander says it points toward the USAF commitment to adding more F-15C pilots to the fleet.

“In order to produce more pilots the 173rd Fighter Wing has to grow in both aircraft and personnel,” he said.

“This recently acquired aircraft retains the paint scheme of the 65th Aggressor



Photo by James “Hazy” Hazeltine, HIGH-G Productions

The 173rd Fighter Wing’s newest aircraft sports the desert paint scheme having come from the aggressor squadron at Nellis AFB, Nev. Maintainers updated the tail flash and added Air National Guard emblems and the 114th Fighter Squadron will use the airframe for normal operations until June when it is scheduled to receive the standard paint for an F-15C.

Squadron where it originated but blends in ANG and 173rd FW emblems. It also symbolizes our desire to grow personnel at Kingsley Field by blending ANG and active duty personnel.”

That growth manifests itself in many ways, among them the former alert facility which went unused by the wing since that mission left the base years ago, is once again a beehive of activity.

“Building 400 and building 404 have been a necessity in accepting more

aircraft,” said Maj. Micah Lambert, the 173rd Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron Commander, of the former alert barns.

“We are currently performing two phase inspections there, and one aircraft acceptance with the fourth bay being used for weapons load training and aircraft washes. This facility is also the primary location for NDI [non-destructive inspection] to perform aircraft x-ray. It is a busy facility!”

And that won’t change any time soon;

the building is slated for a full renovation of the entire electrical system, HVAC system, and installation of a high expansion foam (HEF) fire suppression system, said Maj. Tim Bruner, 173rd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Commander.

With the addition of this aircraft and the four temporarily assigned here from the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, Calif., the Kingsley ramp is home to 34 F-15C aircraft, the largest number of aircraft in base history.

Kingsley unit recognized by Air National Guard for airfield operations

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — Approximately one year ago the Associated Press reported that Kingsley Field’s air traffic control tower was selected for closure under the terms of sequestration, a term describing a budget impasse in the U.S. Congress.

This galvanized a strong response, and the FAA ultimately removed Kingsley Field’s tower from the closure list.

Over that year the people at the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron have maintained a high standard of work, so high in fact they were named 2013 Airfield Operations

Flight Complex of the Year for the entire Air National Guard. The unit is no stranger to the award having earned it in 2008 as well.

“This airfield operations award, this is the big one,” said Maj. Michael Balzotti, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron Commander.

The award takes into account three main areas, airfield management which falls under the 173rd Fighter Wing, radar approach control and the tower which are both part of the 270th ATCS.

The chief of air traffic control airspace and ranges at National Guard Bureau, Mr. S. Scott Duke presided over the board who ultimately selected Kingsley for the top award in the field noted that the

270th and 173rd Airfield Management operations have an established track record of excellence.

“They would certainly be the benchmark that others would need to strive to attain to be competitive,” said Duke.

“They really have mastered the association you need with management of the airfield, the controllers in the tower and the services provided by the radar controllers,” he added.

Duke said the award shows each of the three areas—tower, radar and airfield management—are performing at a high level.

“This award recognizes a balance between the areas,” Duke said. “You

can’t have one area, the tower for instance that was superb, they all three have to be excellent.”

Doug Cunningham, 270th Air Traffic Manager said the award is a result of contributions from several groups.

“It’s maintenance, it’s supply, it’s logistics and especially keeping people ready to deploy all over the world to control aircraft,” Cunningham said.

Those pieces will be tested yet further as the Kingsley Field adds more aircraft and controls a complex mixture of Air National Guard, fire suppression, general, and commercial aviation.

There is even an air race featuring more than 50 aircraft scheduled for this June.

142nd Airmen, employees honor fallen Soldier during ‘dignified transfer’ ceremony



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

Oregon Air National Guard members at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., render honors to a U.S. Army Soldier during a dignified transfer, leaving the base on Feb. 21. U.S. Army Spc. John Alexander Pelham, a 2010 graduate of Sunset High School, was killed Feb. 12, while serving in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, as part of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A funeral held in Beaverton on Feb. 24 drew nearly 1,000 people.

Hokanson ‘crosses into the blue’



Photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon, gives a thumbs up after being strapped into the seat of an F-15 Eagle, March 11, at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, took Hokanson up in the jet to experience the high-G flight of an F-15 Eagle during a familiarization flight.

FEATURES

WINNING VOLLEY



Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyce Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, Oregon Army National Guard, fire a Howitzer salute to the National Anthem during the Battery's Alexander Hamilton award ceremony, Feb. 23, in McMinnville, Ore. The Alexander Hamilton Award annually recognizes the most outstanding U.S. Army National Guard field artillery battery for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. Bravo Battery, 2-218th FA, is also known as the "Governor's Own" and is dedicated to providing howitzer salutes at community and state functions on the order of the governor and adjutant general.

Soldier admits National Guard wasn't a long-term thing, at first

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

BAKER CITY, Ore. — Staff Sgt. Josh Baker never planned on a long-term career in the Oregon National Guard. In fact, the Haines resident said his initial plans regarding the Guard were modest and decidedly short-term.

"I was in the Job Corps and a couple of my buddies were looking at going into the Guard. I talked to the recruiter just as an option," he said.

Fast-forward nearly two decades and Baker is closing in on the final months of a 20-year, part-time career in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Baker, who works as a truck driver for Leavitt's Freight Service, joined the Guard in 1994 and spent almost all of his Citizen-Soldier career in the Baker City Guard outfit, Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

Saturday, at the Baker City Armory, Baker — a staff sergeant — reflected on a part-time profession that included two combat deployments to Iraq.

When he first enlisted, Baker said the possibility he might travel overseas to a hostile, foreign shore was remote.

"I never thought I'd leave the U.S.," he said.

Baker also said when he joined the Guard the prospect he might spend 20 years in the Citizen-Soldier organization seemed dim.

"When I joined, I didn't even think retirement. I wasn't thinking beyond my initial enlistment," he said.

For nearly 20 years Baker gave up one weekend a month and often more than three weeks every summer to train with the 3rd Battalion. Most of that training time was completed on the vast, desolate Orchard Combat Training Center south of Boise, Idaho.

"I've been there probably in excess of 40 times," Baker admitted.

Baker said while being away from his family to participate in Guard training exercises — and the time spent overseas — was the hardest part of his journey he conceded his military time paid dividends.

"There have been a lot of good things about serving," he said. "I got my commercial driver's license based on my military experience."

Baker said the Guard is a vocation he would recommend.

"The Guard will train you to understand that the job is more than just going to collect a pay check, there is pride in what you do," he said.

While Baker admits he will miss his part-time job he also said he is ready to march on and into a future without the Guard. Part of his willingness to depart at his 20-year mark revolves around the fact that — as a staff sergeant — he holds down a key leadership slot inside Fox Company. He said it is important that he departs when he hits the 20-year benchmark to



Staff Sgt. Josh Baker, a member of Baker City's Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard stands in the weapons vault at the Ontario Armory Saturday. Baker is now at the tail end of a 20-year career in the Oregon National Guard.

allow other Soldiers to advance.

"I'm sure I will miss it. But I'm not going to hold up one of my troops from getting a promotion just because I want to stay in," Baker said.

Oregon merges JTAP, H2H

Story by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing,
JFHQ Public Affairs

What do you get when you combine two National Guard programs designed to help service members?

In this case you get one successful program and the attention of the people in the National Guard Bureau who manage the two programs.

The collaboration of these two programs has made it the most successful in the nation, organizers say.

Combining the Hero-2-Hire Program (H2H) and the Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP) gave the ability to assist job seekers from all branches with over 162 jobs in the month of February alone.

They have conducted 449 resume reviews, 661 employment referrals, and some 543 people have been hired since the combining of this program's inception.

The Hero-2-Hire (H2H) program initially started in April 2012. Six months later, the program became fully funded and staffed.

The Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP) team has been in existence since Oct 2011. Their focus was on all branches of the service, providing them with assistance in education, health issues and employment.

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Craig Snitker is the Employment Transition Coordinator for the State of Oregon and is also the Northwest District Manager for the H2H.

When Oregon received word that there were 500 case management licenses for H2H program available, Snitker acquired 14 of them and gave them to the JTAP team.

The JTAP teams are now Employment Case Managers on H2H, and are able to conduct online case management, resume reviews, job referral and much more.

Oregon is currently the only state to secure licenses for civilian contractors to interface directly with the H2H program.

Combining the efforts of the JTAP team with the H2H platform is considered a "best practice" that is under review by the RAND Corporation, Snitker said.

"The states of California and Washington have contacted Oregon about our program and are in the process of adopting a similar system in their states," Snitker said.

"The success of this program would not have happened if we had not been able to give the JTAP team this valuable tool that allows them to match service member with jobs," he said.

The JTAP Program is a unique an innovative approach to service member care, he added.

Other states generally only have a single person managing their H2H program, and sometimes a small staff of additional personnel in various support roles, Snitker noted.

In Oregon, the JTAP team is deeply embedded in both the civilian and military communities they serve, and very involved with the overall reintegration efforts of service members, according to Snitker.

Due the success of the program another grant was acquired to continue the program thru FY 2015.

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No service member stands alone

FEATURES

Oregon's Soldiers and NCOs converge on the north coast to vie for best of the best

Twenty-one of the Oregon Army National Guard's top Soldiers from around the state came to Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., to put their mental and physical strengths to the test, March 14-16, 2014, to compete for the titles of best non-commissioned officer and best Soldier of the year.

Story and photos by Sgt. Betty Boyce, JFHQ Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. – Throughout the weekend, they conquered obstacles and rose above adversity to prove their intestinal fortitude.

According to the cadre overseeing the competition, Oregon set the bar high by creating an endeavor that is unmatched.



Soldiers said they were pushed toward their breaking point at each event throughout the three-day competition.

"With my years of service and training, I have never been pushed to this point. I was thinking of ways to fake injuries to get out of it, but I knew I had to keep going and finish this," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson, with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion,



briefed they had one hour to complete personal hygiene, change into their dress uniform, and report to Warrior Hall for a formal board where a panel of sergeants major tested their military knowledge.

As they sat and waited for their name to be called, many stared blankly, several closed their eyes, and a few massaged strained muscles.

Once they were finished with the board, they were sent back to their barracks for several hours of rest which they would need for the last day's events.

The third and final day began with grouping and zeroing their M4 carbine weapons, and from there they moved to the range for qualification, where they would shoot 40 rounds and hope to beat their opponents.



<< Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Anthony Olsen, 1249th Engineer Battalion, pulls himself up a rope while competing in the 2014 Best Warrior Competition.

▲ Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Cunningham, with C-Company, 7-158 Aviation, carries two ammo cans filled with cement during the final event of the 2014 Oregon Best Warrior Competition, March 15, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.

< An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier listens to instructions for an event during the 2014 Oregon Best Warrior Competition, on March 15, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore. Twenty-one Soldiers endured mental and physical tests while competing to become Oregon's best Non-Commissioned Officer and best Soldier of the year. The winners will go on to represent the state of Oregon at the Region VI competition later this year.

With my years of service and training, I have never been pushed to this point.

- Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard

after the competition was over.

"And I'm so glad I finished; I wanted this so bad," he continued.

The event kicked off Friday evening, March 14, with a written essay, followed by an eight-mile run in the dark along a trail of chem-lights.

The next morning, after just a couple hours of rest, they took the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) followed by an obstacle course, and then another three-mile run with their rucksacks and helmets.

By late morning on the second day, the competitors were given an order of events with a map and grid coordinates.

Each competitor was responsible for plotting their points and finding their way to the marked events, which were scattered from one end of Camp Rilea to the other.

The day looked like it was ending, as the sky turned dark and the wind and rain amplified.

The competitors were finally trickling in to the barracks after their long day of events. They were wet, and their steps were more like short shuffles as they groaned with exhaustion.

At a time when you would least feel like dressing up, the competitors were

"I feel like a new man after getting that much rest," said Sgt. Joshua Martin, with Joint Force Headquarters. "I'm ready to finish this thing."

Once all the competitors were finished at the range, the cadre quickly put them in route to their final event: Omaha Beach.

This event was designed to replicate the day back in 1944 during World War II, when, under heavy fire, engineers struggled to exit their boats and swim to the shore to secure the beaches of Normandy.

The competitors laid waiting in the sand for a wave to hit them before they could start the event. They had to crawl approximately 25 yards in the sand and water before reaching two cement-filled ammunition cans.

They had to pick up the "ammo" cans and carry them 100 yards, up a 70-foot elevation to the top of a sand dune before running all the way back

to the surf for the finish.

"This was so much harder than I thought it would be," said Spc. Darlene Jordan, with Joint Force Headquarters.

"I flipped over in the surf and had to regain my senses, and when I hit that incline up the sand hill, I thought my heart was going to beat out of my chest," she said.

When it was all said and done, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson, with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, took the title of best non-commissioned officer, and Spc. Anthony Olsen, with the 1249th Engineer Battalion, took the title of best Soldier of the year.

After months of training, dieting and studying for the state competition, they will now continue to train and prepare to represent Oregon at the Region VI competition, which will be hosted by the South Dakota National Guard in May.

"These fine warriors represent the best of the best from the great state of Oregon. They are the warrior ethos defined and what it means to put your mind, body and soul to the test," said Oregon State Command Sgt. Major Shane Lake.

"I want to thank the Soldiers, along with their individual sponsors, for the many days spent in preparation for this event, as well as all the support staff and civilian sponsors," he added.

"It is been an honor and privilege to be a part of an organization where such leaders are born!" Lake said.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Joshua Martin, with Joint Force Headquarters, leads a group of competitors during a stretch of the three-mile ruck march during the 2014 Oregon Best Warrior Competition, March 15, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.

HISTORY

Former Oregon Adjutant General helps launch American Legion

Story by Alisha Hamel,
Executive Director, Oregon Historical Society

Maj. Gen. George A. White has a fascinating Oregon military story.

His story and many others are being captured by the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum in Clackamas, Ore., next door to Maj. Gen. George A. White's last residence, also known as "Quarters-1" —which still serves as the home of Oregon's Adjutant General.

The American Legion was started at the end of WWI as an organization for former members of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, the eldest son of President "Teddy" Roosevelt brainstormed with then-Lt. Col. George A. White, who was at the time an activated Oregon National Guardsman, to create the American Legion, to support and fight for veterans' rights upon returning home.

Roosevelt and White advocated for what is now the American Legion until they met with Gen. John Pershing in late January 1919. White was given the mission to travel through the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF) Theater to drum up interest in this new organization.

He was so successful that the first meeting in Paris had crowds overflowing with deployed service members. Being a leader at the brigade, division, and state level helped White understand the hardships these Soldiers endured, and he insisted that officers take care of their Soldiers first.

White became the first American Legion National Vice-Commander, founded the American Legion magazine, and was its first editor. For his services to the American Legion and for promoting the friendship between United States and France, he was awarded the Legion

d'Honneur on July 9, 1934.

White had been the Adjutant General of Oregon prior to WWI, and still holds the record as the longest serving, single-term adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard—holding the position for over 25 years.

He was instrumental in forming the Oregon National Guard and the 41st Infantry Division into the most respected National Guard Infantry Division in the United States. The 41st Infantry Division was selected for federal service on September 16, 1940, over a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor—an action which ultimately brought the United States into WWII.

Unfortunately while training his troops at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation at Camp Roberts, Calif., he contracted pneumonia. He passed away on Nov. 23, 1941, shortly after returning to his home, Quarters 1, at Camp Withycombe.

White began his military career as a private in the Utah National Guard in 1895. He served in the Spanish-American War, and returned to the states where he quickly rose through the ranks to first sergeant.

He then had an opportunity to move to Oregon where he joined the Oregon National Guard in 1907, and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. He quickly rose to the rank of captain and showed such leadership that he was selected to be Oregon's Adjutant General in 1915.

When National Guard troops were called to help with the crisis on the Mexican border, White volunteered to lead Troop A, Oregon Cavalry, and had to revert to his federally-recognized rank of captain.

Again Oregon was called upon during WWI, and under his leadership, Oregon's Third Infantry mobilized for this mission

overnight, earning them the slogan of "First to Assemble." Federally promoted to major, White deployed with the unit to France, where the newly-commissioned 41st Infantry Division was declared a replacement division, unfortunately leaving no commanding role for him.

Maj. White was transferred to Gen. Pershing's staff and was promoted to lieutenant colonel where he met and maintained a great friendship with Lt. Col. Roosevelt. The return from WWI found Col. White reconstructing the Oregon National Guard in preparation for however else the United States wanted to use them.

He was promoted again to brigadier general in 1923 and to major general in 1930, acting not only as the adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard but also commanding the 41st Infantry Division.

The 41st Infantry Division was comprised of troops from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The unit was so well trained that when called to participate in war games against active duty infantry divisions, they consistently and handily beat them in every event.

In his spare time White had also been an associate editor at the Oregonian newspaper, and wrote many short stories and novels based on military life. One book of note was called "Attack on America," which tried to raise public awareness about the dangers of the upcoming second world war.

Maj. Gen. White was ready to lead the 41st into WWII, but his time the deployment for the division was cut short by White's death. He received many notable awards, including the Cross of the Black Star and the Cross of the Legion of Honor; both awarded by the President of the French Republic for service in creating



Photo courtesy Oregon Military Museum

Former Oregon Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George A. White, advocated for the creation of the American Legion.

the American Legion and promoting friendship between the United States and France.

The Historical Outreach Foundation, the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization friend of the museum is raising money for those exhibits that will tell the story of Maj. Gen. White, along with many other notables from Oregon's long and illustrious military history, from the times of the Native American tribes through what today's servicemen and women are doing to serve our state and nation.

Oregon's history cannot be told without telling Oregon's military history. Likewise, Oregon's military history cannot be told without telling the history of our state. This will be a true timeline of Oregon's history.

For more information, visit the Historical Outreach Foundation at www.historicaloutreach.com.

Brig. Gen. David Nudo passes

The Oregon Army National Guard is deeply saddened by the passing of Brigadier General (ret.) David L. Nudo. Brig. Gen. (ret.) Nudo died Jan. 15 in Milwaukie, Ore., at the age of 88. He was born Oct. 27, 1925, in Portland, Ore., to Luigi and Rosaria Nudo. He attended Commerce High School and the University of Portland. He joined the Army in December 1943 and was sent to Germany to serve with the 9th Division during WWII. He received a direct commission in December 1949 as a second lieutenant in the Oregon National Guard.

He held many positions in the Oregon Army National Guard, including liaison officer for the 186th Infantry, assistant G3 of the 41st Infantry Division, and assistant S2 for the 82nd Support Center.

He served as the S3, S5, deputy commander, and then became the commanding general of the 41st Infantry Brigade. He also served as the Assistant Adjutant General - Army and commander of the Oregon State Defense Force.

His awards and decorations include: Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army of Occupation Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Oregon Distinguished Service Award, Oregon Exceptional Service Medal, Oregon Faithful Service Medal (30 years), and Combat Infantry Badge.

The highlights of his career were leading the 41st Infantry Brigade in the CRISEX mission in 1981, and what he called his "garlic diplomacy" in Spain. He also participated in the documentary, "Ready on the Firing Line", which won a Peabody Award.

He is survived by his children, David L. Nudo II (and spouse Sandy), Megann Nudo, Mario Nudo (and spouse Leanna); grandchildren, Tara Green (and spouse Rex), Johnny Smits (and spouse Malissa), Angie, Cindy, Jessica, David III, Marissa and Merik Nudo; 16 great grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; brother-in-law, Nick Baumann; beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Toni, and son, Gene.

Condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 68345 Milwaukie, OR 97268. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to University of Portland's Nudo Family Scholarship Fund or the Health Occupation Class at the Owen Sabin School: 14550 SE Johnson Rd., Portland, OR 97267.



Korea War veteran awarded Purple Heart 62 years after injury



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

Robert (Bob) Robison was awarded the Purple Heart Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster during a ceremony in the Governor's Ceremonial Office at the Oregon State Capitol on Feb. 21. The Purple Heart is given to service members who are wounded or killed while serving their country in armed conflict. Robison was wounded on two separate occasions during the Korean War, but did not receive the medal before leaving military service. Robison, an 82-year old Keizer resident, posed for a photo with his medals following the ceremony.

Would you like to be a published author?

Want to see your photo in the Sentinel?

Submit your story or photo to:

Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us

NEWS BRIEFS

Free SAT & ACT prep kits available for children of service members

Story courtesy of Stars and Stripes

BAMBERG, Germany – Children and relatives of service members can get free SAT and ACT preparation kits again this year, compliments of several professional athletes and the testing company eKnowledge.

Service members, Defense Department employees and civilians performing military support qualify for the program. Eligible relatives and dependents of service members also qualify, according to an eKnowledge press release.

The SAT and ACT PowerPrep Program, which retails for \$200, is available free upon request. It consists of 11 hours of video instruction, 3,000 files of supplemental test prep material, sample questions and practice tests, the release states.

The sponsorship is entering its sixth year and has donated 167,000 programs valued at over \$37 million. The eKnowledge release said the company does not profit from the program.

For more information: www.eknowledge.com/MilNews.

Free tax assistance offered to retirees

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Programs offer free tax help for qualified taxpayers.

The VITA Program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$52,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals in local communities.

They can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

The TCE Program also offers free tax help for all with priority assistance to people who are age 60 and older. They specialize in questions about pensions and retirement issues unique to seniors. IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

To locate VITA tax preparers in your area, go to www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers, or call 800-906-9887. Call TCE, 888-227-7669, or go to

www.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations action to find free tax preparation providers.

Certain tax exemptions may apply to veterans

As another tax season lay ahead, veterans should be aware there are specific tax exemptions and deferrals for which they may qualify.

Disabled veterans may be entitled to exempt some of your homestead property's assessed value from your property taxes. To qualify, veterans must be certified by the VA or any branch of the armed forces as having a disability rating of 40 percent or more, or be a veteran who served and is certified each year by a licensed physician as being 40 percent or more disabled.

Active duty service members, including National Guard and military reserve forces, also may qualify for a residential property tax exemption.

Additionally, disabled veterans may qualify to "borrow" from the state of Oregon to pay their county property taxes. To qualify, veterans must be determined eligible to receive or be receiving federal Social Security disability benefits due to disability or blindness.

If you qualify, the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) will pay property taxes to the county. Six percent on the taxes are

deferred and a lien will be placed on the property. All taxes plus interest and fees must be repaid. Applicants must file their requests with their local county assessor's office.

For more details contact the DOR or your county assessor.

Do you qualify for VA Dental Program?

The VA has implemented a comprehensive national pilot VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) to give enrolled veterans and CHAMPVA beneficiaries the opportunity to purchase dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost.

Participation is voluntary and purchasing a dental plan does not affect a veterans' eligibility for VA dental services and treatment. Coverage for VADIP plans began Jan. 1.

Covered services include diagnostic, preventative, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Delta Dental and MetLife are offering multiple plans. Each participant pays the fixed monthly premiums for coverage and any copayments required, depending on the type of plan selected.

A veteran's dependents, except those eligible under CHAMPVA, are not authorized to participate in VADIP. Those individuals may be eligible for separate dental insurance coverage offered by these carriers.

For more information about VADIP visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip/

Winter weather tips still important during spring

Many jobs require workers to be outside when temperatures are low. Poor weather conditions can lead to severe health problems, such as frostbite or hypothermia. Precipitation and wind are also hazards of which you need to be aware.

Cold, wet, windy weather can be extremely hazardous even if temperatures are not below freezing. Being aware of your surroundings and taking simple precautions can help you avoid such dangerous illnesses as frostbite and hypothermia.

However, it's important to know the signs of cold stress to look for in yourself or a fellow employee when working outside in cold temperatures.

What is frostbite?

Frostbite is a medical condition that occurs when skin and body tissues begin to freeze due to exposure to cold temperatures. Your extremities, such as fingers, toes, nose and ears are most at risk.

What are the signs and symptoms of frostbite?

One of the first signs of frostbite is a tingling sensation similar to pins and needles. Numbness or pain may follow. The skin may begin to look pale or waxy and become hard.

What should you do?

Move the person to a warm, dry area and remove any wet or tight clothing or jewelry. Do not rub the affected area. This could cause damage to the tissues. Place the affected limb(s) in a warm water bath. Do not make the water hot; tissues should be warmed slowly.

Do not pour running water directly on the area. This may warm tissues too fast and cause more damage. After normal feeling has returned, lightly dry and cover the affected areas to keep them warm. Seek medical attention to ensure no further damage has been done.

What is hypothermia?

Hypothermia occurs when your core body temperature drops to or below 95 degrees. Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees.

Hypothermia can happen when someone has been exposed to cold temperatures for an extended period of time or extremely cold temperatures for a short period of time. It can also occur after spending a prolonged time in cold water, even if temperatures are not that cold. As body temperature lowers, metabolism slows, which slows down normal body processes. Extremely low body temperature is very seri-

ous and can be fatal.

What are the signs and symptoms of hypothermia?

Uncontrollable shivering, cold, bluish skin (especially the lips and fingers), slurred speech, uncoordinated movements, exhaustion, irritability, and irrational behavior are all warning signs of hypothermia.

What should you do?

Call 911 immediately. Move the person to a warm, dry area. Remove any wet clothing and wrap the person in warm, dry clothing or blankets. Give the person warm sugar water to drink, such as sports drinks. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcoholic beverages.

DO NOT place them in a warm water bath or rub their limbs. This could stop the heart. Try to keep the person awake if possible. Have the person move their arms and legs to create muscle heat.

Take frequent, short breaks in a dry area to allow your body to warm up. Layer loose clothing to adjust to changing temperatures. Several layers of light clothing are better than one bulky layer of clothes. Wear boots that are insulated and waterproof.

Try to stay as dry as possible. Wear a hat and gloves that will keep water away from the skin. Use the buddy system; always work in pairs or groups. Be aware of any symptoms your co-workers may be exhibiting.

Avoid exhaustion or fatigue because energy is needed to keep muscles warm. The extremities are most affected in cold weather so be sure to cover areas such as fingers, toes, nose and ears. Keep extra shirts, socks, blankets, gloves, hats, etc. nearby when working in cold weather.

If any of your clothing gets wet, try to change it as soon as possible. All employees should be trained in the symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia as well as proper first-aid. They should also be trained in the precautions that should be taken when working outside in cold weather.

Resiliency Training dates offered for 2014

Over the past two years, the Oregon Army National Guard Resiliency has provided Resilience Training Assistant (RTA) training at multiple locations around the state. The three-day training prepares students to assist the unit Master Resiliency Trainer (MRT) in conducting regular resilience training throughout the year.

Any MRT (military or civilian) is able to train RTAs. The responsibility for doing this is shifting from the R3SP office to rest with the individual units. This year, there will be a transition, which will continue into 2015.

The training dates for 2014 are; 10 Feb. (Salem), 17 March (Forest Grove), 21 April (Springfield), 19 May (Salem), 21 July (Bend), 18 Aug. (Roseburg).

Study for Employment Retention of Veterans needs you!

If you are a veteran of the Armed Forces – including National Guard and Reserves - and have served post-9/11 and are employed at least 20 hours a week, you have an opportunity to make money AND help the future of veteran job retention!

SERVE – The Study for Employment Retention of Veterans - is a Department of Defense grant awarded through Portland State University and is the ONLY study of its kind focusing on veteran retention in the workplace.

You can participate through your employer. The SERVE Project has partnered with many employers in Oregon and you may be getting an email or see an ad in company communications explaining their participation.

If you don't think they are participating yet, feel free to email the SERVE team and we can approach them anonymously (without mentioning your name) and facilitate their involvement.

If you're a supervisor, you will get free training teaching you about military culture and supportive behaviors. This training will take about an hour of your time and at the end of it, you will receive the SERVE certification: recognizing you as a supervisor who is on the cutting edge of employee relations and who is committed to giving back to our nation's veterans.

If you are a qualifying veteran, you will be compensated for your three survey responses at \$25 apiece - \$75 total. If your spouse or partner choose to participate, combined you can earn up to an additional \$225 per couple.

Your participation and information is completely confidential and will not be shared with your employer.

You can go to <http://servestudy.org/> screener to sign up, or check your email for a link that will enroll you and keep you up to date on the latest news surrounding the SERVE study!

Did you know your military training and education may be worth college credits?

Oregon Senate Bill 275, enacted in 2011, required the local community college boards, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, to develop standards for the community colleges to give credit for education and training obtained while serving in the military, and methods for informing Service Members of the opportunity to receive credit.

It's easy!

Validate your official Joint Services Transcript, by visiting the JST website at: <https://jst.doded.mil>

Provide a copy of your JST to your school advisor for evaluation within the first term of enrollment in college. The college will decide what credit recommendations can be accepted, modified, or rejected. Academic institutions determine whether to accept credits recommended on the official JST based on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, the student's program of study, and degree requirements.

Senate Bill 275 does not guarantee that colleges will award college credit based on military training, but it simply requires community colleges to develop a standard by which they will award credit. It is up to each college to decide what ACE credit recommendations can be accepted, modified, or rejected.

AZUWUR



Construction of Oregon's WWII memorial in Salem begins

Soldiers from Oregon Army Guard Engineer unit participate in preparing site

Story courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

SALEM, Ore. — Construction of Oregon's World War II Memorial has begun on the grounds of the State Capitol as crews began clearing and shaping the area on the west end of the grounds on Feb. 3.

While no formal ceremony occurred, World War II Memorial Foundation board members and President Lou Jaffe, ODVA Director Cameron Smith, members of the state legislature, World War II veterans and supporters were among those observing the start of construction.

A formal dedication ceremony at the memorial is planned this year on June 6, the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, France on D-Day.

Jaffe said the purpose of the memorial is not only to honor that war's veterans, but to educate young people. The memorial will honor members of the armed services, and everyone on the home front who demonstrated support through their work in the shipyards, in hospitals, as coast watchers, on the farms and elsewhere. That includes women who built ships in Portland and schoolchildren who held scrap metal drives and hauled wagons full of tin cans to make their small but significant contributions.

"It was probably our nation's finest hour, coming together in a unified manner. And that's what we're trying to preserve. All will be acknowledged in a series of storyboards that highlight Oregon's involvement in the war on the home front and specific

military units. The veterans, families and Oregonians who participated in World War II deserve to have a memorial," Jaffe said.

Located at the corner of Cottage and State streets, the memorial will cover a 75 by 75 foot area. At its center will be a 33-foot-high obelisk, referring to Oregon being the 33rd state in the union. A world map will be engraved on the memorial's footprint with markers for major battles and theaters of operation.

Oregon is one of only six states in the U.S. without a World War II Memorial to honor its resident veterans. In 2011, then-Gov. Ted Kulongoski and the Oregon Legislature formalized a task force and foundation, authorizing it to build an official memorial in Salem.

The foundation's late-2013 fund raising efforts activated several matching grants that helped the project come closer to its needed goal of raising \$1.135 million before construction could begin. Jaffe expressed deep appreciation for the generosity of the Larry and Jeannette Epping Family Fund, the Murdock Charitable Trust, the R.H. Parker/United Foundation, Dick Withnell, and several other major contributors who helped make this endeavor a reality.

"But the largest donation came from the State of Oregon who provided funding and support," he said. "We are incredibly grateful to them and to the hundreds of private donors, too."

Along the corner of a low wall are the engraved names of the Oregon service members who died in or as the result of combat. Two black granite benches will invite visitors to sit and reflect on our nation and state's shared sacrifice during wartime.



Photo by Sgt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bertilson, with the 162nd Engineer Company, assists with the excavation and clearing phase of construction, at Willson Park on the Oregon State Capitol grounds, in Salem, Ore., Feb. 11. The project is part of the Oregon National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program (IRT). A formal dedication ceremony for the memorial is planned for June 6, during the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, France on D-Day during WWII.

With more than 1,200 veterans from that war passing away each day nationally, there has been a strong sense of urgency to build the memorial. Approximately 152,000 Oregonians served in World War II and

of those, more than 3,700 gave their lives. There are more than 20,000 Oregonian World War II veterans still living.

For more information on the memorial, visit www.oregonwwiimemorial.com.

Oregon Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell immortalized by US Post Office



Photo courtesy of Michael Jensen/Jensen One

Above: Oregon Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell (foreground), autographs the Postal Service's newly issued Medal of Honor stamp for Postmaster Nate Leigh at Bend High School. Above right: Oregon Medal of Honor recipient Bob Maxwell is pictured on the bottom row, 4th photo on the Postal Service's newly issued Medal of Honor stamp folio. Photo courtesy of U.S. Postal Service.

Story courtesy of Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

BEND, Ore. — Bob Maxwell was an infantryman in France in 1944 helping set up a command post when it was attacked by German soldiers. During the nighttime fighting, and to protect his fellow soldiers, he instinctively dropped on a grenade.

The blast cost him much of his right foot, and the selfless act of bravery earned him the Medal of Honor. At 93, he is the nation's oldest living recipient of the highest military honor and Oregon's only surviving Medal of Honor recipient.

On November 8 in Bend, where he resides, the local postmaster presented Maxwell a special commemorative set

of postage stamps honoring the few surviving Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. The stamp folio includes images of the Army and Navy versions of the medal and military photos of 12 of the 464 who received the distinguished honor while fighting in World War II.

Maxwell's photo is among them. The stamps were formally issued on Veterans Day, in Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Postal Service. Maxwell said it was a great honor to be recognized by the postal service. He believes his life was spared "by divine providence," for some purpose.

"I've been spending the 60 or 70 years since then trying to figure out what the purpose is," he told reporters. "My main



philosophy in life is to be a Soldier. If you look in the dictionary for the definition of a Soldier, the first one in the dictionary I have says it is one who serves."

A Kansas native, Maxwell was logging in Colorado when he was drafted. Despite his grandfather's non-violent Quaker beliefs, he wanted to fight for his country. Following training, he was assigned as a replacement to the 3rd Infantry Division outside Casablanca, Morocco. After recovering from wounds received in the invasion of Italy in January, Maxwell was in Besancon, France, on Sept. 7, 1944, stringing telephone wire to a house when German soldiers opened fire with an anti-aircraft gun.

With explosive rounds blasting around his feet and enemy soldiers advancing, Maxwell jumped to the ground and took cover with three other men behind a wall. In the dark, he heard a grenade land nearby. "I started to feel around for it to see if I could find it and throw it back," Maxwell said. "I didn't have enough time. I dropped where it was," using his blanket to help muffle the blast.

Maxwell's platoon leader helped him hobble to safety as another German grenade hit behind them, knocking them both down. Besides his foot, Maxwell suffered wounds to his left arm and was grazed in the head. The three others with him were uninjured.

For his actions, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell was awarded the Medal of Honor on May 12, 1945. Upon his discharge, he moved to Oregon. Using the GI Bill he learned auto mechanics on the GI Bill before marrying Beatrice in 1951, and spent much of his life teaching that trade. In recent years, he has focused on helping other veterans and is a member of the local group Band of Brothers. He also is a co-director of Honor Flight, which helps World War II veterans visit their memorial in Washington.

"I owe the country a great debt because of the freedoms it has given us, and for the perks I received personally from receiving the medal," Maxwell said. "There is a debt I can never pay back."

More than 16 million people served with the American armed forces during World War II, but only 464 were chosen to receive the Medal of Honor. Of those, nearly half died as a result of their heroic actions and received the honor posthumously.

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.jl-rso2@mail.mil

Web: www.ORNG-SMFS.org

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