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Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Fighter Wing welcomes home Citizen-Airmen from deployment

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel and Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – Airmen from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), along with members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron (SFS), who recently returned from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), were formally recognized during a demobilization ceremony, Dec. 7, at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Secretary of State Kate Brown were in attendance, along with other distinguished guests, including Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, The Adjutant General, Oregon, and Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Although the ceremony celebrated the recent homecoming of two units, members actually deployed to various destinations in Afghanistan and Bahrain, contingent on their profession and filling critical duty positions.

“Our nation needed each and every one of their personal and collective skills; whether as fire fighters, emergency managers, engineers and security professionals, they all volunteered for these assignments,” said Hokanson.

Twenty-four engineer technicians were assigned to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, focusing on installation infrastructure



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

Staff Sgt. Jared Johnson, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, is greeted by his daughter upon returning home to Portland, Oregon, Oct. 31. More than 30 Airmen returned from overseas deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

See **Airmen** on Page 10

Oregon Soldiers witness transition in Afghanistan

Story by Capt. Frank Hartnett, USAF, International Security Assistance Force/ Resolute Support Headquarters

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirteen years after its creation through the signing of the Bonn Agreement in Germany, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) concluded operations and transitioned to North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Resolute Support (RS) mission in a ceremony, Dec. 28, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Resolute Support Commander, U.S. Army Gen. John F. Campbell, and his Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert D. Byers, symbolically rolled and cased the ISAF flag and unfurled the new RS flag. The solemn ceremony, held at the ISAF Headquarters, paid tribute to the international efforts launched in 2001 by the NATO-led coalition as they worked with Afghan partners.

“Today marks an end of an era and the beginning of a new one. Resolute Support will serve as the bedrock of our enduring partnership with Afghanistan,” said General Campbell.

The Resolute Support mission will consist of more than 12,500 troops focused on building Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) sustainability. Twenty-eight NATO Allies and 14 partner nations will contribute to the mission in different ways. Training, advice and assistance for Afghan security forces and institutions



Photo courtesy ISAF/ Resolute Support Headquarters

Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert D. Byers (left) salutes during the presentation of the Resolute Support colors during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) change of mission ceremony from International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to Resolute Support Mission in Kabul, Dec. 28. Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Matthew Stutesman (right), with Bravo Troop, 1-82 Cavalry Squadron, participated in the multinational color guard for the ceremony, bearing the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team patch as history was made.

will continue through the new, NATO-led, non-combat mission.

ISAF’s original mandate was to assist the newly-established Afghan Transitional Authority in and around Kabul. The scope and scale of ISAF’s mission grew as the Coalition added Provincial Reconstruction Teams and took on the responsibility to

provide security while Afghan security forces were growing in strength. A critical function throughout the effort was the mentoring and training of Afghan forces.

ISAF’s lasting legacy, accomplished with Afghan partners, was the

See **NATO** on Page 4

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COMMAND

Strategic plan guides Oregon National Guard into future

First and foremost, I want to thank every one of our nearly 1,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen currently serving overseas. I also want to recognize and thank the families of our deployed Soldiers and Airmen; without your support their service would not be possible.

It's hard to believe a new year is already upon us. With all you accomplished in 2014, I look forward to the great achievements 2015 will bring. Over the past year, we welcomed home both Army and Air units deployed overseas for combat and training; we trained, mobilized, and deployed more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen; we fought forest fires; conducted numerous Air Control Alert missions - to include intercepting Russian aircraft off the Oregon Coast; we trained all Air Force F-15C Air Superiority pilots; published the first Cascadia Playbook for Oregon; improved our State Partnerships with Bangladesh and Vietnam; transitioned into a new organizational structure to better prepare for domestic operations; and

implemented a new strategic planning process. These are just a few of your many success stories.

As we head into the next year, it is vital for leaders at all levels to understand the direction we are headed. I ask that you take the time to review our recently published Strategic Direction to the Oregon Military Department (SD2OMD). The SD2OMD is a follow on to the Strategic Letter published last year and paves the way for the Oregon Military Department Strategic Plan for 2015-2019 that will be published later this spring.

We understand the future will be a very dynamic environment. There will be changes to our mission, structure and resources that will require us to be flexible, agile and adaptive. Through these changes, our center of gravity will remain our people. It is the outstanding people tasked with leading our Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilians who will carry out our strategic plan and ensure its continuous



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

improvement as we adapt to the changes our state and nation will face in an increasingly complex world.

Governor Kitzhaber and I appreciate the immeasurable sacrifices all of you are making on behalf of our state and nation, and could not be more proud of your service. You are a professional organization of Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians dedicated to the highest quality service to our communities, state and nation.

Always Ready, Always There!

Communication essential in adapting to transformation



Chief Warrant Officer 5
Paul E. Zenchenko,
Command Chief
Warrant Officer,
Oregon National Guard

One of the goals I have as the Command Chief Warrant Officer (CCWO) is to transform the office into a transparent hub of information and communication, not only within the ranks of warrant officers but also within the ranks of officers and enlisted as well. This can't come at a greater time as the Oregon Military Department (OMD) is in a period of transformation.

Command positions have been filled, and lines of communication have been established throughout the ranks. As in all re-organizations, there will be some minor distractions to how operations were conducted in the past. Therefore, as a goal, establishing or re-establishing the communication process provides a link to inform all Soldiers. These open lines of dialogue allow the individual Soldier to make the best course of action in their career development.

In the past, the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) Warrant Officer Corps established the Council of Fives. The primary

purpose of the council was to advise and assist the CCWO in the resolution of issues and initiatives that affect warrant officer career development, policy, morale, utilization, and professional development in support of the overall state mission. To align itself with the National Warrant Officer Senior Advisory Council (WOSAC) and Region Six WOSAC (OR, WA, CA, AK, ID, SD, AZ), the Council of Fives was renamed, Oregon WOSAC (OR WOSAC).

Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at the Oregon Military Department, room 100, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All warrant officers are invited to attend or participate via phone conference call (RSVP is required). Each branch is represented by a senior warrant. Their responsibility of representing the warrant officers in their branch is twofold; first to bring issues and concerns to the CCWO for resolutions, second to forward information to the Soldier affecting their career and professional development, and a synopsis of the strength of Oregon warrant officer corps.

A subcommittee of the WOSAC is the Warrant Officer Leadership Advisory Committee (WOLAC). This committee is in the developmental stage, with members volunteering to mentor other warrant officers in their career progression. Their primary goal is to create a self-assessment tool for warrant officers using

the "Whole Soldier" concept. The "Whole Soldier Concept" uses all factors of the officer's career in the development of any order of ranking. The principle criteria for selection must be the potential of the officer for service in the next capacity. It is the composite of the "Whole Record" that makes up the "Whole Soldier Concept". The end result is a tool for the individual to have a transparent, concise evaluation of where they are ranked amongst their peers and how they can improve their standing.

The Oregon National Guard isn't the only organization going through a transformation. Professional Military Education courses at the Warrant Officer Career College (WOCC) have some name changes as well. The Warrant Officer Staff Course (WOSC) is now called the Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education (WOILE) and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course (WOSSC) is now the Warrant Officer Senior Service Education (WOSSE). There were past discussions of relocating the WOCC to the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The WOCC will remain at Fort Rucker, Ala. However, the WOILE and WOSSE may relocate to Fort Leavenworth.

As these changes come about, it is these very lines of communication and open dialogue that remain prevalent and pertinent to the success of any organization, council or board. Establishing a hub of information and communication amongst the ranks is a priority. In an effort to reach out and inform OMD Citizen-Soldiers, families and friends, follow us on Twitter at #ORCCWO for announcements, comments and suggestions.

Preparation enables us to respond when we are needed

The mission of the Oregon National Guard is to be "First Responders" in times of a state and federal crisis. This means you and I are on the bus headed to help! We are collectively Superman, Batman, and Underdog.

Let me start by asking you a critical question. What is your number one priority as a first responder? I hope you answered "READINESS". You have to be prepared to do the tasks we ask of you. Readiness has a few components: Fitness, Medical, and Resilience.

Fitness is an obvious factor, yet, it is not about appearance. Fitness means staying in condition to withstand the pace and work load that you will perform during scheduled and unexpected situations.

Medical readiness is taking care of yourself and maintaining requirements such as, immunizations, dental, and the annual health assessment, Web Health Assessment (WEBHA). These requirements provide leadership with reasonable assurance that you won't become a victim while helping others.

The final component is Resilience. In my opinion this is the most important! Ask

yourself; is your personal life in order so that you can respond as that Citizen-Soldier or Airman? Do you have a plan for your family, significant other, loved ones, or even your pet? If you can't put your head in the game fully, because you are worried about your own, then you become ineffective. Although the pre-deployment preparation and Yellow Ribbon cycle serve an important purpose for a scheduled event, they do not ensure you are prepared for the big one that comes at 2:15 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon: an earthquake, or a tsunami or both (Cascadia subduction event).

What will your family do if you are called to respond when it's least expected? Part of readiness responsibility is to have these types of conversations with your family. When there are natural disaster events unfolding, stay informed; when you know the water is rising and there are possible floods, talk to your family about a plan. When you are confident they are safe and taken care of, your head is fully in the fight.



State Command Chief
Master Sgt. Patrick
"Andy" Gauntz,
State Command Chief
Master Sergeant,
Oregon National Guard

A final piece for readiness: know where to report. This is not a problem when you are close to home station, but what if you are hunting, fishing, or camping? Carry your unit's contact information, know where the closest armory or base facility is. A little due diligence will help our mission greatly.

Remember, you are a first responder. You must be physically, medically, and mentally ready. Prepare yourself and your family to carry out your duty and responsibility to the community, state, and nation.

COMMAND

Ferre announces retirement, Stuckey named Interagency Director

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

SALEM, Oregon – Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, in coordination with the Oregon governor’s office, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Stuckey as the Oregon Military Department’s (OMD) interagency director, effective Feb. 1, 2015.

Stuckey, who is currently the director of Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM), is scheduled to replace Dave Ferre, who has announced his retirement.

“Dave Ferre’s vast amount of interagency experience and background as an exceptional leader was instrumental to the success of our organization,” said Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson. “We thank him for a career of contributions and life-long sacrifice to his state and nation, and look forward to David Stuckey’s knowledge, experience, and leadership as our new interagency director.”

The search to fill the position of OEM director is an open competitive application process. The selected candidate will work with Stuckey to ensure a smooth transition.

Ferre has more than 30 years of collective experience as a state employee beginning as an Oregon State trooper in 1976. He has held various positions in state government to include acting OMD state personnel director, OMD state financial manager/comptroller, OMD installations director

and director of Service Member and Family Support.

To complement his long state service, Ferre has had a successful parallel military career. He served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, beginning in 1975. He transferred to the Air Reserve in 1976, and joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1981. Ferre served as a weapons controller and disaster preparedness officer, and eventually as director of operations and the unit commander for the 104th Air Control Squadron.

After serving a number of command positions throughout the Oregon Air National Guard, to include the plans and programs officer, executive officer for the 142nd Fighter Wing, and 142nd Mission Support Group commander, Ferre was appointed as the Oregon Combat Operations Group commander. In August 2005, Ferre was appointed the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for Oregon (appointed by the Chief of National Guard Bureau). He



**Dave Ferre,
former
Interagency Director**

retired from the military as a colonel in December 2011.

Stuckey has a long and established career in the military and emergency management. He served as deputy director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management from April 2010 to June 2012. During that time, he was part of three presidential emergency declarations and multiple emergency response activations.

Stuckey was instrumental in responding to the 2011 Oregon floods and was the governor’s authorized representative and state coordinating officer in response to the tsunami resulting from the Japanese earthquake in 2011.

The mission of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management is to maintain emergency response and recovery activities with the state and local emergency services agencies and organizations.



**Dave Stuckey,
former
OEM Director**

173rd Fighter Wing commander bids farewell, retires after 26-year career

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Col. Jeremy Baenen, retired November 21 in a ceremony at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The 173rd Fighter Wing is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force.

“It’s very satisfying to me to finish my career in this Wing which is doing really

tremendous work for the Air Force,” said Baenen. “As a key piece to pilot production, we are where America’s air superiority begins. Watching us meet those objectives, I am walking away really, really happy.”

He leaves the 173rd Fighter Wing poised to fly and train more new pilots than ever before but it was not without numerous hurdles.

Baenen assumed command on Jan. 13, 2013 and guided the Wing through a time of change and fiscal constraints, including the addition of active-duty Airmen to the mission with the Total Force Integration (TFI), major base construction, and the highest number of pilot production ever. Under his leadership, Kingsley welcomed 14 more aircraft to the ramp for a historic total authorized 32 airframes. He implemented an expanded mission while sequestration slashed budgets across the Department of Defense and the Air National Guard.

“The thing I am probably most proud

of is what the Airmen have done here,” said Baenen. “It’s been a lot of challenges, but during all of that it was really fun to see everyone rise to the challenge, meet the mission, and hit the ball out of the park every time.”

The Wing has been recognized numerous times during Baenen’s command, most recently during the first ever Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI), earning the rating of ‘Highly Effective’. Baenen credits these accomplishments to the professionalism of the Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

“We’ve had tremendous challenges here in the last few years ... from sequestration to layoffs, to the TFI ... new simulators and a UEI inspection ... and really that’s a credit to the entire Wing,” he said, summing up the last two years.

Baenen’s service spans 26 years, including his time at the Air Force Academy. Baenen notes that over those years he made a point to ask retiring Airmen what the most important things were that they would pass along to the remaining troops. In his final remarks, Baenen passed along what he called the distillation of more than 400 years of military experience: don’t let anyone limit your humor or your happiness, balance family and work, there is no defense for a well-executed barrel roll, and finally – do what you know is right.

His last gesture as commander was to salute the assembled audience with the



Col. Jeremy Baenen laughs during his retirement ceremony, Nov. 21, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls. He said in his farewell remarks that maintaining a sense of humor was an integral part of his leadership style.

words, “I’d like to just leave you with a salute to our troops. God bless you all and good luck in the future.”

Col. Kirk Pierce, currently the director of Plans and Programs for the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C., will assume command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in an official assumption of command ceremony in January. The vice wing commander, Col. Gregor Leist, will be the acting wing commander until Pierce’s arrival.



Col. Jeremy Baenen welcomes a cold blast of water upon stepping to the tarmac following his last flight in the F-15 Eagle shortly before his retirement ceremony, Nov. 21. The dousing is part of a tradition for pilots upon their last flight in an aircraft.

NGB Chief, Oregon Adjutant General visit troops in Afghanistan

“I am so proud of the contributions the National Guard is making here and has made for the last 12 years.”

**- Gen. Frank J. Grass,
Chief, National Guard Bureau**



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Public Affairs Officer, 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Gen. Frank J. Grass (right), Chief, National Guard Bureau, visits with Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov. 3.



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Public Affairs Officer, 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (right), Adjutant General, Oregon, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake visited with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, Soldiers and the command team from 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov. 3.

NEWS

Oregon Soldier awarded Purple Heart, Bronze Star during recovery

Story by Lori Newman,
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald presented Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Steven Tessitore the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart medals during a ceremony, Dec. 19, at the Center for the Intrepid, a rehab center at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

Tessitore, an infantryman with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, suffered a gunshot wound in his neck, Nov. 15, when a gunman opened fire during a Quick Reaction Force security patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Brooke Army Medical Center Commander Col. Evan Renz hosted the ceremony, with Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also in attendance.

“It is heartwarming to see your family here today,” said McDonald who met with Tessitore and his family prior to the ceremony. “Our nation is indebted to you and we are also indebted to your family as well.”

McDonald said he read Tessitore’s personal account of being wounded and the days that followed.

“He was shot in the throat, gravely wounded, and he received what he described as ‘the luckiest’ lethal wound,” McDonald said.

“By November 19, he was communicating with friends, family and fellow Soldiers in Afghanistan. Apart from what that says about technology, think about what it says about our Soldiers – about their focus, their fortitude and their skill in life-saving first aid in the direst of circumstance,” the sec-



Photo by Robert Shields, Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Steven M. Tessitore is awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, Dec. 19, from the Honorable Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, at the Center for the Intrepid, a rehab center at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Tessitore received a gunshot wound in his neck, Nov. 15, when a gunman opened fire during a security patrol with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

retary said. “Think what it says about all the surgeons, doctors, nurses and support staff who attended to Sergeant Tessitore from the dirty, dusty streets of a faraway land, to the pristine Brooke Army Medical Center.”

McDonald thanked Tessitore for his service and sacrifice, and promised that when it was time, the VA will be honored to care for him and his family, and “will provide all the services and benefits he has so richly earned.”

Tessitore received the Bronze Star for “his outstanding performance, expertise

and dedication to duty which greatly contributed to the success of the unit’s mission during combat operations.”

The Bronze Star medal is the fourth highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the U.S. military. It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit or meritorious service in a combat zone.

The Purple Heart is the oldest U.S. military decoration in present use and the first American award made available to the common Soldier. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Steven M. Tessitore helps provide security overwatch with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, during a key leader engagement with local Afghan National Security Forces in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Oct. 23.

of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hand of the enemy.

“Nobody in their right mind wants a Purple Heart, and I find myself receiving one today against everything that I have ever wanted, but I appreciate it,” Tessitore said. “The only reason I am here today to receive this medal is because of my unit and how well they prepared, so on behalf of Bravo Company 2-162 and my entire battalion, thank you very much for taking care of me and for allowing me to be here today.”

NATO-led support mission focuses on training, advising, assisting Afghans

Continued from Front Page

establishment of a 350,000-strong security force, which is now fully responsible for security in Afghanistan. Throughout 2014, the ANSF prevented the Taliban from disrupting national elections, allowing more than seven million Afghans to exercise their right to vote. This led to the establishment of the Afghan National Unity Government, which marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in Afghan history.

“Now is the time to write the next chapter in our story,” said General Hans-Lotter Domrose, Joint Force Command Brunssum Commander, referring to the launch of Resolute Support.

Under Resolute Support, efforts to train, advise and assist Afghan Security Institutions (ASI) and the ANSF at the ministerial, operational, and institutional levels will focus on eight essential functions: multi-year budgeting (EF 1); transparency, accountability and

oversight (EF 2); civilian governance of the ASI (EF 3); force generation (EF 4); sustainment (EF 5); strategy and policy planning, resourcing, and execution (EF 6); intelligence (EF 7); and strategic communication (EF 8). These eight essential functions comprise the systems and processes required for the professionalism and sustainability of the ASI and ANSF.

“We need your help to build the systems necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of our forces,” said Mohammad Hanif Atmar, Afghanistan’s National Security Advisor. “This is a formidable challenge for any modern army and police force.”

Basic measurements of progress across all major sectors of society have shown improvement: life expectancy is rising; mobile communication technology is expanding; an independent media corps is flourishing; and school enrollment is up from one to well over seven million children in the past decade with one-third being females. This was inconceivable 13 years ago.

The international community continues to pledge support and financial commitment to help foster an Afghan Decade of Transformation. These efforts will be undertaken with the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. Both leaders have reinforced their pledges for transparency and accountability.

As the ceremony concluded, General Campbell gave his final thoughts and assessment on the progress made by Afghan and international partners.

“Together, we have lifted the Afghan people out of the darkness of despair and given them hope for the future. We’re very proud of our relationship - a relationship built on trust, friendship, and shared interests. That trust and a common vision for a stable, secure, and unified Afghanistan fills me with confidence that we’ll continue to be successful. The

road before us remains challenging, but we will triumph.”

On behalf of President Ashraf Ghani and the Afghan people, Mohammad Hanif Atmar expressed his gratitude for the Coalition’s effort and sacrifices, “We will never forget your sons and daughters who have died on our soil. They are now our sons and daughters. Afghan and Coalition personnel have spilled their blood to ensure a brighter future for our country and to bring peace to the world.”



Photo courtesy 2-162 Infantry Battalion

Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Bloom (center) and other leaders with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, host a meeting with leaders from the Kabul divisions of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Teach, Advise, Assist Command - Capital (TAAC-C) during a key leader engagement, Oct. 22, in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Photo courtesy 2-162 Infantry Battalion

A member of the Afghan National Police force displays his completion certificate following a training course, which included tasks such as vehicle and personnel searches, instructed by Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the Police Advisory Detachment (PAD), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Oregon Guard Soldiers assisted with Afghan National Police training across more than 20 districts in Kabul, Afghanistan, throughout October 2014.

Quick Reference

- Approximately 10,800 U.S. troops are currently in Afghanistan to sustain the efforts of Resolute Support, including nearly 900 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers.

- The U.S. force is scheduled to decrease to half its current size by the end of 2015.

- “Inteqal” – the Dari and Pashtu word for transition – is the process by which the lead responsibility for security in Afghanistan is transitioned to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

- Resolute Support website: <http://www.rs.nato.int>

- NATO website: http://www.nato.int/cps/da/natohq/topics_113694.htm

NEWS

Turning blue to 'green': First wave energy converter installed off Camp Rilea

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe,
Construction and Facility Manager,
Oregon Military Department

WARRENTON, Oregon — The first wave energy converter (WEC) was deployed off the coast of Camp Rilea in September 2014. The device known as APEX is made by M3 Wave LLC, a local startup company located in Corvallis, Oregon.

APEX is a small pilot scale device that was in the water for two weeks. It was equipped with research instrumentation to gather specific information regarding the performance in the ocean environment and compare with analytical results.

The goal of the APEX deployment was to validate the technology that can be used in full scale versions. The full scale WEC is anticipated to produce about 150 kW. An additional goal was to limit impact to existing ocean uses thereby proving it as an economic multiplier to the local economy.

M3 worked with local manufacturing to construct the APEX and collaborated with crabbers and fishermen for mitigating ocean usage conflicts. Camp Rilea would

benefit from having this renewable energy developed and connected to the electrical grid. This would provide a steady supply of green energy and provide for energy security to the training site.

The Clatsop County Emergency Operations Center, located at Camp Rilea, would also be assured of the energy security from this energy source. M3 Wave is analyzing the data from the deployment and based on preliminary feedback is very encouraged with the results. Oregon has a competitive advantage for developing this industry to create jobs and to provide abundant clean renewable energy.

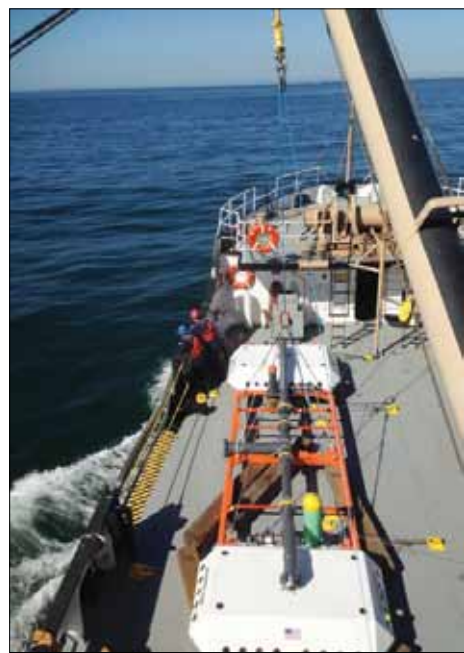
The launch and recovery was successful and is significant from the standpoint that this is the world's first open ocean test of a WEC of this type. M3 Wave partnered with the Tongue Point Job Corps Center-Seamanship Training Program for use of the Ironwood for the launch and recovery operations.

The Ironwood, a retired Coast Guard buoy tender is used as a training vessel at the Tongue Point Job Corps Center. It was used to transport the WEC to the site and lower it into the ocean at a depth of about 50 feet and then recover it following the trial. Oregon Wave Energy Trust (OWET) provided videography which is available online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql_0709tnFI.

The M3 Wave technology is very straightforward. APEX is a submerged pressure differential wave energy device that captures a portion of the energy contained in ocean surface waves by using the differential pressure under the peaks and troughs of the waves. This is done through air bladders at opposite ends of the device. The air is forced through a turbine/generator that produces electricity.

It's quite ingenious and there are no external moving parts. The device simply sits on the ocean floor. Although they were not connected to the electrical infrastructure, they were producing the first wave energy electricity off of Camp Rilea while deployed.

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber proclaimed September 22-26, 2014 as Oregon Wave Week. Significant to this proclamation was the ninth annual Ocean



The Wave Energy Converter (WEC) is transported on the deck of the Ironwood to its installation site off the north Oregon coast.



The Wave Energy Converter (WEC) is lowered to its installation site off the coast of Warrenton, Ore., at a depth of about 42 feet from the deck of the Ironwood, a retired buoy tender used as a training vessel at the Tongue Point Job Corps Center, Sept. 4.

Energy Renewable Conference held in Portland. OWET hosted this event along with sponsors like Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC), Portland General Electric, Energy Trust of Oregon, Oregon Department of Energy, and several private companies.

The conference is an annual event which brings together industry leaders from around the world to advance the development of wave energy. OWET is charged to implement a strategic vision to recruit and support a wave power industry, and provided grant funding to M3 Wave for the development and deployment of the APEX. They also provided grant funding to the Oregon Military Department to support the deployment, which was provided by Leidos Maritime Solutions.

The Oregon Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) contains specific policies for state ocean management. State Planning Goal 19 was set up for defining marine uses and establishing areas within the State waters that are suitable for wave energy development.

These areas called Renewable Energy Facility Suitability Study Areas (REFSSA) were adopted by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission in January 2013. One of the REFSSA's is just off the coast at Camp Rilea and was placed there due to the unique military training area that can both support

it and benefit from it.

The Oregon Coast has tremendous ocean energy resource characterized by powerful and steady waves. Ocean wave energy is excellent because it is continuous and predictable, and is available 24 hours a day. Because of this abundant, clean, renewable energy resource, there is considerable interest in sea trials in Oregon. Although M3 was the first to get a device in the water at the Rilea REFSSA, there is another company planning for a deployment in 2015.

The technology is just starting to be developed and ocean testing is needed. NNMREC is a partnership between Oregon State University and the University of Washington. NNMREC has the Pacific Marine Energy Center, which are facilities located around the Pacific Northwest.

In Oregon they have the North Energy Test Site (NETS) off the coast of Newport, a South Energy Test Site (SETS) south of Newport and five miles offshore, and laboratory at OSU. Both NETS and SETS are considered a medium depth sites unlike the Rilea REFSSA, which is a shallow test site and optimal for the APEX technology.

Lt. Col. Ken Safe is the Construction and Facility Management Officer (CFMO) for the Oregon Army National Guard. He is also the Net Zero Energy Program Manager and is a licensed professional engineer.

Conference gets logistics done right

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

WARRENTON, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard's 2014 State Logistics Conference took place at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, Dec. 1-5. The annual team-building workshop is designed to bring logisticians from around the state together to stay updated on current and new logistics systems.

"These are the people who are in the trenches providing the resources for our warfighters," said Col. Donald Rolph, the Oregon Army National Guard's director of logistics. "Without them we wouldn't have trucks that move, we wouldn't have clothes for the Soldiers, we wouldn't be able to feed the Soldiers."

Master Sgt. Warren Sturm, deputy director of logistics for the state, said more than 150 logisticians from around the state of Oregon attended the conference for hands-on and small group training.

"It's an opportunity to see the faces behind the email and build a team," said Sturm. "You're going to meet the people you train with every day, and you're going to learn how to do your job better."

The deputy chief of staff for logistics, Lt. Col. Kimberly York, said there are battalion and company logistician awards at the conference to recognize the great work logisticians do that can often be difficult.

"It's not only to network and to train, but it's also to reward," York explained.

York added the results of the conference have been positive.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Tim Cotter (left), an equipment specialist with Joint Forces Headquarters, instructs Staff Sgt. Destiny Pence on Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced (SAMS-E) computer system during the annual State Logistics Conference at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., Dec. 2. SAMS-E is a U.S. Army Logistics information system considered mission critical for managing unit maintenance standards.

"We're seeing more Soldiers networking, calling us because they met us. We're seeing better accuracy on the reports," York stated.

York said logisticians from Oregon have gone back to their National Guard Bureau counterparts to sit down and talk about the conference, mentioning that they really like the logistics workshop concepts.

"There are a lot of regulatory requirements and a lot of states struggle with how to get at it," said York. "One way we do that is to use this workshop to make sure we're getting it right."

Soldiers test their mettle in annual Best Warrior competition



Photos by Spc. Alisha D. Grezlik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers carry a zodiac raft towards a lake during the annual Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, Sept. 27. The three-day event pitted Soldiers from across the state against each other to compete in physical and mental challenges for the titles of Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Below: Pfc. Jay Eyestone (left) earned the title of Soldier of the Year and Staff Sgt. Ammon Benedict (right) earned the title of Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. They will represent the Oregon Army National Guard in the regional competition.



STATE PARTNERSHIP

Oregon Guardsmen participate in disaster relief exercise in Bangladesh

Story and photos by Ms. Angela Kershner,
United States Army Pacific Command

DHAKA, BANGLADESH — The fifth annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise and Exchange (PR DREE) drew to an end during a closing ceremony at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka Thursday.

His Excellency Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Minister of Disaster Management and Relief, officially closed PR DREE 2014 following remarks by Brig. Gen. Abu Sayeed Khan, Director General of the Plans and Operations Directorate for the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (AFD), and Maj. Gen. Gary M. Hara, Deputy Command of U.S. Army Pacific. The Honorable Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh was also in attendance.

“I am highly convinced that [PR DREE 2014] will wield enough benefit in order to strengthen our capacity to face and mitigate the earthquake threat within Dhaka city,” said Chowdhury.

“This exercise has brought all the major stakeholders at the common platform and understanding involving organizations of national and international level,” he added.

Led by AFD and USARPAC, PR DREE involves the critical support of numerous civilian institutions. Without civil-military interoperability, disaster management will be slower and less effective.

The PR DREE 2014 aims to unite all necessary stakeholders to ensure disaster management is maximized through effective engagement, planning and practice.

Through this coordination and



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Pearson demonstrates securing personal safety lines during the third day of the PR DREE at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Force Training Academy in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Aug. 20.

management, all responders will be more prepared to counter the impacts a large-scale earthquake that may affect Bangladesh.

The four-day event included presentations by Subject Matter Experts, a Table Top Exercise (TTX), a Field Training Exercise (FTX) and an extensive After Action Review (AAR).

PRDREE is structured to increase disaster preparedness, response capabilities and civilian-military coordination in the face of a large-scale natural disaster. The TTX and FTX exercised plans, equipment and personnel between Bangladesh, the U.S. and numerous IGOs and NGOs, increasing readiness for earthquake response and recovery in Dhaka. Ministries, utility companies, media, military, international organizations and numerous other entities sent representatives to participate, building the relationships that will be necessary in any disaster.

“Bringing together diverse governmental agencies and military capabilities to work closely on a range of shared interests helps to ensure that the execution of disaster response is both unified and swift,” said Hara.

Approximately 100 civil and military stakeholders participated in the TTX on Tuesday at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Training Academy.

Participants were presented with the exercise scenario: a magnitude 7.1 earthquake taking place on the Madhupur fault line, directly affecting Dhaka city.

Were such a large scale earthquake



Col. Mohammad Tawhid-UI-Islam, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, delivers a presentation on the Dhaka City Earthquake Contingency Response Plan during the opening day of the Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise & Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Aug. 18.

to hit Dhaka, the most populous city in Bangladesh and one of the most densely populated cities in the world, it is estimated that 70,000 buildings would collapse, causing the death, injury and entrapment of thousands of people.

The TTX familiarized participants with the earthquake scenario, their various roles and responsibilities, and the primary themes of the event: logistics and communication.

The FTX began Tuesday afternoon and continued into Wednesday, testing personnel in the field at an operational and tactical level.

Hundreds of personnel and volunteers plugged into the various coordination nodes dealing with everything from utility services to dead body management to communication.

“This week you increased earthquake preparedness, and response capabilities by evaluating the Standing Order on Disasters and the draft Dhaka City Earthquake Contingency Plan,” said Hara.

“You paid particular attention to the reception and utilization of logistics critical to the relief effort and as a result of this training, we are closer to maximizing the interoperability between the Armed Forces Division, the U.S. Embassy, the

Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief and others,” Hara added.

After two days of exercises, stakeholders gathered for an extensive AAR prior to the closing ceremony. To ensure that preparedness is an ongoing effort, participants examined issues, concerns, and gaps that need to be addressed before or during next year’s PR DREE.

“We are looking forward to keep going with this type of exercises initiatives and interactions more and more in the future,” said Khan. “Your contribution, intellectual ideas and support will be noted highly in our institutional memory.”

PR DREE provides a platform for collaboration in order to build upon existing partner nation capacity and enhance the U.S. government’s readiness and preparedness to provide aid for all-hazards. The more opportunity there is for this type of interaction, then the more successful both the United States and Bangladesh will be in our collective emergency response efforts.

Khan closed his remarks with traditional Bangladesh words of wisdom: “It is said, no disaster can say that there will be no blessings in future, and no blessings can say there will be no disasters in future.”



Oregon Army National Guard Col. Dean Perez, listens to presenters at the Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise & Exchange was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from Aug. 18-21.

OPINION

State Partnership Program based on building relationships, trust with partners

Story by Capt. Adam Lulay,
Commander, HHC 2-641 Aviation

As the fifth Annual Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) came to a close I reflected back on this year’s DREE.

This year’s theme was logistics which supported last year’s focus of Urban Search and Rescue and Medical Support the year prior.

The DREE has the same goal every year, responding to large scale catastrophic events in order to save lives.

The Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) works with PACOM to send between eight and 12 Oregon Guard Subject Matter Experts (SME) to the DREE in order to provide training and evaluation support to the Bangladeshi government.

Col. Dean Perez was one of the new SME who attended in 2014. He brought a vast amount of civilian experience in the area of Incident Command System (ICS) in order to advise the Bangladeshi government agencies on interagency coordination.

Maj. Shakil, a fire chief from Bangladesh was happy to see Oregonians he had worked with in the past. “It is nice to see the familiar faces of the Oregon National Guard every year,” he said.

Maj. William Maddalena, a nurse from the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Medical Group, based at Kingsley Field in

Klamath Falls, Oregon, was one of those familiar faces which had been attending these exercises for the last four years.

He said it is evident that Bangladesh has started to reap the benefits of the training the Oregon National Guard provides.

“During previous DREE, the Bangladesh Fire Department would often further injure a patient when extracting them off of the rubble pile, but this year they proved that they could package and safely extract a patient with relative ease,” he said.

Two new faces to the DREE were Oregon Air National Guard 1st Lt. Alex Fugate and Tech. Sgt. Steven Harvey from the 173rd Fighter Wing, who served as SME for air traffic control.

“Airfield functionality will be key to airlifting logistics in order to respond to a major disaster,” Fugate said.

Harvey said the trip was instrumental in highlighting some of the differences between the United States and Bangladesh.

“The trip has opened my eyes to some of the challenges that Bangladeshis face,” he said.

I believe the DREE is all about the relationships we build with our Bangladesh friends. I personally had a chance to enjoy tea, share a meal, talk about family, and really get to know some of the people with whom we work and train. I have learned as much from them as they have learned from me as an evaluator and instructor.



Photo by Angela Kershner, United States Army Pacific Command

Oregon National Guardsman Ccapt. Adam Lulay (left), evaluates Urban Search and Rescue personnel during the Field Training Exercise on the third day of the Pacific Resilience Disaster Relief Exercise & Exchange at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Force Training Academy in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Aug. 20. The PR DREE 2014 is the fifth iteration of the annual Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief engagement between the United States and Bangladesh.

STATE PARTNERSHIP

Oregon Guardsmen train in Vietnam; make friends across the globe

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

HANOI, Vietnam – Ten domestic emergency and response experts from the Oregon National Guard’s CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) participated in a series of informational and practical exchanges, Sept. 21–28, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Oregon National Guard formally began a partnership with Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) in November 2012 through the National Guard State Partnership Program. This training exchange was designed to use the expertise of Oregon’s CERFP to enhance the capabilities of VINASARCOM in areas such as light and medium urban search and extraction and medical first response. The partnership also provides the Oregon National Guard with an opportunity to



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Stefanie Blanchard, of the 224th Engineer Company, demonstrates search and extraction marking techniques to a group of Vietnamese engineers, Sept. 23, at the 249th Engineer Brigade Headquarters in Vietnam. The markings are used to identify different areas in a disaster zone or collapsed building and provide information such as casualties in the rubble, search teams in the rubble, or fatalities.



Above: A member of the search and extraction team with the Oregon National Guard’s CERFP unit demonstrates rescue rappelling to Vietnamese engineers, Sept. 22, in Vietnam.



Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Christner, of the 224th Engineer Company, Oregon Army National Guard, demonstrates the use of a tripod designed for hoisting victims from deep holes to a team of engineers from 249th Engineer Brigade, Vietnam People’s Army, Sept. 22, in Vietnam.

learn skills and procedures used in Vietnam in times of disaster and emergencies that may not be common in the U.S.

Nine Citizen-Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 224th Engineer Company, and one Citizen-Airman from the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing traveled halfway across the world to train with, learn from, and engage with Vietnamese engineers of the 249th Engineer Brigade, Vietnam People’s Army. The training included a variety of search and rescue scenarios including rappelling, rescue hoist operations, casualty extraction and rigging.

“The Oregon SPP with Vietnam is an incredible opportunity for our Citizen-Soldiers to conduct foreign relations training with Vietnam,” said Capt. Thanh Vo, 224th Engineer Company commander. “Where in the past we were fighting on opposite sides, today we are exchanging skills to better improve our capabilities to save our fellow countrymen’s lives.”

The weeklong exchange not only brought together search and extraction experts from two nations, but also forged friendships to last a lifetime. Facing temperatures in the high 90’s and low 100’s, with humidity so thick you could cut it with a knife, this group of Oregonians continued to not only provide top-notch training, but also find the time throughout the day to make personal connections with the 74 Vietnamese

engineers they worked with.

“The joint training environment that we worked in with the Vietnamese was beneficial to our Soldiers,” Vo continued. “It provided the opportunity to not only work with people outside of the National Guard, but to learn and train with Soldiers from an entirely different culture.”

Vo said the skills the Oregon Guardsmen learned in bridging communication barriers and creating relationships is key to solidifying the National Guard as a component of the United States’ international presence.

Below: Oregon National Guard service members pose for a photo with Vietnamese soldiers after a friendly game of volleyball, Sept. 24, in Vietnam



Vietnam delegation tours Oregon emergency response facilities, training

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard hosted a delegation from Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), Aug. 24-30, as part of the ongoing State Partnership Program. The weeklong visit included workshops related to emergency management and emergency response, as well as tours of emergency management and Oregon National Guard facilities.

Vice Admiral Pham Ngoc Minh, Deputy Chief of General Staff of Vietnam People’s

Army and Vice Standing Chairman of VINASARCOM, led the delegation, which also included other VINASARCOM experts in search and rescue, firefighting, explosion and building collapse, finance planning and investment, and foreign relations. Officials from the United States Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam, were also in attendance, including Cmdr. Brent Freeman, U.S. Naval Attache to Vietnam, and the Oregon National Guard’s Maj. Kyle Akers, Bilateral Affairs Officer to Vietnam.

The delegation observed a domestic response exercise and evaluation with the Oregon National Guard’s CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), Aug. 25, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. They toured emergency operations centers at Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and Multnomah County, in Portland, Oregon, Aug. 26, and Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management as well as the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Operations Center in Salem, Oregon, on Aug. 27.

The visit also included meetings with government, education, business and economic leaders at Portland State University’s Hatfield School of Government in Portland, Oregon.



Photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

A visiting delegation from Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) poses for a group photo with members of Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management during a workshop and tour of the state emergency coordination center, Aug. 27, in Salem, Oregon. The delegation visited facilities throughout the state to gain an understanding of Oregon’s emergency and disaster response preparedness in conjunction with the Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership Program.



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

A delegation from Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) tours and observes the Oregon National Guard’s CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) annual emergency response certification training, Aug. 25, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

The Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership with Vietnam is poised to greatly benefit all those involved in the program, with cross-cultural awareness, domestic emergency preparedness training, and the enhancement of international relationships.

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

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

The State Partnership program complements broader U.S. engagement with Vietnam in pursuit of shared priorities such as disaster relief, education, health, trade and the environment. The program directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels.

FEATURE

Oregon Soldiers bring the 'big guns' to XCTC for annual training



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Story by

1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BOISE, Idaho — Dusty grit, diesel exhaust and a cacophony of cannon blasts filled the air at the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) as more than 500 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers recently trained on their tanks, mortars and ground assault tactics.

With 22 Abrams M1A2 System Enhanced Package (SEP) Tanks, 38 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and enough mortars to shake the dirt out from under the high-desert tumbleweeds, the Oregon Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, trained for three weeks to increase their combat readiness.

“Being at the Orchard Training Center allows leaders to get their tanks, their Bradleys and their crews and Soldiers with live-fire and tactical maneuver and practice those skills, so when and if it becomes time to use them, they are already trained, proficient and confident,” said Lt. Col. Brian Dean, commander of the 3-116th Cav. Bn.

The Oregon Citizen-Soldiers ate, slept and trained in the hot, sandy OCTC to dust off – literally at times – their combat skills and prepare for a rotation to the Army’s National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, scheduled for next summer. Dean said some of his troops have not deployed, and those who have did not use tanks in their deployed roles.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD

Sp. Brandon Brummett, with Headquarters, Headquarters Command, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, serves breakfast to Soldiers conducting their annual training at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho, Aug. 21. Brummett, of LaGrande, Oregon, along with more than 500 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers, trained in Idaho for two weeks where commanders evaluated the unique combat readiness of each unit.

“What I hope the troops learn here is confidence in their leaders, their equipment and themselves,” Dean said. “This is an opportunity to get out and practice as a team and really enjoy being in the Army and following the Army as a profession.”

Training together for several weeks also has other benefits. Troops said the camaraderie and unit bonding was a big part of annual training.

“You don’t want to deploy with a crew that doesn’t really like each other. You want to make sure you really have cohesion and I think that’s one thing the National Guard really does well,” said Sgt. Eduardo Martinez, a tank gunner with Charlie Company, 3-116th Cav. Bn.

Tank and Bradley training is a series of scenarios designed to test the crew’s capabilities under pressure to navigate technical and mechanical errors. Staff Sgt. Brian Allender, the tank commander for Martinez’s crew, said a good team is what helps push through the stress.

“This environment and these big guns going off just adds to the chaos,” said Allender. “We eat a lot of dirt out here... a lot of dirt.”

Allender, Martinez and their crew ended up shooting the highest score for the target range and for the entire battalion. Martinez said the experience is what makes being in the National Guard unique and fulfilling.

“Who else gets to come out here and shoot big bullets, drive a machine this much, and go out and have a good time running around ranges?” Martinez added.

While Martinez’s tank crew scored 955 out of 1,000 to earn a “Top Gun” title, a Bradley crew also fired well and was named “Top Gun” in their category with a score of 988. Dean said seeing such high marks was a highlight for the training.

“The impressive part for me is that they continue to grow, even when they’re good and they’re meeting the standard, they just get better and better,” Dean said. “Anything I say about how difficult this is would be an understatement.”

The Soldiers in the armored beasts were not the only military forces training at OCTC. Mortar men with Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) littered one of the range with craters. The team launched mortars from their armored Bradleys, zeroed in by their fire support comrades in Detachment 2 calling in the targets from an elevated observation point.

“These guys here, this is what they do. This is their bread and butter,” said 1st Lt. Joshua Shepherd, a fire support officer with Detachment 2, HHC.

Shepherd said his Soldiers used the

opportunity to hone their skills with the latest, cutting-edge optical technology to identify targets and call for fire.

Across the makeshift battlefield, infantry Soldiers coated with dirt and grime, crammed into the back of their armored troop carriers like sardines. Hip to hip, the Soldiers waited for the ramp to drop, signaling their turn at battle.

“It’s an adrenaline rush when you’ve got tanks and Bradleys and armor meshing out here in the middle of nowhere. It’s a lot of fun,” said Staff Sgt. David Wahlstrom, a Bradley commander with 3rd Platoon, A Company, 3-116th Cav. Bn. “The training value out here is invaluable. This is where armor fights. Open terrain like this.”

All of the training, however, would not be possible without the support of troops with HHC, as well as maintenance Soldiers with the 145th Brigade Support Battalion.

“If it has wheels or tracks, we work on it,” said Sgt. Justin Daniel, a tank mechanic with F Company, 145th BSB.

With tankers focused on qualifying, the mechanic team was busy ensuring the Abrams Tanks and Bradleys were in fighting shape.

“If they didn’t have us, the tanks couldn’t do their job,” said Sp. Samantha Brumley, also a tank mechanic with F Company.

Keeping the tanks moving wasn’t the only vital support. Units also rotated around the training area to ensure Soldiers had their basic needs taken care of. One group with HHC delivered the most basic



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD

Sgt. Gerson Ferrera, main gunner for the commander’s tank of 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, demonstrates the controls for the weapon system on an Abrams M1A2 System Enhanced Package (SEP) tank during the unit’s annual training at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, Aug. 23. More than 500 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers participated in the XCTC exercise where commanders evaluated combat readiness.

need to training troops – food.

“If the troops don’t get logistical support they can’t shoot, they can’t move and they don’t want to move because they want to eat,” said Sp. Brandon Brummett, a supply specialist with HHC. “Without food, they don’t have energy to train or fight.”

Dean said this was the hardest, most extensive training specific to the battalion’s war-fighting function as tankers since the United States began counterinsurgency operations following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He said his troops, whether training or supporting, moved together as one, well-oiled machine.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the Soldiers and leaders of this battalion,” he said.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Hussey, tank mechanic section leader for F Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cav. Brigade Combat Team, works on the engine of an Abrams M1A2 System Enhanced Package (SEP) tank in support of a live-fire tank range during the unit’s annual training at the Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho, Aug. 21. More than 500 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers trained in the desert during XCTC exercise.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A Bradley Fighting Vehicle of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, engages an Abrams M1A1 of 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard, at close range during a maneuver to contact exercise, Aug. 23, at Orchard Combat Training Center, near Boise, Idaho. More than 500 Soldiers with the Oregon Army National Guard took part in the training designed to test their combat readiness.

FEATURE

Turning wrenches, adjusting stereotypes: Soldier follows dreams as tank mechanic

Story by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BOISE, Idaho — Speckled with engine oil and coated with a layer of dust, 23-year-old Spc. Samantha Brumley rummages through a larger-than-life toolbox to begin work with her fellow tank mechanics on servicing an Abrams M1A2 System Enhancement Package (SEP) tank in the high-desert training area southeast of Boise.

Her team was at the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) conducting annual training in support of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, in August 2014. While the service to the tank's nuclear, biological and chemical filter system is routine, Brumley's hands-on support is not. Brumley is the first woman to officially become a tank mechanic in the Oregon Army National Guard.

"I wanted to be a nurse. I actually wanted to be a medic when I got in, but that didn't happen," Brumley said.

Instead, the then 17-year-old joined as a communications specialist and later switched again to become an armament repairer where she maintained and fixed weapon systems. But she wanted more.

A 2013 decision by the Pentagon opened up more roles in combat units to women. This decision provided an opportunity to Brumley. After working near F Company tank mechanics, Brumley was asked if she would like to go to

school to become a tank mechanic, a role that had traditionally only been held by men.

The La Grande, Oregon, woman's response was simple.

"I'm not a desk-type person. I like getting hands-on. I like getting dirty. So I was like 'yeah, I wanna go,'" Brumley said.

In the spring of 2014, a year after the Pentagon decision, Brumley was on her way to a military career transition course at the Regional Training Institute in Umatilla, Oregon.

"I never thought I would join the National Guard and be a tank mechanic," said Brumley. "I certainly never thought I'd be the first woman."

But she was the first woman to attend the tank mechanic course at the RTI. Brumley said the six-week class taught her more than how to turn wrenches and make adjustments to a tank. It highlighted the adjustments she, the instructors and fellow tank mechanics would need to make as well.

"They didn't know how to act. They'd always say 'sorry, no offense' every five minutes or they'd see me lifting something and say 'oh, that's too heavy for her, she can't do this,'" said Brumley.

She said the next generation of women looking to break into combat roles need to have thick skin. "You can't take offense to a lot of things. You just need to be your own person and don't let the guys get you down."

Brumley graduated and returned to the same F Company tank section she had bonded with prior to attending school. This time, she came with the knowledge and official job title allowing her to work side-by-side with the tank mechanics.

This year's three-week training at the OCTC was Brumley's first annual training mission as a tank mechanic. Her supervisor and peers said she took on every challenge two-dozen Abrams tanks operating in a sandy landscape could throw at their maintenance section.

"She's just as good as any Soldier out there or even better," said her section leader, Sgt. 1st Class Paul Hussey. "She's operated the 70-ton recovery vehicle quite well even though it was her first time ever operating it."

After 17 years of working on tanks Hussey has seen how the field has changed over time. He said Brumley is treated just like all the other mechanics.

"I always think it's about the person rather than if they're a man or a woman for our job as tank mechanics," Hussey said. "She's asked to do the same job as everybody else and she's going to be expected to do the job just as good as everybody else."

When dealing with parts from a 70-ton tank, mechanics have to work together. For the NBC filter, Brumley works alongside Sgt. Justin Daniel. Daniel is a full-time technician for the Oregon Army National Guard where he already worked with women and said he had seen this transition coming.

"I know it seems like a big deal up top or in the public sometimes, but down here in the real world, it's no big deal," said Daniel, a fellow tank mechanic from La Grande, Oregon. "We just treat each other as Soldiers instead of a gender role."

Brumley said she didn't have any adjustment coming back to F Company, but acknowledged there may be some friction elsewhere in the military as women take on more front-line functions. "We're all Soldiers. We all wear the same uniform. Buck up and get used to it," Brumley said.

She may have wanted to join as a medic, but six years later and now a tank mechanic, Brumley said the Army experience has helped shift her desire from fixing people to fixing vehicles.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Samantha Brumley, a tank mechanic with F Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, poses for a photo in front of an Abrams M1A2 System Enhanced Package (SEP) tank while training at the Orchard Training Center near Boise, Idaho, Aug. 20. "They said they'd opened up the mechanics field to women, but they didn't tell me until I went to the school that I was the first woman to go through the course," said 23-year-old Brumley of La Grande, Ore.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brumley discusses maintenance procedures with a fellow tank mechanic while working on an Abrams M1A2 System Enhanced Package (SEP) tank at the Orchard Training Center, Idaho, Aug. 20. Brumley is the first female tank mechanic in the Oregon Army National Guard.

"Being a mechanic here helped me discover what being a mechanic is like," Brumley said. She added that her newly found skills have given her direction for a career when she's not in uniform. "I want to be a diesel mechanic."

Her supervisor Hussey has this advice for women looking to follow in Brumley's boot prints, "Don't let anybody kick you down. Just drive forward."

Before scrambling into the driver's seat of the Abrams tank — another position held predominantly by male Soldiers, Brumley said she is humbled by her potential impact on other women in uniform.

"I'm proud of being the first female tank mechanic, but I don't like getting called out on it because it's different," Brumley said. "It's just a job and an opportunity. I feel like one of the guys anyway. All the opportunities I've had, I wouldn't trade it."

With that, Brumley fires up the Abrams tank and rolls forward, on track for what comes next.

A day in the life of mortarmen

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, participated in live-fire exercises using M120 mortar rounds at the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), near Boise, Idaho, during their annual training.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD

Pvt. Kemp Larson, with Detachment 1, HHC 3-116, breaks down ammunition to load the M1064 Mortar Carrier tracked vehicle, Aug. 21.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 115th MPAD

1st Lt. Sam Speacht, commander of Detachment 2, HHC 3-116, operates a Forward Observer System (FOS) to guide mortars to their target, Aug. 21.



Photos by 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD

Pvt. Kolton Wortman (left) and Pvt. Torie Gonzalez, with Detachment 1, HHC 3-116, fire an M120 mortar round during live-fire exercises, Aug. 21.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Klamath Falls Airmen complete successful annual training in Chiloquin



Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. Michael Moore (right), directs Airman 1st Class Garrett Leanders, both of 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, on how to form up a perimeter during an area defense exercise, July 24, near Bonanza, Oregon. The 270th ATCS controls the airspace for Kingsley Field but also has an expeditionary tasking. This year's annual training emphasized that capability and involved several exercises off base.

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

CHILOQUIN, Oregon — The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron took their annual training up a notch this year choosing to make it more realistic.

Typically, their training falls in conjunction with a major inspection and that requires all of the exercises and simulations be constrained to Kingsley Field proper. However, the 270th ATCS mission is also expeditionary in nature and this year they will train to pack up and control aircraft on any field, anywhere in the world.

They exercised that capability in specific ways; first in securing an area using base defense tactics, and secondly by setting up an actual airfield with all the required parts — far away from the base.

July 24 found the 270th caravanning toward Bonanza, Oregon, “deuce-and-a-

half’s” brimming with helmeted Airmen ready to secure several acres of public land. After arriving, troops formed a perimeter prepared to take on any threats to securing a simulated airfield.

Tech. Sgt. William Briones, of the 173rd Security Forces Squadron, lent his expertise and experience from Afghanistan and other deployments, as well as Marine Corps training, to throw a number of scenarios at them. Among them, insurgents stormed down a hill assaulting the perimeter with weapons loaded with blank ammunition.

A quick reaction force rapidly quelled the attack and Briones evaluated the effort.

“The quick reaction force was bar-none, good,” he said later.

The next logical step was to set up an air traffic control center complete with all necessary gear. The Chiloquin State Airport made a perfect setting for the training — unmanned and ringed with sagebrush, it was just austere enough to test every aspect

of mobilizing air traffic control capability.

“It’s actually getting our equipment off of Kingsley Field exercise area which was condensed,” said 1st Lt. Alex Fugate, 270th Chief of Air Traffic Control.

Troops wielded hand axes, clearing brush for the TRN-48 Tactical Air Navigation Aid TACAN, a large trailer housing a system that allows aircraft to orient themselves to the airstrip. Once the TACAN was properly placed, troops dug holes near it and drove copper rods into the ground with sledge hammers

Then, with fire extinguishers at the ready, a contained pyrotechnic device fused ground wires and rods together. This insured that if lightning did strike the TACAN antennae, it would travel around vital components and dissipate into the soil.

Elsewhere, crews worked to properly place the radar unit, although in this case a trailer with a generator substituted for the actual piece of equipment. The other pieces of equipment are the real thing, but the radar’s challenges are easy to simulate and hard to overcome. That equipment, towed by a vehicle must be perpendicular to the airstrip, and that means it may not be even one degree off.

“What is critical is the angle that it’s lined up to,” said Master Sgt. Xavier Tecson, 270th Radar Maintenance Technician. “If you are a half-an-inch off here and this thing goes out 15 nautical miles, you’ll be way off out there for a precision approach.”

That would be unacceptable, Tecson said. Therefore, Tecson’s Airmen practice something he’s done on deployments to Iraq and elsewhere — trial and error until finally pulling the trailer around one last time results in perfect alignment.

On the other side of the airfield, members set up reflectors resembling satellite dishes. This provides another dose of reality — they have to be connected by wire to the mobile air traffic control tower, more than 1,500 feet laid around the air strip.

“This really exposes folks to the real world, tech order criteria versus what we’ve done for multiple years which was how to do

it for the Operational Readiness Inspection,” said Maj. Michael Balzotti, 270th ATCS Commander. “For example, convoying up here is not an ORI requirement, but we have to forward deploy in the real world, and this helps prepare us to really gather our gear and set it up where and when we are asked.”

The process of staging an exercise at the Chiloquin Airport actually began in January 2014 with members of the 270th doing a site survey as well as coordinating with local officials to get the okay. Over the ensuing months, Balzotti says those members chose the locations for all the gear and the activity on the field.

“What we see here is getting it out the door,” he said.

The 270th ATCS is responsible for day-to-day air traffic control at Kingsley Field and falls under the Oregon Air National Guard Combat Operations Group.



Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Mark Chinander, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, hacks at sagebrush to clear an area for TRN-48 Tactical Air Navigation Aid, which must be placed in a very specific area relative to the runway, during the unit’s annual training, July 26.

Airmen provided critical support to overseas installations

Continued from Front Page

repairs, airfield upgrades, and maintenance support to current base facilities. Additionally, three CES firefighters were assigned to Bahrain, performing fire and emergency services for both flight line and base personnel.

“These efforts laid a solid foundation for the ongoing Air Force mission and the transition to the next phase of U.S. military operations,” said 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Commander Jason Lay, who led the Oregon team at Bagram.

During their six-month deployment, the CES accomplished numerous high-visibility projects. They managed more than \$33 million of construction contracts, critical to the ongoing OEF mission at the busiest combat logistical center operated by the Department of Defense. Collectively, they completed more than 970 individual work orders, including 13 major projects related to the base infrastructure, ramps, and taxi and runway capacities.

Completing her first deployment, Staff Sgt. Alicia Tishmack, an emergency management specialist, hopes to take some of the challenges of the deployment experience and use it to enhance her knowledge and job proficiency after this deployment.

“Deploying allowed me to utilize the skills that I have developed during my seven years in the National Guard while learning more about this career field,” she said.

Tishmack and other 142nd CES members assigned at Bagram Air Base endured the heat, dust, long hours of work, and the difficulties of separation from their



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber shakes hands with Airmen who recently returned from overseas deployments at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Dec. 7.

loved ones. “It was hard at times [being away] but the mission kept me focused and busy,” she said.

Lay believes his Airmen made a positive contribution to the nation’s sustained overseas contingency operation.

“They stood as shining examples as Citizen-Airmen of the Air National Guard, making an impact toward the military war effort,” he said.

While deployed to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, the six Airmen from the 142nd FW Security Forces Squadron defended their area of responsibility with an equally impressive assignment. During their six-months on station, they resisted five indirect fire attacks, secured their post during multiple base-wide lockdowns and provided post-attack reconnaissance. They helped assure a 100 percent record of accountability.

“We formed a good bond and were trained in advanced for this task,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Cubias, assigned to the 142nd SFS.

As one of just two noncommissioned



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

Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron and Security Forces Squadron take part in their formal demobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon, Dec. 7. The Airmen returned from deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

officers with the group, Cubias has multiple deployments to his credit with the unit prior to this mission. He and the rest of the team of Oregon Guardsmen, volunteered for critical additional duties at the base hospital, firing range, and United States Organization (USO).

Upon returning home, Cubias, like many of the 142nd FW Airmen who undertook the OEF mission, expressed a renewed sense of meaning from this particular deployment.

“I feel like I belong to something greater, something bigger,” he said. “I’m representing my country.”

In his concluding remarks at the demobilization ceremony, Hokanson reiterated the conduct and accomplishments of the 33 local Airmen returning home to the Pacific Northwest from overseas duty.

“I hope each and every one of you takes pride in knowing that you, as individuals and together as a team, made a difference and always made us proud,” Hokanson said. “Your skills are not only critical on a global scale but also here at home, and we’re really glad to have you back.”

Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing Col. Richard Wedan, shared Hokanson’s sentiments, shaking hands with each Airman following the ceremony and spending time with many family members and supporters who reinforced the mission from the home front.

“We need to remember the sacrifices made by the families, friends and employers of these Airmen as well,” said Wedan. “Their enduring assistance and care is critical to the National Guard’s success.”

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

New aircraft shelters at Portland Air Base protect Eagles, maintainers

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

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Oregon -- Winter, spring, summer or fall; each of these seasons ushers in distinctive environments for air and maintenance crews who work on the flightline.

With nine new aircraft shelters recently installed here, all four seasons are now covered when it comes to protecting the base's F-15 Eagles from the elements. Installation of the shelters mitigates concerns of working in wet areas or under-lighted spaces during early morning or night situations for the maintenance Airmen who generate the jets each day.

The idea for the shelters dates back to 2006, but completion of them means a more functional working environment and keeping tools and other expensive equipment out of the rain or harsh summer sun conditions.

It took only a few months this summer to assemble the aircraft shelters, which now sit on the west ramp of the base, but the pathway of funding and procurement took nearly eight years.

The process initially began when then-Oregon Air National Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. Daniel O'Hollaren, asked Lt. Col. Joseph Harris, 142nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Commander at the time, to travel to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and investigate a new system to de-humidify aircraft.

"The tests were inconclusive, but one of the results was that NGB [National Guard Buearu] approved the use of shelters for aircraft," said Harris.

One of the biggest benefits for sheltering the jets is corrosion prevention. As much as the shelters protect the exterior of the airframes, some of the most expensive damage happens to the electronic components on the inside of the jets with humidity and moisture.

"Just imagine what your car would look like if you never put it in the garage for 30 years," said Harris.

The Logistics Department (A4) at NGB would not approve the funds until the Installations and Mission Support Department (A7) approved the funding.

The Logistics portion paid for the above ground work.

But Harris recalled a hitch in the process.

"Contracting wants funding before they can solidify bids. Yet it is really hard to get a good, valid unfunded submittal requesting funds if you don't have any bids. So you are in this 'chicken before the egg' move and it fell apart two years in a row even when [we had confirmation that] they could fund the shelters," said Harris.

Starting again in 2011, the 142nd Fighter Wing reengaged the process. But it was not until 2013 that the process got fully back on track and the team in place to secure the shelters. Fiscal year 2013 money was used to purchase the shelters, the construction started in the spring of 2014.

Per contracting requirements, the project funding needed to be awarded within the same fiscal year. All in all, it took 11 months from the time the contract was awarded until the construction project was completed.

"The funding is under the Operations and Maintenance budget so it became an equipment item purchase; nine individual equipment purchases just under \$250,000 a piece," said Lt. Col. Jenifer Parady, 142nd Comptroller Flight Commander.

Parady and her team worked for nearly four years to secure the funding as the process was completed to insure that every aspect was carefully congregated.

"Because the shelters are considered equipment items, the \$2,107,600 for all nine shelter bays were purchased using Operations and Maintenance funds. Another \$170,000 was spent to provide electrical power to them," she said.

In stark contrast to the funding hurdles, the design and construction process was on budget and finished just under the 220 days established for the project.

"It was 'text book.' This went exactly the way you want a project like this to go," said Capt. Lucas Smith, Base Civil Engineer.

Overall the Civil Engineering Squadron managed the design in terms of size and what the shelters would look like. They worked with a local construction firm that built the shelters.

"This really was a team effort. Rarely have I seen a construction project work this well considering all the moving parts," said Smith.

Keeping the jets on mission and the construction process on schedule was initially a major concern. The aircraft



Lt. Col. Todd Hofford, pilot with the 123rd Fighter Squadron begins to prepare for a morning flight as Senior Airman Adam Burger (ladder) and Master Sgt. Dustin Brice, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Group, begin pre-flight maintenance operations, Sept. 4, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon.

operations moved to the weapons ramp so that construction could begin with the favorable spring and summer weather.

Senior Master Sgt. Brian Kohl, Fabrication Flight Chief, is the liaison between the Aircraft Maintenance Group and CE.

"It all worked really well. We moved our entire operation to the west ramp of the base. The idea was to put a minimal impact on the operation regarding our weapons team when we moved into their work area," he said.

Kohl made the arrangements to have trailers set up for the flightline staff to work out of and insured that escorts were provided for security with the contractors working on base.

"No flying time was affected, and we did not miss one sortie during the whole construction period," said Kohl.

When the project was completed Aug. 25, the morning launch took off from the temporary work area on the west ramp of the base and two hours later the jets were recovered at the east ramp using the new shelters.

According to Kohl, any fighter jet in the U.S. military inventory can fit in the new shelters. Overall the shelters will provide safety for flightline staff and will save money for the

base over time.

"We did the analysis and the shelters will pay for themselves between five and six years," said Harris. "This was one of the driving factors that led NGB to approve the shelters because they realized it was a good investment of long term resources."

Several other factors and savings will be predictable over time as well. The jets won't need de-icing in the winter - saving time and money, and diminishing ground water issues. Paint on the airframes is expected to hold up longer and corrosion should decrease with the use of the shelters.

One final piece to the project is still delayed due to budgeting - more power.

When additional electrical power to the shelters is in place, ultimately the shelters will be able to handle 400 Hz of power, thus allowing the jets to be generated from the shelter bays.

"Once they get power, they will be perfect; they don't need sides, doors, or much else," said Smith. After just two weeks of use, the maintenance staff have adjusted well to the new shelters.

The shelters are one of the first new projects erected on base in several years and change the physical look of the flightline.

Wing Inspection Team tests 142nd FW unit readiness

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel and
Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Oregon -- The Wing Inspection Team conducted a readiness exercise, July 31- Aug 3, that challenged the 142nd Fighter Wing members under a variety of conditions that focused on the overall mission capabilities.

This was the first exercise to use the Wing Inspection Team (WIT) members, which is part of the U. S. Air Force inspection system helping to restructure how inspections are now conducted.

The goal of the WIT is to offer the wing commander an impartial assessment on the wing's ability to accomplish the mission.

"Instead of focusing on an external event, we've been given the approval to build something that exercises more likely scenarios," said Lt. Col. Frank Page, 142nd Fighter Wing Inspector Planner.

Some of the test scenarios involved elements of the Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the base fire department, as well as medical and security forces members.

"The Wing Inspection Team members come from the units we are testing and the benefit of this exercise is to build a stronger and more effective unit," said

Page.

The overall plan and implementation of these types of exercises now resides at the wing-level Inspector General office with support from the Wing Inspection Team.

These subject matter experts were sworn in last year by the wing commander, Col. Rick Wedan. They conduct independent evaluations through inspections and other means of testing the Wing's readiness.

"It's so refreshing to see the new Air Force Inspection System change the way we think about evaluation and exercises," said Wedan.

"Putting outdated and irrelevant evaluation scenarios in the rear view mirror is a step in the right direction."

In previous Phase I and II inspections, the wing would ramp up months before and spend significant time and resources over several UTA periods preparing for that inspection.

By managing the process at the wing level, manpower and budgetary savings were important considerations to the new inspection process.

"We were spending extraordinary resources preparing for inspections to make ourselves Inspection-Ready. The Air Force realized this, and decided it was time to shift the focus to being Mission-Ready every day," said Wedan.

The change in the inspection procedure challenged many members of the wing to



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

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Specialist Tech. Sgt. Jason Ganner, left, has help with his EOD 9 suit from Staff Sgt. Rachel Fleming, right, during a Wing Inspection Team exercise, Aug. 1, 2014 at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Both members are assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron.

get past the old *Base X* mindset.

"The team (came) with their game faces on, doing their level best to make the weekend a success," Wedan added.

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OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd FW Airmen can now earn CCAF degrees through Klamath Community College

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

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Oregon -- Every autumn, college students across the nation participate in a rite of passage, as they return to campuses large and small to pursue their dreams of earning a diploma. Airmen at the 142nd Fighter Wing now have the same opportunity to complete their associate's degrees on base.

With the official signing of a memorandum of understanding, Oct. 7, the 142nd Fighter Wing and Klamath Community College (KCC), based in Klamath Falls, Oregon, began offering classes on site at Portland Air National Guard Base to help Airmen achieve their Community College of the Air Force Degrees (CCAF).

"This agreement will allow our Airmen to complete the classes they need to finish their CCAF degrees and hopefully be able to add another stripe in the process," said Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

Beginning in October of 2015, members of the Air Force and Air National Guard will need to have completed a CCAF degree to be promoted to the ranks of Senior Master Sgt. (E-8) and Chief Master Sgt. (E-9).

The 142nd Fighter Wing now joins the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon, with the same educational partnership. Leaders at the



173rd Fighter Wing signed a similar memorandum of understanding in April. The agreement allows KCC staff and faculty access to the Portland Air Base to academically advise students and instruct classes.

"We have experience with Kingsley Field [with the 173rd Fighter Wing] working with their Airmen because it's the right thing to do; to support our Airmen because of what all of you do for our country," said Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, KCC President.

The courses are specifically intended to cover the requirements needed for degree programs with the Community College of the Air Force. Speech and math classes are being offered on base this fall term, and they meet the CCAF semester-hour requirements.

"Currently we have a mix of AGR [active duty guard-reserve], traditional Guard and Reservists taking courses," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Roper, Combat Operations Group senior enlisted advisor.

It was the Chief Master Sergeants Counsel that got the ball rolling to allow Airmen a chance to finish key courses



Staff members from Klamath Community College (KCC) and Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing join Col. Richard W. Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, (third from right) and Dr. Roberto Gutierrez, President of Klamath Community College, (fourth from right) for a group photo following the signing of a memorandum of understanding ceremony between the college and the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oct. 7, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon. Above left: Gutierrez (left) and Wedan pose together after the ceremony.

toward their degrees on base.

"There are five core areas where a three-hour class is required for basic electives," said Roper. "Eventually humanities, social science and written communication coursework will be added."

Gutierrez explained how the dynamics of the work place have changed from previous generations. "The transformation of the work place has begun and 70 percent of new jobs now require post secondary education."

"The community college system reflects our values as a nation, because the system allows open access to everyone," he said.

Airmen completing their associate's degrees will see the pathway to promotions enhanced in the process. The courses begin after the duty day and range from two to three hours in length.

"This is a great opportunity for our folks, and a testament to our Citizen-Airmen as integrated members of the community," said Wedan.

F-15 maintenance; the relationship between jet and maintainer

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon — The life of a 173rd Fighter Wing maintainer at Kingsley Field, Oregon, has fundamental qualities; first off, you will be busy ... really busy.

The base routinely prepares 12 jets on a given day, so 10 can fly in the morning and eight of those can fly in the afternoon.

Every morning, this creates a beehive of activity as numerous shops tend to the care of all 32 aircraft assigned.

But the number of aircraft ready to take to the skies is never 32. Why?

One of the challenges of flying in this day and age is overcoming the shortage of F-15 parts. Maintenance shops overcome this by parking at least one aircraft in a hangar and borrowing its critical parts for other airframes.

They are called "CANN-birds" and they are used for a month or so before returning to the flying schedule. This cycle contributes to the busy pace at Kingsley, but the fact of the matter is it is normal for all flying units.

Any maintainer will tell you when it's time to put an aircraft back in the air after it has been a "CANN-bird" or has not been flown for some time, it won't be as simple as replacing the parts and cranking it up.

No, it will require troubleshooting, working little kinks out here and there; it could almost be called massaging. What makes this interesting is that, theoretically, it really shouldn't happen this way.

All the parts are tested, calibrated, adjusted, and ready to go and the aircraft should crank right up. However, in reality, some close attention is required.

"Every aircraft is different. If you use cars as an example, every Mustang is different," said Chief Master Sgt. Joe McKenzie, 173rd Fighter Wing maintenance chief.

What McKenzie is saying is that two cars produced at the same time on the same line will still have differences.

He relates that to the jets and says, "We have to know beyond the broad guidelines in the T.O. how things should be set exactly to make each individual aircraft really perform ... and each one is different."

He gives one example that speaks volumes about the level of experience needed to effectively maintain the jets.

"If you look at the sight windows on the IDGs (integrated drive generators), there are silver bands on them showing what the internal oil level should be; but I know, and everybody out here that's been crewing a jet for 20 years, knows exactly what level their aircraft should have. They are all a little different; too high and the generator can get hot and cause a heat failure and too low and it won't crank enough juice," says McKenzie.

McKenzie referenced levels that are within tolerances, within the indicated band on the sight window, and within the specifications of the technical order.

The complex systems that endure massive amounts of stress are kept in perfect working order by a maintainer's intimate knowledge of his jet; a bond between the maintainer and his aircraft.

With the recent iron flow into Kingsley Field - gaining five aircraft - the maintainers feel the frustration of having to make a new jet their own.

When asked what the hardest part of switching from one aircraft to another, F-15 crew chief Master Sgt. Sean Campbell says immediately, "Watching the jet leave."

That's surprising when he could have easily mentioned the laundry list of problems these "new" aircraft have - leaks, bad hydraulics, bad wiring, non-functional radar and avionics systems, and the list goes on.

Maj. Micah Lambert, the former maintenance squadron commander, says it takes about two years to get one of these new jets to the place where the 173rd Maintenance Group is satisfied with their performance.

Think of it as two years for the maintainers to know their aircraft thoroughly, he said.



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

An F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing is almost unrecognizable as a fighter aircraft with multiple pieces missing from its body while sitting in the hangar at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Oct. 16. This aircraft is going through phase maintenance where the 173rd FW maintainers closely inspect the aircraft for cracks and other types of damage, verifying that the 30-plus year-old aircraft is safe to fly.

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SERVICE MEMBER & FAMILY SUPPORT

Oregon National Guard 'Military Teen Panel' helps teens, families

Story by Monicia Warner,
The Bulletin

EAGLE CREST, Oregon — Brooke Blythe, 15, of Bend, Oregon, is dealing with deployment for the first time.

Her dad, Spc. Jesse Blythe, 31, deployed with the Oregon Army National Guard 1-82 Cavalry Squadron in June and isn't expected to return until July 2015.

Service Member and Family Support director.

The panel, along with other military kids and their families, gathered at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon, for the 2014 Oregon State Youth Symposium sponsored by the Oregon National Guard.

The theme, "Because Together is Better," signified the weekend's team-building activities, including tackling

"Kids could be going to school with other military kids and they wouldn't know it."

- Amy Conroy,

Citizen-Airman and Family Readiness Manager

To help her cope with his deployment, she joined the Oregon Military Teen Panel and has recently completed her first year.

"It's a very rough time to go through. There's so many adjustments in such a short period of time," said Brooke, a sophomore at Mountain View High School. "Helping other kids get their mind off (deployment) helps me too."

The Teen Panel is a federally funded program under the National Guard's Service Member and Family Support division.

Since the panel was created in 2010, it has blossomed to 14 kids representing all seven regions of Oregon. Their purpose? Connecting with other military kids and helping to bridge the gap between service members, their families and their children.

"We're giving these teens the ability to speak to their peers in a way that enhances the teen who does the counseling (by) giving them empathy skills and listening skills, as well as the one who receives it," said Terry Larkin, 59, Oregon National Guard chaplain and

low-ropes courses and learning about military culture at Biak Training Center near Powell Butte, Oregon, and creating artwork with purpose statements based on lessons from the book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens."

"A lot of the kids feel very isolated and maybe even slightly resentful toward the military because they don't have an understanding of military culture or it's taken their parents away," said Amy Conroy, 34, Airman and family-readiness manager for the Oregon National Guard. "So when they come to events like this, it becomes a totally different perspective of what the military can do."

According to Conroy and Michelle Kochosky, State Family Program director, the panel steps in where many Oregon schools don't — it provides a simpler way for military kids to connect with one another through youth-oriented programming.

"Oregon does not currently, within the school system, have a way for families to self-identify, so in the school structure there's not a lot of intentional support for



Photo by Meg Russos, The Bulletin (Reprinted with permission)

Oregon Military Department State Family Program Director Michelle Kochosky interacts with students as part of an Oregon Military Teen Panel event. The program helps military kids connect with one another through youth-oriented events.

families," Conroy said. "Kids could be going to school with other military kids and they wouldn't know it."

"It's up to the individual school districts on how (or) if they implement, and there's probably five across the entire state that have any type of formalized curriculum or activity or support club," Kochosky, 36, added. "We underestimate how many schools are willing to help that probably don't know or have never thought to ask; a lot of teachers are willing to help if we just encourage them."

As members of the panel, teens serve two-year terms, meet once quarterly and participate in monthly conference calls. They also do community service work in Oregon and Idaho and plan annual youth and family events such as the State Youth Symposium, Month of the Military Child

and Young Leaders' Conference.

Brooke helps organize conference calls between panel members and also contributes to an advice column published in a monthly newsletter to youth and families. She said she plans to work harder in her final year as a teen panel member and try to encourage other Central Oregon military kids to apply.

"It depends on the person, but if they were really good at speaking in front of people, inspirationally, and good with kids, I would recommend it," Brooke said. "It's given me a lot of leadership and amazing opportunities that the average kid may not get. It's helped me mature and become the person I want to be."

This article and the photo were reprinted with express permission from The Bulletin.

142FW Family Programs manager retires, welcomes new director

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

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Oregon - As an eight year old, Mary Bell and her family moved to the Portland Air Force Base in 1961, when her father was reassigned from Spandau Air Force Base, Germany.

Five years later, he was the last active duty Airman on base to help transition the active Air Force alert mission to the Air National Guard.

"They flew an official with all the paperwork along with a photographer from McChord Air Force Base, Washington, to record my dad's retirement, as he was the senior ranking and last person that was still on active duty here," said Bell.

Like her father who retired and facilitated one transformation on base, Bell will retire and transition her position as Family Programs Manager to Amy Conroy.

Bell has been associated in one way or another with the Portland Air Base for more than 54 years and drew on her experience as a military family member when she helped create the Family Programs position 12 years ago with the 142nd Fighter Wing.

It was in early 2002, when Bell returned to the National Guard Base here, and was hired as one of 89 new Family Programs Directors throughout all the U.S. Air National Guard Bases, one per Wing.

With the program being new, the plans and objectives were not clear cut but this gave Bell the opportunity to create her position and the program from the ground up.

"After the first year I tried to envision what a family would need, so I interviewed my mother, a military spouse, and got a good scope of what was important for military families," she said.

Whether it has been preparing service and family members for deployments

or working on reintegration events after deployments or setting up large undertakings such as Family Day and Young America Day on base, Bell's personal touch has been a part of nearly every plan and occasion.

Evoking how leadership has embraced the role of the Family Programs, Bell emphasized, "This job was an awesome responsibility because the military mission goes on; I got to create something from scratch, not often do you get to do that and have the people back you up to do that."

In the early days when building the program, Bell recalled how email was the best and sometimes only way to reach family members.

Over the years technology such as smart phones and social media has given family programs new ways to reach out and inform those family and civilian employers about various happenings at the air base, she said.

"We no longer have a base commissary or BX [Base Exchange], there are no child or youth centers here so events like Young America Day are huge, because it allows families direct access to see the mission and interact during the events we organize," said Bell.

Transitioning into the job, Conroy says she has some big shoes to fill but is more than ready for the challenge and opportunity that comes through working with Citizen-Airmen.

"Getting to start from the foundation that Mary created, I don't have to start from square one, I get to grow from her successes," said Conroy.

Having worked the last four years in child and youth programs with the Oregon National Guard in Salem, Oregon, Conroy's varied background made her an impressive successor for the Family Programs position.

Like Bell, she was instrumental in



142nd Fighter Wing Family Programs Director Mary Bell (left) and her replacement Amy Conroy (right) stand together for a photograph at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Sept. 23. Bell has been the Family Programs Director for nearly 12 years and retired on Oct. 1, with Conroy taking her place full time.

creating programs like the Oregon Military Teen Panel and coordinated youth camps, workshops and outdoor programs for families of deployed members.

"Working with the Oregon National Guard, I've been able to create and think outside the box, allowing me to create fun and unique programs and bring it into the military setting for the first time," she said.

Having played college basketball, Conroy has also been a college assistant coach and has a master's in adolescent brain development and adventure based programs from the California State University-Chico.

She also has social work experience with child and foster care case management. Both Bell and Conroy feel that one of the most neglected areas within the Air National Guard involves funding for child and youth programs.

"There has been a gap in youth service and I think that the resources and attention is moving in that direction," said Conroy.

The family readiness program has been

an important piece not only for family members but also for Airmen who need to concentrate on their jobs and the overall mission, she said.

"That is our job where we [at family programs] can assist our military members who have crucial and intense jobs," Conroy said.

"Knowing that their family is taken care of allows them to focus and be confident in their jobs, thus making everyone in the family feel supported."

As Bell hands off "her baby" to Conroy, she said the job is already in good hands.

"Amy is going to do a fabulous job," she said. "I just wanted to make sure I turned it over to somebody who is going to love it as much as I do."

Pausing to reflect on her time with the Wing, Bell said what she is going to miss most about the job are the people.

"Consummate professionals. They love what they do, they are good at it, and they made my job really easy."

NEWS

Playbook and Resilience Plan prepare Oregon for 'the big one'

Story courtesy

Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon – The Governor's Task Force on Resilience Plan Implementation submitted recommendations to the Oregon State Legislature on how to help prepare Oregon for a major earthquake.

Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 700-mile fault line stretching from offshore northern California to southern British Columbia. Experts have long predicted that Oregon is due for a major 9.0 or higher earthquake, and the recommendations of the task force are aimed at helping prepare the state in critical areas for a disaster of this magnitude. The results of a Cascadia event could be significant loss of life, widespread injuries, and major property and critical infrastructure destruction.

"We have a clear plan for what needs to be done, and now is the time to take our first significant steps forward," said Scott Ashford, dean of the College of Engineering at Oregon State University, chair of the Governor's Task Force, and an expert on liquefaction and earthquake engineering. He has studied disasters all over the world, similar to those that Oregon will face.

A large Cascadia Subduction Zone rupture in the state could cause an earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that struck off the coast of Japan in 2011, which devastated that country.

The Task Force was formed as a result of Senate Bill 33, legislation that established a task force charged with implementing the

recommendations of the Oregon Resilience Plan. The Oregon Resilience Plan was released to Oregon legislators in 2013, and outlined earthquake vulnerabilities in the state. The recommendations of the task force include capital expenditures toward infrastructure, increased focus on developing community resilience, and structural improvements to critical facilities.

"The challenges we face are enormous, but I really believe Oregonians are ready to take an important step toward resilience. This is our chance," said Ashford.

Some of the task force recommendations include establishing a resilience policy advisor to the governor, providing the state with ongoing, long-term, statewide resilience oversight; along with increased funding for training and education for decision makers in the public, private, and non-profit sectors; and additional dollars for teaching disaster preparedness in public schools.

The report and supporting information can be found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/Resilience-Taskforce.aspx>

In addition, the Governor's Office and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management developed the Cascadia Playbook, a guide Oregon will use to synchronize response efforts in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber joined Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Dave Stuckey, Director of Oregon Office of Emergency Management, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton,



Photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber signs a proclamation for National Preparedness Month during a kick-off event for the Cascadia Playbook, Sept. 9, after touring the Emergency Operations Center for Clatsop County at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The Governor's Office and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management developed the Cascadia Playbook to help ensure state agencies are synchronized in their emergency response, and provide decision makers with a guide to allocate and manage resources efficiently.

Oregon, Sept. 9, to unveil the Playbook.

The Office of Emergency Management will periodically update the Playbook as it continues to work with state agencies, non-governmental agencies, and the private sector to prepare for a Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

"I think we all know that it is impossible to prevent an earthquake or tsunami, but

we can and must prepare," Kitzhaber said. "In doing so, it gives us the opportunity to harness yet another power, that is the power of individuals and the power of communities."

For more information visit the Oregon Office of Emergency Management website: <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/index.aspx>

Team Red, White, Blue connects Vets

Story by Spc. Matthew Burnett,

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PORTLAND, Oregon – All too often the sense of brotherhood and bonding seem to end when a service member leaves the armed forces. Team Red, White and Blue, a global non-profit organization with both a Portland and Salem chapter, seeks to bring veterans and non-veterans together in order to reestablish that sense of belonging.

Team RWB was founded by Mike Ervin, a retired U.S. Army major, as a means to unite veterans and non-veterans across the country through physical activity. The group participates in runs, hikes, outdoor recreations and after-work get-togethers. It has approximately 36,000 active members across the globe and is now the leading veterans non-profit organization in the country.

"Team RWB is a place to build a community of individuals that will always be there for each other," said Michele Haynes, Portland chapter team captain. "We have been growing fast, roughly 500 new

members each week."

Team RWB unites veterans with members of their community. Haynes is a prime example of Team RWB's ability to connect citizens and veterans together. Haynes is not a veteran, however she has a deep connection with the armed forces through members of her family who have served. Haynes works at Nike and joined Team RWB shortly after she found them running on the Nike campus in Portland. She was made captain in April 2014 and has been instrumental in helping to obtain a Nike sponsorship for RWB.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for service men and women and this is my way to give back," said Haynes.

Oregon National Guard veterans, both active and retired, along with their family and friends, have increased Team RWB's membership in Oregon.

"We have spouses and family members of the men and women deployed overseas who join RWB. It's great because it gives them the chance to connect with that side of their loved one's life that they don't get to experience," said Austin Robbins, a retired master sergeant with the Oregon Army National Guard.

He said Team RWB has been such a success in Oregon that the Salem chapter was recently created. Robbins joined RWB at this time and helped to build the Salem chapter.

"We started with a few vets and now have roughly 178," Robbins said of the Salem chapter numbers. "The best part about RWB is it's a true global community; RWB members just visiting from out of state show up at our local events."

Team RWB's global community includes chapters in Japan and Italy. With a growing list of sponsors, word is spreading and the organization is growing more popular.

"The east coast has the majority of the chapters," said Haynes. "The west coast is catching up with chapters being formed all the time."

Team RWB is an opportunity for veterans to find groups of individuals who have the same background. It allows them to engage in the same camaraderie that is often missing once a person leaves the armed forces, as well as participate in physical activity.

For more information, visit the Team RWB website at <http://teamrwb.org/>



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik, JFHQ Public Affairs

Members of Team Red, White and Blue run together in the first Veteran's Run, Nov. 8, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon.

RECRUITING & RETENTION

Oregon ranks top 10 for retention

Story by Spc. Matthew Burnett,

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) has met and exceeded its retention quota for fiscal year 2014, even as nearly 1,000 Oregon Soldiers deployed overseas this year. This ranks the state of Oregon as the tenth best in the Army National Guard for retention.

The retention goal was met on September 11, 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 attacks and despite multiple combat deployments over the past decade.

This year, the Oregon Army Guard managed 106 percent of its retention quota with 904 Soldiers reenlisting or extending. Overall, seven out of the 12 months were above quota with August being the highest at 171 percent above the monthly requirement. These numbers vastly surpassed last year, which only met 76 percent of the quota.

The RRB was able to meet the quota this year by switching focus from recruiting new Soldiers to retaining the skilled troops already in the Oregon Guard's ranks.

"We had more emphasis on retention this year, more drive to keep people in," said Staff Sgt. James Leeper, a recruiting and retention noncommissioned officer with RRB.

This marks a turning point for the Oregon Army Guard as it now focuses on retaining qualified and skilled Soldiers rather than continuously bringing in new troops to meet deployment demands. All branches of the military are taking the same approach as combat operations abroad decrease.

In order to meet the 2014 quota, members of the RRB started a proactive approach in 2013.

"We created spreadsheets with each unit's goal to share with the battalions," said Sgt. Maj. Kevin Cutting, Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "Then we continuously offered support to the



Photo courtesy 1-82 Cavalry Squadron

Spc. Marissa Hafter, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-82 Cavalry Squadron, signs a contract to extend for six more years in the Oregon Army National Guard while deployed in Afghanistan in September 2014.

recruiters."

While members of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion have put forth much effort, the individual Soldiers committed to staying in the Oregon Army Guard are those truly responsible for this year's numbers. Keeping these Soldiers benefits both the Oregon Guard and the individuals as they retain eligibility for continued education and healthcare benefits, as well as any financial bonuses they might qualify for.

"Retaining Soldiers keeps skilled troopers and influential leaders in our ranks," said Lt. Col. Christopher Reese, commander of the RRB.

He said the Oregon Army Guard's ability to surpass the retention quota for the 2014 fiscal year is a proud accomplishment. It demonstrates the loyalty and high caliber of the Soldiers committed to the Oregon Guard. It also ensures that the Oregon Army Guard is filled with skilled and qualified men and women ready to meet the needs of the state and nation.

NEWS BRIEFS

Mailing addresses for deployed Oregon National Guard units

SALEM, Oregon—The Oregon National Guard is receiving an increasing number of inquiries regarding care packages for deployed service members.

The Oregon Army National Guard currently has nearly 1,000 Soldiers serving overseas in Kuwait and Afghanistan. Mailing addresses for deployed units are listed below, according to the specific unit.

Shipments to APO/FPO/DPO addresses also require some additional customs paperwork to be filled out by the shipper.

For a complete list of requirements and restrictions for a particular APO/FPO/DPO zip code, please enter the zip code into the online validator (located in the middle of the left hand margin on every page on Ocnus.com)

If your product is small enough (a patch or sticker, for example), you can probably use a regular letter envelope and avoid filling out the required customs forms.

Here are some general tips about what you can send: Make sure all items are small and lightweight. Large, heavy items (for example, family size bottles of shampoo) are impractical to ship.

Do not send pressurized items (e.g., shaving cream). Do not send chocolate because it may melt all over the package.

For United States Postal Service package tips, visit: <https://www.usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-dpo.htm>.

234 Engineer Company:
Attn: William Young
234 EN CO, 528 EN BN
APO AE 09366

2-162 Infantry Battalion:
Attn: Tim Bloom
New Kabul Compound
HHC, 2-162 IN
APO AE 09354

1-186 Infantry Battalion:
Attn: Bradley Huppunen
PRG 6-9
APO AE 09354

1-82 Cavalry Squadron:
Attn: Wayne Chastain
HHT 1-82, TF Saber
KAIA
APO AE 09320

National Guard celebrates 378 years of service to nation



Photo by Christopher L. Ingersoll, OMD Public Affairs

Major General Daniel R. Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, and Command Sergeant Major Shane Lake (right), Oregon State Command Sergeant Major, and Joint Forces Headquarters Soldier of the Year, Spc. Jessica Earl, use a saber to cut the cake, Dec. 10, during a ceremony in Salem, Oregon, celebrating the National Guard's 378th birthday. The origin of the National Guard is traced back to the first muster of the colonial militia in Salem, Massachusetts, on December 13, 1636.

Oregon Guard receives awards for environmental efforts

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SPRINGFIELD, Oregon - The Oregon National Guard unveiled a recently awarded Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Gold plaque in a ceremony at the 162nd Infantry Regiment Readiness Center in Springfield, Oregon, Sept. 3.

The Oregon Military Department's Installations Division conducted an energy study funded through the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for a Behavior Based Energy Efficiency (BBEE) study. The LEED certification, through the U.S. Green Building Council, was awarded to the facility as a result of continuing efforts to bring state and federal buildings up to environmental and sustainability government mandates.

Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken (District-2, Springfield) attended the event, which also included a renewable solar energy demonstration and a local electric vehicle manufacturer.

The Oregon Army National Guard also took first place in the sustainability category in the 2014 Army National Guard Environmental Security Awards Program.



Photo by Sgt. Aaron Ricca, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe (left), construction and facility management officer for the Oregon Military Department's Installations Division, and Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken (right) unveil the Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Gold plaque in a ceremony at the Oregon National Guard's 162nd Infantry Regiment Readiness Center in Springfield, Oregon, Sept. 3. The certification was given to the facility as a result of continuing efforts to bring state and federal buildings up to environmental and sustainability government mandates.

Space-A: travel for less the military way

We who live in the Pacific Northwest are blessed with frequent military flights to many desirable destinations. My wife and I have flown to Japan, Iceland, Germany, Crete, Sicily, and Italy.

The flights are readily announced now on Facebook. Just type in the base you are wanting to fly out of and they will give you the flights leaving in the next 72 hours, even perhaps the number of seats available.

Flights originate from Lewis/McChord AFB, NAS Whidbey Island, Gray Army Airfield, Fairchild AFB, and Oregon flight facilities in Salem and Portland Air National Guard Base. Contact information for local flights is: McChord (253) 982-7268, Whidbey NAS (360) 257-2604, and Fairchild (509) 247-3406.

While you may often just show up and "hop" a flight, the usual routine is to sign-up about 60 days before you desire to fly using a site like unclebud.net. This site has tons of info for you to read. Then watch for the 72-hour listing for the flight you desire on Facebook, or call the flight terminal to see if the flight is still going.

You may fly on assorted aircraft, depending on the service, but there is no cost, other than the usual fees/taxes for the TSA. Aircraft vary from large cargo planes to VIP aircraft and you should aim to travel with about 30 pounds of luggage.

Reservists and Guardsmen not on active status, may only fly in the U.S. to include HI, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and territories. Active and retired personnel may fly world-wide, where allowed.

I always go to the base a day ahead, already having arranged quarters, and then check with the counter folks at the flight terminal about the flight and show time. Be prompt for the show time, report in, and wait to be called for the flight. Should the flight be overbooked, seats will be awarded by the oldest sign-up.

As you obtain your boarding pass, you may be able to order/pay for an inflight meal, which will be delivered to the aircraft for you. For U.S. Navy flights, you better grab a sandwich before the flight. Then you will go through a TSA-type screening and board the aircraft. Be sure to have funds, credits cards, and a very flexible schedule in case there are no planes to get you back.

Please remember that Space-A flights are a privilege/benefit that you have earned and only for those of us with the patience, daring, and the love of seeing our country's military at work.

Lt. Col. Allan E. Jeska
U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.)
jeskaal@juno.com

TRICARE is warning users of a scam

TRICARE is warning beneficiaries of the need to be aware of a telephone scam affecting beneficiaries older than 65 and on Medicare nationwide.

A caller will usually identify themselves as being an official Medicare vendor, and will then offer to sell beneficiaries back braces.

Do not give any personal identifiable information, such as birth date, Social Security number or banking information if you receive such a call. TRICARE representatives never ask beneficiaries for this information when calling for an official Department of Defense survey.

Beneficiaries who receive a call of this nature, can contact the Defense Health Agency Program (DHA) Program Integrity Office directly.

For more information on fraud and abuse reporting, visit the TRICARE Fraud and Abuse website at www.TRICARE.mil/fraud.

For more on TRICARE, visit the Military.com TRICARE section.

TRICARE allows information update for Guard members

As the family member of a National Guard or Reserve member, your TRICARE options may change throughout the course of your sponsor's career. Your TRICARE eligibility depends on your sponsor's military status.

The first step in your family gaining TRICARE eligibility is for your sponsor to register all eligible family members in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Updating personal information such as address, email addresses or phone numbers can be done by logging into milConnect, calling 1-800-538-9552 (TTY/TDD: 1-866-363-2883), faxing updates to 1-831-655-8317.

When your sponsor is deactivated, your family may qualify for either the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) (www.TRICARE.mil/TAMP) or the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP).

To verify your eligibility and learn more about your benefits as the family member of a National Guard or Reserve member please visit www.TRICARE.mil/reserve.

For more on TRICARE, visit the Military.com TRICARE section.

TRICARE changes access options

TRICARE beneficiaries need to watch their email and ensure they have a milConnect account to receive information about changes to their TRICARE coverage.

The Department of Defense is no longer sending paper letters to notify beneficiaries about changes to their coverage and eligibility status.

Beneficiaries will now receive emails or post cards directing them to online resources where they can view their information.

If you have a valid email address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), you will receive an email telling you to visit milConnect to read your letter. If you do not have an email address in DEERS, you will receive a post card directing you to milConnect.

Visit the TRICARE website at www.tricare.mil to review general benefits information, or contact your regional contractor for assistance.



Has your employer gone above and beyond the call of duty to support your military service? Nominate them for the nation's highest honor for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

Nomination season ends January 19, 2015. Visit www.freedomaward.mil.

Retiree Service Office

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

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

Email: ng.or.orang.mbx.j1-rso2@mail.mil

Web: www.ORNG-SMFS.org

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

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OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

100-year-old Sailor remembers WWII

Story by Mike Allegre,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
Photos courtesy the Raschio family

Two years before the beginning of World War II, Dario Raschio wanted to join the military and learn how to fly. In 1939, one year after Raschio earned a biology degree from Oregon State College, his plan was to open a pharmacy with a friend. But as he recalls, the best laid plans can and do change.

Raschio has a sharp memory for a man who is about to celebrate a landmark in his life, but this veteran hasn't forgotten the path that led him there.

Unable to open a pharmacy, he was hired to teach science at his alma mater, St. Stephen's in Portland. He was the entire science department and earned \$50 per month, but now disillusioned with his future employment prospects he applied for work outside of the Northwest and was hired.

"I went to Washington D.C. and worked for the U.S. government and eventually ended up working as a clerk at the Department of the Navy," Raschio said.

Yet, learning to fly was still his dream and Raschio pursued it. He had taken a military physical to become a naval aviator and was very confident he would pass. However, the U.S. Navy's evaluation was not favorable. Doctors said he could not enter flight training. He had an overbite.

As the clouds of war circled the globe in September of 1941, the U.S. Army drafted Raschio. Being a Navy pilot was still his goal but the medical report from two years prior was a concern.

"I asked this guy at the Navy Department why my overbite had disqualified me, and he said if the plane were to dive this maneuver would cause excruciating pain to the ears. But about two days later, I was told I was a Seaman 2nd Class in the Navy," he said.

Weeks later he received orders to report for pilot "elimination training" at nearby Anacostia before Thursday, December 4th. Raschio eagerly arrived two days early and soon he and other air cadets received an orientation flight.

"Then we had the weekend off," he said, "but our situation soon changed."

With the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, Raschio's flight training was expedited. As his training in Jacksonville, Florida, progressed, he sent a letter to Portland. In it he proposed to Maria Dardano, a young lady he had been dating.

"I told her that I'd buy her the most expensive ring Woolworth's had to offer," he promised.

With flight training completed and a new set of wings on his chest, Raschio



Lt. Dario Raschio sits in the cockpit of his Navy OS2-U Kingfisher observation floatplane during World War II in the South Pacific.

New U.S. Navy vessels to be named for Oregon

Story courtesy Mike Allegre,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – The U.S. Navy announced on October 10 it will revive the USS Oregon name by assigning it to a submarine currently being built. In a ceremony at Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park with the mast of the celebrated battleship USS Oregon in the background, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus told the crowd an amphibious transport ship, known as a landing platform dock, will also be named the USS Portland.

Secretary Mabus touted the partnership between the Navy, Marines, the state of Oregon, and the city of Portland. He said too much time had elapsed between the Navy's use of the USS Oregon name.

Construction on the USS Oregon, a Virginia-class submarine, began in early October with the scheduled delivery expected in November 2019. Other Virginia-class subs also carry the names of states.

The keel was laid on the USS Portland in August 2013. Its commissioning is expected in November 2017.

Once known as the "Bulldog of the Navy," the USS Oregon made headlines in 1898 and 1899 when it dispatched from the San Francisco Bay to Santiago, Cuba, following the explosion that sank the USS Maine. The ship helped to defeat Cuban forces in the Spanish-American War and was then ordered to

was placed on leave. He arrived home on a Sunday. He and Maria were married the following weekend, November 8, 1942, weeks before he was to ship out.

As a pilot now assigned to the USS Chester, Raschio flew OS2-U Kingfisher observation floatplanes that were catapulted off heavy cruisers.

"They flew low and slow and were a favorite target of Japanese gunners," he said.

From Virginia, the Chester traveled through the Panama Canal and later docked in its homeport of San Francisco in 1943. Soon after, their battle orders arrived. The United States' effort to regain control of islands in the South Pacific, which they had lost to the Japanese, was about to begin.

The Chester was part of a taskforce of other U.S. naval vessels, aircraft and shiploads of Marines enroute to the island battlefields. The task force bombarded the islands of Tarawa, Eniwetok, Saipan, Wake Island and several others before the Marines arrived on the beaches.

"I remember watching as those brave Marines stormed those islands. They took a terrible beating, but regrouped and kept on moving to the next island battle," he recalled.

On a blustery Easter Sunday in 1944, with a photographer in the rear seat of his Kingfisher, Raschio piloted his big pontoon plane to survey Japanese runways

on an island the Navy had been bombarding for days. As the plane began taking heavy fire, Raschio steered back toward the ship, but not before locating some train tracks that he believed led to a Japanese ammunition dump.

"I was so excited to report back to the ship that I forgot to drop my two bombs on that target," he said.

As he landed on the water, a



U.S. Navy photo by EO2 Rathana Sem

U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus addresses the crowd, Oct. 10, at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park in Portland, Oregon, during the renaming ceremony of two U.S. Navy ships; the USS Oregon submarine and the USS Portland amphibious transport ship.

the Pacific for blockade duty until 1906. The ship guarded the Pacific Coast and escorted a troop convoy to Siberia during World War I.

The Oregon was decommissioned in 1919 and loaned to the State of Oregon as a museum ship in 1925. The ship was salvaged as part of the World War II scrap metal drive, but the hull was retained as an ammunition barge and towed to Guam in 1944. The ship was finally scrapped in 1956. The last pieces of the legendary ship – its mast, smokestacks, giant anchor and chain – eventually returned to Portland.



U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

USS Oregon returning to the U.S. from Cuba following the Spanish-American War, 1898.

sneaker wave hit the left wing pontoon and snapped it off. His plane capsized, sending the pair into the sea. Raschio and the photographer tried swimming to the aircraft, but the winds carried it further away. The USS Chester was too distant to help.

"I was prepared to die, but that's when I thought of St. Michael's Parish and that Holy Names Sister, whose name I don't remember. She had promised to pray for me. After a few minutes I said to myself, "Sister, if I ever needed help, now is the time," Raschio said.

Before long the Navy destroyer USS Hale arrived and Raschio and the photographer were pulled on board. The destroyer's captain told the men that a shark had been circling them. An exhausted Raschio then relayed to the captain about the train tracks and their approximate location.

The destroyer moved in that night and began firing its big guns. After a few salvos, the night sky over the island was lit up for miles.

"Talk about fireworks," Raschio recalls. "It was 2 a.m. and the night sky looked like it was daylight."

The USS Chester steamed to the Aleutian Islands where they repeatedly would attack the northern islands of Japan, but for Raschio there was little flying. The next stop was the Philippines.

"We were at the Bikini Atoll readying to begin that campaign when I was told I had reassignment orders to return home. Maria happily joined me in Seattle where I was ordered to the naval air station in Klamath Falls," he said.

A chilly cabin near the base was now their home. Raschio was in charge of aerial gunnery, bombing targets, and briefings on target locations. He became somewhat of a local celebrity because he was the only pilot with war experience. Raschio gained fame once for flying back from San Francisco through a storm with serum needed to save the life of a boy at the nearby Japanese internment camp.

With the war over, he separated from the service in October 1945. In the 1950s the Raschio family resided in Portland in a house he helped build and where he still lives today. He enjoyed a long career as a teacher at Franklin High School



Lt. Dario Raschio

and supplemented his income with summertime painting jobs. For 26 years he also "moonlighted" in the evening selling men's suits at Meier & Frank.

Retired from teaching and "haberdashery" in 1980, he and Maria began to enjoy more time together and that included sharing the dance floor several times a week. They shared their last dance a month before she passed away in 2010. Dario and Maria had been married for almost 68 years.

On November 10, 2014, a healthy and spry Raschio turned 100 years-old. Exactly one month before his birthday, the former Sailor, his son Darrell, and friend Karyn attended the Navy's renaming ceremony for the USS Oregon and USS Portland. Raschio watched as smartly dressed Sailors and Marines took part in the ceremony.

"Seeing those young men and women in uniform reminded me of my time in the Navy. We learned discipline and got the best military training in the world. We all had jobs to do and sometimes we risked our lives," he said.

Raschio said his wartime survival has blessed him with a loving family, a happy life and good health.

"Not bad for a 100 year-old," he said.