



234th Engineers mobilize to Kuwait: Page 5



41st IBCT units mobilize to Afghanistan: Page 8

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon National Guard dedicates Fort Dalles Readiness Center



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

The Oregon National Guard held a dedication ceremony for the new Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Ore., April 17. Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon, hosted U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Mr. Frank Toda, president of the Columbia Gorge Community College, along with present and past leadership of the Oregon National Guard, and members of the local community, who attended the ceremony. The Oregon Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, will share the new facility with the Columbia Gorge Community College. The facility may also be utilized by the local community. See Fort Dalles on page 4 for full story.

Oregon aviators exchange techniques with Bangladeshi Air Force

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Two Oregon Army National Guard aviators recently completed a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with the Bangladesh Air Force's 9th Helicopter Squadron, May 7-9, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Key objectives for the engagement were for U.S. and Bangladeshi services to identify specific areas within helicopter fire suppression and search and rescue which could be augmented and improved by input from Oregon National Guard subject matter experts.

The group discussed the practicality of using helicopter water drops on buildings or other urban areas in response to fires and other natural disasters, such as earthquakes. The meetings were held at the U.S. Embassy and Bashar Air Base, in the Dhaka Cantonment Area.

Chief Warrant Officer-3 Dave Long, of the 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), based in Pendleton, Ore., and Chief Warrant Officer-3 Devin Wickenhagen, of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation Battalion, based in Salem, Ore., helped the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) develop techniques and procedures for aerial search and rescue in urban areas, in addition to conducting urban aerial firefighting.

"At first I did not completely understand what the true needs of the BAF and people of Bangladesh were," said Long. "But



Photo courtesy Chief Warrant Officer-3 Devin Wickenhagen

Oregon Army National Guard aviators, Chief Warrant Officer-3 Devin Wickenhagen (center left), of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation Battalion, and Chief Warrant Officer-3 Dave Long (center right), of 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, pose for a photo with members of the Bangladesh Air Force's 9th Helicopter Squadron in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

after our visit to Dhaka and seeing the actual, very urban environment, I can understand that Bangladesh has a true and genuine need to be able to conduct urban aerial firefighting and search and rescue operations."

Some of the recommendations to come

out of the exchange were ways to adopt Bangladeshi helicopter fire suppression (i.e. water bucket drops) certification programs based on similar programs used by the U.S. Federal Aviation

See **Helicopter experts** on Page 7

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Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

Director of Public Affairs
Maj. Stephen S. Bomar
stephen.s.bomar.mil@mail.mil

Editor-in-Chief
Master Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us

Visual Information Manager
Master Sgt. Thomas L. Hovie
thomas.l.hovie.mil@mail.mil

Assistant Editor
Sgt. 1st Class April L. Davis
april.l.davis@mil.state.or.us

Staff writers:
Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik
Ursulla Bischoff

Contributors:
41st Inf. Brig. Combat Team Public Affairs
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives
Oregon Emergency Management

Editorial Offices
c/o Oregon Military Department
Attn: Editor, Oregon Sentinel
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
503-584-3887

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COMMAND

Mobilizations, changes impact Oregon National Guard

This summer the Oregon National Guard is mobilizing approximately 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen.

I recently had the opportunity to visit our troops at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood as they complete their post-mobilization training. The visits brought back memories of these units and their prior mobilizations, and how important our National Guardsmen and women are to our state and nation.

We are fortunate to have so many exceptional leaders at every level, and such highly motivated citizen Soldiers and Airmen who continue to step forward and answer our nation's call.

To the families of our mobilized Soldiers and Airmen, I want you to know you are our highest priority and we have family support

programs in place to assist you throughout the state.

To commanders, past experience has shown a successful family program begins with you and your family readiness group volunteers. I want to personally thank all family program volunteers who make a huge difference to our organization every day, and I look forward to your continued support to the families of our deployed service members.

As we continue to mobilize Soldiers and Airmen, the National Guard and the Department of Defense are facing difficult decisions under the Budget Control Act. As I write this, discussions on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) continue in our nation's capital and in every state. While no official decisions have been

made, we must be prepared to adjust to the NDAA once it is approved.

Topics being discussed that directly impact Oregon include a potential reduction in the number of primary assigned aircraft to F-15 Fighter Wings, and a potential reduction in Army Guard force structure from more than 350,000 to 335,000 or as low as 315,000.

We continue to engage our leaders at every level to express our concerns, inform them of the impacts to our communities, state and nation, and will share decisions that may affect us when they are made.



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

Although these national level decisions will impact our organization, we must remain always prepared to answer our nation's call.

I thank all of you for your service, and for the difference you make every day in our communities, our state, and our nation, as you remain Always Ready, Always There!

State Command Chief Swartwout retires, bids farewell

This is my last Oregon Sentinel article as your Command Chief Warrant Officer. In the near future, I will be retiring from both the Federal Excepted Civil Service Technician workforce as well as the Oregon Army National Guard.

As I look back on over 41 years in uniform, of which there have been several different ones, and over 33 years in one full-time status or another, please indulge me this one last time as I look back at how the military has changed.

One of the things that come to the forefront of my mind is the fact that the military has never been so well trained, equipped, and experienced in its entire history. More than half of my career was spent operating and maintaining old, outdated, hand-me-down equipment. Now we have a full allotment of the most sophisticated military equipment which enables us to accomplish any and every mission conceivable.

Along with this high-tech equipment is the time, money, and opportunity to utilize it. Back in the old days, we dusted the cobwebs off the equipment to get re-familiarized with it, only to put it away for

another year.

The one-weekend-a-month, two-weeks-a-year went out the window many years ago. Already in the 80's we increased our optempo to the point that middle weekends off at 'summer camp' were a thing of the past. Additionally, as a noncommissioned officer or officer, you put in many additional hours, most without compensation, to enable the brief time we all got together to be highly productive.

The Oregon Army National Guard has been good to me and allowed me to provide well for my family. I did have to learn to carve out time to have meaningful time with my family to ensure we had a healthy household.

I take with me many memories and friendships that I have continued along my career. Only someone who has been there can truly understand the bond that develops among fellow Soldiers, Airman, and civilian Guard employees.

And finally, to the Warrant Officer Cohort, I ask all of you to welcome and support the newest Command Chief



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

Warrant Officer, Chief Warrant Officer-4 Paul Zenchenko. Please address him, and anyone serving the position in the future, as 'Command Chief'.

Continue to strive to be the consummate professional, that our corps has the distinction of being. Ensure that you not only focus on the betterment of the U.S. Army and the Oregon National Guard, but especially the Soldiers, Airman, and employees that make this nation the best in the world. I salute you all.

For the Corps!

Oregon Guard's senior leaders gather in Bend for annual conferences



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

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks to Oregon National Guard members at the 2014 Oregon National Guard Association Conference, held in Bend, Ore., April 25-26. Hokanson highlighted a state-wide domestic emergency response plan currently being spearheaded by the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon Emergency Management office, and the Governor's Office. The event was the 87th annual conference held by the Oregon National Guard.

Col. Kessinger retires



Photo by 1st Lt. Heather Bashor, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Ronald G. Kessinger (right), poses for a photo with Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, during his retirement ceremony, May 4, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. Kessinger retired from the Oregon National Guard with 33 years of combined service with both the U.S. Air Force and the Oregon Air National Guard. Col. Jim Gregory will replace him as Chief of Staff-Air.

COMMAND

Oregon Air Guard's Combat Operations Group welcomes new commander

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

PORTLAND, Ore. – Col. Mark A. Crosby took the reins as the Oregon Air National Guard's Combat Operations Group (COG) commander during a ceremony May 3, at Portland Air National Guard Base.

Brig. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presided over the change of command ceremony. He praised Crosby's role as the director of the State Partnership Program and the work he has done with the countries of Bangladesh and Vietnam over the past several years.

After the formal exchange of colors, Crosby addressed the Airmen he will command.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to take this assignment and work again with some familiar faces," he said.

Crosby highlighted his vision of diversity and experience as key factors for the COG. Noting how many of the Airmen possess the unique combinations of past active-duty service, he said civilian skill sets and one's current National Guard commitment "are the things we should be most proud of."

As the current Chief of Public Safety for the Port of Portland, Crosby's varied background as well as his previous National Guard leadership roles as the state emergency plans officer, and assignments with the 244th and 272nd Combat Communications Squadrons, should allow for a seamless transition into the role as the COG commander.

"The best organizations are the ones who build on their strengths – that's exactly what I see the COG doing now and into the future," he said.

During the ceremony, Stencel praised outgoing COG Commander Col. Michael T. Bieniewicz for his role in expanding the training and readiness of the four distinct units that make up the COG.

"In my role, I'm the guy who is always advocating for changes but seeing how well they (Bieniewicz and Crosby) are doing their current jobs, it's hard to let them go," said Stencel.

Stencel said under Bieniewicz's guidance, the COG has become more integrated and has continued to develop its mission skill sets.

"Just like he did with the [142nd Fighter] Wing, he jumped in with both feet and has been integral to help posture the organization for growth," Stencel said.

"In the blink of an eye the last two and half years have flown by. Some of the lessons were easy, some were hard, but hopefully they stuck," said Bieniewicz, who will now begin work with the state Counter Drug Program.

In his final address as the COG Commander, Bieniewicz left the Airmen with praise and compliments saying, "What you bring with your energy and skill sets never ceases to amaze me. I am humbled and honored to have served with all of you."

The four distinct units of the COG are made up of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, 116th Air Control Squadron, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, and 123rd

Weather Flight. It was under Bieniewicz's command that all four units participated in a joint training exercise in June of 2013 for the first time in the COG's 12-year history.



Col. Michael Bieniewicz (left), outgoing Combat Operations Group (COG) Commander, shakes hands with Col. Mark Crosby, the new COG commander, during a change of command ceremony, May 3, at Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore.

1st Air Force Chief travels to Portland to visit with ACA Unit of the Year

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

PORTLAND, Ore. – Chief Master Sgt. Ronald C. Anderson Jr., Command Chief Master Sergeant of 1st Air Force, visited the 142nd Fighter Wing at the Portland Air National Guard Base, June 10, to get a personal look at the wing's mission and interface with Airmen directly about their role in the Air National Guard.

The United States Air Force Air Combat Command (ACC) is headquartered at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. The primary role of 1st Air Force is to oversee the air defense of the contiguous United States. The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing was recently selected as the 2013 Aerospace Control Alert Unit of the Year.

Anderson was accompanied on his visit by Senior Master Sgt. Lorene Kitzmiller, the First Sergeant for 1st Air Force. The 1st Air Force representatives received an introduction and welcome briefing at the wing headquarters from Chief Master Sgt. Julie Eddings, 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief. Afterwards, they spent the day visiting multiple work sites around the base.

The first stop was the alert facility, where Anderson thanked the crew for their persistence in maintaining air sovereignty for the Pacific Northwest.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Haapala (left), with the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, shares a laugh with the Command Chief Master Sgt. of 1st Air Force, Ronald C. Anderson Jr. (right), as he tours the Portland Air National Guard Base, June 10.

"In General Etter's world, you guys know this better than anyone, it is all about protecting the skies," said Anderson, referring to Lt. Gen. William H. Etter, the commander of 1st Air Force.

Chief Anderson met face-to-face with junior NCOs and Airmen. He personally recognized several "Redhawk" Airmen for their exceptional work.

During a stop at the Operations Group, Anderson presented Airman 1st Class Kourtney Marah and Pamela Carter with his Chief Coin and instilled in the young Airmen his future career expectations for them.

"Your leadership says that you are doing great, so this coin is not only for what you have started, but it is also a down payment for what you will do in the future," he said.

Anderson was able to personally interact with many Airmen as he moved from office to office. He was also able to gauge awareness to the specific functions the 142nd attains on a daily basis. This included getting a grasp on how the unit implements various procedures and integrates

new equipment.

"Like everyone else, there can be struggles with new gear and getting it into service," said Master Sgt. Mike Lamer, aircrew flight equipment specialist.

Anderson looked over the pilot suits with Lamer and asked, "Are the new G-Suits challenging?"

"They are just different - but the pilots like them because it adds more G-capacities," Lamer replied, as the two of them inspected the new equipment.

Anderson and Kitzmiller made other stops around the base, including the command post, security forces, several

aircraft maintenance work spaces, the munitions storage site, and a display showcasing equipment used by first responders in emergency management and by the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

Anderson and Kitzmiller met with Eddings and 142nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Rick Wedan to conclude their visit.

The 1st Air Force senior NCOs said they were impressed with the unit. Addressing Wedan directly, Kitzmiller commented on the high motivation of Oregon's "Redhawks".

"I have to say you have a very motivated group of Airmen and an extremely high level of morale with this unit," said Kitzmiller.

"I can't tell you how much that means to me to hear this kind of feedback," said Wedan. "When we were selected as the 'ACA Unit of the Year', I know that it meant a great deal to all our members for this honor as well."

Anderson concluded with praise about the amazing work going on at the Portland Air Base, and the professionalism of its Airmen.

"Gen. Etter recognizes, and I concur, that Portland's readiness and professionalism is, without question, at the top and your Airmen are doing amazing work," said Anderson.

82nd Brigade welcomes new commander



Photo by Sgt. Erin J. Quirke, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Col. Gregory Day (right), incoming commander of the 82nd Brigade Troop Command, passes the brigade colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch (left), command sergeant major of the 82nd Brigade, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., June 28. The unit colors were passed from the outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach, to the incoming commander to symbolize the brigade changing hands. Beach will move on to become the Assistant Adjutant General – Support for Oregon's Joint Force Headquarters.

MacArthur Award goes to Oregon officer



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno (left), Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant-2 Nicholas D. Thompson (center), and retired Col. Lyman Hammond (right), of the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, pose for a photo at the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award ceremony at the Pentagon, May 30. Thompson, of 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, was one of 28 company-grade and warrant officers honored by the Department of the Army for epitomizing the ideals of Gen. Douglas MacArthur; 'duty, honor, country'.

NEWS

Fort Dalles Readiness Center to benefit Soldiers, college and community

Continued from Front Page

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

THE DALLES, Ore. — The Oregon National Guard held a dedication ceremony for a facility Oregon's U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) called "a shining example of community collaboration" in The Dalles, Ore., on April 17.

The Fort Dalles Readiness Center replaces the Webber Street Armory, built in 1951, as the home of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard. Approximately 150 Soldiers will gather at the facility each month to train. The space is also shared with Columbia Gorge Community College.

The new facility was unveiled to members of the local and regional community during a ceremony attended by both Wyden and his counterpart in the U.S. Senate, Jeff Merkley (D-OR).

Merkley said the building was first proposed in 2007 when he began his campaign against Republican Senator Gordon Smith.

"There is no other facility anywhere in the country like this, first in terms of the view, and secondly representing the collaboration between being a community center, a college facility, and a National Guard armory," Merkley said.

Wyden joked during his speech that the old armory was "old, old, old," but added that it had also lasted more than a half-century.

"The old armory did so much to honor our country and the individuals who trained there, and who represented Oregon's values," Wyden said.



Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (left), The Adjutant General, Oregon, presents Mr. Frank Toda (right), president of the Columbia Gorge Community College with a commemorative rendering of the new Fort Dalles Readiness Center, in The Dalles, Ore., April 17. The college will share use of the facility with Alpha Co., 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.



Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon is flanked by U.S. Senators Ron Wyden (to his right) and Jeff Merkley (to his left), Mr. Frank Toda, (center), president of the Columbia Gorge Community College, and other state and local leaders, during a ribbon-cutting for the dedication of the Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles, Ore., April 17. The facility will be home to Alpha Co., 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

He drew a parallel to Ronald Reagan's farewell speech in 1984, where the President said America "is a shining city on a hill, whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere."

"It seems fitting that we now have a wonderful shining armory on a hill," Wyden said during his speech.

Dr. Frank Toda, president of Columbia Gorge Community College, said the dedication ceremony was the culmination of 12 years of hard work, adding that the process was complicated.

"This is a great relief," Toda said. "It is one of the most complex endeavors we have ever tried to accomplish."

Toda emphasized the collaboration between the city of The Dalles, the college, and the Oregon National Guard.

"This is a meeting place," he said. "We are really big on the community of our college, and one of the challenges we've faced is having a big enough space to bring together large groups. This building is the community."

Oregon's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, mirrored Toda's remarks, but added that the collaboration between all the partners included political support from Congress, the Oregon State Legislature, and local elected officials.

"We have great support from our congressional delegation and the state legislature and Oregon's governor, that really supported the building of this facility," Hokanson added.

Hokanson said people may ask how the partners had the foresight to envision a facility that would be 'a standing figure in the community' for years to come. That answer, in part, goes back to a conversation between Toda and Hokanson's predecessor, retired Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Toda said Oregon's former adjutant general approached him in 2001 while he was on a business trip in Washington, D.C. Rees suggested building a facility that benefited the Oregon National Guard, the community college and the city of The Dalles.

The two talked about how best to integrate National Guard armories into their surrounding communities, Toda said. Rees also proposed that armories could be utilized by not just the surrounding community, but also education centers like community colleges. While Toda admitted he was originally skeptical of the plan, he was eventually won over by Rees' persistence.

"I will tell you, had Maj. Gen. Rees and I not had a conversation about what success looks like when you connect the National Guard, the community college and the local community, this facility would not be here today."

"Thank you, General Rees, for your

vision, focus, and dream of connecting the National Guard to the community," Toda added.

The design of the new building incorporates use of separate areas devoted to the community college and Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers, but also large common areas which can be utilized by both groups, or members of the local community.

The bottom floor of the building will be used by students and faculty of the community college, including two labs, two classrooms, a computer work area, and a break area with a small kitchen.

The second floor of the building contains office space, a commercial-grade kitchen and a 10,000 square-foot assembly hall for the Oregon Guard unit. The third floor houses a fitness center, locker rooms and other spaces to accommodate training needs of the Soldiers.

The facility also includes a shared industrial shop, providing 12 student welding labs and a maintenance bay for Oregon National Guard vehicles.

The readiness center will serve the community with flexible rental space and it meets all building codes for Americans with Disabilities Act and seismic requirements.

Striving to meet a "Net-Zero" design, architects and planners have incorporated copious use of natural lighting throughout, energy-saving fixtures, "green technology" and other design elements to help align the facility with State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) requirements.

Perhaps the most striking feature about the facility cannot be ignored; the view. The building is constructed on the Oregon side of the Columbia Gorge, just above the city of The Dalles. Facing north, designers took full advantage of the hillside location, incorporating an entire frontage of floor-to-ceiling windows, which cover the entire three-story facade. The open-atrium style drill floor takes full advantage of this view, in addition to several other interior vantage points, through windows or catwalks and open-air hallways.

"Look at this view," Hokanson said, as he turned around to marvel at the bend in the Columbia River just below the massive The Dalles Dam. "This is one of those facilities where years from now folks will look back and say, 'Wow, what a great project.'"

Hokanson added that he hopes to see many more facilities like the Fort Dalles Readiness Center in the future.

"I hope to pursue additional projects where we collaborate with the local community and organizations to build facilities that benefit everyone," he said.

Old meets new: Milton-Freewater Readiness Center upgraded

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

MILTON-FREEWATER, Ore. — The Oregon Army National Guard held a re-dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently upgraded Milton-Freewater Readiness Center in Milton-Freewater, Ore., April 5.

The facility is currently home to Detachment 1, 1186th Military Police Company, Oregon Army National Guard.

The first unit assigned to the armory was Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, of the 41st Infantry Division, which was federally recognized in March 1947.

After World War II, with support from the local American Legion post and the chamber of commerce, the Oregon Army National Guard organized a unit in Freewater. The unit initially drilled in the Freewater Community Building.

By 1951, the merged towns of Milton and Freewater began promoting a centrally located armory by donating six lots to the state. The building's original construction was completed on Jan. 1, 1954. The completed armory was dedicated in March 1954. The armory served as a civil defense headquarters and Red Cross kitchen during



The Oregon Army National Guard held a re-dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently upgraded Milton-Freewater Readiness Center, April 5, in Milton-Freewater, Ore. The facility is home to Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of Detachment 1, 1186th Military Police Company.

the 1964 and 1965 floods.

The armory is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to its association with the post-WWII National Guard expansion program. It was the first armory to be built in Oregon using the 75-percent federal and 25-percent state funding program outlined in the Defense Facilities Act of 1950. Also, it was the first armory built to house a single unit in Oregon under the National Guard Bureau

plan and therefore an example of the K-style armory.

A unique feature of the armory is the upper-story windows on the assembly hall drill floor. It is the only K-style armory with tall windows allowing for much natural lighting. All other K-style armories had smaller, and fewer upper-story windows. In keeping with the historical aspects of the armory, the upgraded readiness center has retained its integrity of location, setting,

design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Work on the remodel began in September 2012 and was completed in March 2014 at a cost of more than \$4 million. The facility serves the community with flexible rental space and it meets all building codes for Americans with Disabilities Act and seismic requirements. The building also meets State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) requirements.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

NEWS

234th Engineer Company mobilizes for deployment to Kuwait



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Citizen-Soldiers with the 234th Engineer Company, Oregon Army National Guard, pose for a unit photo during their mobilization ceremony at the Salem Pavilion, in Salem, Ore., June 8. Approximately 180 Soldiers are scheduled to spend nine months conducting carpentry, plumbing and electrical construction missions on U.S. military facilities throughout Kuwait and the surrounding region in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo by Sgt. Philip Steiner, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, 234th Engineer Company tactically move through a mounted training lane during pre-mobilization training at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Ore., May 13, in preparation for deployment to Kuwait.

**Story by 1st Lt. Eric Krause,
234th Engineer Company**

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon Army National Guard's 234th Engineer Company, of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, mobilized approximately 180 Citizen-Soldiers for deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A mobilization ceremony for the unit was held, June 8, at the Salem Pavilion, in Salem, Ore.

The 234th Engineer Company is headquartered at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., and includes a platoon-sized detachment from Prineville, Ore. The Soldiers will spend approximately nine months conducting carpentry, plumbing and electrical construction missions on U.S. military facilities throughout Kuwait and the surrounding region during the deployment.

The Soldiers of the 234th Engineers conducted pre-deployment training at Camp Rilea and then departed for Fort Bliss, Texas, for additional training in preparation for their overseas mission before deploying to Kuwait. While in Kuwait, the 234th Engineers will fall under the 528th Engineer Battalion (Louisiana National Guard).

"I expect that our company will lead the way in the new battalion. We will have the best Soldiers, the strongest team, and be the 'go to' company," said Maj. Andrew

Vidourek, commander of the 234th Engineer Company.

Vidourek added the unit's Soldiers not only train to be experts in their assigned construction duties, but they also make safety the highest priority to ensure every Soldier comes home to their families.

"Discipline is a vital factor within our organization," said 1st Sgt. William Young. "I expect every Soldier; enlisted, non-commissioned officer, and officer, to be professional and respectful."

The majority of Soldiers in the unit come from communities throughout western and eastern Oregon, but the company also includes individuals from Washington, California, Idaho, and Montana.

The 234th Engineers previously deployed to Iraq from July 2007 to April 2008 where they conducted security operations for civilian contractor convoys. The company received the Meritorious Unit Commendation award for its exceptional performance of the mission.

In recent years, the 234th has completed projects throughout Oregon as part of the Innovative Readiness Training Program, including improving city and county parks around Heppner, Ore.; renovating the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro, Ore.; and refurbishing a United States Bureau of Land Management forestry facility in Colton, Ore.

102nd CST trains with U.S. Coast Guard

**Story courtesy
Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment Astoria, Ore.,
U.S. Coast Guard 13th District**

WARRENTON, Ore. – The U.S. Coast Guard participated in a joint maritime response exercise with the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team and in cooperation with the Tongue Point Job Corps on the Columbia River near Astoria, Ore., May 21.

The multi-agency exercise tested the readiness of the participants' ability to handle various potential threats. Coast Guard boarding teams and K-9 search teams were delivered to the motor vessel Ironwood, a Tongue Point Job Corps Center training ship, using boats and an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter.

Once on the ship, Coast Guard teams found mock indications of explosives and potential weapons of mass destruction. They rehearsed detaining the ship's crew and brought in the 102nd CST to eliminate the simulated explosive and radiological threat.

"This was a remarkable and realistic exercise that enhanced our ability to respond, in cooperation with the CST, to threats delivered by sea," said Cdr. William Gibbons, Coast Guard Sector Columbia River chief of response. "This effort was made possible by our strong and enduring partnership with the Oregon National Guard, as well as with the Tongue Point Job Corps."

Participating in the joint training exercise were members from Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, Coast Guard Vessel Boarding Security Team Sector Columbia River, Coast Guard Air Station Astoria, Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Seattle, the Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team, and the teachers and students aboard the motor vessel Ironwood, a Tongue Point Job Corps Center training ship.



Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Zac Crawford

A member of the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team is lowered to the deck of the motor vessel Ironwood from a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter during a maritime response exercise on the Columbia River in Astoria, Ore., May 21.



Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Zac Crawford

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jamel Mercado (right), of the 102nd CST, scans for chemical and radiological contaminants on the hands of Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Kelly (left), a maritime enforcement specialist with Coast Guard Sector Columbia River's Vessel Boarding Security Team, during a maritime response exercise in Astoria, Ore., May 21.

Multi-agency exercise rehearses active shooter response scenarios



Photo courtesy 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion

Police and emergency first-responders conduct an active shooter response training exercise at the Oregon Army National Guard's Richard Miller Armory in Forest Grove, Ore., April 18.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Multiple law enforcement and medical first-response agencies practiced responding to threat scenarios at the Oregon National Guard's Richard Miller Armory in Forest Grove, Ore., April 18.

Officers from Forest Grove Police, Forest Grove Fire and Rescue, Cornelius Fire, and Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency worked with members of the Oregon National Guard's 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion to rehearse tactics in response to several threat situations.

Lt. Col. Maurice Marshall, commander of the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, reached out to Forest Grove Police to conduct an independent active shooter drill. The battalion's full-time staff that works at the armory participated in the training exercise.

Officers from each of the agencies met at the armory in February for a tabletop demonstration of the scenario before the training event took place. It was the first time these police and fire units had performed an active shooter drill with the National Guard inside the armory.

The first scenario simulated one active shooter inside the armory, and another scenario simulated multiple shooters and bombs inside the building. The training tested each agency's ability to handle a stressful situation with limited resources. After each scenario, a debriefing was held to discuss lessons learned and how their response tactics can improve.

Forest Grove Police Chief Janie Schutz said the goal is learning how Forest Grove Police interacts with the other agencies and how to get the injured victims out and treated faster. She said these training exercises help make everyone in the Forest Grove area a lot safer in the event an actual situation were to ever occur.

"The goal is everyone goes home," Schutz said.

NEWS

Oregon National Guard takes regional Best Warrior title two years running

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen,
South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The best enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from eight states competed in the National Guard Bureau’s Region-6 Best Warrior Competition, hosted by the South Dakota National Guard, May 19-21, in Rapid City and throughout the Black Hills.

Sixteen Guardsmen competed in a variety of mentally and physically demanding events designed to challenge the toughest of Soldiers. The contestants competed for the ultimate title, to be named as either the region’s Soldier or Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Events included written exams, battle drills, M16 rifle marksmanship, land navigation, an obstacle course, a 10.8-mile road march and a physical fitness test. Soldiers earned points for each event, competing for the chance to advance and represent the region at the national competition.

“The Best Warrior competition is not necessarily about being the best at everything, but it’s about being the best overall Soldier,” said South Dakota’s State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe. “It is impressive to see the caliber of Soldiers competing here and testing their Army values and warrior ethos.”

“When a Soldier was challenged with a task, it was common to see the competitors encourage each other, living up to the warrior ethos – ‘I will always place the mission first, I will never accept defeat, I will never quit, I will never leave a fallen comrade,’” said Shoe.

Last year’s Region-6 Noncommissioned



Washington Army National Guard Sgt. Kenneth Pfeifle (left), Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson (center), and Alaska Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Trampas Vojtasek, carry 40 pounds of gear, along with their M16 rifles during a 10.8-mile road march during the Region 6 Best Warrior Competition, May 21. Although the march was an individual event to see who finishes first, these three Soldiers stayed together to motivate each other.

Officer of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver, Oregon Army National Guard, explained what it takes to win.

“You have to be well-rounded,” said Carver. “You have guys in this competition who are athletic, but their soldiering skills are not up to par and vice versa. It takes a balance of both to win.”

In addition to being physically fit and technically proficient, you have to have an internal drive to persevere through the fast-paced, exhausting three days of constantly being physically and mentally tested, said Carver.

Speaking from experience, Carver said he believes that participating in the Best

Warrior Competition develops a Soldier into a better leader.

“I can guarantee these Soldiers will walk away better leaders,” he said. “They will be more technically and physically sound, due to the amount of preparation it takes to compete. Studying Army leadership manuals for months will result in the information being engrained and that will make them be more effective as leaders.”

South Dakota National Guard Spc. Dalton DeBoer testified to the amount of studying required for the competition.

“There is a lot of information to study and be tested on,” said DeBoer. “Being in this competition motivated me to study warrior



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson (left), won the title of Region-6 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Montana Army National Guard Spc. David Notti earned Region 6 Soldier of the Year at Fort Meade, S.D., May 21.

tasks that I haven’t used in a while.”

Not only will the participants leave this competition as better leaders, they are also a source of inspiration for Soldiers in their home state, said Carver.

The NCO who claimed this year’s Region-6 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year title was Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson. South Dakota Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Sam Schaefer finished as the runner-up.

Montana Army National Guard Spc. David Notti won the title of Region-6 Soldier of the Year. Idaho Army National Guard Spc. Elijah Putnam finished as the runner-up.

Stimpson and Notti edged out 14 other Soldiers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota and will advance to compete at the national level competition at Camp Robinson in Little Rock, Ark., in July.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OEM assists with storm damage repairs



Photo by Cory Grogan, OEM Public Affairs

State Coordinating Officer Sean McCormick of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management speaks during an applicant briefing for the Public Assistance Program at Lane County Public Works, in Eugene, Ore., April 16.

Story courtesy OEM Public Affairs

Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will assist in recovery efforts stemming from the severe winter storm in February that left thousands without power.

A presidential disaster declaration has made grants available to eligible applicants in Benton, Lane, Lincoln and Linn counties from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). OEM will be working closely with FEMA and local officials during the application process.

The majority of the damages were to public utilities as a result of snow, ice, winds and flooding in the affected counties.

The Public Assistance Grant Program reimburses state and local governments, federally recognized tribes and certain private nonprofit organizations for eligible expenses they incurred during the storm. The programs are designed to help protect lives and property during disasters, and assist in the clean-up and rebuilding

process afterward. The grant program also provides mitigation funds to help rebuild infrastructure that is better able to withstand future storms.

“Oregon’s responders made enormous efforts to protect our citizens and get power lines fixed and debris removed during and after the storm,” said OEM State Coordinating Officer Sean McCormick. “This gives local, state and FEMA officials the opportunity to help impacted areas fill the gaps that were created from substantial damages.”

Under the Public Assistance program, FEMA generally reimburses applicants for 75 percent of eligible expenses, to restore damaged infrastructure to its original state. The federal portion is paid directly to the state, which then reimburses local jurisdictions and organizations that incurred costs.

In addition to FEMA Public Assistance, a percentage of the total reimbursement is eligible to be allocated for hazard mitigation projects that provide a significant return on investment, McCormick said.

Emergency managers collaborate, network at preparedness workshop

Story courtesy OEM Public Affairs

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management 2014 Emergency Preparedness Workshop took place in Sunriver, Ore., April 1-3, with more than 140 state, private, non-profit, county, tribal and city emergency management leaders from throughout Oregon in attendance.

The workshop provided education and networking opportunities designed to further develop Oregon’s disaster resilience capabilities.

“In the past year, Oregon has endured drought, fire and extreme winter weather,” said Office of Emergency Management Director Dave Stuckey. “Emergency management is always a challenge and this conference will help Oregon remain collaborative, adaptable and responsive.”

The conference included a variety of presentations from subject matter experts covering all aspects of emergency management, including FEMA Assistant Administrator Grants Directorate Brian Kamoie.

Office of Emergency Management Grants Coordinator and Conference Coordinator Sidra Metzger-Hines said 34 of 36 Oregon counties and six of nine tribes from Oregon were represented at the conference.

“This is a great response and the representation of locals at this conference provides an opportunity for Oregon to map the way forward as a whole community when it comes to emergency management,” Metzger-Hines explained.



Photo by Cory Grogan, OEM Public Affairs

An Oregon Army National Guard color guard presents the U.S. Flag to begin the 2014 Emergency Preparedness Workshop in Sunriver, Ore., April 1, where emergency management leaders throughout the state gathered to collaborate.

STATE PARTNERSHIP

Vietnam Ambassador visits Oregon Guard



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

A Vietnamese delegation pauses for a photo with Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (center), Adjutant General, Oregon, and a group of Oregon Army and Air National Guard members, in front of an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter at the Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., June 16. The visit, which was part of the State Partnership Program, included Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States Nguyen Quoc Luong and his wife, Hoang Minh Ha, and Vietnam Economics Counselor Le Chi Dung. The delegation toured Camp Withycombe and learned about the use of Oregon Army National Guard helicopters for domestic emergency response, such as search and rescues, as well as wildfire response. The group was also given an overview of the Oregon National Guard's state and federal missions. The Oregon National Guard began a State Partnership with Vietnam in 2012.

Helicopter experts exchange strategies

Continued from Front Page

Administration, and the development of future engagement concepts, in which the Oregon National Guard can act as mentors for implementation of specific certifications.

Wickenhagen said some of the challenges facing emergency responders in Dhaka are foreign concepts to most western firefighters and first-responders. For example, streets in most of the city are narrow, with people and vehicles blocking the path of most emergency vehicles.

"Everything is so densely packed in Bangladesh," Wickenhagen said. "In the U.S., we just take it for granted that emergency and fire services will quickly respond to emergencies anywhere, especially in an urban area. But the neighborhoods are so congested in Dhaka, it is literally not possible for emergency vehicles to drive to fires or other emergencies in progress."

One of the recommendations to come out of the SMEE was that helicopters could put out urban fires utilizing water buckets — a concept widely accepted in the Pacific Northwest for fighting forest fires.

"We are trying to help the Bangladesh Air Force get started on this concept," Wickenhagen added.

Capt. Craig S. Talarico, Bilateral Affairs Officer for the Oregon National Guard, and former commander of 1-168th GSAB in Pendleton, said he didn't truly appreciate the unique and amazing situation presented by Bangladeshi first-responders until he arrived in the country in February 2014.

"During this SMEE the Bangladeshi Air Force clearly demonstrated that they are a very professional and capable force that is eager and motivated to provide this critical service to their fellow Bangladeshis," Talarico said.

To illustrate the population density of Bangladesh, Talarico said if roughly one-half of the population of the United States (about 160 million people) were crowded into the state of Louisiana, it would approximate the challenges faced by Bangladeshi officials. According to 2014 statistics, Bangladesh is the eighth

most populated country in the world, and among those with one of the highest density.

Talarico, who will be in Bangladesh for roughly two years developing and coordinating the State Partnership Program and Security Cooperation objectives, added that the SMEE is the start of valuable discussions that will benefit both Oregon and Bangladesh.

"This is a line of effort that is definitely worth expanding on and continuing between the nation of Bangladesh and the Oregon National Guard," he said.

Long and Wickenhagen spent time at Bashar Air Base working alongside BAF pilots, mechanics, and crewmembers. They inspected their equipment and discussed water bucket and search and rescue tactics, techniques, and procedures used by U.S. Army aviation units, and learned what techniques currently work for the BAF.

Maj. Muqit Khan, squadron leader, and Mi-17 pilot for the BAF, said he also found the SMEE to be beneficial for his countrymen.

"Mr. Long and Mr. Wickenhagen helped us understand some of the things we need to do in order to fly, operate, and maintain water buckets and to rescue people from rooftops in the city," Muqit Khan said. "We know it is possible to do this, and we are excited to try what we have learned and to work with Oregon again in the future."

Director of Air Operations for the BAF, Air Commodore Fazlul, posed a key question during the SMEE closing ceremony; "Why should we learn by trial and error when we have an opportunity to learn from the best?"

Fazlul continued, "With our strong partnership with the Oregon National Guard, we know that we can gain the skills needed to meet this unique mission we have. With the Oregon Guard's help, we want to be able to train our own trainers."

Long said he was very happy to be a part of this training, adding that the unique challenges faced in Bangladesh present opportunities for both sides.

"Bangladesh is a very unique place and I hope we can continue to build on our positive relationship we have built with them," he said.

Oregon Guard female Soldiers provide insight for Bangladesh counterparts



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army officers, including several Oregon Army National Guard representatives, pose for a group photo with Bangladesh Army counterparts during the Female Officers & Soldiers Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) at the Bangladesh Army Headquarters in Dhaka, March 6. The seminar focused on women in the military as the Bangladesh Army seeks to recruit more females into service.

Story by Mohammad Al-Masum Molla, Dhaka Tribune

DHAKA, Bangladesh – Members of the Oregon Army National Guard traveled to Bangladesh, March 1-8, as part of the Oregon State Partnership Program to participate in a Female Officers and Soldiers Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE).

The visit was requested by Maj. Gen. Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf, Adjutant General of the Bangladesh Army, who asked U.S. Pacific Command for female officers from the United States to speak with Bangladesh female officers and encourage an open discussion to address their concerns.

The seminar was hosted by the Bangladesh Army to focus on women in the military with the objectives of changing the role of female officers in military service; identifying their potential and the challenges they face in the armed forces; and bringing them into mainstream military practices alongside their male counterparts.

"It is a tough job, but if anyone has determination the challenge can be overcome," Bangladesh Army Captain Jannatul Ferdous said about military service.

The conference included round-table discussions, training and education that will further strengthen military to military relationships and support the emerging roles of women in the Bangladesh Armed Forces.

Col. Jennifer Walker, of U.S. PACOM's Surgeon's Office, led the U.S. delegation. She commended the Bangladeshi female officers for their motivation, enthusiasm and professionalism.

"The first thing that I have been so impressed with is how motivated everyone is. They are so enthusiastic," she told the Dhaka Tribune about the Bangladeshi officers at the conference. "When your country relies on volunteer service members you have to rely on the factors that they are motivated and enthusiastic... it is the same in the U.S. Army."

Walker added, "The other thing is the professionalism. They have already demonstrated their professionalism and are looking to continue to develop their professionalism."

Participants from the Oregon National Guard included Col. Kate Coffey, Maj. Ginger Wietholder, Capt. Sabrina Vasquez, and Sgt. Maj. Cara Stuva.

The conference was structured to allow both United States and Bangladesh female Soldiers to present a topic, followed by a question and answer period, which Stuva said proved to be invaluable and allowed a great exchange of information.

Stuva discussed the role of noncommissioned officers during the

symposium. She was also able to visit with a new group of female enlisted recruits while visiting Dhaka.

Recruitment of female regular officers in the Bangladesh Army began in 2001. Historically, the Bangladesh Army has not incorporated female enlisted Soldiers into their military. However, for the first time in the country's military history, more than 1,260 female Soldiers were recently recruited (945 of those are for the medical corps) to become the first enlisted female Soldiers in the Bangladesh Army.

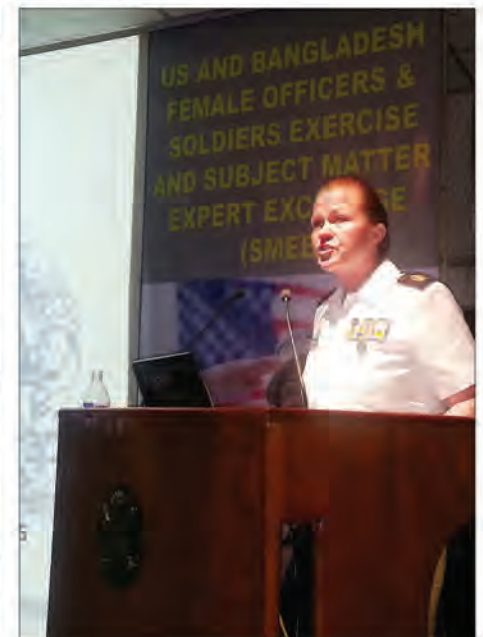
During the conference, Bangladesh Army Major Sifat said the condition of women in Bangladesh was better than that in many other countries across the world.

"Though the U.S. Army has around 250 years' tradition of female army officers and is more developed than the Bangladesh Army, they also find it difficult to manage the family life and service life simultaneously," Sifat said.

Major Nusrat Nur Al Chowdhury echoed Sifat, saying the big challenge was to keep a harmony between family life and service life.

Major General Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf said in his concluding remarks at the conference that the Bangladesh Army attached due importance to the services of female members and recognized their contributions to nation building activities.

"Considering Bangladesh society, religion and the service...we can realize that inclusion of female officers and Soldiers in the army has been a timely decision and certain," he said, adding that the intake of females into military service would increase further.



Courtesy photo

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Cara Stuva speaks about the role of noncommissioned officers during the Female Officers and Soldiers Subject Matter Expert Exchange focusing on women in the military in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

41ST INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team trains and mobilizes three battalion elements for deployment to Afghanistan

Nearly 900 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team are training and mobilizing for deployment to Afghanistan to provide security in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They will be among some of the last troops there to help turn out the lights as operations wind down.

Story by Sgt. Erin J. Quirke, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted pre-mobilization training exercises at the Orchard Combat Training Center, south of Boise, Idaho, and at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

The 41st IBCT is mobilizing nearly 900 Soldiers from three battalion elements. The 41st units will be tasked with providing security and support for U.S. military facilities in Kabul and southwestern Afghanistan as part of the regular rotational cycle of forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 400 Soldiers will deploy with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Springfield, Ore., with companies also based in Corvallis, Gresham, and Hillsboro. A mobilization ceremony was held June 7 at the Salem Armory Auditorium in Salem, Ore.

"I couldn't be more proud to have been selected to lead this battalion which has such an amazing history, and some of the finest Soldiers in the nation," said Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Scot Caughran, commander of 2-162 Inf. Bn.

Approximately 190 Soldiers will deploy with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Bend, Ore., with companies also



Above: Sgt. Justin Sheffield, of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, fires his M4 rifle while wearing a chemical protective mask during weapons qualification in preparation for deployment at the Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho, June 1. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Right: Soldiers with Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, practice egressing from an overturned "Humvee" as part of pre-mobilization training at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., June 28. (Photo by Sgt. Erin J. Quirke, 41st IBCT Public Affairs)

in Klamath Falls, Lebanon, and Redmond. A mobilization ceremony was held June 16 at the Vince Genna Stadium in Bend.

"All of us are volunteers and we're definitely ready for this," said 1st Lt. Paul Brown, of Bravo Troop, 1-82 Cav. Sqdn. "Everyone that is here right now fought to be on this deployment and they're training hard."

Approximately 275 Soldiers will deploy with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, headquartered in Ashland, Ore., with companies also based in Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, and St. Helens.

A mobilization ceremony is scheduled for July 18 at the Southern Oregon University McNeal Pavilion in Ashland.

Soldiers from the 41st IBCT trained on things such as individual weapons qualifications, searching vehicles and personnel at entry control points, identifying and reacting to improvised explosive devices, first-aid, and egressing from overturned vehicles in the event of a rollover. The training is designed to help prepare Soldiers for any number of challenges they may face as they perform security missions while deployed in Afghanistan.

United States Senator Ron Wyden



(D-OR); Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon; and 41st IBCT Commander Col. William Edwards, visited with deploying Soldiers, May 27, as they conducted pre-mobilization training at the Orchard Combat Training Center, an Idaho National Guard training facility located south of Boise, Idaho. The senator held town hall meetings to address Soldiers' questions during his visit.



Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, pull security while recovering a simulated casualty during convoy operations training at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, May 28, in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.



All of us are volunteers and we're definitely ready for this. - 1st Lt. Paul Brown, Bravo Troop, 1-82 Cavalry Squadron, 41st IBCT

Left: Spc. Steven Bahia, of Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, fires a .50-caliber machine gun while Spc. Gianluca Paparo (right) spots targets during gunnery qualification at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, May 31. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Below: Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, rehearse urban tactics at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, May 27, in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. Erin J. Quirke, 41st IBCT Public Affairs)



Left: Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, conduct M9 pistol marksmanship at the Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho, June 2, in preparation for deployment. (Photo by Sgt. Erin J. Quirke, 41st IBCT Public Affairs)



"Dollar for dollar, the National Guard is by far the best value for our national security," said Wyden.

Although troops in Afghanistan are being drawn down, the Oregon National Guard Soldiers say they've always worked with the mentality of "we train like we fight" and this deployment will be no exception. "You always want to be more ready, but I know we'll be successful," said 1st Sgt. Brian Zacher, of Bravo Troop, 1-82 Cav. Sqdn. "Not the entire squadron was able to deploy with us, so we were able to select the cream of the crop for the team that is deploying."

While this will be the first deployment for many young Soldiers of the 41st IBCT, unit leaders say that all the Soldiers are prepared to take on the mission and their confidence level soars high.

"Soldiers are anxious to be deployed while they still can," said Zacher. "Confidence is high and they've been performing great."

This isn't the first time that the 41st IBCT has played a role in the Global War on Terrorism. The brigade deployed a large contingent known as Task Force Phoenix to Afghanistan in 2006 and again deployed the entire brigade to Iraq in 2009, among other individual unit deployments to the Middle East.

"This deployment really highlights the legacy of the 41st," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew McCreery, a senior noncommissioned officer with 2-162 Inf. Bn. "I consider it an honor to be part of a battalion that has played a critical roll in multiple theaters."

The units will complete deployment processing and more training at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood in Texas before heading to Afghanistan.

Thousands of American service members have played a role in Operation Enduring Freedom, but now as the war is winding down the Soldiers of Oregon's 41st Brigade say it will be up to them to help turn out the lights and close this chapter on U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

Soldiers help motorists injured in car accident

Story courtesy of Capt. Gabriel Manning, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment

Several Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, became first-responders to an automobile accident as they were heading to pre-deployment training at the Orchard Combat Training Center in Boise, Idaho, on May 18.

Sergeants Colin McClure and Robert Garcia; Specialists Ryan Buring, John Monks, Aaron Colby, Chris Mithsada, Ryan Favella; and Pfc. Brandon Sink were on their way to Idaho for training that would hone their skills as medics and Soldiers in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan. What they didn't realize is that this training would be tested before they even reached the training site.

Their convoy of military ambulances had stopped near the Santiam Summit on Highway 20 in Jefferson County, May 18. The Soldiers were headed to training in Idaho when they came across the accident and helped treat the injured until emergency services arrived.

medical treatment on the injured for about 30 minutes until emergency services arrived to the remote location. Unfortunately, one of injured motorists did not survive their injuries.

Some of the Soldiers directed traffic at the scene, helping to reduce the risk to other motorists.

Once the ambulance from Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District arrived, the Soldiers briefed the paramedics on the extent of the injuries and what treatments they had already administered.

Oregon State Police troopers from Bend, Madras and LaPine, Ore., responded to the scene. The Soldiers also briefed police officers to



Photo courtesy Sgt. Chris Miller (Ret.), witness to the accident

Medics with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, provide stabilizing medical treatment to injured motorists following a three-vehicle accident near the Santiam Summit on Highway 20 in Jefferson County, May 18. The Soldiers were headed to training in Idaho when they came across the accident and helped treat the injured until emergency services arrived.

provide information for the accident investigation.

"OSP extends their thanks to the National Guard personnel and other citizens who stopped to help the injured at this tragic crash prior to the arrival of emergency first responders," stated OSP officials in a press release about the accident.

McClure praised his group of medics for the outstanding job they did at a moment's notice. He also recognized the great job done by the civilian emergency services.

"The training we all received as Soldiers and medics was instrumental that day in assisting those who were injured," McClure said.



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

A Soldier of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, interacts with a village role-player (right) in a simulated marketplace at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, May 30, during training in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Active duty Air Force personnel join Kingsley Field's F-15C training mission

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing mission is set to grow by an estimated 84 active duty personnel this fall. The Total Force Initiative (TFI) is designed to augment Kingsley's mission with Air Force active duty Airmen stationed at the Air National Guard base in order to increase the number of pilots trained in a given period of time.

"We expect 84 Airmen will be phased in to Klamath Falls over a six month period beginning this October," said Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd FW commander.

The Total Force Initiative is a military organization which contains both reserve and active component members working side-by-side in the same organization for a common mission.

According to Baenen, there are various models of TFI's, this one constitutes an "active association" where the 173rd FW retains principal responsibility for the mission, equipment, and base infrastructure, while active duty personnel are integrated in the 173rd's existing organizational and command structure.

Of the 84 Airmen, eight are pilots, 68 are maintenance personnel, and an additional eight will provide base operating support. The first Airmen are scheduled to arrive in Klamath Falls in October of 2014.

In addition to personnel, the 173rd will continue to expand its growing fleet of F-15s with the addition of seven aircraft that began arriving six months ago. The aircraft additions will grow the unit from 25 aircraft to a total of 32 aircraft by the end of this summer. Even with the addition of these aircraft, the 173rd will still be able to operate within the limits of existing environmental impact studies.

The TFI was initiated after the Chief of Staff of the Air Force directed increased production of F-15C pilots. To achieve this goal, the Air Force recognized the need for additional aircraft and manpower at the 173rd FW, the sole F-15C training base for the U.S. Air Force.

Kingsley is an ideal training facility due to excellent

flying weather, including an average 300 days of sun per year and extensive military operating areas located in the eastern part of the state. The Oregon Air National Guard is currently examining plans to possibly expand that airspace; however, in the interim they will continue to utilize only current approved airspaces to train.

The TFI represents a significant economic impact for Klamath Falls and the greater basin, said Baenen. The addition of 84 active duty families is estimated to bring more than \$7 million annually in direct salary, as well as certain indirect job creations. Additionally, the TFI will result in numerous multi-million dollar construction projects awarded to local businesses.

The additional experienced work force will be a great benefit to the 173rd FW, Baenen noted.

"In order to meet the nation's need for increased pilot production, additional resources and personnel are an absolute necessity, he said. "This TFI will create operational efficiencies, saving money and resources, and, above all, increasing Air Force combat capabilities. Additionally, a TFI significantly helps ensure longevity of Kingsley Field."

Baenen noted another advantage for the active duty component. Currently, there are no active duty continental United States based F-15 units, with the exception of the Weapons School and test bases. Because of this, active duty F-15 maintainers and pilots may spend most of their careers on extended

overseas tours. Kingsley Field will afford active duty personnel an opportunity to be stationed here in the U.S.

"Further, the active duty can rapidly gain experience from ANG personnel who have been operating and maintaining this aircraft for many years," said Baenen.

Baenen did note one negative effect of this growth. "Due to this no-notice increase in the operations tempo of our civil engineering unit; volunteer projects such as the Mazama High School turf project had to be delayed a year because of engineering manpower constraints," he said. "Although the TFI has brought over \$12 million in short notice construction projects throughout the summer and into next year which benefit local businesses, it came at a cost to our ability to provide volunteer support to the local community."



The 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle command jet taxis to the runway in preparation for a training mission at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. May 28. The 173rd Fighter Wing is the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force and is set to expand its mission this fall with the introduction of active duty personnel with a Total Force Initiative.

Oregon officer awarded as Air Guard's top clinical dentist



Maj. Paul Anderson (right), a 173rd Fighter Wing dentist, accepts his award for top clinical dentist in the entire Air National Guard, April 6, at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Anderson distinguished himself through a number of achievements including averaging 93-percent readiness across the board at Kingsley Field, and contributing to the wing's top medical readiness statistics in 2013.

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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. - Maj. Paul Anderson, a 173rd Fighter Wing dentist, was named top clinical dentist for the entire Air National Guard for 2013 and was presented his award in a ceremony at Kingsley Field, April 6.

His accomplishments helped the 173rd garner the top spot in individual medical readiness across the Air National Guard and even, at one point, the Department of Defense in May 2013.

He led a 20-member team during an exercise called 'Hope of Martin' in Martin, Tenn., where they provided free dental care to those unable to afford it on their own as a part of Innovative Readiness Training. During this exercise, Anderson and his joint team of 130 Navy and Air National Guard troops served more than 2,000 patients, with more than 4,000 procedures completed at an estimated value of \$300,000 in medical services.

Anderson was also selected for being generous with his time as evidenced by his mentorship of 25 dental students currently attending Oregon Institute of Technology.

When he is not on military status with the 173rd Fighter Wing, Anderson is a clinical dentist with the Veteran's Affairs Outpatient Clinic in White City, Ore.

173rd Fighter Wing receives 2013 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award



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

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. - The Air National Guard named the 173rd Fighter Wing a recipient of the 2013 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional meritorious service and outstanding achievement from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2013.

"This award is recognition of the exceptional efforts from our Airmen last year; the combined efforts of individual Airmen across the wing culminated in the wing successfully exceeding its mission goals," said Col. Jeremy Baenen, 173rd FW commander. "However, it is more than meeting mission objectives - I believe it was the recognition of Airmen going above and beyond, which was the real determining factor," he continued.

The award recognizes multiple wing accomplishments across the time period. They include the 173rd Maintenance Group exceeding the mission capable rate of the combat air force, the 173rd Operations Group flying more hours than any other ANG unit, and flying more than 60,000 hours without a Class "A" incident. Additionally, the award recognizes the 173rd FW's work in the Public-Public Public-Private (P4) process, as well as the flawless execution of more than 4,700 flying hours, training more than 87 student pilots, and supporting the Global War on Terror with multiple deployments.

"It takes the entire wing to make our mission a success," said Baenen. "Every Airmen, contractor, and civilian employee should be immensely proud of our accomplishments."

According to the Air Force Personnel Center, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to numbered units that have distinguished themselves through exceptional meritorious service or outstanding achievement, which clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

All members assigned to the 173rd FW during the award timeframe are authorized to wear the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) ribbon.

"I'm so proud of how our Airmen responded in the face of unprecedented challenges and remained focused on the mission. They overcome these challenges and are a key contributor to maintaining America's air superiority," added Baenen. "This is a great accomplishment and something to be celebrated."

Established in 1954, the AFOUA was the first independent Air Force decoration; up to that point Air Force personnel had been awarded Army decorations.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Security Forces Squadron partners with local police



Members of Klamath Falls SWAT team catch a ride from a 173rd Security Forces vehicle driven by Master Sgt. Joshua Hilton as they practice their urban assault techniques here at Kingsley Field, March 19.

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Adrian Mateos,
173rd Fighter Wing

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Kingsley Field's shooting range and 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces training facilities provided the latest venue for the Klamath Falls City Police Special Weapons and Tactics Team to partner with the 173rd Fighter Wing, March 19.

Klamath Falls' law enforcement agencies and the 173rd Fighter Wing face challenges where missions with growing demands suffer shrinking resources. Wing and community leaders say partnerships are playing a vital role in maintaining those missions.

"We have saved money for our guys going (on temporary duty) since the closest facilities are at Camp Rilea and Redmond," said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Stickel, 173rd Security Forces superintendent.

"It also saves a lot of other local agencies money because they can use the buildings, so it's a good partnership opportunity," he added.

During an exercise, the Klamath Falls Police Department SWAT practiced

mounted approaches on an all-terrain vehicle operated by a 173rd Security Forces Defender normally used for recovery operations. Upon dismounting, the team entered and cleared numerous simulated urban training structures on the base.

The structures known as a "MOUT site" simulate an urban environment. According to the team, the site is the only ones available in the region. Security forces troops constructed the entire village as a self-help project in their off-duty hours.

Detective Jack Daniel, KFPD SWAT assistant team leader, explained to Airmen and police officers that this partnership allows local law enforcement agencies to provide a high quality training experience to their personnel while reducing training costs. Also, the proximity to the KFPD headquarters allows them to respond to a real-world incident, should the need arise.

Efforts like this garnered the 173rd Fighter Wing the Air Force Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award for the Air National Guard for its Public-Public, Public-Private program, also known as P4. This is an initiative designed to find new and innovative ways to partner with the local community, organizers say.

142nd Fighter Wing rehearses accident response at PANG

Story by Capt. Angela Walz,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – Oregon Air National Guardsmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing honed their skills during a major accident response exercise at Portland Air National Guard Base, May 19. The scenario called for base first responders to react to a simulated F-15 landing mishap at Portland International Airport (PDX) to test base command and control functions and their efficacies.

"Training is a foundation for everything we do, and these types of exercises ensure we have highly trained people who are available and ready - whether called upon to support state or federal contingency missions," said Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

The exercise focused on initial emergency response to preserve life and equipment, it ensured the base was capable of resuming its mission and appropriately handling information flow, but also included scenario input that affected operations for the Port of Portland. The Oregon Air National Guard unit, which resides adjacent to PDX, shares runway space with the Port of Portland.

"From a training perspective, this validated the wing's ability to handle a major accident response; but our greatest successes come from the improvements that will be integrated into our programs from the 'lessons learned' after the

exercise," said Lt. Col. Bill Kopp, Wing Inspection Team Chief and the 142nd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety.

"If we stress ourselves during these training exercises, we're able to find and correct any deficiencies that might exist. It's about knowing that we can safely and effectively complete our mission regardless of what's going on around us," Kopp said.

The exercise also tested the wing's implementation and operation of an Emergency Operations Center, the federal government construct for agencies to execute command and control of emergency response. The EOC was formed under the Air Force Incident Management System (AFIMS), which was implemented Air Force-wide in December 2007.

AFIMS, which was introduced by Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne in 2006, brings Air Force operations in line with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, which calls for the establishment of a single, comprehensive national system for managing domestic incidents.

"We met all of our goals for this application of the EOC," said Col. Jeff Hwang, acting 142nd Fighter Wing Commander during the exercise. "We had a timely notification and arrival of all of our EOC components, and all the participants were able to exercise their roles and responsibilities for this incident."

Hwang, who serves as the 142nd Fighter Wing Vice Commander, said the wing will



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

An Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., sits idle on the ramp of the base, May 19, after it was used as a simulated accident response aircraft. The exercise focused on initial emergency response to preserve life and equipment.

continue practicing its emergency response through AFIMS and praised the efforts of the wing inspection team for challenging the Guardsmen throughout the exercise.

"Without the challenges and injects provided by the inspection team during

the exercise, we wouldn't know what we don't know," said Hwang. "Our people are responsible for the success of our mission, and we have some of the best and most highly trained people in the world right here in Portland," he said.

142nd Fighter Wing moves equipment and Airmen for Red Flag training exercise

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



Oregon Air National Guard members Tech. Sgt. Sam Riggs guides Tech. Sgt. Michael Jones as he moves a fork lift into place to load a C-130 Hercules at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Feb. 27. The 142nd Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron packed equipment for the Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore. -- Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron were busy the first week of March, moving about 130 Airmen and more than 75,000 pounds of cargo as they supported the Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nev.

Four C-130 Hercules aircraft from Kentucky, Alaska, North Carolina, and Texas helped move the necessary equipment needed for the two-week training.

In addition, ten F-15 Eagles flew from Portland to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

The Logistic Readiness Squadron first began screening unit members nearly 120 days in advance and assembled packages to have a full team in place for the 2014 exercise.

"It has been two years since our unit was at Red Flag, so we know what goes into the weeks of planning," said Senior Master Sgt. Pam Pittman, the acting IDO for the 142nd Logistical Readiness Squadron.

Pittman and Master Sgt. Anne Kyle, a logistic planner with the 142nd LRS, spent several weeks prior to departure getting everyone prepared for the exercise.

With numerous teams coming into Nellis for Red Flag, logistical support is vital to maintain the flow of aircraft and participants during the two-week exercise window for the 142nd members.

"Getting people and the aircraft out the door, and on time is the goal," said Pittman. The Wing's pilots, maintainers and operational support teams participated in the event. As the exercise wound down, a redeployment group made up of finance and logistical support members traveled to Las Vegas to assist the members coming back to Portland.

FEATURES

Oregon Soldier tours with U.S. Army show focusing on strength, resiliency

Story courtesy U.S. Army Installation Management Command

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Duane Reno, a human resource specialist for Oregon's Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore., has been touring the country performing vocals with the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The Soldier Show is a live Broadway-style variety performance in support of the U.S. Army's Morale Welfare and Recreation program. The show features Soldiers from the active component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard singing and dancing.

Each year, Army Entertainment brings together a troupe of performers who are selected through a lengthy audition process. They spend months rehearsing and training before taking the show 'on the road' annually between May and September.

From a poem scratched by a prisoner on the back of an envelope during the War of 1812 to troops smart-phoning home from Baghdad, the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show tells the enduring story of how Soldiers and their families "Stand Strong."

This year's show pays tribute to the 200th anniversary of Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Defence of Fort M'Henry," [sic] the poem that became our national

anthem, by weaving the music and related imagery into the 80-minute production. However, the overarching message is one of strength and resiliency.

"The show tells the Army story — via music, song and dance — by showcasing those things that instill strength and character in our Soldiers and their families, inspiring them to exemplify Army values and take care of themselves and each other," said Lt. Gen. David Halverson, commander of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, the headquarters element for Army Entertainment and the Soldier Show.

Reno credits the Salem Boys Choir for developing his foundation as a singer. In high school, he placed first in the bass division of the state solo-ensemble competition and competed in both the Oregon All-State Choir and the Oregon All-State Jazz Choir.

After a semester of community college, Reno joined the Oregon Army National Guard and continued to pursue music as the part-time worship leader of his church. Reno shares his love of music with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Lilyann, 6, and Maci Jo, 1.

"I love to play guitar and worship with my family," Reno said, "We sing together all the time."

In 2011, Reno saw a Soldier Show performance at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and knew that's where he belonged. He auditioned to sing the national anthem at a Portland Trailblazers game and got the job. A successful audition for this year's Soldier Show followed after that.

The show weaves physical readiness training, the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, sponsorship, ceremonial drill, and even the loss of a Soldier and suicide prevention into the production.

"The entire show, artistically, is reinforcing Army



Photo by Tim Hips, IMCOM Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Duane Reno performs in the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show titled "Stand Strong", April 19, at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. Reno is touring the country with the Soldier Show.

messaging," artistic director Victor Hurtado said. "Social media and [mass] media is not the only way to deliver those messages — sometimes you need that human factor."

That human factor brings topics like the loss of a son and fiancé in combat and attempted suicide onto the stage through powerful vocal performances crafted by Music Director Joey Bebe, Choral Master Vicki Golding and Sound Designer Blair Ferrier. The sets and lighting designed by Nicole Coppinger and Paul Turner and the choreography by Amy Lynn Miles are designed to keep the audience engaged.

The show then brings the audience back up, as the Soldiers on stage build from Kelly Clarkson's "People Like Us" to a crescendo with Yolanda Adams' "Still I Rise" that brought the audience to their feet during both opening weekend performances.

Spc. Diqan Sims, of Fort Bragg, N.C., then leads almost the entire cast in "Happy" by Pharrell Williams, restoring a sense of levity and joy to the stage.

There is a nod to younger children in the audience, as well, with a short scene based on the recent LEGO Movie. A medley of nine songs ranging from "Over the Rainbow" which debuted at the start of World War II, to the 2001 Daryl Worley hit "Have You Forgotten?" offers something

for everyone in the audience.

Sgt. Amy E. Hargis, of Fort Bragg, N.C., caps off the show by treating the audience to verses of "The Defence of Fort M'Henry" [sic] that most have probably never heard before. Then all 18 cast members take the stage to perform a choral version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" so rousing that those in the audience in uniform on opening weekend had a hard time staying at the position of attention.

Spc. Enjolee Williams, a performer from the Texas National Guard, said she wasn't surprised to see how emotionally invested the audience was during the opening weekend performances.

"I loved being in the 2011 show, but it was strictly entertainment," Williams said. "This year, I feel like it's more connected to what the Army is all about."

"The entire show is about the Soldier, his family at home, and the Army family," Williams continued. "It's real to the audience."

The 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show will be performing at the Evergreen Theater at Joint Base Lewis-McChord at 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 8, 2014. For more information visit the JBLM website at www.jblmmwr.com. To learn more about the Soldier Show and Army Entertainment visit their website at www.armymwr.com/soldier-show.aspx.



Photo by Tim Hips, IMCOM Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Duane Reno (center) shares a laugh with other Soldiers back stage while unloading and assembling the set of the 2014 U.S. Army Soldier Show titled "Stand Strong."

Two brothers follow their father's footsteps into the Oregon Air Guard

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. — He speaks quickly with a certain believability and earnestness about him and sports a fresh, short haircut not two days old. Perhaps that's because he's trying to set an example.

As a first sergeant in the Oregon Air National Guard, Senior Master Sgt. John Phillips reports directly to the 142nd Fighter Wing commander on matters of enlisted morale, welfare, and conduct.

As a father, he reports to two sons, Lewis and Zach, both of whom dreamed of joining the military ever since they toured the Portland Air National Guard Base as small children, coming to see their dad's 'office'.

"They'd come out here to the base for family day, Christmas parties, it was always an exciting place for them to visit," said Phillips.

Phillips' sons said they both remember the awe and excitement they felt seeing and hearing the jets take off as kids when they traveled from rural Roseburg, Ore., to visit their dad at his unique workplace.

"My first memory was my dad introducing us to his co-workers in maintenance. We got to try on night vision goggles and flight suits, and he took us around to see the different shops on base," said Lewis Phillips, John Phillips' eldest son.

The culture of the Oregon Air National Guard is often described as a high-performing, close-knit group but few embody these values quite like the Phillips family. Not only did Phillips' two sons decide to join the military, both followed their dad into the Oregon Air National Guard and the 142nd Fighter Wing. They now work just a few steps away from each other.

Senior Airman Lewis Phillips said he was inspired by



Airman 1st Class Zachary Phillips (center), a fuel systems specialist for the 142nd Fighter Wing, was promoted to the rank of senior airman, June 7, in a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Senior Airman Lewis Phillips (left), Zachary's brother, and Senior Master Sgt. John Phillips (right), his father, participated in the ceremony.

his father and decided to join the military during his junior year of high school, but he wanted to follow a career path that would prove beneficial both in and out of uniform.

After selecting the medical field as a career specialty, Lewis Phillips now works as a search and extraction medic for the 142nd Medical Group's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). His job is to stabilize patients in emergencies and help transport them from the field for more comprehensive medical care.

also for supporting their two sons when both decided to follow in the footsteps of their father into the military.

"I'm glad they chose the Guard," said John Phillips. "It's a totally different culture, and I think it's a great environment for them."

As for the level of expectations put upon the family due to John Phillips' duties on base, he likened the situation to coaching soccer.

"It's like being the coach's sons when they're out here," said John Phillips. "The expectation is always that they are held to a higher standard."

Senior Airman Zach Phillips, the younger son, now works as a fuel systems specialist for the 142nd Maintenance Squadron, following in the footsteps of his father, who worked as a jet engine mechanic on the F-4 Phantom II, the A-10 Thunderbolt II and the F-15 Eagle.

"Zach's been learning about jets his entire life, and it's very cool to know that we've worked on some of the same jets," said John Phillips.

Despite the often challenging military life with deployments, training and time away from home, John praised his wife, Teri, for her unwavering support in not only his career, but

FEATURES

Air Guard STARBASE Program goes beyond ordinary science education

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

PORTLAND, Ore. – It's a typical group of fifth graders; kids enthusiastically raising their hands to answer questions from the teacher, as a few begin shouting out the answer before called upon.

Yet, the situation and subject is not the normal classroom setting with playgrounds and lunchrooms in the building. At STARBASE Portland, the kids can see F-15 Eagles taking off from their classroom window and can program robots made from Legos.

With the emphasis for science and engineering education growing nationally, organizers say the need for this 20-year-old program has never been more pertinent. The 25-hour STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum is taught over five-days and is aligned with national and state common core education standards for math and science.

The kids at STARBASE Portland this particular week were from Chief Joseph-Ockley Green Elementary School in Portland, Ore. The group was working on a chemistry experiment as they studied warm and cool compound reactions.

"This program is an amazing way to open kid's eyes," said Molly Chun, the school's principal.

The Oregon STARBASE program has two locations; one at the Portland Air National Guard Base and another at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore. The two programs have been serving more than 40 Oregon schools each year (about 2,000 fourth and fifth graders annually) since 1993.

Chun has been an educator for more than 34 years and is in her first year as the principal at Chief Joseph-Ockley Green. When she discovered the STARBASE program at the Portland Air National Guard Base, she quickly saw the impact it was making with her fifth grade students.

"The work is hands-on and is meaningful because right away they (the kids) get it," she said. "The learning is taking them out of their normal element and allowing them to comprehend STEM education in a fun and meaningful way."

Recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores of Oregon students revealed that only 34 percent of fourth grade students and 35 percent of eighth graders tested above the proficient levels in science.

The key is to engage the students and create an interest in STEM careers and to fill the void of qualified applicants for many Oregon companies.

"Getting kids out from behind the desk and setting 'that hook' early in their lives for this kind of learning and this subject is what makes this program at STARBASE so outstanding," said Chun.

The interaction and hands-on approach creates an atmosphere of enthusiasm, not only for the youth but for their teachers as well, Chun said. As the kids engage in experiments, their teachers also participate in the learning.

Andrew Jaquiss, a teacher for more than 18 years, has attended STARBASE Portland countless times over the years with his students. He watched as his class engaged in a STARBASE technology lesson on robotics. This is his first year teaching at Chief Joseph-Ockley Green.

"I love this program, it is great because it really excites the students," he said.

The positive approach to science combined with five full days out of the daily classroom while at STARBASE fosters new understandings and approaches to learning.

"The equipment at our school does not even begin to compare to what the kids have here at STARBASE," said Jaquiss. "For these kids, science has now been turned into a fun activity."

Because the setting of the STARBASE program is on the Portland Air National Guard Base, students are also introduced to



Jon Dyer, a State of Oregon forensic scientist, gives detailed instructions on a fingerprint experiment to students from Chief Joseph-Ockley Green Elementary School at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore. The Oregon Air National Guard's STARBASE program teaches math and science to about 2,000 Oregon students each year.

the positive role models who work on the installation.

Uniformed Airmen often lead tours to showcase leading edge technology ranging from the science of flight to the use of robots for the removal of explosive ordinance. Seeing technology used outside of the textbook keeps the knowledge tangible.

On the fifth and final day at STARBASE Portland for the Chief Joseph-Ockley Green students, they have a class in forensic science given by Jon Dyer, a crime lab technician for the State of Oregon. He brings in real life tools that are used in the field for the students to use for a fingerprint testing experiment.

"Teaching science to kids is something I really love doing," said Dyer.

With more 13 years of experience in the field, he mixes in real life stories with a high-energy approach as he instructs the group to carefully examine their own fingerprint samples.

"What do you see when you inspect the

print? Do you think that both of your thumb prints look the same?" he asks.

He says he gets excited to see the kids connect not only to science but to each other.

"This is a kinetic experience and what I want the kids to know is that you don't have to be a genius to be a scientist," said Dyer.

The work he does is voluntary, yet it allows him to learn something new each time he gives a class at STARBASE.

"The program is awesome and when I see kids get enthusiastic about science that keeps me excited as a scientist," he said.

Overall the STARBASE program promotes creative approaches to learning. It allows students to see how science, technology, engineering and math knowledge are used in practical applications.

"These kids really need to see how this kind of learning is used beyond a text book," said Chun. "The real world now becomes their classroom."

Camp Withycombe hosts Skills USA youth job skills conference

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – The Oregon Army National Guard's 3670th Maintenance Company hosted the annual Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., April 25-26.

Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers and industries working together to prepare youth for the workforce. It is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

"We are proud to partner with the Oregon National Guard and very appreciative of their hospitality to host us here at Camp

Withycombe," said Teresa Mankin, Skills USA state director. "This facility is amazing and the Guard has been very accommodating."

"All of the Soldiers have been really great to work with," Mankin continued.

Youth from high schools throughout the state converged on Camp Withycombe to attend workshops and test their skills in job-related competitions. Competitive events included everything from delivering speeches, technical drafting, animation, digital photography and video, to carpentry, welding fabrication, automotive repair, electronic technology, and culinary arts.

"These guys are doing great," said Staff Sgt. Stephanie Schloesser, of 3670th Maint. Co., during the culinary arts competition. "Some of their dishes are very well-prepared and delicious."

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers

served as observers and judges for several of the competitions related to their job skill in the Army. For example, Army cooks served as judges for the culinary arts events and Army mechanics served as judges for automotive service technology.

"I've really enjoyed working with the students," said Staff Sgt. Brian Barrett, of 3670th Maint. Co., during the automotive service competition. "We are not really teaching them because they came here to compete and should already know what to do, but they're still learning a lot from it (the experience)."

The Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion provided a rock wall, and obstacle course for the youth to take advantage of during breaks between events. Several recruiters spoke with the high school students about the different types of careers available in the National Guard.

"This is a great recruiting event for us to support and introduce motivated teenagers to the job opportunities in the Guard," said Sgt. 1st Class Josh Searcy, of the Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "They are perfect candidates because they are already interested in jobs skills that we offer."

The top students in each category at the state competition went on to compete in the National Skills USA competition in Kansas City, June 23-27.

For more information on the Skills USA program visit their website at <http://skillsusaoregon.org>.



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Alec Campbell, of the 3670th Maint. Co., judges the welding fabrication competition at the Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at Camp Withycombe, April 26.



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Igor Bondar, a mechanic with the 3670th Maint. Co., observes a high school student during the automotive electrical systems diagnostics competition at the Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at Camp Withycombe, April 26.



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Jessica Gardner (left), a cook with the 3670th Maintenance Company, judges dishes prepared by high school students during the culinary arts competition at the Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at Camp Withycombe, April 25.

FEATURES

University of Oregon commissions largest ROTC class since 1972

Story and photo by Sgt. Aaron Ricca,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

EUGENE, Ore. — The Oregon Army National Guard will begin to see a few new lieutenants filter in among the ranks in the coming months after the University of Oregon's Reserve Officer Training Corps [ROTC] program commissioned 19 new officers at the Ford Alumni Center in Eugene, Ore., June 18. This particular group had a certain distinction not seen in nearly five decades.

"That was the single largest commissioning we've done since 1972," said Cpt. Darren McMahon (Ret.), recruiting officer for the University of Oregon ROTC program. "The most commissioned at one time."

Of those 19, seven will join Oregon Army National Guard units throughout the state. Two will venture to other state National Guard units and the rest will go to active duty assignments.

"This one day is about you, because every other day, leadership requires the rest are about your subordinates," Col. Lance Englet, professor of Military Science at the University of Oregon, told the graduating cadets. "Your job is to inspire me to follow you. To trust you with my life."

Like many ROTC programs throughout the country, the class, which started with 35 cadets, was a mix of Soldiers with both prior service and no past military experience.

"I've always felt like I wanted to serve. My honeymoon was in Hawaii which has a lot of military," said 2nd Lt. Noelan Smith, who was previously attached to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment and will be joining the Oregon

Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 41st Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "I was sitting there on my honeymoon contemplating things and my wife wanted to know what was up. I told her I was thinking about military service and she said now's the time, it's a young man's game."

The opportunity to gain a new experience was the lure for one Soldier.

"This will be the first time for me going into the real Army beginning in August," said 2nd Lt. Hannah Stople, who is new to the military and will be joining the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. "It's going to be a big step and transition, but I'm looking forward to it."

Whether the cadets were prior service or new to the military, enrolled in the two-year or four-year program, they all came away with fresh outlooks on their capabilities and self-esteem.

"I have self-confidence," Stople said. "Having confidence is huge. It took me out of my comfort zone and I needed that."

Desert agreed, "I learned to be proud of myself. I feel like I'm doing something right," he said. "I see people looking up to me now. It feels great."

Family members from all over the country and the globe attended the commissioning ceremony to admire and support the new officers.

"I came to witness his commissioning," said Obi James Michael, who flew 18 hours from Imo State, Nigeria, to see his nephew, 2nd Lt. Godwin Nwando Jr., graduate and get commissioned. "He's going to take me to some places where I haven't been in the United States."

Twenty-one year-old Erika Hungate, wife of 22 year-old 2nd Lt. Chester Hungate,



The 2014 graduating class of University of Oregon Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) officers are recognized by family members and fellow service members during their commissioning ceremony at the Ford Alumni Center in Eugene, Ore., June 18. The 2014 graduating class resulted in 19 commissioned officers, some of whom will be assigned to Oregon Army National Guard units.

was present with their nearly three year-old daughter Lyla. They've been together for five years and Erika mentioned one of the most significant changes she's seen in her husband.

"He's a man," she said. "When we met we were kids and now he's grown into a man."

Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, Land Component Commander for the Oregon Army National Guard, was the guest speaker who delivered simple, but timeless words of wisdom.

"You want to make things better than you found them. What you owe to your Soldiers is the best," Plimpton said. "The Oregon Guard couldn't be any prouder."

Aside from military academies such as West Point, the University of Oregon has produced the most graduates to obtain the rank of general or 'flag officer', whether through ROTC or non-military graduate programs. That includes Navy and Air Force flag officers as well.

"I think the biggest thing for someone coming into college or someone thinking about doing ROTC or someone who has already made up their mind is, make sure you have balance in your college career," McMahon said about students who might be contemplating joining the program. "Have balance with your academics, your ROTC commitments, and your other commitments."

Training, academics keep Southern Oregon University ROTC cadets busy

Story courtesy Southern Oregon University ROTC Program

Southern Oregon University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets were busy over the academic year.

Cadets tested their mental and physical toughness during the combat water survival test in the SOU pool in mid-February. This swim test is a requirement before cadets go to Leader Development and Assessment Course (L-DAC). Cadets were required to successfully negotiate three events; a 15-meter swim with weapon and combat load-bearing vest, a three-meter drown proofing, and treading water for 30 minutes. During the test, each cadet must swim laps with rubber rifles above their heads, jump from a 10-foot dive while blindfolded, and jump into the water with combat gear, remove the gear underwater, and swim to the bottom of the pool to pull up the rubber rifle.

The cadets participated in the second annual joint field training exercise (FTX) with cadets of University of Oregon's ROTC program. The training took place at Dorena Lake, near Cottage Grove, and included day and

night iterations of land navigation, as well as squad tactical exercise scenarios.

Squad lanes combined the cadets from both schools, forcing them to quickly assimilate and work as team. Joint training events force cadets to learn and adapt their leadership styles to achieve mission success while adjusting to the formation of a new team in an unfamiliar environment. The training event provided the cadets from both programs a new perspective of the dynamics associated with small unit leadership.

"I found being squad leader with a bunch of cadets I don't know to be very challenging, but understanding that we have all been trained the same, meant I could still lead them," said Cadet Blake Parker, MS3 junior, who was assigned as a squad leader for one iteration of the training lane.

The cadets also held the first annual spring clean-up of Suzanne Homes Hall, which houses SOU ROTC department and cadet barracks. The ROTC program also shares the hall with the Honors College and McNair programs who spent three hours cleaning inside common areas and the grounds

outside, as well as putting up the flag pole.

The flag pole is significant because ROTC is the designated keeper of the university's original flag pole, first emplaced in 1926 when SOU was known as the Southern Oregon Normal School.

Many of the ROTC cadets were also members of SOU's wrestling team and applied the lessons learned in both programs for their success as scholar-athlete-leaders.

"Wrestling has taught me to set goals, and work hard every day to achieve them ... you can't look at anyone else to pick up the slack," said Cadet James Bowers, a sophomore and 133-pound wrestler.

Cadet Alex Howell, a 141-pound wrestler, said his reason for joining ROTC is because he always wanted to serve his country.

"ROTC brings a new element to my life by teaching me to not only lead by example, but to bring my brothers and sisters up with me," said Howell.

ROTC helps keep students on track to achieve their academic goals by training them to focus on skills for success as a leader in their community and throughout life.

Ducks salute the troops at spring game



Photo by Capt. Brandon Hill, 142nd Fighter Wing

The Oregon Army National Guard's Select Honor Guard performs a flag-folding ceremony in the sprinkling rain at the spring opening game for the University of Oregon Ducks, at Autzen Stadium, in Eugene, Ore., May 3. Oregon Guard Soldiers and Airmen, along with military members from other service branches, participated in the Ducks' military tribute, which included a chance to exchange jerseys with the players on the field after the game.

Adjutant General presides over OSU tradition



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

Members of Oregon State University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) participate in an annual Joint Service Review ceremony, May 2, at the OSU campus in Corvallis, Ore. Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, was this year's reviewing officer. The event is a long-standing tradition which allows cadets and midshipmen to participate in a formal review before they become commissioned officers in their chosen military service branch. The annual pass and review at OSU dates back as far as 1918 when the state governor would review the soon-to-be officers during World War I.

RESILIENCE

Soldiers learn to recognize, manage natural responses to stress

Story courtesy Oregon National Guard
Readiness and Resilience Program

Approximately 170 Soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company received pre-mobilization performance enhancement instruction, May 2, in preparation for their deployment to Kuwait.

Shannon Baird Ph.D., a Level 4 Master Resilience Trainer (MRT) from the Comprehensive Soldier & Family Fitness (CSF2) Training Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, delivered eight hours of instruction geared to mentally prepare the Soldiers for the upcoming missions ahead. Dr. Baird's background is kinesiology and sports psychology.

"What is happening when an athlete trains, over and over again, only to freeze up or choke on game day?" she asked the Soldiers.

The first half of the day focused on basic resilience skills taught by MRTs throughout the Army, and the second half focused on answering this question of what gets in the way of our optimal performance.

'Energy Management,' a core component of pre-mobilization training offered by CSF2 trainers, looked at the processes involved in energy activation, commonly known as the 'fight or flight' and 'rest and digest' modes; that is when the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems are activated in the body.

Understanding what activates these systems, how they work, how they may short-circuit our goals and intentions, and how to change one's response, was the focus of the discussion.

Though Dr. Baird possesses a wealth of knowledge on the scientific aspects of the processes, she kept the lecture at an 'everyday Joe' level, putting things in terms that a layperson could understand. Soldiers were given tools to ramp up or ramp down one's activation levels.

Using the methods given in the lecture Soldiers can expect increased:

- accuracy and precision in motor control
- memory and recall
- composure, poise and self-control
- concentration and mental agility
- and improved reaction time

The second core skill taught was 'Attention Control'. The dynamic environment during a deployment demand Soldiers' ability to shift their attention from broad to narrow horizons and back, as well as monitoring external and internal states. Baird said this isn't a quick fix where one learns to focus on one thing, but instead a malleable skill where the Soldier may need to shift from one level to another. An inability to shift from a particular state as needed looks like:

- sensory overload
- tunnel vision
- paralysis by analysis
- rumination

Yet understanding how to use the basic tools of Attention Control the Soldier can shift from levels of focus, depending on need, in a 'smooth, decisive, and effective manner', resulting in:

- awareness
- action
- analysis
- rehearsal



Photo by Sgt. Philip Steiner, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Luara Prier (left) and Sgt. Jesse Enemark, with 3rd Platoon, 234th Engineer Company, Oregon Army National Guard, practice dragging a simulated casualty to the medical evacuation zone during pre-mobilization training at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Ore., May 14. The engineers are mobilized for a year-long deployment to Kuwait.

"This is some of the very best training you can give your Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Eddie Black, an infantry instructor with 1-249th Regional Training Institute. "This is not 'check the box' training, but instead lays a foundation of knowledge that will help one perform at a very high level when the stressors of deployment begin to pile up."

Black has experience training Soldiers for combat, as well as training police departments on the combat mindset of veterans and crisis intervention techniques,

and several years working with veterans with post-traumatic stress and domestic violence charges.

"If you do no other training, make it this one, because if you lose your composure, all the MOUT, first responder, and battle drill training in the world suddenly becomes ineffective," he said.

If your unit is interested in learning more about this type of training, contact the Readiness and Resilience office at 503-584-3440 or email Staff Sgt. Eddie Black at eddie.s.black.mil@mail.mil.

NEWS BRIEFS

Study aims to increase retention of veteran employees in the workplace



The SERVe Study WANTS YOU!

There are plenty of stories out there about veterans not finding employment, but what about those who DO find employment? How are they being supported and understood? 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.

The goal of this study is to improve the health and well-being of veterans and their families, as well as to increase retention of veterans in the workplace by training supervisors to better support their employed service members, as well as all employees in general.

SERVE is a win-win-win for veterans, their families and organizations. Supported workers are more likely to stay in their job longer, be happier with their job and their family, and be healthier overall. This positively impacts the bottom line of any company, and reflects positively on the management.

Supervisors will receive a free online training. Survey information collected from the veteran employee will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the training.

It is known that happy workers make happy families, so SERVe also wants to invite your spouse or partner to participate. The SERVe study is interested in the complete picture.

If you are a veteran of the Armed Forces – including National Guard and Reserves – and have served since post 9/11. You can participate through your employer. If you are a qualifying veteran, you will be compensated for your three survey responses at \$25 each - \$75 total. If your spouse or partner chooses to participate, combined you can earn up to an additional \$225 per couple. Participation and information provided is completely confidential and will not be shared with your employer.

Employer supervisors receive free training to understand military culture and learn about supportive behaviors. The training will only take about an hour. Upon completion of training, the supervisor will receive SERVe certification to recognize their commitment to employee relations and giving back to our nation's veterans.

To learn more, go to <https://servestudy.org/home>. To participate in the study, go to <http://servestudy.org>.



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

The U.S. Naval Ship Howard O. Lorenzen (T-AGM-25), commanded by Capt. James White, U.S. Air Force space officer, heads down the Columbia River toward the Pacific Ocean, May 16. The USNS Howard O. Lorenzen is a 534-foot-long Missile Range Instrumentation Ship operated by the Military Sealift Command to conduct missions sponsored by the U.S. Air Force.

Oregon Garden offers military discount

The Oregon Garden is offering a special discount on admissions to all military service members (including retirees) and their immediate families.

The Oregon Garden is an 80-acre botanical garden in Silverton, Ore., just east of Salem. The Garden offers 20 specialty gardens, including a Children's Garden and a Pet-Friendly Garden. There is also a complimentary, narrated tram tour that guests can ride throughout the acreage.

For more information visit their website at www.oregongarden.org

Retiree Service Office

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

503-584-2891, or
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891
Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Email: ng.or.orarng.mbx.j1-rso2@mail.mil
Web: www.ORNG-SMFS.org

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AZUWUR



Remembering Oregon's service during World War II

*Story courtesy
Historical Outreach Foundation
Photos courtesy
Veterans' Legacies*

Oregon National Guard units of World War II consisted of the 123rd Observation Squadron, the 249th Coast Artillery, and the 41st Infantry Division.

More than a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 41st Infantry Division was one of only four National Guard infantry divisions activated for federal service on September 16, 1940. The 41st Infantry Division was made up of units from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana and was considered the best National Guard infantry division in the United States at the time. President Roosevelt felt there might be a possibility that the United States may have to take action, so he prepared by activating four National Guard infantry divisions.

The 41st Infantry Division mobilized and moved to Camp Murray, near Fort Lewis, Wash., for training. They then moved to Camp Roberts, in California, for large unit training maneuvers.

The 41st returned to Camp Murray, known by the men as "Camp Swampy", until the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Immediately following the attack, the 41st was called to protect the Northwest coastline along Oregon and Washington from the possibility of Japanese invasion. The United States was sure that the Japanese would continue from Pearl Harbor and attack the West Coast, so the 41st was sent to be the first line of defense. The 41st was relieved of



Soldiers of the 162nd Infantry Regiment aboard a DUKW "duck" amphibious truck head for the beaches of Biak Island off the northwest coast of New Guinea, June 8, 1944. A major airfield was the 41st Infantry Division's objective. The 162nd and 186th Infantry Regiments endured a bloody campaign to secure that island. As the Oregonians pushed toward Mokmer Airdrome, they encountered heavy resistance.

Instead there were 10,000 reinforced by an additional 2,000 well-trained Japanese soldiers. This was the first battle of the Pacific where the Japanese used a new strategy of letting the Americans land relatively unopposed, then fought from well-fortified cave locations. Biak was also the first tank-to-tank battle in the Pacific. The 41st used Sherman tanks to quickly defeat the Japanese Ha-Go tanks.

Elements of the 41st, primarily the 162nd Infantry Regiment, remained in contact with the enemy for 76 consecutive days. After a chance to recover, the 41st joined General Douglas MacArthur in his quest to return to the Philippines. The division's 186th Infantry Regiment assaulted Palawan Island while the rest of the division landed on Mindanao and captured Zamboanga City and Caldera Point. The 41st took out Japanese resistance throughout the southern Philippines until hostilities ended in August 1945.

The division went on to occupation duty in the Hiroshima district of Japan and was inactivated on December 31, 1945 at Hiro, Japan. The 41st served a total of 45 months overseas, the longest overseas service of any U.S. division. During the war, the 41st lost nearly 1,000 dead and more than 3,500 wounded. It participated in three campaigns and ten assault landings.

Oregon's Air National Guard was created when the 123rd Observation Squadron was organized in April 1941. The squadron trained at Swan Island, in Portland, and Grey Field, at Fort Lewis, Wash. Wartime training changed after the attack on Pearl Harbor. On that day, the 123rd aircrews launched the first combat air mission from the U.S. to look for submarines or other enemy activity on the Oregon and Washington coastline. It was re-designated as the 35th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in August 1943 and deployed to the China-Burma-India Theater to do photo reconnaissance.

Back home, Oregon played a unique role during WWII. As a west coast state, it had a greater probability to be attacked. In June 1942, a Japanese I-25 submarine fired 17 shells at Fort Stevens in retaliation for the Doolittle Raid. The Oregon National Guard's 249th Coast Artillery manned the fort and rushed to their battle stations ready to fire back. However, the fort commander ordered them not to fire because he didn't want the Japanese to know there was a military installation there. The backstop of the baseball diamond was the only damage the shells inflicted on the fort. The I-25 submarine then headed back to Japan to

pick up an airplane.

Along the Oregon coastline there was a need to look for enemy ships and submarines. At the Tillamook Naval Air Station, two of largest wood-frame buildings in the world were built to house blimps that would patrol up and down the Oregon and Washington coast for enemy vessels. However, the blimps missed spotting the I-25 submarine not once, but twice.

The I-25 submarine went back to Japan and picked up a "Glen" seaplane designed to be disassembled and put into a submarine. It came back to the Southern Oregon coast, surfaced, reassembled the seaplane and catapulted it off the submarine. The seaplane then dropped two bombs outside of Brookings, Ore., in the hopes of starting a forest fire. The 1930s had been a very dry time in Oregon, causing some large fires. The Japanese felt that if they started a large enough forest fire the United States would have to pull troops back from the battle in the Pacific. Fortunately, the 1940s saw more rain than the previous decade.

The pilot of the seaplane, Nobuo Fujita, then flew back to the submarine, landed and went back to Japan. The pilot's next mission was to train kamikaze pilots. He felt so bad about his role in WWII that he came back to Brookings after the war and presented his 400 year-old samurai sword to the city. The samurai sword is still in the Brookings library today.

Camp Adair, located north of Corvallis, was used to train four infantry divisions,

three of which were created there. More than 100,000 troops trained there, straining the resources of the area. Those troops moved over to do maneuvers in Central Oregon before heading off to fight in the war. Camp Adair was then used as a hospital, specializing in tropical diseases and then became a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian POWs.

Camp Abbott, in Central Oregon, was established as an Engineer Replacement Training Center (ERTC), sending combat engineers into the war. The camp's capacity allowed for as many as 10,000 soldiers to train there at one time. The Great Hall at Sunriver was built as the officer's club at Camp Abbott. Central Oregon also has the distinction of being home to Rex Barber who is credited with shooting down Admiral Yamamoto, the architect of the attack at Pearl Harbor.

The 17th Bombardment Group, the unit known for the Doolittle Raiders, used Pendleton Army Airfield. The airfield was also home to the 555th Smoke Jumper unit known as the "Triple Nickels", an airborne unit assigned there to fight forest fires.

The Japanese launched 9,000 balloon bombs into the jet stream during the war in the hopes of sending them to the United States to start forest fires. The balloon bombs landed as far east as Michigan, as far south as Mexico, and as far north as Alaska. Forty-five of the balloon bombs landed in Oregon. One of the balloon bombs landed outside of Bly, Ore., where a Sunday school teacher and five Sunday school students came across the bomb during a picnic after church. The explosion killed them.

Other facilities supporting the war effort included the Umatilla Army Depot in Hermiston; airfields at Portland, Astoria, Newport, North Bend and Floras Lake; and Navy stations at Tongue Point, near Astoria, and the Naval Air Station in Klamath Falls.

Oregon also played a large role on the home front with some of the largest shipyards during WWII. The 85 shipyards in Portland employed more than 150,000 workers, building hundreds of vessels for the war. Many of the shipyard workers were women who served as laborers, helpers, welders, and warehouse workers.

For more information on Oregon's military history, visit the Historical Outreach Foundation at www.historicaloutreach.com or the Oregon Military Museum at www.oregonmilitarymuseum.org

All veterans are encouraged to add their stories to the Veterans' Legacy database at www.veteranslegacies.com.



Soldiers of the 186th Infantry Regiment during the battle for Palawan on the Philippine Islands, February 28, 1945.

its shoreline duty and quickly mobilized for overseas duty, becoming the first complete American division sent overseas after Pearl Harbor.

Elements of the 41st began leaving the U.S. for Australia on March 19, 1941 with the last units arriving on May 13. The division arrived in Australia with the gratitude of the Australian people. The Japanese had started bombing at Darwin while most of the Australian forces were off fighting the war in other countries. The 41st trained at Camp Seymour, New South Wales, and then trained in jungle and amphibious warfare at Rockhampton, Queensland. They were the first American division trained in jungle warfare and went on to battle in the New Guinea Campaign, earning their nickname "The Jungleers".

The 163rd Infantry Regiment was the first unit of the 41st to encounter the Japanese in Sanananda. The rest of the 41st was flown over the Owen Stanley Mountains, a 5,000-foot high mountain range that divided New Guinea, to fight for the Buna-Gona airstrip where General Douglas MacArthur would start his drive back to the Philippines. The 41st made the first amphibious landing at Nassau Bay in 1944 and after a brief rest continued on to fight in Hollandia, Wakde and into Biak.

Biak was the longest and bloodiest battle the "Jungleers" fought during WWII. Biak was supposed to have 2,000 defenders.

WWII Memorial dedicated in Salem



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

Al Gray, a U.S. Army veteran of WWII, visits with other veterans following the dedication ceremony for the Oregon WWII Memorial at Willson Park in Salem, Ore., June 6. Nearly 1,000 Oregon veterans, families and friends gathered at Willson Park for the dedication. According to the Historical Outreach Foundation, of the 152,000 Oregonians who served during WWII, an estimated 20,000 are still alive today and 3,772 are recorded as having paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war.