



41st IBCT battalions return from Afghanistan: Page 8-9



234th Engineers return from Kuwait: Page 4

# Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon medevac unit trains in Canada for Maple Resolve exercise



Photo by Sgt. Arthur Maldonado, Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, Oregon Army National Guard

The Aurora Borealis "Northern Lights" color the night sky, May 13, behind an Oregon Army National Guard HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The Oregon Army National Guard's aeromedical evacuation unit, Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, traveled to Canada, April 29-May 20, to provide air support for the Canadian Armed Forces during Exercise Maple Resolve 2015. See the full story on page 6.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## 142nd Fighter Wing deploys Airmen and F-15s to Europe

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

**PORTLAND, Oregon** – More than 200 members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing were recognized in a formal mobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, June 26.

Citizen-Airmen from the 142nd Operations Group, 142nd Maintenance Group, and 142nd Mission Support Group are deploying to Romania from July to October 2015 as part of the 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, Operation Atlantic Resolve is a visible demonstration of U.S. commitment to the collective security and stability of Europe and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nations in the region. According to U.S. European Command (EUCOM), the partnership between the U.S. and NATO members is built on established values, practices and a long-term commitment to a stable and prosperous Europe.

In attendance at the mobilization ceremony were Oregon Governor Kate Brown; Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. Michael Stencil, Oregon Air

See **Oregon Airmen** on Page 4



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

Above: Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan (left, foreground), commander of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, along with other Citizen-Airmen, salute the official party during the unit's mobilization ceremony, June 26, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon.

Right: More than 200 deploying members of the 142nd Fighter Wing stand in formation during the mobilization ceremony, June 26, as they are recognized for their upcoming deployment to Eastern Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.



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## COMMAND

## Ensure you and your family are prepared for disasters

In times of disaster, Oregon relies on the men and women of the Oregon Military Department and Oregon National Guard. Ensuring we are ready to answer the call is our highest priority.

Although any event can present challenges, these challenges will also impact our families. Preparing our families for a disaster before it happens provides peace of mind to them, and each of us, knowing they have the resources to be self-sufficient in the immediate aftermath.

The recent tragic events in Nepal underscore the need for preparedness. As uniformed service members, we train and prepare to answer the call from our state and nation when we are needed. Likewise, we also need to prepare ourselves and our families for unforeseen natural disasters. This way, our families are safe, and we can focus on our mission of protecting the lives and property of our fellow Oregonians.

I suggest each of us discuss with our

families the importance of emergency preparedness. I also encourage you to develop a family emergency plan and preparedness kit as soon as possible to help our family in case of disaster.

A preparedness kit should include a battery-operated radio (with NOAA weather alert capabilities); flashlights; batteries; cell phone chargers; and enough food, water, first aid supplies and medications for your household for two weeks. It should also contain copies of important documents; a list of phone numbers, including out-of-town contacts you may need in the event of an evacuation; and pet supplies if you have one.

Equally important, your emergency plan and kit should be tailored to meet your family's needs. Suggestions to assist with developing your family's emergency plan and preparedness kit can be found on the Ready.gov and Oregon Office of Emergency Management websites.



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

I encourage you to review these suggestions to make sure you and your family are prepared when disaster occurs. Doing so will help give you and your family the necessary peace of mind so we can then focus on helping others.

As always, thank you for your continued service to our State and Nation. The work you do now will ensure we are Always Ready! Always There!

## Brig. Gen. Stencel appointed ANG assistant for 11th Air Force

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Air Component Commander, has been appointed as the Air National Guard's Assistant to the Commander of 11th Air Force.

The 11th Air Force, based at Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, plans, conducts and coordinates air operations in accordance with tasks assigned by the commander of Pacific Air Forces. It serves as the force provider for Alaskan Command, the Alaska North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, and other unified commanders. Additionally, 11th Air Force oversees the planning and execution of all Homeland Defense operations, including security and civil support actions.

Stencel will assist the commander of 11th Air Force, Lt. Gen. Russell J. Handy, who is also the senior military officer in Alaska,



in his responsibilities for the integration of all military activities in the Alaskan joint operations area. Stencel will also assist in the activities of more than 21,000 active

duty, Guard and Reserve members from all services.

Stencel, who was notified of the appointment in March, will serve in the dual-hat position for a period of three years while maintaining his position as Oregon's Air Component Commander.

"Mike's appointment to 11th Air Force reflects his exceptional leadership and recognized potential for increased responsibility," said Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon. "His selection also highlights the critical role the Oregon Air National Guard plays in the Pacific Northwest, and the importance of the Oregon National Guard in the overall Pacific theater. This is a great day for Brigadier General Stencel and his family, and the Oregon National Guard."

For more information, visit the 11th Air Force website at: <http://www.jber.af.mil/11af/>.

## Leist commands Western Air Defense Sector in Wash.



Col. Gregor J. Leist (right) assumes command of Western Air Defense Sector in a ceremony with Brig. Gen. Alain Pelletier (left), April 21, at JBLM, Wash.

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. Gregor J. Leist assumed command of Western Air Defense Sector from outgoing commander Col. Peter D. Stavros, in a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, McChord Field, Washington, April 21.

The Western Air Defense Sector, with headquarters at McChord Field, Washington State, is the largest of three sectors responsible to the continental U.S. North American Area Defense Region - First Air Force (CONR-IAF) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) for peacetime air sovereignty, strategic air defense, and airborne counterdrug operations in the continental United States.

The men and women of the Western Air Defense Sector detect, identify, track and can scramble fighters to intercept unknown or threatening airborne objects as part of their mission to guard America's skies 24 hours a day, seven days a week of nearly 73 percent of the United States and Canada.

## Bunch appointed Air National Guard assistant to U.S. Air Force deputy JAG

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. W. Daniel Bunch has been selected to serve as the next Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Air Force Deputy Judge Advocate General.

Bunch is currently serving as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate at Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, in Virginia. Pending confirmation, his new position brings with it a promotion to brigadier general. He will serve three years as a drill-status Guardsman in his new assignment, beginning July 1, 2015.

The Deputy Judge Advocate General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., assists the Judge Advocate General in the professional oversight of more than 2,200 judge advocates, 350 civilian attorneys, 1,400 enlisted paralegals and 500 civilians assigned worldwide. In addition to overseeing an array of military justice, operational, international and civil law functions, the deputy provides legal advice to the Air Staff and commanders at all levels. Bunch will assist the deputy Air Force JAG with legal oversight functions pertaining to the Air National Guard.

"Dan's selection to be the Air National Guard Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General recognizes his exceptional leadership and professional qualifications," said Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon. "As he has in all his previous duties, Colonel Bunch will do an outstanding job representing the best interests of our nation's Citizen-Airmen. This is a great day for the Bunch family and the Oregon National Guard."

Bunch has served in numerous legal positions throughout his military career. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1990 to 1994,



the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 1998, and in the Oregon Air National Guard. He was the Staff Judge Advocate for the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of the Law and Order Task Force in which he commanded a joint force of military and civilian legal specialists in an effort to establish an Iraqi judicial system. Bunch has also served as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Bunch received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990.

In his civilian career, Bunch is a circuit court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Bunch has served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Guam and Alaska and as a prosecutor for the Criminal Division of the Alaska Department of Law. He also practiced law with the Klamath Falls firm of Brandsness, Brandsness, Rudd & Bunch, and served as Klamath County Counsel.

NEWS

# Oregon National Guard partners with community to 'Walk a mile in her shoes'

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**SALEM, Oregon** – The Oregon National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office partnered with Willamette University, the Center for Hope and Safety, and the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force for a 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event, April 18, at the State Capitol Mall.

April was nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The month offered an opportunity to continue the process of eliminating sexual assault and to ensure all service members are treated with dignity and respect. The purpose was to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.

With more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving, the Oregon National Guard is a vital institution within the state. Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen possess a crucial tie between military and civilian society. As a fundamental institution, the military as a whole, and the Oregon National Guard in particular, are fully committed to a cultural shift in sexual

assault awareness and prevention.

"Preventing Sexual Assault in our military requires a personal commitment from all service members, at every level, to be a steadfast participant in creating an appropriate culture and upholding standards of behavior and military core values," said Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense.

This year's theme was 'Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.'

**Eliminate Sexual Assault:** Every service member, at every level in our military, must know, understand and adhere to service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.

**Know your Part:** Means that each military member has a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime, starting with knowing when and where to intervene.

**Do Your Part:** We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, we need to step in to prevent it, adding our voice to the call to end sexual assault.

Education and awareness are the key in reaching this objective.



Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, and his wife, Kelly (right), participate in the 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event, April 18, in downtown Salem, Oregon. The Oregon National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office, in collaboration with Willamette University, the Center for Hope and Safety, and the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force, hosted the event to raise public awareness in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

## 41st Infantry Brigade commemorates annual ANZAC Day



Above: Members of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team color guard, Oregon Army National Guard, place the Australian, United States and New Zealand flags at the beginning of an ANZAC ceremony to commemorate the relationship between the 41st Infantry Division and the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, known as ANZACs, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, April 12. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

Right: Members of the Kiwis and Aussies of Portland, and Sgt. Thompson (center), from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, place wreaths at the base of three flags representing Australia, the United States and New Zealand, in honor of ANZAC Day, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, April 12. (Photo by Sgt. Erin Quirke, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, Oregon Army National Guard)



**CLACKAMAS, Oregon** – The

Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team held a commemoration ceremony to mark Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day in recognition of the historic friendships formed between the 41st Infantry Division and Australian and New Zealand forces during World War II.

ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance to honor those who have died in service to their country and recognizes the sacrifices of all veterans who serve.

The relationship between the Oregon Army National Guard and ANZAC dates back to 1942 when members of the 41st Infantry Division arrived in Australia and completed jungle warfare training prior to combat operations in New Guinea and the Philippines.

## Oregon Guard celebrates 240th Army birthday



Photo by April Davis, OMD Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Pfc. Rodney Waldner (center), Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (right) use a saber to cut the cake to celebrate the U.S. Army's 240th birthday in a ceremony at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Oregon, June 11.

## President Obama lands at PANG Base



Photo by Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

President Barack Obama greets a crowd waiting behind a gate on the tarmac after arriving at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon, May 7. He was greeted by Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Reps Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici; Portland Mayor Charlie Hales; and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, as he deplaned Air Force One. He was in Portland for two days to attend a fundraiser and to promote trade legislation.

## Brig. Gen. Plimpton visits 173rd Fighter Wing



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

Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, Land Component Commander, gives a thumbs up from the backseat of an F-15 Eagle as he prepares for a familiarization flight at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, June 4. Plimpton toured the base, met with leadership and had a firsthand look at the 173rd Fighter Wing's mission as the sole F-15C training base for student pilots the United States Air Force.

## NEWS

# Oregon Airmen provide security presence in Europe, train with allies

Continued from **Front Page**

National Guard commander; and Col. Paul Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander.

"As part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, I know that you will be working alongside our NATO allies," Brown said, as she described the mission the Airmen will undertake in Europe. "You will support and build new and deeper partnerships ... your presence will also reassure our allies a commitment to peace and security."

The 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron will consist of F-15 fighter jets, support equipment and personnel as a Theater Security Package (TSP) to augment the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's (USAFE) existing efforts. Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan, commander of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, will command the TSP during the deployment.

"The Airmen here today and those already forward will be part of a persistent U.S. air, land and sea presence in the region, especially in central and eastern Europe," said Hokanson.



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

Oregon Governor Kate Brown greets deploying Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing during a mobilization ceremony, June 26, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon. More than 200 Airmen are deploying to Romania in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

While in Europe, the Airmen will train alongside NATO partners to strengthen interoperability and demonstrate security in response to threats in the region. The TSP rotations generally last six months, depending on mission requirements.

"We look forward to your safe return, as always, thank you for your service and living our motto; Always Ready-Always There," Hokanson said.

This will be the 142nd Fighter Wing's largest unit deployment to Europe, following a group of 142nd FW Airmen and F-15s that deployed this spring in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The initial group of Oregon Airmen that deployed augmented the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing, from Jacksonville, Florida, as the first Air National Guard TSP in Europe.

"This is a historic event," said Fitzgerald, as the first group of Airmen deployed. "Our Oregon and Florida National Guard units are creating history as the first Air National Guard units to support the TSP."

The Florida-Oregon combined TSP, known as the 159th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, includes a total of 12 F-15 Eagle aircraft and approximately 200 Airmen that are currently serving in the Netherlands and Bulgaria, among other locations.

"I couldn't be more proud of the men and women of the 142nd Fighter Wing," said Fitzgerald. "The efforts of our Airmen enhance the strength of the Air Force's 'Total Force' to the TSP mission in Europe and Operation Atlantic Resolve."

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing have deployed across the globe since September 11, 2001. Most of these members are traditional Guardsmen that leave full-time jobs or school to serve in support of military operations.

During his remarks at the mobilization ceremony, Stencil reiterated Brown and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Crane, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

F-15 Eagles from the Florida and Oregon Air National Guard taxi to take off for a training flight with the Royal Netherlands Air Force at Leeuwarden Air Base, Netherlands, April 3. These F-15s and 200 Airmen make up the 159th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron as the first ever Air National Guard Theater Security Package (TSP) in Europe. Another 200 Airmen and F-15s from the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing are also deploying to provide a TSP in Romania in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Hokanson's sentiments with regards to the sacrifices made by family members of the deploying Airmen, "I want to thank all of you with us today for the continuous support of our Airmen; not only for this high visibility deployment but day in-day out and year after year."

The 142nd Fighter Wing will continue

to guard the Pacific Northwest skies from northern California to the Canadian border on 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert as part of Air Combat Command and the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command. The wing also stands ready to participate in state and federal contingency missions as needed.

Right: An F-15 Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing lands at Leeuwarden Air Base, Netherlands, March 31, to augment the first Air National Guard Theater Security Package in Europe. Oregon Airmen train alongside NATO allies to strengthen interoperability and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to security in the region.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Crane, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

## 234th Engineer Company returns to Oregon, leaves their mark in Kuwait

Story by Spc. Eleezia N. Howard

**SALEM, Oregon** - The Oregon Army National Guard welcomed home approximately 180 Soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, during a demobilization ceremony, May 30, at West Salem High School in Salem, Oregon.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Senator Ron Wyden; U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader; Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon; along with other dignitaries, including Miss Oregon Rebecca Anderson, were in attendance at the ceremony.

The 234th Engineer Company is headquartered at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon, and includes a platoon-sized detachment located in Prineville, Oregon. The unit mobilized in June 2014 to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they conducted training in preparation for their deployment to Kuwait.

The Soldiers spent approximately nine months conducting carpentry, plumbing, electrical and other construction missions at United States military facilities throughout Kuwait and the surrounding region during the deployment. The unit completed 50 large-scale projects throughout the deployment.

"(The) 234th Engineer Company came with the right people to do the job. Our Soldiers have made Oregon proud," said Maj. Andrew Vidourek, commander of the 234th Engineer Company.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, the unit replaced the 1038th Engineer Company from the Arkansas National Guard, and immediately set to work at Camps Arifjan and Buehring, changing base structures to increase security and better suit changing mission requirements.

The company fell in on Theater Provided Equipment, tools and materials left by previous units. The maintenance section faced the task of repairing a myriad of vehicles and support equipment needed for missions. The Soldiers took the list of inoperable equipment from 99-percent non-mission-capable up to 99-percent fully mission-capable within six months.

The engineers at Camp Buehring installed sidewalks, repaired training facilities, and made improvements to morale, welfare and recreation facilities. At Camp Arifjan, the engineers constructed housing units and made improvements to security checkpoints, drainage systems, and existing infrastructure to improve security, safety and operations around camp.



Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Governor Kate Brown returns a framed guidon flag, representing the 234th Engineer Company, to the unit commander, Maj. Andrew Vidourek (right), during a demobilization ceremony in Salem, Oregon, May 30. The act of returning the guidon to the unit symbolizes the welcome home of the Soldiers and the official completion of their deployment to Kuwait.



Photo by Spc. Eleezia Howard, 234th Engineer Company

Soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company pose next to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers castle with Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army National Guard Brunk Conley (left of castle) at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. The castle is displayed in front of restored housing units to honor the engineers who completed the restoration project. The units will house the influx of Soldiers Kuwait has seen since the drawdown in Afghanistan. The new living space was unofficially titled 'Essayons Estates' after the engineer motto of 'Essayons,' or we will try.

"I think the toughest part about the whole project was when we had other missions that took bodies away. Along with waiting for materials to arrive, it made for a slow completion," said Sgt. Virgil Newberry of the 234th Engineer Company.

With the on-set of Operation Inherent Resolve, the 234th was called upon to conduct assessments and construction missions in order to expand and improve forward operating bases in Iraq and Jordan, in anticipation of expanding coalition forces in those regions. The company completed more than 20 engineering assessments in Iraq and Jordan; supported engineer sustainment teams in Al Asad, Erbil, and Taji, Iraq; completed ten construction missions in Iraq; provided electrician support to Jordan; and provided quality assurance and control to deconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

While supporting efforts in Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan, the company had to concurrently support construction efforts in Kuwait. The decline of troops needed in Afghanistan and the beginning of

Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq caused personnel numbers in Kuwait to swell, leading to a shortage of available housing.

"While stationed in Kuwait, our company had up to 20 construction missions going on in Kuwait at one time. In addition, the company had up to 58 Soldiers at any given time in other countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Jordan," said Vidourek. "It was a challenge to send the right people down range, with the right skill sets, while maintaining mission support in Kuwait, and to be successful in all locations."

The entire company came together near the end of the deployment to complete the housing project at Camp Arifjan. They constructed Re-locatable Buildings and Containerized Housing Units. The completion of these projects provided housing for an additional 812 Soldiers. A concrete castle was constructed at the site and the new living space was unofficially titled 'Essayons Estates' in honor of the engineer Soldiers who completed the project.

## NEWS

## Oregon's Best Warriors compete in regional, national competitions

Story courtesy

Maj. Rebecca Walsh,  
Wyoming Army National Guard,  
and Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy,  
National Guard Bureau

Fifteen Army National Guard Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from eight western states participated in the 2015 Region-6 Best Warrior Competition in Cheyenne and Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyoming, May 11-14.

Winners of the competition earned the title of 'Region-6 Best Warrior' and a chance to compete against Best Warriors from other regions on the national level at the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

Taking first place for the Region-6 enlisted category was Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Jay Eyestone, with the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment.

Eyestone excelled at the physical and mental portions of the competition, despite finishing final exams of his first year of law school just days before the competition began.

Only one point separated the winner and runner-up in the noncommissioned officer category. North Dakota Army National Guard's Staff Sgt. Jason Dittus, of the 818th Engineer Company, and Sgt. 1st Class Ammon Benedict, with the Oregon Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, were neck and neck throughout the competition, with Dittus emerging as the winner. Ultimately, Benedict took second place in the NCO category.

Competitors were put to the test on a wide variety of skills and disciplines, starting with wear of the uniform and answering tough questions from a board of sergeants major. They were evaluated on everything from drill and ceremony, to writing an essay, to firing various weapon systems and completing an obstacle course. The competition culminated with a 12-mile road march over hilly terrain. The warriors, in 'full-battle-rattle' with their helmets and body armor, carried a 38-pound combat-loaded rucksack and an M-16 rifle.

After four days of competition, each Soldier, regardless of how they placed in the competition, went home with sore muscles and blisters. To them, the blisters didn't matter.

"It's exhausting, but it's an awesome experience," said Benedict.

They also went home with unforgettable memories of pushing their bodies and their minds to the limits; something that each



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire, Wyoming ARNG

Spc. Jay Eyestone, with the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, clears a hurdle on the obstacle course at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center during the Region-6 Best Warrior competition, May 13. After winning the Region-6 competition, Eyestone went on to compete in the national 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in Utah.

Soldier needs to be prepared to do during a time of war. Honing their combat skills was just another benefit of the competition.

"We're just competing in a fun competition," Benedict said. "Those who are [overseas] away from loved ones and in harm's way are truly the best of us."

The two first place winners of the Region-6 competition, Eyestone and Dittus, went on to compete in the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition; the culminating event to determine who will be named the top noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted Soldier in the entire Army National Guard (ARNG).

In between the regional and national competitions, Eyestone spent two-weeks, May 30 - June 14, earning his Air Assault wings at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, in Warrenton, Oregon. During the course, Eyestone navigated an obstacle course; written and hands-on examinations; tower and aircraft rappelling; sling-load operations; and another 12-mile road march.

"He's a very smart kid, he's tough as nails, and he's very analytical," Benedict said about his fellow Oregon Best Warrior. "He has the ability to stay calm and review each task before he starts, and he's very consistent."

In the shadow of Utah's Wasatch Mountains, Eyestone and 13 other regional winners from across the nation battled it out in the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, hosted by the Utah

Army National Guard at Camp Williams during the last week in June.

The 14 competitors represented the best of more than 350,000 men and women serving in the Army Guard in all 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia. To make it to the Army Guard-level competition, the competitors worked their way up from winning unit-level and successive competitions up through their state and regional-level Best Warrior Competitions.

"These Soldiers are already five-time winners," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley, the command sergeant major of the Army National Guard. "They've already won their unit best warrior competition, the battalion, the brigade, the state, the regional. These folks have been in competition for months now. They've already demonstrated what it takes to compete and win."

The Utah competition stressed competitors both physically and mentally as they fought through the high-desert heat, terrain and elevation to prove their battle skills in a grueling, three-day event that tested the skills of a complete warrior.

The competition began with the Army Physical Fitness Test, consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. From there, competitors toughed it out over a number of events that covered marksmanship, close quarters combat, land navigation, casualty evaluation and a variety of other tactical and technical skills that saw them running



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire, Wyoming ARNG

Sgt. 1st Class Ammon Benedict, with the Oregon Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters, navigates the obstacle course during the Region-6 Best Warrior competition at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyoming, May 13.

or traversing more than 20 miles of terrain over the course of the competition.

Though it was designed as a competition, the larger focus was as a training event for those going through it, said Conley, adding that many of the events of the competition were overseen and developed by Soldiers from the Utah Army Guard's 19th Special Forces Group.

"Special Forces are really integrated into this and they have a lot of equipment, a lot of experience and leaders that are using that to stress our warriors and test them to the highest level," Conley said.

Conley praised the toughness of the competitors and said the real winners are their units when they return home and share everything that they learned.

"They take all of the tactics and techniques that they learned and they share that with their subordinates and their peers, and the Guard wins," he said.

At the end of the competition, Hawaii Army National Guard Spc. Crusier Barnes, a cavalry scout with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, was named Soldier of the Year. West Virginia Army National Guard Sgt. Robert Cunningham, a combat engineer with the 119th Engineer Company (Sapper), was named NCO of the Year. Both will move on to compete in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition scheduled to be held in October at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, where they will compete against Soldiers from throughout the U.S. Army.

Although Eyestone didn't take home the national title, his seniors and peers in the Oregon Army National Guard praised his performance.

"He competed like a champ and made us all proud and gave them a heck of a fight," said Oregon State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake. "He is a true hero representing Oregon at the highest level."

## Oregon Guardsmen vie for marksmanship titles at TAG Match



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



Above: Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, engages targets with an M4 rifle during The Adjutant General marksmanship competition, known as "TAG Match," at Camp Rilea, May 30.

Left: Sgt. 1st Class Scott Mansfield (right) instructs Staff Sgt. Derek Turner for the M14 rifle distance competition during the TAG Match, at Camp Rilea, May 30.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**WARRENTON, Oregon** - Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, May 30-31, for The Adjutant General marksmanship competition, known as "TAG Match."

The competition is held annually to promote marksmanship training. Service members competed as teams and as individuals for a chance to move on to national level competitions where teams from the Army, National Guard and Reserves compete against each other.

"TAG Match is a friendly shooting competition amongst all the [Oregon National Guard] units in Oregon," said Master Sgt. Geoffrey Miotke, state ammunition and training manager with Joint Force Headquarters. "It just hones their skills in shooting. We shoot a variety of guns here, so it produces a well-rounded Soldier for the different types of weapon systems we have."

This year's winning team was from 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based in Springfield, Oregon. The team members

included Sgt. Benjamin Checkoff and Sgt. Christopher Sobremonte, both of Alpha Company, Spc. Kamryn Batt and Sgt. Jeremy Heisler, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Spc. Daro Powlison, with Charlie Company, 41st Special Troops Battalion, based in Clackamas, Oregon, was the overall individual winner of the rifle competition. Chief Warrant Officer-3 Devin Wickenhagen, of Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, based in Salem, Oregon, was the overall individual winner of the pistol competition.



Oregon National Guard Soldiers fire M9 pistols during the TAG Match marksmanship competition, at Camp Rilea, May 30.

## FEATURES

## Oregon medevac provides 'Dustoff' support for Canadian Armed Forces



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Michael Buchan (right), a flight medic, escorts members of the Canadian Armed Forces transporting a patient away from an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter, May 7, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The Oregon Army National Guard's Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, provided medevac support for the Canadian Armed Forces during Exercise Maple Resolve 2015.



A Canadian Army medic with 5 Field Ambulance Valcartier, Quebec, treats a simulated patient in a mass casualty training exercise, May 5, during Exercise Maple Resolve 2015 at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The simulated mass casualty exercise tested the Canadian Armed Forces' response time to field injuries and medevac procedures.

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

**CANADIAN FORCES BASE WAINWRIGHT, Alberta, Canada** – The Oregon Army National Guard's aeromedical evacuation unit, Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation (C-7/158 AVN), traveled to Canada, April 29-May 20, to participate in the Maple Resolve 2015 training exercise at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta.

Maple Resolve is the Canadian Armed Forces' annual, joint force training exercise and is the culminating collective training event to validate the Canadian Army's High Readiness task forces. This year's exercise was comprised of approximately 5,200 Canadian Army soldiers, 700 Royal Canadian Air Force members, 700 U.S. Army and Marine Corps troops, and 150 British Army soldiers.

The Canadian Maneuver Training Centre (CMTC) requested a Forward Support Medical Team (FSMT) to provide medical evacuation (medevac) operations in support of Maple Resolve this year. The Oregon Army National Guard provided three HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters and 26 personnel to support both medevac training, as well as real medical emergency evacuations during the exercise.

The FSMT, also known as a "Dustoff" team, consisted of 12 flight crewmembers and 14 additional support personnel to include operations, maintenance crews, an additional flight crew, as well as two weather technicians from the Oregon Air National Guard.

"The team has worked tirelessly to establish a working rapport with the Canadian forces," said Chief Warrant Officer-2 Jeremy Andrews, an aeromedical evacuation pilot with C-7/158 AVN. "We're establishing the procedures for how both real world and exercise medevac assets would be used."

The Oregon Army National Guard aviators logged more than 120 flight hours during the exercise, conducting 17 medevac training missions and multiple training flights



Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Sarah Wickenhagen (center), an aviation medicine Nurse Practitioner with C-7/158 AVN, and Master Cpl. Stefan Morissette, a medic with 5 Field Ambulance Valcartier, Quebec, oversee an IV procedure given by Cpl. Sean Gauthier, a medic with 5 Field Ambulance, during Exercise Maple Resolve, May 2, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada.



An Oregon Army National Guard crew chief with Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, peers out from an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter overlooking a formation of Canadian Armed Forces tanks during Exercise Maple Resolve 2015, May 16, in Denwood, Alberta, Canada.

for the exercise. They provided air support for simulated mass casualty situations, which tested the Canadian Armed Forces' response time to field injuries and medevac procedures. The FSMT also conducted nine real-world emergency medical evacuations for injured personnel during the training exercise.

Upon arrival in Camp Wainwright, four Canadian flight medics were assigned to the FSMT. The Canadian medics integrated with the Oregon Guard team, participating in both real world and exercise medevac missions throughout the duration of the exercise.

"It was a great learning experience," said Canadian Army Cpl. Sean Gauthier, a medical technician with 5 Field Ambulance, Valcartier, Quebec. "It was very beneficial to see the difference in the medical protocols, and answered a lot of my questions on how to process a medical evacuation."

In between medevac missions, the FSMT conducted aircraft inspections, maintenance and gave mission briefings to visiting dignitaries, including a visit from U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman. The team also taught Medevac 101 classes to members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

"Maple Resolve was an outstanding success for the medevac unit," said Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin, State Army Aviation Officer for the Oregon Army National Guard. "The exercise allowed Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers to interact with our international partners by introducing the critical lifesaving mission of the medevac HH-60M helicopter capabilities and their vital importance to the battlefield."

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Nathan Edgecomb, commander of C-7/158 AVN, said the chance to work with allied partner forces in a combined exercise helped to develop a solid working relationship and delivered invaluable training to all personnel involved.

"It afforded us an opportunity to train for a real-world deployment in a way that cannot be duplicated during a home-station annual training," said Edgecomb. "Working with the Canadian forces was an incredible opportunity to hone our skills in both relationship and coalition building, as well as in our technical ability to provide the best medevac coverage possible."

Oregon Soldiers in the FSMT said Exercise Maple Resolve enabled them to train 24-hours a day on mastering their skills in battlefield medicine and medical evacuation; skills they must

perform instinctively on a moment's notice when lives are on the line.

"Being a medic is not for everyone, but these people see us on their worst days," said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Sarah Wickenhagen, an aviation medicine nurse practitioner with 2-641st Aviation who served as the flight surgeon for the FSMT during Maple Resolve. "I work with incredible people who would all give their lives in the service of another. There is nothing better than that."

That's the impression she hopes the Oregon Guard's medevac unit made on the Canadian Armed Forces during Exercise Maple Resolve 2015.

Wickenhagen said she is proud to be part of a team that embodies the "Dustoff" legacy and remains true to the C-7/158 AVN unit motto to selflessly do whatever it takes "so that others may live."



Oregon Army National Guardsmen practice dust landings with a HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter during Exercise Maple Resolve, May 3, in Alberta, Canada.

## FEATURES

# 142nd Fighter Wing civil engineers renovate medical clinic in Romania

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

**MANGALIA, Romania** – Oregon Air National Guardsmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing's Civil Engineer Squadron traveled halfway around the globe in May and spent two-weeks renovating a medical facility in Mangalia, Romania, as part of the U.S. European Command's (EUCOM) Humanitarian Civic Assistance program (HCA).

EUCOM's HCA program is designed to improve the host nation's critical infrastructure and the underlying living conditions of the civilian populace in partner nations. HCA activities can include assessments, training, construction projects, well drilling, and medical assistance – all with an end goal of bolstering partner nations' civil sector capabilities. Military partners, such as the 142nd Fighter Wing, provide manpower, expertise and receive on-the-job training, while EUCOM facilitates the projects with funding and logistics.

Romania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2004 and became a member of the European Union in 2007. It has emerged as a rising economic growth center in Eastern Europe, but some infrastructure challenges still remain. Romania was selected to receive construction aid under the HCA program to renovate a medical clinic suffering from extensive water damage and accessibility problems.

Nearly 90 Airmen from both the Alabama and Oregon Air National Guard participated in the restoration of Pavilion C at the Mangalia City Hospital. The project was the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron's (CES) first mobilization to Romania and EUCOM's first humanitarian project of the year in an Eastern European country.

The project was started by the Alabama Air National Guard's 117th Air Refueling Wing, and then handed over to the Oregon Airmen to complete. Romania is a state partner with Alabama, under the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

"The project is the duration of two rotations," said Lt. Col. Jacob Skugrud, deputy commander and project officer for the 142nd CES. "Our sister unit in Alabama started the work and then the Portland team followed in their footsteps to complete the project."

Framed by the backdrop of the Black Sea shoreline, the Airmen addressed a rooftop terrace, treatment rooms, bathroom upgrades, as well as other building projects at the clinic. While some of the civil engineers took on the water damage repairs, a significant aspect to the project was building a wheelchair ramp to the Pavilion C entry.

Dr. Liviu Mocanu, hospital director, said the wheelchair ramp was vital to the overall construction project, "To have a current health license for the building, the addition of the access ramp was necessary



The Pavilion C medical clinic in Mangalia, Romania, was renovated with the help of the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron as part of EUCOM's Humanitarian Civic Assistance Program.

to serve those with disabilities."

When the 142nd CES arrived, the basic concrete structure still had to be completed. Modifications to the handrails, additional concrete forms and a tile surface on the ramp took another eight days to complete.

"This hospital is special to this region of Romania, and it is a great honor to have been chosen for the assistance," Macanu said.

Pavilion C specializes in oncological medicine. The severity of the water damage forced several of the treatment rooms located on the third floor to be decommissioned, forcing the practitioners to work in other facilities in the area.

The damage to the treatment rooms transpired over time from the fourth floor terrace, as water exploited weaknesses in the building's structure. The Alabama team pulled the damaged floor tile and installed



Tech. Sgt. Ramon Lopez, from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, sprays paint primer prior to painting the handrails of a new wheelchair ramp at Pavilion C medical clinic in Mangalia, Romania, May 19.

a new sealing membrane to keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the roof project partially complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

"The new membrane will keep water from seeping into the rooms and hallway renovated on this project," Skugrud said. "The team from Alabama had a bigger crew with about 50-plus members, so they were able to keep the project on pace and prep other areas for our team to finish."

After arriving almost two days late to the site in Romania due to airlift glitches, and with a smaller crew of 33 members, the 142nd CES Airmen had to quickly pick up the pace on the clinic renovations.

Not only had the water damage affected the treatment rooms inside the clinic but it also deteriorated the exterior stucco of the building, damaging electrical lighting and fixtures both inside and out.

"The folks from Alabama had done the major prep and demo to the exterior," said Capt. Lucas Smith, 142nd CES, who served as the project lead for the building exterior renovations. "We had to go from the bare concrete to primer and then to applying the stucco."

Applying stucco was a new experience for the Oregon Airmen, and allowed for most of the crew working with Smith a chance to cross-train and develop new skills.

"We've had an enthusiastic team during this process and I have no doubt our



Tech. Sgt. Mathew Pixley and Senior Airman Daniel Beauchamp, from the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron, apply stucco to a medical clinic in the city of Mangalia, Romania, May 12. More than 30 Oregon Airmen traveled to Romania as a Deployment for Training (DFT) to assist with the Humanitarian Civic Assistance Program project.

younger Airmen have learned a great deal more than just how to apply stucco," Smith said.

Members of the 142nd CES come from different backgrounds; some work as general contractors in their day jobs and some are new troops just starting their military careers. Deployments For Training (DFT) like this give Air National Guard units the opportunity to enhance existing skills while deploying outside the U.S., at the same time developing a sense of responsibility in those host nations, Smith added.

"We perform DFT projects approximately once every three years, depending on real-world deployments and our annual training commitments," said Lt. Col. Jason Lay, commander of the 142nd CES.

According to Lay, a key decision on why this project was selected is the diversity of skill sets within one project. Once on site, he quickly put smaller teams together to tackle different areas of the building.

"There's a synergistic effect; people like working alongside each other, camaraderie and team building occur naturally while accomplishing an objective together," Lay said. "Out of the group here in Romania, about two-thirds of them are on their first DFT project."

One of the more experienced members of the Romanian deployment was Senior Airman Zachariah Lewis. As a civilian carpenter and contractor, he brought many of the skills necessary to finish renovating the treatment rooms. Lewis completed back-to-back international deployments, having just returned from Vietnam in a similar role with Oregon's State Partnership Program. When Lay asked for volunteers to be project leads the first day on site, Lewis immediately stepped up.

"I was confident that I can bring my knowledge to the team and teach them how to do the job," Lewis said.

He quickly put together a group of six to eight Airmen to finish paint scraping, plaster repair and eventually painting the water damaged treatment rooms and connecting main hallway.

"I work a lot with general contractors and typically know how the work flow goes, and have a sense for how the end results need to be," Lewis said.

Touring the project during the final week, Macanu was visibly happy when he inspected how the final part of the project was coming together.

"I wish that we could have our American friends come back and work on other projects in the future that need more work," he said.

Since becoming a NATO member, Romania has continued to foster relationships with partner nations. As the project concluded, a formal ribbon cutting ceremony, May 20, allowed U.S. and Romanian officials the opportunity to highlight this shared bond. The U.S. Charge d'Affairs ad interim, Dean Thompson, and the mayor of Mangalia, Romania, Radu Cristian, celebrated the Pavilion C renovation.

"It is a gift from the American people to the citizens of Mangalia and the surrounding towns, villages and communities. Better healthcare leads to better outcomes and will help the future of the region to grow and prosper," said Thompson.

The deployments are an important aspect to sustain a positive U.S. military presence while preparing National Guardsmen to stay prepared to perform their mission; whether home or aboard.

"By building partnerships within these communities this has been a great training opportunity through the DFT program, while at the same time it has also been a chance to broaden our influence throughout Europe," said Patrick Considine, HCA program manager for EUCOM.



Tech. Sgt. Charles Jedda, from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, applies plaster to upgrade and repair water damage to a health clinic in Mangalia, Romania, May 11.



Oregon Air National Guard Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron gather for a group photograph after finishing the restoration project of the terrace at Pavilion C medical facility in Mangalia, Romania, May 19. The project was part of the U.S. European Command's (EUCOM) Humanitarian Civic Assistance Program (HCA).

FEATURES

# 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team welcomes home three battalion elements from deployments to Afghanistan

Nearly 900 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team returned home to Oregon from deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The Soldiers provided security and aided drawdown efforts, as well as training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

The Oregon Army National Guard welcomed home nearly 900 Soldiers with three battalions of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Afghanistan this summer.

The 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment; and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, began deploying to Afghanistan in 2014 to perform various missions in several locations throughout Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

As to be expected, the Soldiers and families were happy to reunite after the yearlong separation. Most took the moment to share long embraces and quiet whispers in each other's ears. While coming home was a joy to most, many held specific meaning in their homecoming.

For Spc. Josh Deubert, of Alpha Company, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, the return home meant meeting a new family member.

"He just met his son for the first time," said his wife, holding their baby.

Having difficulty finding the words to describe how it felt to be home, Deubert said, "It's good, man, it's good," as he held his daughter and gazed at his newly-expanded family.

Staff Sgt. Nathan Long, of Charlie Company, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, also met his new 5-month-old son, Easton, for the first time upon returning home. He plans to settle into the life of a family man now.



Above: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, stand in formation, as they are welcomed home during a demobilization ceremony held in Bend, Oregon, May 16. (Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Nathan Long, of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, meets his five-month-old son, Easton, for the first time upon returning to Roseburg, Oregon, June 24. (Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

"I'm a new dad. It's going to be quite the task," Long said.

Others seized the moment to make life-changing decisions.

Sgt. Kevin Brower, of Charlie Company, 2-162 Infantry Battalion, put a ring on Aubrie Irons finger and proposed marriage, to which she answered yes.

"I was going to wait until next weekend, but she's waited long enough for me," Brower said. "She's gorgeous, she's sweet and there's no one else I'd rather spend the rest of my life with."

And still for others, coming home is an opportunity to experience some of the more simple pleasures.

"I'm going to go eat a steak. I haven't had one since we left," said Spc. Jared Sabin, of Bravo Company, 2-162. "It's been a long time."

For Sgt. 1st Class Jon Bricker, also of Bravo 2-162, coming home meant getting to see his new house in Colton, Oregon, for the first time, which he helped select but hadn't moved in yet before being deployed.

"I need him home bad," his wife, Teresa Bricker, said. "He immediately got deployed after we picked it, but it's the first time there are things inside; it's a home."

Finally, for some, it meant a well-deserved break before putting the uniform back on again.

Staff Sgt. Alex Zhang, an Active Guard Reserve member with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-82 Cavalry



Squadron, said he was looking forward to taking a month off before going back to work full time at the Bend Armory.

No matter the individual circumstances, all of them were eager to be back home on Oregon soil after completing a variety of complex and challenging missions in Afghanistan.

Approximately 400 Soldiers of the 2-162 Infantry Battalion (headquartered in Springfield, with companies also based in Corvallis, Gresham, and Hillsboro) left



Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Peter G. Heidt addresses Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, in Springfield, Oregon, May 20, before they are dismissed to greet their families following a deployment to Afghanistan.



Left: Oregon Army National Guard Col. William J. Prendergast, IV, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, welcomes home Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, after their arrival to the Eugene Airport, May 20. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)



Left: Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Forrest Disney, of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, greets his children, 8-year-old Hannah and 3-year-old Hank, upon returning to Roseburg, Oregon, June 24. (Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Above: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier from 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, embraces his wife upon returning to Redmond, Oregon, April 15, following a deployment to Afghanistan.

Oregon in June 2014 and traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, for pre-deployment training before continuing on to Afghanistan.

The battalion's main mission was to provide force protection and mission command for bases and movements in support of the Train Advise Assist Command-Capital (TAAC-C) in Kabul and a quick reaction force (QRF) to reinforce the Afghan National Security Forces.

The 2-162 Infantry Battalion's second mission was the Base Operating Support Integrator (BOS-I) mission, which consisted of standardizing processes for base defense, QRF response, and security for movements throughout the area of operations.

Thirdly, the battalion also provided a Police Advisory Detachment (PAD), supporting 30 police districts throughout the Kabul area. The PAD assisted with upgrading the capabilities, standards and professionalism of the Afghan National Police.

The battalion's fourth mission, known as Guardian Angel support, was to provide security and protection for dignitaries as they moved throughout the Kabul area.

In November, Soldiers from the QRF with Bravo Company, 2-162 Infantry Battalion, were conducting a security patrol in Kabul when a lone gunman engaged them. The Soldiers returned fire, killing the gunman. Staff Sgt. Steven Tessitore was seriously injured from a gunshot wound to the neck and medically evacuated to Germany, while two other Soldiers sustained non life-threatening injuries.

Tessitore was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during a ceremony, December 19, at the Center for the Intrepid, a rehab center at Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

"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."

While some Soldiers were able to return early due to the continuing drawdown of forces in Afghanistan, the entire battalion was officially welcomed home in a demobilization ceremony, June 13, at the Linn County Fairgrounds, in Albany, Oregon.

Approximately 190 Soldiers of the 1-82 Cavalry Squadron (headquartered in Bend, with companies also in Klamath Falls, Lebanon, and Redmond) also left Oregon in June 2014 for Fort Bliss, Texas, before continuing to their mission in Afghanistan.

In country, the squadron provided base defense operations and security patrols at Shindand Air Base until November 9. The squadron was the last U.S. military force to leave Shindand Air Base as the facility was officially turned over to the Afghanistan National Army.

The squadron was re-missioned to conduct flight-line security at Kabul Afghanistan International Airport and base defense operations for Camp International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in downtown Kabul.

In December, the squadron witnessed

history as ISAF turned over operations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) non-combat Resolute Support mission. NATO's mission change from a security role to a train, advise and assist role also marked a change for the U.S. mission in Afghanistan, closing the chapter on Operation Enduring Freedom and opening a new chapter titled Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

"In Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the United States will pursue two missions with the support of the Afghan government and the Afghan people," said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in a statement dated Dec. 28, announcing the end of the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan. "We will work with our allies and partners as part of NATO's Resolute Support mission to continue training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces. And we will continue our counterterrorism mission against the remnants of Al Qaeda to ensure that Afghanistan is never again used to stage attacks against our homeland."

The squadron continued to conduct base closing, equipment redistribution, and base

security missions until they re-deployed to the U.S. and returned home to Oregon on April 15.

Although the name and focus of the mission changed, Soldiers of the 1-82 Cavalry Squadron still met with hostile action during the deployment. Three Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Christopher Beach, Spc. Michael Mangin and Spc. Brian Piccolo, all with Bravo Troop, were wounded and subsequently awarded Purple Hearts in a ceremony during the Yellow Ribbon reintegration event prior to the squadron's demobilization ceremony, May 16, at the Vince Genna Stadium in Bend, Oregon. Twenty-five Soldiers in the squadron also earned Bronze Star Medals for their service during the deployment.

Approximately 275 Soldiers with the 1-186 Infantry Battalion (headquartered in Ashland, with companies also based in Coos Bay, Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, and St. Helens) left Oregon for training in July 2014 and also went on to perform various security operations throughout Afghanistan.

One group of about 70 Soldiers were able to return home early, arriving on May 5.

Spc. Nick Brewer, of Charlie Company, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, who returned earlier than the rest of his unit, said he gained a renewed appreciation for small things when he came home.

"It's pretty amazing after being there for awhile, and you're free once again," he said. "It's pretty nice, you don't realize how much you miss the little things ... being able to wake up when you want. And green grass."

The remainder of the battalion recently returned to Oregon on June 24.

Lt. Col. Noel Hoebach, commander of the battalion, addressed the families, friends and community members gathered at the Medford Armory to welcome the unit home. "The one thing I did want to say to you today is that you should be very proud of the Soldiers in front of you and the Soldiers that have already come home," he said, before dismissing his Soldiers.

The Southern Oregon Soldiers will spend a month on leave reconnecting with their loved ones before their formal demobilization ceremony, scheduled for August 8, in Medford.



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is reunited with his son in Springfield, Oregon, May 20, following his unit's deployment in Afghanistan.



Photo by April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, march toward the armory where families wait to greet them upon returning to Roseburg, Oregon, June 24, following a deployment to Afghanistan.



## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**116th Air Control Squadron mobilizes Airmen for overseas assignment**

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

**CLACKAMAS, Oregon.** – Nearly 90 Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) were recognized during a formal mobilization ceremony, April 11, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The Airmen are deployed to Southwest Asia for approximately six months.

The 116th ACS, based at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, is a deployable radar and communications unit that provides air control, communications and operations in military airspaces.

The unit will assist with surveillance and air space management for air operations in and around the Arabian Gulf. The Airmen of the 116th will support air-to-air and air-to-ground engagements, aerial surveillance and reconnaissance, combat search and rescue, air-to-air refueling, humanitarian support, and Patriot missile defense.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown addressed the deploying Airmen and their families, identifying the sacrifice that Citizen-Airmen continue to make to support overseas contingency operations.

"Your presence overseas will aid important global missions and I have no doubt you will represent Oregon with courage, skill and honor," Brown said to the departing Airmen. "The void of the unit that is still here - the family unit - thank you for your courage and forbearance."

Other ceremony attendees included Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Brig. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Air Component Commander.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 116th Air Control Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, are honored in a mobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 11. The unit is deploying to assist with air operations around the Arabian Gulf.

Addressing those in attendance, Hokanson traced the history of the National Guard's 377 years of service back to the 'First Muster' of colonial militia in Massachusetts on December 13, 1636, to the present day with the Airmen from the 116th mobilizing for duty.

"Like their forefathers, the Citizen-Airmen before us are stepping forward; leaving their families and employers, volunteering to serve their nation and to help make our world a better place," Hokanson said.

Since 9/11 the 116th ACS has made numerous overseas deployments: beginning in 2006 in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; Iraq in 2008 in support of the Global War on Terror; and Qatar in 2011, to

provide air defense of the Arabian Gulf.

As the unit has mobilized for major operations over the past 14 years, new members continue to join the ACS to contribute to the current mission.

After enlisting more than a year ago, Airman 1st Class Lindsie N. Gallardo, assigned to the 116th ACS as a surveillance technician, is embarking on her first deployment.

"I work in command and control. Our preparation has been excellent, so we'll definitely be ready," said Gallardo. "We have been given a plethora of scenarios in our training and I have confidence in our whole team based on their experience on previous deployments."

Gallardo says she knows her family is supporting her as she makes her first trip abroad.

"They are behind me 100 percent, no doubt," she said. "While I am taking a break from college, this deployment allows me to develop all the new skills I have been working on."

Some of those new skills will be quickly put to use once she arrives overseas.

"I wanted to join this particular unit because I wanted to talk directly with the pilots, point out who are good guys from the bad guys," she said. "Maybe someday I can be the pilot on the other end, but for now, it is one step at a time."

Until the unit returns, the Airmen will miss birthdays, anniversaries and other special events with family and friends while deployed, she said.

"I realize that this deployment also requires sacrifices by your families and loved ones," said Brown. "I speak for all Oregonians when I say that we will anxiously await your safe return. You will never be far from our thoughts and prayers."

**142nd Security Forces Squadron mobilizes Airmen for Middle East mission**

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd FW Public Affairs

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, thank the Airmen of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron during their mobilization ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon, May 15. The Airmen will provide airbase, personnel and aircraft security operations in Kuwait.

**PORTLAND, Oregon** - The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Security Forces Squadron mobilized in a ceremony, May 15, at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon.

Approximately 40 Citizen-Airmen of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron deployed to Kuwait for six months in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Their primary mission will be to provide airbase security operations, including patrolling on and off the base to mitigate potential threats and ensure safe landing and takeoff for aircraft. Several of the Airmen will be assigned as Base Defense Operations Center controllers. The Airmen may also be assigned other security missions for the protection of aircraft and personnel, such as off base personnel escort teams, and Fly Away Security Teams.

"They will provide ground security at whatever location our planes need to go to drop off equipment, supplies, or personnel to unspecified locations throughout the Central Command area of responsibility," said Master Sgt. Jason Schroeder, troop

commander for this 142nd SFS deployment.

Schroeder, Master Sgt. Edwin Lock and Master Sgt. Jennifer Buckner will each lead a squad through the required training and to the assigned location to accomplish their specifically assigned missions.

Members of the team have been trained in multiple qualifications for this mission, including Traffic Collision Management course, Tactical Automated Security Sensor course, Heavy Weapons Instructor School, Escape and Conduct After Capture school, Fly Away Security Team school, Base Security Operations course.

"These Airmen are highly trained and motivated defenders," Schroeder said. "This will be the first deployment for eight of the personnel. The rest of the personnel have been on multiple deployments, and



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd FW Public Affairs

Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard prepare to post the colors during the 142nd Security Forces Squadron mobilization ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon, May 15.

for some of them this will be their seventh trip."

Previous to this deployment, the 142nd Security Forces Squadron has supported Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Hurricane Katrina.

**173rd Fighter Wing is first to integrate active duty support staff for TFI**

Story by Senior Airman Penny Snoozy,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** – The 173rd Fighter Wing's Total Force Integration (TFI) is the first of its kind. TFIs around the country have welcomed active duty maintainers and pilots onto Air National Guard bases. However, the 173rd FW is the first to integrate not only maintainers and pilots, but support personnel as well.

In November 2014, the 173rd FW began to receive active duty personnel on base, in an effort to increase manpower as the wing ramps-up pilot production to meet the Air Force's need for more F-15C pilots.

As the mission grew, the wing command staff realized that the maintenance and operations were not the only areas that were feeling an increased workload. Support group offices, such as the power production shop in the civil engineering squadron, discovered more manning was essential.

TFI volunteer Staff Sgt. Trevor Wilkinson, an electrical power production craftsman, joined the 173rd FW power production shop just in time to provide experienced



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Trevor Wilkinson, an electrical power production craftsman, supports the 173rd Fighter Wing power production shop at Kingsley Field.

assistance with the increased workload. Additionally, he was able to assist with the extensive project of replacing the aircraft arresting system; something that must be done every ten years to assure aircraft can be safely stopped during a landing in emergency conditions, which can ultimately save a pilot's life.

"The TFI is great," Wilkinson said. "Being able to contribute my skills and knowledge to the people here, and them giving their experiences to me makes us a better Air Force as a whole. Ultimately, it's one team, one fight."

Master Sgt. Eric Storer, the shop supervisor for power production and barriers, works every day to keep this aspect of the flying mission running smoothly. With only a two-man shop, Storer says he was both relieved to gain a needed troop and impressed with Wilkinson's work ethic.

"When we got the okay for the TFI, we were fortunate to have Staff Sgt. Wilkinson, an instructor from our 3-level technical school, join our shop," added Storer.

After completing the aircraft arresting system replacement, Wilkinson's initial 90-day tour at Kingsley Field was nearly complete. He then volunteered to assist the power production shop for an additional 30 days when he saw there was going to be a manning shortfall.

"I was really surprised how huge the mission is," Wilkinson said. "The mission is as big as an active duty mission for as much

as we fly. The fact that Kingsley is so small and they're still able to get the mission done was pretty impressive."

Storer says that Wilkinson's performance and dedication to the Air Force and the TFI is evident in his every day duties and how he carries himself.

"He is an outstanding individual; he's exactly what we look for in a staff to tech sergeant," said Storer. "He's an expert in his field and a great example of what our Airmen should try to attain if they're not already at his level."

Storer says TFI members like Wilkinson bring a great wealth of knowledge to the base, noting that the exchange of knowledge is beneficial for both the active duty and the Guard.

"I get to take all of this back with me as an instructor," Wilkinson said about his experience at Kingsley Field. "I now also know more about the Guard, so I can assist my Guard students much better."

He added that the more the Guard and active duty members work together, the more congruent the practices, and the total Air Force will become.

## OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## 173rd Fighter Wing trains with 162nd Wing in Arizona for Sentry Cactus

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

**TUCSON, Arizona** – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, spent a week in March training with the 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, during the Sentry Cactus exercise in Tucson, Arizona.

More than one hundred maintenance, operations and support personnel, as well as seven F-15 Eagles from the 173rd FW traveled to Tucson to participate in the exercise. The two training units participated in dissimilar air combat tactics (DACT) training, giving them a chance to fly against a different aircraft. Pilots from the 162nd Wing fly the F-16 Viper, while the 173rd flies the F-15 Eagle.

“DACT is an excellent opportunity for our pilots to sharpen their skills,” said Maj. Jon Vanbraght, 173rd FW instructor pilot and project officer for Sentry Cactus. “We



Maj. Jon Vanbraght, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 instructor pilot, preflights an F-15 Eagle aircraft, March 11, in Tucson, Arizona. Oregon Airmen participated in dissimilar air combat training with the 162nd Fighter Wing, of the Arizona Air National Guard.

have the chance to explore the differences between our instructional techniques and to improve upon both of our abilities to teach our students for the next generation of air combat.”

This wasn't the first time the two wings have worked together. In August 2014, 162nd FW F-16s flew alongside 173rd FW F-15 Eagles in a DACT training exercise, beginning what could be an annual exchange. Eight months later, 173rd FW jets, personnel and equipment headed south to Tucson for a similar exchange.

Vanbraght said working with the Arizona ANG unit is a natural fit thanks to the similar mission they share; both wings train student pilots. The 162nd Wing is an F-16 training base and the 173rd Fighter Wing is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force.

The exercise not only provided beneficial training to the pilots, but was



F-16 Falcons from the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, taxi out to the runway for a training mission in Tucson, Arizona, March 7. Oregon Airmen and F-15s from the 173rd Fighter Wing traveled to Tucson to participate in a dissimilar air combat training exercise, known as Sentry Cactus, where the F-15 and F-16 pilots flew against each other.

also a chance for the maintenance and support personnel to operate away from home station; something that can prove to be challenging at times.

“We've had to improvise. At home station we have our own tool boxes, everything is set up, we have a routine,” said Tech. Sgt. Lukas Blake, 173rd FW F-15 crew chief. “Here you are out of routine. For example, when the jets came in we had seven jets and two toolboxes, so we had to figure out how to make that work, and we did.”

Another challenge maintenance personnel had to overcome was limited manning on the first days of flying. The second wave of support and maintenance personnel was late to arrive due to a delayed air transport aircraft.

“It has been really amazing how everyone has pulled together,” Blake said. “We didn't have our full contingent down



An F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing taxis out to the runway for a training mission in Tucson, Arizona, March 6, during Sentry Cactus.

here and so people stepped up and helped us with the jets, and even though we were undermanned it didn't feel like it.”

The majority of Airmen who participated in the exercise said this was a fantastic trip and an excellent opportunity for those involved.

“Tucson is excellent,” said Vanbraght. “It has been a fantastic trip overall.”



Master Sgt. Jim Moffett, 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 crew chief, updates the aircraft forms for an F-15 Eagle following a training mission, March 6, in Tucson, Arizona.

## Sentry Aloha exercise pits 142nd Fighter Wing against other fighter jets

Story by Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz,  
154th Wing Public Affairs,  
Hawaii Air National Guard

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** – The Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) hosted its second large-scale “Sentry Aloha” fighter exercise of 2015, March 5-19.

Sentry Aloha exercises provide the Air National Guard, Air Force and Department of Defense counterparts a multi-faceted, joint venue, with supporting infrastructure and personnel that incorporates current, realistic, integrated training to equip the warfighter with the skill sets necessary to fly, fight and win.

“Sentry Aloha provides a pivot to the Pacific, combining fifth-generation, fighter integration training with large force employment to provide joint, total force integration between the [Hawaii ANG], Air National Guard, [Air Force], and other DoD counterparts in a current and realistic war fighting capacity,” said Lt. Col Kyle Mitsumori, acting director of Sentry Aloha.

Sentry Aloha exercises are hosted and conducted by the Hawaii ANG several times per year, for decades. It has been growing in size and complexity following the 154th Wing's conversion in 2010 to the Air Force F-22 Raptor aircraft.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco, 154th Wing

Master Sgt. Martin Nance, crew chief, directs Capt. James Hastings, F-15 pilot, both with the 142nd Fighter Wing, during Sentry Aloha in Hawaii, March 7.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich, 15th Wing

Two F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, and one F-15 Strike Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, fly in formation off the left wing of a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 96th Air Refueling Squadron during the Hawaii Air National Guard's Sentry Aloha training exercise, March 5.

A total of 45 aircraft and more than 1,000 servicemembers from seven states participated in the exercise. F-15 Eagle aircraft from Oregon and Florida ANG units participated. The Arizona ANG provided F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft, A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft, C-130 Hercules aircraft, and a KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft. Iowa ANG and Maine ANG also provided KC-135s. U.S. Naval aviators also participated, flying variants of the Navy F/A-18 Hornet aircraft from California, out of Kaneohe Marine Corps Base, Hawaii.

“Everyone participating and supporting is professional and well-trained,” said Mitsumori. “The biggest challenge is the enormity of coordination required to execute complex missions and the many moving parts involved.”

Sentry Aloha is hosted by the Hawaii ANG but to be successful at this level the cooperation and support from the entire Ohana (Pacific Command, Pacific Air Forces, Federal Aviation Administration, and many other agencies) are necessary to make it all work.

“Success is directly related to the

HIANG's ability to properly coordinate and include all players in all phases of the exercise,” said Mitsumori.

The Hawaii ANG and active duty intelligence divisions, in concert with combat planners, develop realistic scenarios consistent with current and future world situations. Tactical unit weapons officers contribute to provide relevant and ‘tip-of-the-spear’ elements for maximum training.

“What's going on is a lot of our potential enemies and near peers have invested in that same force,” said Col. Duke Pirak, acting vice commander for Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing. “They learn from us, they watched us and are now starting to invest in the way that we are. So while not commonplace at all now, large air wars will be potentially an integral part of a future war, a major battle.”

Pirak, explained the conventional deterrent effect of the Air Force.

“[Fighter dogfighting] hasn't happened on a scale that we see in these exercises ... and that's a good thing,” he said Pirak. “There are a lot of folks that just simply don't want to tangle with us in that way.”

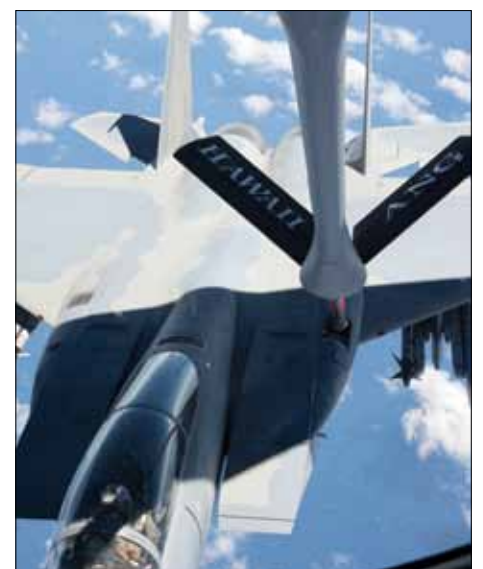


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich, 15th Wing

An F-15 Strike Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, refuels from a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 96th Air Refueling Squadron during the Sentry Aloha exercise over Hawaii, March 5. This was the second large-scale Sentry Aloha fighter exercise in 2015, hosting 45 aircraft and more than 1,000 servicemembers from seven states.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Robert Cabuco, 154th Wing

Senior Airman James Whittle, crew chief from the 142nd Fighter Wing, connects a cable to an F-15 Eagle during Sentry Aloha exercises at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, March 7.

**FEATURES**

**Oregon National Guard participates in Vigilant Guard disaster exercise in Hawaii**



Members of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP command cell review a map while preparing to set up their worksite footprint, during Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii.

*Story and photos by Sgt. Betty Boyce, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs, Oregon National Guard*

**OAHU, Hawaii** – Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) took part in a weeklong exercise, Vigilant Guard/Makani Pahili 2015, June 2 – June 8, in Kapolei, Hawaii.

The mission of Oregon's CERFP is to provide immediate response capability to the governor after a natural or man-made disaster and is comprised of five elements staffed by personnel from already established Oregon National Guard units. These



Members of the 142nd Medical Group, Oregon Air National Guard, assess a simulated patient while providing medical support to Oregon's CERFP during the Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, in Kapolei, Hawaii.

joint service Air and Army Guard elements include teams specializing in search and extraction, decontamination, medical treatment, remains recovery, and command and control.

Vigilant Guard is a multi-state, multi-agency exercise created to focus on training and inter-operability between civil authorities and the National Guard in the event of a disaster. More than 2,200 National Guardsmen, active duty service members,



Members of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP Search and Extraction Team lower a simulated casualty they rescued during the Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 6, in Kapolei, Hawaii.



A rainbow arches over members of the Oregon National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Decontamination Team as they set up the decontamination trailer during Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii. More than 2,200 National Guardsman, active duty service members, and civilian personnel participated in the U.S. Northern Command and National Guard Bureau-sponsored disaster preparedness exercise in conjunction with Hawaii's Makani Pahili hurricane readiness and response training. Oregon and Hawaii's CERFP units worked alongside each other, training to respond to a simulated hurricane scenario.

and civilian personnel participated in various disaster response scenarios throughout the week.

The large-scale exercise tied-in to Makani Pahili, Hawaii's annual hurricane exercise led by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA). The Hawaii National Guard and HIEMA, along with U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the National Guard Bureau, have been planning this exercise for more than two years with National Guard units from California, Oregon, Nevada and Guam participating. Other participants included emergency management agencies at the federal, state, county and local levels, as well as various military forces from the active component. Some of them include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Disaster Center, and local police and fire departments.

"Exercises like this are a win-win situation," said Lt. Col. Michael Moffitt, commander of the Oregon CERFP unit. "The Soldiers and Airmen get the best possible training available and the citizens get the benefit of knowing they have a trained and ready force available if and when they need them."

The overall exercise spanned several locations throughout Hawaii. Oregon's CERFP participated in a notional Category 4 hurricane scenario on the island of Oahu. During the exercise, Oregon Soldiers and Airmen trained alongside the Hawaii National Guard's CERFP team, learning how to work and communicate together to complete the mission.

Upon arriving in Hawaii, Oregon CERFP members had to go through a process called JRSOI or Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration. It is the essential process that transitions deploying or redeploying forces, consisting of personnel, equipment, and materiel from their state to another state's command and control.

Once on-site for the mission, Oregon CERFP members communicated with Hawaii CERFP members already in place and operating in their respective teams to



A member of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP Search and Extraction Team escorts a simulated distressed casualty away from a rubble pile, while participating in the Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, in Kapolei, Hawaii.



Members of the Oregon CERFP Decontamination Team prepare to decontaminate a simulated casualty potentially exposed to hazardous materials during the Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, in Kapolei, Hawaii.

complete a process called Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority (RIPTOA). This process is designed as a handover from one team to the other in order to work in shifts. It allows adequate rest periods for Service Members without a gap in coverage on the front lines of the disaster situation.

"Working with the Hawaii CERFP has been a great experience," said Moffitt. "Teaming up with another CERFP allows us to exercise a critical portion of the CERFP mission that we don't normally get to practice; the RIPTOA or turnover of the mission."

This was the second time that the Oregon and Hawaii CERFP units have teamed up. Last year, the two units trained together during Alaska Vigilant Guard 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska. Moffitt said this year's Vigilant Guard exercise allowed them to continue developing tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP's) that they started implementing last year.

"It is imperative that CERFPs learn to work together in this manner so we can maximize our effectiveness; one CERFP cannot do it all," said Moffitt. "I believe



Members of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP Decontamination Team decontaminate a simulated casualty potentially exposed to hazardous materials during the Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, in Kapolei, Hawaii.

Oregon and Hawaii are the first CERFPs in the nation to exercise this task."

With temperatures in the mid to high 80's and humidity ranging from 50-60 percent, Oregon Service Members who were working twelve-to-sixteen hour days had a lot to adjust to, all while completing their mission with full success. Members of the unit said they look forward to participating in more large-scale exercises involving civil authorities in the future to improve their overall experience and knowledge in disaster response.

"Oregon's CERFP mission is extremely vital to the safety and well being of our state and its residents. We live in such a high-risk earthquake environment that it is especially crucial that we are prepared and properly trained for the worst case scenarios in multiple environments and climates," said Spc. Kaila Talley, a member of the CERFP with the 224th Engineer Company.



Members of the Oregon National Guard's CERFP Search and Extraction Team assist a simulated casualty out of a rubble pile during Vigilant Guard-Makani Pahili 2015 exercise, June 5, at Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

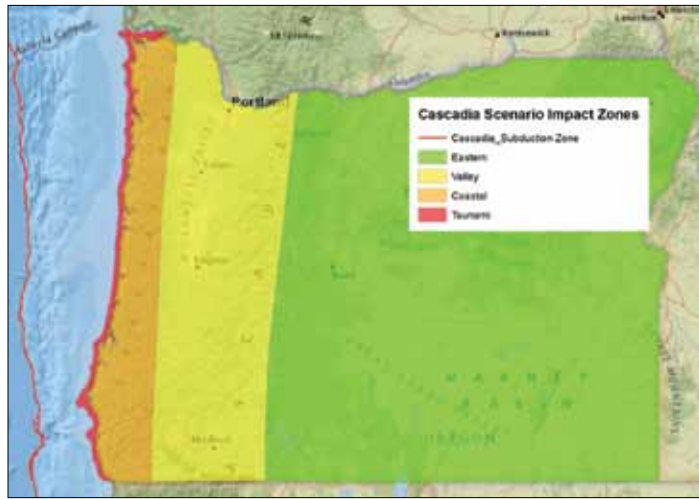
## Recent earthquakes, Hollywood film are reminders of seismic reality

Story by Cory Grogan,  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

**SALEM, Oregon** – With recent seismic activity near Oregon and the release of the Hollywood film “San Andreas,” now is the time to think about earthquake threats in Oregon and earthquake preparedness. The movie depicts several exaggerated earthquakes striking California and Nevada. It serves as a good reminder of the seismic reality of a large-scale earthquake and tsunami threat on the West Coast.

Seven earthquakes occurred within 24-hours, May 31-June 1, along the Blanco Fracture Zone; about 330 miles off the Oregon coast, west of Coos Bay, Oregon. The earthquakes, ranging in magnitude from 3.9 to 5.9, struck about 6 miles below the ocean floor at the meeting of the Juan de Fuca and Pacific plates. No damage was reported and the earthquakes were too small to create any tsunami concerns. Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey say it usually takes a magnitude 7 to trigger a tsunami. The cluster of quakes was an example of normal seismic activity for that zone.

“Magnitude 4 to 5 earthquakes occur fairly frequently in that fracture zone,” said Ali Ryan, Earth Science Information Officer for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. “Like the Cascadia Subduction Zone, it’s an area where tectonic plates are interacting.”



This graphic from the Oregon Resilience Plan depicts impact zones for a magnitude 9.0 Cascadia earthquake scenario. Damage is projected to be extreme in the Tsunami zone (red), heavy in the Coastal zone (orange), moderate in the Valley zone (yellow), and light in the Eastern zone (green).

It’s at the Cascadia zone, a more dangerous fault closer to the Oregon and Washington coastline, which experts say is where we should be watching for a potential 9.0 earthquake that will rattle across the Northwest and create tsunami threats. This zone produced huge quakes more than 300 years ago and is currently building up pressure.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a dangerous fault posing a significant earthquake hazard on the West Coast of the U.S.

and Canada. Many of the region’s most highly populated cities including Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; and Vancouver, B.C., would be impacted.

“A Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake will affect all parts of Oregon, whether from direct earthquake or tsunami damage or subsequent response and recovery efforts,” said Ian Madin, interim state geologist who leads the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Officials say while much of the “San Andreas” movie is scientifically inaccurate, it has some parts that are right, compared to many other disaster movies, in terms of earthquake safety and science. An example is the mention of Drop, Cover, and Hold On, the motto of the Great ShakeOut, the largest national earthquake drill in the United States. The Southern California Earthquake Center provides facts versus fiction, and more about the “San Andreas”

film at <http://earthquakecountry.org/sanandreas/>.

Since 2004, Oregon has put emphasis on preparing for its biggest natural threat. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission has produced an Oregon Resilience Plan, which was furthered by the Oregon Resilience Task Force.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urges individuals to take action to prepare by developing and practicing an emergency plan that includes an emergency kit with at least two-weeks of supplies.

“We know that a major earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that struck off the coast of Japan could hit Oregon at any time,” said Dr. Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program coordinator for OEM. “Prepare now and be your own survival story.”

Some of the recommended preparation activities include developing and practicing an emergency plan, getting a kit, and practicing earthquake drills.

To learn more about the threat and what you can do check out “Living on Shaky Ground: How to Survive Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Oregon,” published by OEM. You can also go to the OEM preparedness information page to learn more about the threat and how to prepare: [http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/preparedness\\_information.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/preparedness_information.aspx).

## Amateur radio critical for disasters

Story and photos courtesy  
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

**SALEM, Oregon** – The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) supported a statewide radio operator exercise at county and city Emergency Operations Centers, as well as other locations throughout the state, April 25.

More than 300 people in 27 counties statewide, including 14 medical facilities, participated in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service “QuakeEX I” exercise.

Radio operators tested maximum amateur radio emergency communications capabilities in Oregon. More than 2,000 messages were sent during the exercise. The training provided an opportunity for county and state amateur radio emergency communication units to prepare for a worst-case scenario like a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that would drastically impact normal communication capabilities in the state.

“This is the largest statewide emergency communication exercise of its kind Oregon has ever conducted,” said Terry Pietras, OEM communications officer. “This training will provide a realistic experience that tests the capabilities of county and state amateur radio auxiliary emergency communications units to prepare for a worst case scenario like Cascadia.”

Ironically, the exercise took place the same day a 7.8 earthquake struck Nepal. Oregon is due for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that could be even larger than the one that struck Nepal. Experts say a Cascadia earthquake will likely cut-off all forms of communication other than



Jamie Baxter, emergency operations coordinator for the Grand Ronde Police Department, monitors radio traffic during the Amateur Radio Emergency Service “QuakeEX I” exercise in a mobile unit at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management in Salem, Oregon, April 25.

amateur radio. Emergency planners have identified amateur radio as the most effective back-up method for communication.

“We know that when a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake strikes our state, many of our standard modes of communication will be down, making the work of the amateur radio operators extremely important,” said Andrew Phelps, director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a fault line that stretches from offshore British Columbia to California and is capable of producing large mega thrust earthquakes. Experts say there is a 40 percent chance of a large magnitude 9.0 or higher earthquake striking our state within the next 50 years.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service “Quake EX I” exercise is part of a larger effort to prepare for “Cascadia Rising,” a large regional exercise designed to simulate a scenario like a large Cascadia quake and resulting tsunami.

Currently, approximately 1,000 of 18,000 licensed amateur radio operators in Oregon are registered and trained to support emergency management and response efforts. More licensed amateur radio operators are needed to help prepare for a major earthquake.

More information on how you can become an amateur radio operator can be found at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

## Taking pride in making Oregon safer

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

**SALEM, Oregon** – Kelly Jo Craigmiles is the Operations and Emergency Program coordinator for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

She is one of the longest-tenured employees at the agency and highly respected by her fellow employees. She has two primary missions. She manages the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that employs 122 people who provide the state with critical emergency services that save lives and property during disasters. She also manages the state’s new Emergency Coordination Center that organizes the disaster response of 22 state-mandated agencies that support local government and citizens in Oregon.

The \$5.2 million grant she manages covers 42 local and tribal emergency management agency organizations, as well as OEM.

Craigmiles said it is a huge responsibility because the grant covers day-to-day operations that provide direct services ranging from the preparation for a large earthquake and tsunami to public outreach about general preparedness enabling citizens to be better prepared for emergencies.

“Our EMPG grant serves a lot of purposes in the state of Oregon with over 80 percent being passed to local and tribal government entities,” Craigmiles said. “It is a 50/50 match grant that also funds 24 of OEM’s 42 personnel.”

Craigmiles said that Oregon takes a local approach to disasters, and that



Kelly Jo Craigmiles is the Operations and Emergency Program coordinator for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

being able to pass 84 percent of the grant funds to local emergency management entities ultimately makes Oregon safer.

“For me it’s a passion,” she said. “I have been doing this full-time since 1983 and love what I do because I know that whether it’s training emergency responders, or planning an exercise, it means the citizens of Oregon will be better prepared for disasters.”

She said her work assists local and tribal governments in two ways.

“One way the work helps is with preparedness, and the other is response,” added Craigmiles. “I can make a difference helping people become better prepared whether it’s a flood, Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, or any other disaster that threatens Oregonians.”



Doug Bush, emergency coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Services for OEM, takes part in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service “QuakeEX I” exercise, working alongside other amateur radio operators across the state to prepare for disaster communications capabilities.

## Are you prepared for emergencies?

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

For more information, or to build a kit, visit the Red Cross website at:  
[www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit)

**Be a survivor, not a statistic!**

## NEWS

## Oregon National Guard hosts Skills USA youth job skills competition

Story by Spc. Tyler Meister,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**CLACKAMAS, Oregon** – The Oregon Army National Guard's 3670th Component Repair Company (CRC) hosted the annual Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 17-18, 2015.

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

Youth from high schools throughout the state converged at Camp Withycombe

to attend workshops and test their skills in job-related competitions. Competitive events included everything from delivering speeches, technical drafting, animation, digital photography and video, to carpentry, welding fabrication, automotive repair, electronic technology and culinary arts.

"Watching students succeed at a job they are passionate about is the best part of this event," said Teresa Mankin, the state director of Skills USA Oregon.

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

"Partnering with the Oregon National Guard provides a unique opportunity for students to see how they can continue their passion and also serve their country," said Mankin.

Mankin said the Skills USA executive director is impressed with the results from partnering with the National Guard and aims to replicate the effect across the country.

"As a four year member of Skills USA during high school and current employee of the organization, I know first-hand how great this program is and all the opportunities it can create," said Zach Buchanan, a Skills USA state officer coach. "Oregon is the only state to have the National Guard partner with the program and with the success it has seen, I feel this one of a kind opportunity can see limitless growth."

Although the bulk of Soldiers participating were from 3670th CRC, other Oregon Army National Guard units also assisted with the event to ensure the students received the best experience possible. The Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and



Photo by Spc. Tyler Meister, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. Jessica Gardner (center), a food specialist with 3670th Component Repair Company, checks on student competitors, Jesse Pink (left) and Jon Bickerdyke, as they prepare a meal in the culinary workshop during the annual Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 17. Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The Oregon Army National Guard supported the conference as a recruiting event.

Retention Battalion provided simulators to give students personal hands-on experience with some military equipment. Several recruiters spoke with the high school students about the different types of careers available in the National Guard.

Many of the students were grateful to have the opportunity to work with Soldiers that actually perform the jobs they are passionate about. One student, Diyora Saadat even went as far as wearing the actual attire of a combat medic during her presentation on some basic first aid medical techniques.

"I think the event is fun, but even more so I appreciate the fact that Skills USA helped

me discover what I want to do with my life," Saadat said. "Thanks to this program, I now know I want to be a combat medic in the Army like my father who served for ten years."

Saadat is a sophomore at Reynolds High School and a new member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at her school. Saadat said she plans to compete in the competition for the remainder of her time in school because it sets her up for future success.

The top students in each category at the state competition went on to compete in the National Skills USA competition in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22-26.



Photo by Maj. Wayne C. Clyne, 115th MPAD

Mitchel Eibel, a senior from Roseburg High School, competes in the welding fabrication competition at Sabin-Schellenberg Professional Technical Center in Clackamas, Oregon, April 17, while Pfc. Conner Roberts, of the 3670th Component Repair Company, observes as part of the Skills USA 2015 State Leadership and Skills Conference, supported by the Oregon Army National Guard as a recruiting event.

## Oregon National Guard commemorates annual Armed Forces Day

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**SALEM, Oregon** - The Oregon National Guard honored all military members in an annual Armed Forces Day commemoration, May 14, at the State Capitol Mall in Salem, Oregon. In addition to honoring all military members, the event also honored Vietnam veterans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

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

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, were in attendance at the event.

The official ceremony featured music from the Oregon Army National Guard's 234th Army Band and a Howitzer salute by the "Governor's Own" Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment. The ceremony was followed by an F-15 flyover by the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing.

Military equipment from various units throughout the Oregon National Guard were on display for local citizens to explore. The event also featured Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets from Lebanon, McNary, North Salem, Oregon City, and Reynolds high schools.



Photo by Christopher L. Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Above: Three Oregon Army National Guard Howitzers with the "Governor's Own" Honor Battery, Bravo Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, fire a salute in honor of the 65th annual Armed Forces Day, at the State Capitol Mall in Salem, Oregon, May 14. The day pays tribute to the U.S. military from all branches of service.



Photo by Christopher L. Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Left: Pfc. Jose Melendez, assistant gunner with the "Governor's Own" Honor Battery, Bravo Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, shows a young girl a Howitzer during Armed Forces Day in Salem, Oregon, May 14.

Right: Two F-15 Eagle fighter jets from the 142nd Fighter Wing fly over the Oregon State Capitol rotunda during the annual Armed Forces Day event in Salem, Oregon, May 14.



Photo by Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**NEWS**

# Oregon Guard hosts active duty Air Assault and Pathfinder courses

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**WARRENTON, Oregon** - The Oregon National Guard hosted U.S. Army Air Assault and Pathfinder courses at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, in Warrenton, Oregon, May 30 - June 14.

Hundreds of service members from across active duty U.S. Army and Air Force, Reserves and National Guard components, converged on the Oregon Coast to test their mettle and earn the coveted Air Assault and Pathfinder qualification badges.

A Mobile Training Team from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center, based out of Fort Benning, Georgia, instructed the courses.

More than 220 service members participated in the 12-day Air Assault



Photo by Spc. Michael Germundson, 115th MPAD

Soldiers practice rappelling from the rappel tower while an instructor observes during a two-week Air Assault course at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, June 10.

course. The course prepares Service Members for air mobile operations, including combat assault, rappelling, physical fitness, and various other critical skills.

Students were tested with an obstacle course and two-mile run before being allowed to continue with the rest of the training. Throughout the course duration, students were evaluated with written and hands-on examinations, conducted tower and aircraft rappelling, and were tested on sling-load operations. A sling-load operation involves slinging an item under an airborne helicopter to fly it to another location. Prior to graduation, the students had to complete a 12-mile foot march with full combat-load in less than three hours.

Approximately 25 Service Members attended the 14-day Pathfinder course.



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

Staff Sgt. Robert Higley, of the U.S. Army's Charlie Company, 423rd Infantry Battalion, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, uses hand signals to direct a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter where to drop a utility trailer during a field exercise for the Pathfinder Course at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton, Oregon, June 11. A class of 23 Soldiers and Airman took part in the 15-day Pathfinder course, learning about air traffic control, selection and preparation of drop and landing zones, and verbally initiated air drops.

The course trains and evaluates Service Members in establishing helicopter landing zones, pick-up zones, and drop zones. Students learned air traffic control techniques to guide and communicate with aircraft, as well as planning and conducting air assault and sling-load operations.



Photo by Spc. Tyler Meister, 115th MPAD

Instructors from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center, out of Fort Benning, Georgia, perform a demonstration on how to conduct a proper sling-load with a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a two-week Air Assault course held at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, in Warrenton, Oregon, June 10.

# Oregon Army Guard aviation unit earns water wings with survival training

Story and photos courtesy  
Capt. Adam Lulay,  
HHC 2-641st Aviation

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 2-641st Aviation, took the plunge for water survival and vehicle rollover training, Feb. 8, at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon.

The 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) helped facilitate the training. Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Freeland was the lead trainer from the CST, along with Sgt. 1st Class Jarrell Rysavy, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Ross, and Sgt. Bejan Rejaian in the water providing the hands-on training.

Soldiers were instructed to swim the width of the pool five times while wearing their Army Combat Uniforms.

"I felt like I was carrying a five-gallon bucket behind me," said 1st Sgt. David Noffsinger.

After treading water for 10 minutes, Freeland taught the Soldiers how to turn their ACU pants into a floatation device.

"The swim training summed up a great Safety Stand Down training and was some of the best PT we have ever done," said Sgt. Teri Burris.

Capt. Adam Lulay, HHC company commander, said he saw a lot of worried faces when it came time for the Shallow Water Egress Training (SWET). He got the idea to conduct this training for his unit from going through similar "Dunker" training at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Shallow Water Egress Training (SWET) simulates a helicopter crash that leaves the cockpit upside down in the water. Aviators are strapped into a mock aircraft

in full flight gear and then dropped 10 feet into a pool where the aircraft flips over and sinks. The aircrew must keep their composure and use their emergency equipment to safely and quickly escape the situation.

"I was pretty nervous going into that class, but by the end I felt pretty confident to the point that I was getting out of the aircraft blind-folded," said Lulay. "My goal was to create a similar experience for my Soldiers."

He said statistically more Soldiers have drowned from a vehicle rolling into water than from helicopters, but the SWET training helps prepare Soldiers for any emergency water egress whether it's from an aircraft or a vehicle accident.

"I've been in the Guard for 11 years and that was the very best training I have ever received," said Staff Sgt. Destiny Pence, the unit supply sergeant.

The Soldiers of "Team Griffon" said they were challenged to meet their limitations in the water by simply learning to find their breath to stay alive and assist their fellow team members no matter the circumstance. They said it brought them closer as a unit as they encouraged each other to grow beyond their current skill level and worked together to keep their heads above the water.

Spc. Jennifer Brock appreciated the unique training opportunity, "I wish we could do this kind of training every drill."



Staff Sgt. Simon Bellamy (center), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 2-641st Aviation, straps into a Shallow Water Egress Training device during water survival and rollover training at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon. The device is turned upside down to simulate a vehicle rollover in water while Soldiers practice escaping through a simulated window.



Pfc. Joanna Pawelska, with HHC 2-641st Aviation, uses her uniform pants as a floatation device during water survival training at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon.



Above: Sgt. Robert Bosserman is turned upside down in a Shallow Water Egress Training device to practice escaping from a rollover during water survival training at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon.

Left: 1st Sgt. David Noffsinger and Soldiers with HHC 2-641st Aviation tread water as they practice water survival techniques at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon.

AZUWUR



# Ceremony honors World War II veterans of the 41st Infantry Division for 70 years of liberty in Palawan



Oregon Army National Guard Brig. General Steven R. Beach, Assistant Adjutant General for Support, addresses dignitaries and officials from the Philippines, Australia and the U.S., as well as hundreds of attendees at the Provincial Capital in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, April 21, as the 41st Infantry Division and Palawan Guerilla Forces are honored for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Palawan during WWII. The ceremonial events, known as 'A Salute to Valor: Palawan - 70 Years of Freedom,' included retelling of the story of the liberation of Palawan in 1945 and tours of historic sites and monuments from WWII.

**Story and photos by**  
**Christopher L. Ingersoll,**  
**Oregon Military Department Public Affairs**

**PALAWAN, Philippines** – Dignitaries from the Philippines, Australia and the U.S. gathered in the Province of Palawan, April 22, to offer respects and pay tribute to those who fought to liberate the island from Japanese occupation during World War II. The event commemorated the 70-year anniversary of the end of WWII and celebrated decades of freedom that were won for the Palawan island by the 41st Infantry Division and Palawan guerilla fighters in 1945. The Philippine Military Academy marched the U.S. and Philippine flags into the infamous Plaza Cuartel to begin the unveiling of new monuments that will honor the 41st Infantry Division and Palawan Guerilla forces. World War II history students recalled that Plaza Cuartel is the location where 139 emaciated U.S.

Service Members were burned alive by the Japanese military on December 14, 1944. The site currently houses a statue in remembrance of that fateful day. The new monuments are being erected to mark the location as a symbol of sacrifice for freedom.

“Liberation came at a very high price for those who died to secure it,” said Bart Duff, president of the Palawan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “The freedoms it provided needs to be cherished and protected.”

Following the unveiling of the new monuments, the dignitaries were caravanned in a parade to the Provincial Capitol of Palawan for a ceremony featuring a live symphony as the story of the Palawan liberation was told with original music. Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach, Assistant Adjutant General for Support, represented the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team – the successors of the 41st Infantry Division – during the event. He presented awards along



Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach (left), Assistant Adjutant General for Support, and retired Lt. Gen. Ernesto G. Carolina (center), administrator of the Philippines Veterans Affairs Office, present medals to Filipino WWII guerrilla fighters at the Provincial Capital in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, April 22.



Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach visits with Filipino WWII veterans being honored along with 41st Infantry Division veterans during 'Salute to Valor' events at Plaza Cuartel in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, April 21. Plaza Cuartel will be the home of new monuments telling the story of the liberation of Palawan from Japanese Forces during WWII.

with Hon. Jose CH. Alvarez, governor of the Province of Palawan; Hon. Ernesto G. Carolina, administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office; and Christopher Marquez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to Filipino Veterans of WWII.

“[Many] who fought to liberate Palawan were never honored,” said Vice Admiral Higinio “Buddy” C. Mendoza Jr., of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. “Men who risked their lives that just faded away.”

Col. Mark Burnett, U.S. Army Command Surgeon, Area Support Group Kuwait, attended the event to receive a medal on behalf of his father, George Hilgard Burnett, who served in Palawan and Zamboanga during WWII as a member of the 116th Medical Battalion of the 41st Infantry Division.

“My father, like most of his generation, did not speak about his service,” said Burnett. “He was a humble man and would not be comfortable being recognized, but I am proud to honor him and his service.”

As generals, admirals and government officials gave their remarks at the event, each touched on the theme of freedom and the heavy price that was paid for it. They also spoke of the enduring friendship established in WWII between the Philippines and the United States

as guardians of that hard-won freedom.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to those of this earlier generation, who gave their youth, their futures and their lives to return freedom to the Philippines and other parts of the world,” said Beach. “We have an opportunity to say thank you in recognition of Filipino and American war efforts that led to the freedom that this island has enjoyed for the last 70 years.”



Tiled murals span the walls of the WWII Memorial at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at Fort Bonafacio, Philippines, depicting U.S. Forces in the Pacific during the war. The island of Manila was liberated from the Japanese by the 41st Infantry Division in partnership with Filipino Guerilla forces in 1945.

## Kingsley honored in Bulgaria ceremony

**Story by Master Sgt. (ret.) David H. Funk**

**SUHOZEM, Bulgaria** – A memorial ceremony was held, June 23, in honor of 2nd Lt. David R. Kingsley in the village of Suhozem, Bulgaria, on the 71st anniversary of his death during WWII. The ceremony took place at the memorial site near where his B-17 aircraft crashed.

Kingsley's B-17 (of the 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force) was returning from a bombing mission on the Ploiesti Oil Fields in Romania on June 23, 1944. His aircraft was damaged by flak over the Ploesti, dropped out of formation, and was attacked by three German Messerschmitt Bf 109's (ME-109). The tail gunner was severely wounded and Kingsley, the navigator, administered first aid. Eight more ME-109's attacked, wounding the ball turret gunner.

Kingsley was attending to the wounded when the aircraft commander gave the order to bail out. He immediately assisted the wounded gunners with putting on their parachute harnesses. In the confusion, the tail gunner's harness, believed damaged, could not be located. In disregard for his own safety, Kingsley removed his parachute harness, placed it on the wounded tail gunner and helped the wounded men bail out of the aircraft.

Kingsley's B-17 crashed in the fields, killing him and some local villagers working in the fields at the time. He was buried by villagers in a nearby area and was later moved to a U.S. cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the life of the wounded



A memorial in the village of Suhozem, Bulgaria, marks the site near where 2nd Lt. David R. Kingsley's B-17 crashed in 1944.

gunner. Kingsley Field, located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, was also named in his honor in 1957 and is now home to the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing.

The recent ceremony in Suhozem was held at a memorial placed near the crash site honoring Kingsley and the local villagers who were killed by the crash. The memorial service included a fly-over from two Oregon Air National Guard F-15s, piloted by Oregon Airmen currently serving in Bulgaria in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In attendance at the ceremony were U.S. Embassy staff, current and former members of the Bulgarian Air Force Base, local mayors and former mayors from the nearby area. Also attending from Oregon was Maj. Cue Kuehni, representing the 173d Fighter Wing; Brig. Gen. (ret.) Raymond Byrne; and Master Sgt. (ret.) David Funk.

## Korean War veteran returns to Oregon



Photos by Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Korean War veteran, Cpl. Ben Lee Brown, returned to Oregon more than 64 years after he went missing in action.

In the early 1990s, North Korea returned more than 200 boxes containing remains and personal effects of U.S. Service Members. Since then, scientists have set to work on identifying the service personnel.

Cpl. Brown was identified in April. His remains were flown from Honolulu to Portland International Airport, where he was welcomed by the Oregon National Guard, Portland USO and Port of Portland Fire and Police.

Brown grew up in the small Oregon town of Fourmile, south of Bandon, and was laid to rest in the Roseburg National Cemetery.



Above: An honor guard receives Cpl. Ben Lee Brown at the Portland International Airport, May 12. Below: Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, and Capt. Shane T. Maher, Oregon Military Department casualty affairs manager, pay their respects as Cpl. Ben Lee Brown finally arrives on Oregon soil.