



China and Oregon train together Page 8



173rd FW demobilization ceremony Page 7

Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Company G, 1-189th Aviation mobilizes more troops



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

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-2 Cody Stupfel with Detachment 3, Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, holds his daughter, Teagan, following his mobilization ceremony, Sept. 29, 2017, in Salem, Oregon. Stupfel is among more than 20 Citizen-Soldiers who deployed to the Middle East where they will provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region using Black Hawk helicopters. **Continued on Page 6**

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Big changes for former Umatilla Army Depot, Camp Umatilla

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

The federal government uses a process called Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) to reassess the military's space and training needs measured against best uses for budget. During recent BRAC changes, Umatilla Army Depot, located at the junction of I-84 and I-82, in Eastern Oregon, has been divided into parcels. One parcel will be turned into a wildlife conservation refuge. A second will become a Umatilla County industrial zone to aid in the economic growth of the area. A southwest parcel will become Morrow County industrial lands, with the remaining portion going to the Oregon National Guard for use as a training area with big plans for the future of the site.

The history of the Umatilla site dates back to 1940, when the Army selected a 16,000-acre plot of northeastern Oregon sage land for a new munitions depot and general supply storage. Construction work began in January 1941, and 10 months later, on October 14, 1941, officials opened the U.S. Army Umatilla Ordnance Depot, named for the Umatilla Native American Tribe, while further construction continued for 8 months. Workers transformed the prairie site into a complex of warehouses, munitions magazines, shops, and office buildings connected by a web of paved



Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Workers constructing ammunition storage magazines at the Umatilla Depot.

roads and railroad tracks - essential elements for shipping and receiving. The first ordnance shipment arrived on October 27, 1941. During its more than 70 years in operation, the Depot grew to almost 20,000 acres and continued to support World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Desert Storm.

In addition to its conventional munition

and general supply missions, the Depot received a new mission in 1962 - receiving and storing chemical munitions. Between 1962 and 1969, the Depot received various types of chemical munitions.

The Oregon National Guard began

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COMMAND

Reflection and reassessment critical to preparedness

I want to thank each and every member of the Oregon Military Department for your hard work and efforts this year. As we close out the 2017 calendar year, please ensure that you thank those who support you in this endeavor, whether they are an employer, friend, or family member. We are all fortunate to be part of such a highly recognized and remarkable team. Every year the Oregon National Guard continues to accomplish multi-faceted assignments and missions without hesitation, here at home and abroad.

This time of year also affords us an opportunity to pause and reflect on last year's hurdles and accomplishments, and identify areas in need of improvement. Challenges lie ahead and we must know our liabilities in order to meet and overcome these obstacles. We need all of our members to individually assess their mental, physical and professional readiness and take personal responsibility for assuring they are ready to support our State

and Federal missions.

As we seek to improve ourselves and our organization, we should also remember the stories of Guard members who came before us. We stand on their shoulders, and we can learn a lot from their experiences. The Oregon Guard has a rich and proud history and I encourage you to learn more about it. This year the Oregon National Guard commemorates the 100th Anniversary of entering World War I. From January 1918 to June 1919k, our State's longest serving Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George A. White, served alongside fellow Oregonian's in France to liberate Europe on the Western Front. In a letter sent home in September 1918, White wrote, "We are all very proud of the way Oregon has kept right behind every patriotic activity, for I see the old state meets every new demand. It is a privilege to have come into the service from such a state and it is going to be as great a privilege to have



Major General
Michael E. Stencel,
 Adjutant General,
 Oregon National Guard

such a state to return to." For more than 100 years, as we have mobilized and welcomed home Soldiers and Airman who have been serving overseas, our communities continue to show pride in our service, and we are proud to serve Oregon! Continue to improve and be proud of your organization and your story. Thank you for keeping up the legacy of service and I look forward to together meeting the challenges that lie ahead in 2018!

CSM Conley retires after distinguished career

Story and photo by
Spc. Timothy E. Jackson,
 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CORVALLIS, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley was honored in a retirement ceremony at the Corvallis Armory, September 22, 2017.

Conley was the first Oregonian to attain the highest enlisted Soldier position in the Army National Guard and served more than 35 years in uniform.

"As many of you know, Sergeant Major Conley has had a distinguished career serving as the Oregon State Command Sergeant Major, moving to serve as the 10th Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major," said Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vincent Jacques, senior enlisted advisor for Oregon's Joint Domestic Operations Command.

The location of the ceremony was special to Conley because it was where he served as company first sergeant, with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, starting in March of 2001.

"That brings us full circle," said Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander. "A simple Citizen-Soldier, a school teacher and infantryman, to progress to the highest levels of NCO leadership in the National Guard."

Upon completion of Basic and Advanced Individual Training, he reported to Airborne School with a follow-on assignment at Ft. Lewis, Washington, to 3rd Platoon, A Company, 2-75 Ranger Battalion. He held positions as a rifleman, grenadier, automatic rifleman, senior rifleman and team leader. In 1986, his last year of active duty, he was placed on special duty orders at Huckleberry Creek Mountain Training Camp as a mountaineering instructor. Upon completion of his initial enlistment, he left active duty and joined the Oregon Army National Guard.

His first assignment was as a scout section leader with 1-249th Tow Light Anti-Tank (TLAT) in Silverton, Oregon. He then moved to a squad leader position with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based in Tigard, Oregon, and then moved to a new assignment with E Company, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, as a platoon sergeant. His next leadership assignment was in Corvallis, Oregon, as company first sergeant with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.

In October of 2003, he was selected as command sergeant major of the 2-162 Infantry Battalion, headquartered in Cottage Grove, Oregon. In that same month, the battalion was activated into federal active duty and deployed with the 39th Brigade Combat Team of Little Rock, Arkansas, and attached to the 1st Cavalry Division



Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. William Edwards (left), Land Component Commander, shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley after awarding him the Oregon National Guard Commendation Medal during a retirement ceremony on September 22, 2017, at the Corvallis Armory. Conley said that the medal meant a lot because it showed his dedication to his home state.

during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Bravo Company, of the 2-162 Infantry Battalion, received the Presidential Unit Citation – one of the highest awards given to a military unit – for their heroic actions in the Jolan District of Northwest Fallujah during some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq war from, Nov. 3 to Nov. 24, 2004. The battalion returned to the U.S. in late March of 2005.

Upon completion of his tour in Baghdad, he was selected as command sergeant major of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Under Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, the 41st Brigade Headquarters deployed as the Headquarters (HQ) for Task Force Phoenix V in Kabul, Afghanistan. Conley was then appointed as the Oregon State Command Sergeant Major in July of 2008 before being appointed the Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard in 2012.

Conley has received the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with "4" device, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Oregon Distinguished Service Medal, Oregon Meritorious Service Medal, Oregon Faithful Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Oregon Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Oregon Superior Soldier Ribbon. Conley has also been awarded the Ranger

Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Expert Marksmanship Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Conley was awarded the Oregon Commendation Medal at the ceremony. He explained that out of all the medals he could be awarded, he wanted one from Oregon on the day of his retirement because that is where his heart lies.

Conley received letters of congratulations and gratitude from President Donald Trump, Governor Kate Brown, and Senator Ron Wyden.

"I want to take a few moments today to thank my friend, Brunk Conley, and to honor his long distinguished career as he retires from the Oregon National Guard and rides off into the sunset," wrote Wyden in a prepared statement for the Congressional Record.

His wife Laura, his five sons, and other relatives were in attendance, as well as about 100 current or former members of the Oregon National Guard.

Conley addressed everyone personally in his farewell speech, telling everyone to circle around rather than stay seated.

He listed names that reoccurred throughout his career, many of whom were sitting in front of him as he pointed to them with a smile. He also remembered those in the Oregon National Guard who lost their lives while serving during his career.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my distinct honor and pleasure to present to you for the first time Command Sergeant Major Brunk Conley retired," Jacques said to conclude the ceremony, amidst loud applause and tears from friends and family.

COMMAND

Timing, team and talent: the origins of ORANG's Director of Staff

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

When Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jenifer E. Pardy was asked to be the Director of Staff for the Air Component Command (ACC), she said it was a matter of "timing, team and talent." Her experience and familiarity with the staff made her the right candidate for the position, where she hopes to facilitate positive changes.

As the senior full-time officer, her role is to represent the Air Component Commander who has overall responsibility of the staffing, organization, equipping and training of nearly 2,300 Airmen in the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG).

"I think this job makes sense for me as where I can contribute the most to the organization right now," Pardy humbly admits. "Sometimes I look back and think, how did I get here?"

It was a long road for her to get here; paved with education, opportunity, experience and mentors who guided her journey. She credits many supporters for her successful career: coworkers, leaders, friends, family, especially her husband and children.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the support they provided to allow me to do this," said Pardy. "You never get to where you're at because of your own effort, there's always people who helped you along the way."

Her father, a retired senior master sergeant from the Air Force Reserves, inspired her to enlist. In 1984, she became a structural repair technician working with sheet metal in aircraft maintenance for the 406th Combat Logistics Support Squadron, McClellan Air Force Base (AFB), Calif. She served as a traditional Reservist while working and going to school in Sacramento.

"I saw it as an opportunity to do something wildly different," said Pardy. "It was almost out of defiance to defeat the odds and learn something new that I wasn't naturally



inclined to do. It was fun and challenging."

In 1993, she transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard as a traditional Guardsman in the 142nd Maintenance Squadron in Portland, Ore. She lived with her uncle and aunt while pursuing a bachelor's degree in Community Health Education at Portland State University. She worked in aircraft maintenance for almost 14 years, rising to the rank of technical sergeant before pursuing a commission.

"I had exhausted this thread of my imagination and curiosity, so I decided to do something a little more academically inclined," said Pardy.

During the summer breaks and after graduating from Portland State in 1995, she worked temporary jobs at the 142nd Fighter Wing where senior NCOs connected her with officers to discuss commissioning opportunities.

"I had people steering me down these paths and now that I'm sitting on the other side, you realize that it's so important to take care of those young enlisted folks who have aspirations but don't quite know how to get there," she said. "You have to pay it forward by helping them succeed."

In 1998, she graduated from the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville,

Tenn., followed by the Basic Personnel Officer Course and the Personnel Force Management Course. She was appointed as Chief, Customer Support for the 142nd Mission Support Flight in Portland, Ore. She served as a traditional Guardsman for five years until she was assigned as the full-time Detachment Commander and the Director of Personnel of that unit.

In October 2004, the timing was right and her talents were needed to replace the Military Personnel Management Officer for Joint Force Headquarters-Air, in Salem, Ore.

"At that point, I felt like I was pretty young both in my full-time career and rank, but my leadership convinced me it was all about the right person, at the right place and time," said Pardy. "It was only supposed to be for a couple of years and then I would go back to the wing."

Over the course of the next five years, her position evolved into the Deputy Director of Staff-Air. She assisted the Oregon Air National Guard Commander, Director of Staff, and Assistant Adjutant General-Air.

"I felt lucky to be able to work with so many people who had different backgrounds and experiences," said Pardy. "I was allowed to grow with that position. It really allowed me to see parts of the organization that a lot of my peers didn't have the opportunity to see. I know now, looking back, that it really set me up for the Director of Staff position."

She returned to the 142nd Fighter Wing in March 2010 as the Comptroller Flight Commander. She was the principal financial advisor to the 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Joint Force Headquarters-Air, as well as serving as the Assistant U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer-Air.

"Being the comptroller was another opportunity to roll-up my sleeves and learn something totally new," said Pardy. "If you understand both the personnel and the finance side of your job, that's 90 percent

of what we do. Having both of those in my background makes me wiser to how the organization runs."

Continuing her education, she made time for professional development courses, including Air Command and Staff College as well as Air War College, to be ready for opportunities that came her way.

In October 2014, she became the deputy commander of the 142nd Mission Support Group and took command of the unit in June 2015. As the commander, she led more than 400 personnel supporting civil engineering, communications, contracting, environmental, security forces, logistics readiness, and force support organizations.

"The Mission Support Group is complex with all of these different mission sets," said Pardy. "Many of the functions that fall within that group require you to interact with state leadership, so I was able to stay connected with some of the people I had worked with in Salem."

Connecting people and coordinating efforts is at the core of what she does now as the Director of Staff-Air. In July 2017, she became the first woman in the ORANG to take on that role.

"Honestly, that never crossed my mind," she said. "I'm proud of where I'm at in my career as a person, not because of my gender."

The goals she hopes to achieve as Director of Staff are to standardize processes to be more efficient and to instill a culture of transparency. She said keeping open lines of communication is essential to finding a balance between competing priorities across the organization.

"We have to ensure we maintain a sense of unity, keeping us all pointed in the same direction," said Pardy. "Bringing the wings together to talk through some of the tricky issues is how we will walk away knowing we made the best choices for the organization."

Be, know, do: Chief of Staff achieves goals with competence

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

Oregon Army National Guard Col. Leah R. Sundquist was poised to take on the role as Chief of Staff for the Land Component Command (LCC) when she was selected for the position in April 2017. With 34 years of military experience in operations, logistics and personnel, all points along her well-navigated career map have led to this destination.

As the Chief of Staff, she is the principal advisor to the Land Component Commander who is responsible for organizing, equipping and training more than 6,000 Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) Soldiers. She provides oversight to the LCC staff, coordinating and synchronizing efforts while managing key resources to ensure a ready operational force.

"This was a goal I've had for a long time," said Sundquist. "I appreciate being selected for the position and I know it's a huge responsibility. My goal is to ensure that the Land Component Command and Soldiers get 100 percent of my effort, so I will continue to work hard."

She is well known for her steadfast work ethic, a trait from her upbringing in a military family. Both her father and grandfather served in the military. Her father's advice for becoming an officer was to do the best at every assignment she was given.

"I was raised to work hard and know my job," she said. "My hope was that if I'm technically and tactically competent in every job that I'm given, I would be selected for positions based on my qualifications and experience."

Her long list of experience includes positions as the Interim Director of Human Resource Management; Chief of Staff for Joint and Domestic Support Command; Director of Personnel (G1) and Joint Domestic Operations Personnel (J1). She



managed plans, training and mobilizations as the Director of Operations (G3) and managed the Oregon National Guard's role in emergency response as the Joint Domestic Operations Officer (J3). She also helped plan, coordinate and implement the initial set-up of the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and Enhanced Response Force (HRF) for FEMA Region X.

"Working in different parts of the organization, the next logical step is to be able to pull all that experience together to manage and coach, teach, mentor the staff in each of those areas where you used to work," said Sundquist.

Her military career began while pursuing West Point at a prep school, New Mexico Military Institute, where she decided to take advantage of the early commissioning program in 1983. She went on to serve as a platoon leader in the 263rd Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserves, while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in K-12 education at the University of Texas El Paso. She then joined the active duty U.S. Army serving as a platoon leader and tactical control officer in the 52nd Air Defense Artillery before becoming the executive officer, plans officer and assistant

operations officer for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

"It's not new to have women in combat arms, my first active duty assignment was considered combat arms," Sundquist said. "I always thought about myself as a Soldier in the Army, not a female in the military. There was no need to prove myself, but rather make sure I'm doing everything I need to do as a Soldier."

After active duty, she taught physical education in both Kent and Camas, Wash. She also earned a Masters of Science degree in curriculum and instruction at City University in Bellevue, Wash.

"Although I enjoy teaching, it's more rewarding for me to work in the military knowing that I am contributing to the safety and security of our community," said Sundquist.

She joined the ORARNG as a traditional Guardsman in 1995 and became the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 41st Infantry Brigade. She served as the operations officer and executive officer before taking command of the battalion in 2002.

In 2005, she was preparing her battalion for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan when Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana. The 41st Infantry Brigade was called up to assist with relief efforts.

"We had only three days to get the battalion ready; preparing the Soldiers and all of the equipment, and getting our families ready," she said.

She led the logistics task force for the 41st Brigade in the 9th Ward of New Orleans, where they delivered supplies to units scattered from the convention center to Lake Pontchartrain. The battalion's medical company provided needed support as sanitary conditions posed risks with hazards floating in the floodwaters and stray animals roaming the streets.

"It was like being in third-world country," she said. "Katrina was our pre-test to get ready for Afghanistan."

The 41st Infantry Brigade spent a month in Louisiana before coming back to Oregon for only a few months before their overseas deployment. Sundquist mobilized the 141st BSB again, deploying nearly 400 Soldiers to Kabul. She oversaw a joint-service logistics task force consisting of Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines, as well as working with multinational allied forces in support of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V. She also served as a liaison officer for the International Security Assistance Forces.

"That was my ultimate assignment, taking my unit into theater and bringing everyone home safely," she said. "You only get a once in a lifetime opportunity having the privilege to be a battalion commander in a combat zone."

After deployment, she began resident studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Penn., graduating with a Masters of Science in strategic studies in June 2008. She returned to Oregon ready to reach for the goals she had envisioned.

"Most of my career has been on an operations career track," she said. "I really enjoy operations type positions because of my task-oriented, goal-oriented, Type-A personality."

With competence as her watchword and Colin Powell's "13 Rules of Leadership" as her compass, making tough decisions is her forte. As the first woman in the ORARNG to take on the Chief of Staff role, she takes her job very seriously.

"My job is to ensure that the organization and my boss are led down the right path and have the information they need to make good decisions," she said. "You have to take into consideration the outcomes for the Soldiers, the families and the mission. You have to make the right decisions the first time."

STATE PARTNERSHIP

U.S. Soldiers and Airmen participate in Bangladesh Disaster Response Exchange

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Corey Ray,
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs Office

The eighth annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (PR DREE), came to a successful close during a ceremony on Oct. 12 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The theme of the five-day exercise was civil-military integration and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) in preparation for a massive earthquake. The event was co-sponsored by the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (AFD), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) sent 15 Soldiers and Airmen from the USARPAC headquarters battalion, the 8th Theater Sustainment Command and the Oregon National Guard, which has a state partnership with Bangladesh.

"I do believe over the last five days you have developed some a collective understanding among yourselves and built up networking for improved interactions, which will help effective coordination while working together for disaster management," said Air Vice Marshal Mashiuzzaman Serniabat, AFD, during his remarks at the closing ceremony.

The event brought together more than 1,400 participants from 13 nations, as well as dozens of government, non-government and international organizations. Personnel worked together either through a phased tabletop exercise (TTX) in Dhaka or a field training exercise (FTX) held in Mymensingh, while testing out earthquake preparation plans, response capabilities and command and control organizational design.

The PR DREE, which has been held annually since 2010, built on the accomplishments of previous years' exercises. These years of planning have



Bangladesh Brig. Gen. Kabir, Deputy Director General of Medical Service, Armed Forces Division (left), talks to Col. Jenifer Parady, Director of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, prior to the field training exercise as part of the 2017 South Asia Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct. 11. The Pacific Resilience series of exercises support U.S. Pacific Command's civil-military integration and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief capabilities.

enabled partners to test out doctrine and verify the validity of the National Disaster Response Coordination Center's plans for disaster response, while strengthening partnerships and communication between multiple agencies, nations and stakeholders.

Col. Jenifer E. Parady, Director of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, stressed the importance of sharing knowledge and creating strong networks across the region to improve responses to disasters.

"The more we practice and prepare as partner nations, the better prepared we are to assist each other when the next disaster strikes," she said.

Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Demian San Miguel has attended the PR DREE in Bangladesh for the last three years and said, "Every year the exercise gets better and better. Instead of the pillars of individual excellence, there was excellent coordination



From left to right, Maldives Capt. Mohamed Inayath, National Defence Force; Aminath Shaufa project officer, Maldives National Disaster Management Center; Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jarod Kendrick, aviation officer, and Maj. Gregory Ramirez, Medical Teaching Team Officer in Charge, Oregon Army National Guard, discuss disaster response plans during a table top exercise, Oct. 11, supporting the 2017 South Asia Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The South Asia Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange is just one of many exercises that ensure the United States is prepared to assist its global neighbors.

across all agencies."

He went on to say that the increased interaction and immediate feedback to participants' questions made the event successful. The inclusion of college students, who study disaster management, brought an exciting, fresh perspective to the event.

"This was like the Grammy Awards of disaster response exercises," he said.

The TTX familiarized participants with an earthquake scenario, their various roles and responsibilities, and the numerous themes of the exercise. Throughout the course of the week, participants were assigned to expert matter cell groups where they deliberated over emergency response scenario injects. These multi-national, interagency teams developed search and rescue response

procedures; coordinated logistic support; verified shelter/relief plans and procedures that are currently in place; and increased coordination between international and domestic organizations and agencies.

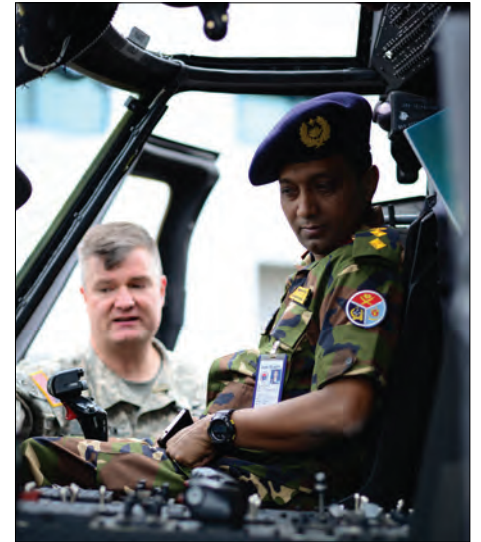
After three days working through strategic-level scenarios, TTX participants gathered at the Bangladesh Staff College in Dhaka to review a dramatic operational execution of the plans during an earthquake field training exercise by emergency responders.

Pacific Resilience is USARPAC's main platform to engage, partner with and prepare our allies in the region in a "whole of government" approach using military and civilians to plan and execute DREEs and other HA/DR events.

Bangladesh delegation visits Oregon Guard disaster response sites



Left: Members of the Bangladesh military pause for a photograph with members of the Oregon Air National Guard Maintenance Group and an F-15 Eagle at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Sept. 27, 2017, during a tour of the base as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP) that Oregon shares with Bangladesh. (Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Right: Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Brian Houston (left) briefs Bangladesh Army Col. Md. Shariful Islam on capabilities of an HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Oregon, Sept. 25, 2017. The Oregon National Guard hosted a Bangladesh Army delegation to discuss disaster response initiatives as part of the State Partnership Program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Oregon Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Sadler, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron, leads a demonstration of EOD equipment to members of the Bangladesh military touring the Portland Air National Guard Base, as part of the State Partnership Program, Sept. 27, 2017. (Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Sonya Pedersen, operations and preparedness manager with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, briefs a delegation of Bangladesh Army officers on how the Emergency Communications Center works during disaster response, Sept. 25, 2017, in Salem, Oregon. The Oregon National Guard hosted a Bangladesh Army delegation as part of the State Partnership Program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, OMD Public Affairs)

NEWS

Oregon Air Guardsmen assist with Irma relief

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron departed Sept. 8, to provide humanitarian support for Hurricane Irma relief in Florida.

This domestic support mission comes just five days after members of the same elite group returned home after providing assistance in Texas for Hurricane Harvey.

The 15 Oregon Air National Guardsmen flew from Portland Air National Guard Base on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft en-route to Hurlburt Field, Florida. The Airmen are tasked with conducting rescue operations and reestablishing air fields that may become inoperable due to the hurricane.

"They are special operations forces, so these are individuals who are able to go into some pretty intense combat situations and are able to take some of those survival skills and put them into use in a domestic operation like surviving a hurricane and participating in rescue and recovery," said Col. Duke Pirak, Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

Combat controllers are trained and equipped to survey, clear and open runways that would otherwise be unavailable due to ability for airfield managers to access. The teams are trained to conduct air traffic control in austere conditions for extended periods of time. This allows airlift to both bring basic necessities into the disaster zone as well as exfiltrate survivors from the area to safety.

"It's an absolute privilege for us to be involved in something like this. We are very proud of being America's dual use force. We're essentially deployed in place to serve state and local authorities but also to serve the president in the overseas fight," said Pirak.

Pararescuemen are the only DoD asset that is specifically-trained and equipped to conduct rescue and recovery operations. During Hurricane Katrina alone, pararescuemen conducted 2,500 documented rescues. They are typically deployed by hoist from a helicopter to help recover stranded survivors. Survivors of a natural disaster could be stuck inside their homes, attics or cars for days and hungry, tired, thirsty and in some cases, hypothermic and in need of medical treatment.

"They are special operations forces, so these are individuals who are able to go into some pretty intense combat situations and are able to take some of those survival skills and put them into use in a domestic operation like surviving a hurricane and participating in rescue and recovery," said Pirak.

Among the equipment being used for the mission are three inflatable zodiac boats with submersible engines, fuel, water and chainsaws. The boats are highly-mobile and roll up and pack into



Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker

A special operator assigned to the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, helps to direct a C-17 Globemaster as it taxis at Marathon International Airport in the Florida Keys, Sept. 11, 2017. The 125 STS deployed to the island following Hurricane Irma to clear the airstrip of debris, open the airport and manage all air traffic in the area in order to allow for military transports to deliver fuel, food and water to the region. The National Guard is the largest reserve force in the Department of Defense and provides the United States with the capacity and ability to partner with civil authorities in order to simultaneously mitigate disasters in our communities.



Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Beth Holliker

Special operators assigned to the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, conducts a goodwill check, handing out food and water to residents of Marathon Island in the Florida Keys, Sept. 12, 2017.

the back of a truck, can be inflated once on site, and conduct rescues within 30 minutes of arrival. These boats can also be configured to air-drop, if necessary, to access remote locations where there are no roads.

The group will be deploying with six passenger fleet trucks; military vehicles capable of going into high water situations much more readily than most civilian vehicles. These can be used for ground mobility and for rescue ops.

"They'll be responsible for a number of things out there. Most notably to go down and establish safe airfield operations, to



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Natalie Plas

Members of Oregon Air National Guard 125th Special Tactics Squadron and California Air National Guard 129th Rescue Wing clear airfields and assess damage in Key West, Florida, as a part of relief efforts for Hurricane Irma Sept. 12, 2017. As the largest reserve force in the Department of Defense, the National Guard has the capacity to simultaneously mitigate disaster in our local communities, and secure our national interests abroad.

participate in air traffic control and to participate in rescues themselves," said Pirak.

All military members will be outfitted with gear that will allow them to operate in a wide range of conditions and geographical locations. In a situation with flooding, it's critical to have proper personal protection from possibly highly-contaminated water. Members of the 125th plan to employ a dry suit that prevents the



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Natalie Plas

Members of Oregon Air National Guard 125th Special Tactics Squadron and California Air National Guard 129th Rescue Wing clear airfields and assess damage in Marathon, Florida, as a part of relief efforts for Hurricane Irma Sept. 11, 2017.

water from getting next to the skin.

Whenever conducting search and recovery operations, one of the primary concerns is the safety of the servicemember even as they are helping others.

"I'm unbelievably proud of all that are participating in this operation and also very thankful for the incredible support of the rest of our organization at home to get them ready to go. I'll be praying every night that their operations are safe and effective and that we get them back home as soon as possible," said Pirak.

Get Ready Salem helps Oregon citizens prepare for emergencies



Photos by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Left: Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jamel Mercado, team chief of the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST), Joint Force Headquarters, Salem, Oregon, gives a high-five to Hannah, age 3, at the Oregon State Capitol building, September 23, 2017. Members of the 102nd CST participated in the "Get Ready Salem" event, part of National Preparedness Month to raise awareness about emergency readiness. The 102nd CST aids first responders in identifying and mitigating chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials.

Right: Tom Dalke (left) poses with his daughter-in-law, Robin Dalke, a volunteer for the Salem Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and John Carey, program manager for the East Salem CERT, at the Oregon State Capitol building, September 23, 2017.



NEWS

Construction for Maj. Gen. George White Headquarters is underway

Story by

Christopher L. Ingersoll,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Construction on the new Joint Force Headquarters building is underway, adjacent to the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. The 55,000-square-foot building represents new values for the Oregon Military Department in the building process, in the environmental performance standards, and in the way the organization collaborates within itself and with partner organizations.

The current Joint Force Headquarters building, casually known as the “Coppertop,” due to its copper-colored metal roof, was built in 1990, reflecting a significantly smaller National Guard force and a Cold War mindset of cheap, abundant energy. Though the environment was a consideration in the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, our awareness of environmental impact and the availability of efficient building materials and technologies has grown by leaps and bounds in the last nearly 30 years. As the organization has grown, the building has become crowded with key leadership being placed in other buildings in Salem for lack of space under one roof or even in a building that is close by.

Before the first shovel of dirt was dug up, the process for the new Joint Force Headquarters building goes back to a much older and more cooperative way of designing and building. How old? Think cathedrals.

“The new way of contracting a build is actually a lot closer to the way very old, large structures were built, like cathedrals,” said Joe Gill, project manager, for the new headquarters building. “The designer of the structure was involved through the entire process and collaborated with the builders.”

In more recent history, government building projects operated on a system commonly referred to as “Design, Bid, Build.” The government agency would hire a designer to design the building, then they would put the design up for bid and the lowest bidder would get the contract. The trouble with that process was that higher quality builders, who may provide a better build at a higher cost, were immediately out of the running for doing the build.

“The only requirement for getting the government contract to build a building is to be licensed and bonded,” said James Willeford, head of construction for the Oregon Military Department. “A couple of guys and a truck can get licensed and bonded, and as long as they make the lowest offer, they can get the job.”

Willeford went on to say that due to quirks in that process, contractors would run up a lot of excesses in the budget, making it hard to do the build for the original budgeted amount. Furthermore, the “Design, Bid, Build” method makes the government agency the middle-man between the designer and the builder, constantly having to rework the contract to



Photos courtesy of Fortis/Sera construction

account for changes or imperfections in the design.

“The Design, Bid, Build method is inherently risk averse and uncooperative,” said Willeford. “All parties are forced constantly to be looking at how to protect themselves from litigation rather than building a great structure. The result is usually cost overages and a lower quality product in the end.”

The new/very old “Design, Build” process, however is cooperative in nature.

“With Design, Build, there is only one contract with a designer and builder who work together with us as part of a team during the whole process,” Willeford said. “We provide certain performance standards like how much light we want in a given space, or what the power profile will be and they create a design to accommodate those specifications. Then as the build is progressing, if there is a change, we come together as a team and work out how we can accommodate to achieve our intent while staying under budget.”

Gill added that a recent change was made to accommodate a generator that would give 100-percent power rather than partial power. The team came together and made some changes in other materials to accommodate the cost differential for the generator.

In addition to the change in building process, the new building will reflect a difference in agency values. Perhaps the most obvious of these changes is greater concern for the larger environmental impact of each building when compared to the standards of the late ‘80s and early ‘90s. The new building will use a mix of

high-efficiency building techniques and materials with photovoltaic solar panels to achieve a Net-Zero energy standard - which means that it will create as much power as it uses throughout the year. The new site’s rainwater collection system will collect water during the rainy months for use as irrigation during the dryer summer months, reducing the demand for city water. The new build also keeps an eye on future emergencies, specifically a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake event.

The building standards are referred to as essential structure standards, which is the highest possible standard for seismic codes.

“Normally, a portion of a building will be built to essential structure standards to be used as a shelter during a seismic event,” Willeford said. “The whole of our new building will be built to those codes with the intention that if there is an earthquake, our people can get right back to work helping others in the state.”

Gill added that the generator is a big step in assuring we can operate after a Cascadia Subduction event.

“With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to be back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event,” he said.

The building’s new location is a departure from the idea of a single stand-alone building and moves towards a campus design. This gives more room for the increased number of Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians that work together to manage the nearly 8,500-strong Oregon Military Department and Oregon Office of



Emergency Management. In addition to the extra room, the campus structure reflects an increased environment of interagency cooperation and joint solutions. The new location brings together the Military Department with the Joint Operations Center and the Office of Emergency Management with future plans to bring all National Guard units scattered around Salem to the single campus with the exception of the Army Aviation Support Facility.

The new Joint Force Headquarters building is one of many new buildings, or remodel projects, by the Oregon Military Department’s Installations branch to bring the Oregon National Guard’s facilities throughout the state into the modern era, where buildings are made with greater thought to the environment and the increased interconnectedness between cooperating agencies. They are also built with an eye on the future and greater care to the knowledge that the state most greatly benefits from the Oregon National Guard’s presence and help in natural disasters, especially with the potential for a Cascadia Subduction event looming in the future.

Oregon Army National Guard mobilizes Citizen-Soldiers for Middle East deployment

Continued from Page 1

Story and photos by

Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon -- The Oregon Army National Guard honored Citizen-Soldiers in a mobilization ceremony, Sept. 29, 2017, at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Oregon.

A platoon of more than 20 Citizen-Soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, are scheduled to deploy to the Middle East to assist with aerial medical evacuation support. The platoon will be joining their parent unit, the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, in

the Middle East and will be deployed for approximately one year.

These Soldiers are largely from the Willamette Valley area (Salem and Portland) and are led by 1st Lt. Lindsay Whitcomb. Two thirds of Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation Battalion, already mobilized and deployed in January 2017 and are currently providing aerial medical evacuation support using Black Hawk helicopters.

Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation Battalion, has a long tradition of answering the call to duty. The unit conducts medical evacuations (medevac), search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression operations utilizing HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters. The unit previously deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge 7, three times to the Middle East in support of

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, stand in formation during a mobilization ceremony honoring their overseas deployment, Sept. 29, 2017, in Salem, Oregon.



Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks to a gathering of family, friends and community leaders during a mobilization ceremony honoring Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of Detachment 3, Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, to wish them well on their overseas deployment, Sept. 29, 2017, in Salem, Oregon.

NEWS

173rd Fighter Wing Airmen recognized during demobilization ceremony

Story and photos by
Staff. Sgt. Riley Johnson,
173rd Fighter Wing

The 173rd Fighter Wing conducted a demobilization ceremony Nov. 4, 2017, formally recognizing wildland fire fighters and the 56 Kingsley Field Airmen who deployed during the wing's first ever large-scale deployment throughout 2017.

The group of Kingsley Field Airmen deployed under a new process called Reserve Component Periods (RCP) in which they support the active component with operations throughout the world.

Nearly 100 Kingsley Airmen helped fight wildfires including those near Crater Lake National Park and the Chetco Bar Fire, which has burned over 191,000 acres.

"The National Guard is known three missions; the war fight, the home front and our partnerships," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, who was among the official party.

"Today we recognize Airmen who supported two of these missions," Stencel continued. "Some of them, both in the same year."

This RCP sent Airmen to countries around the world including United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Qatar, Jordan, Germany, and Kuwait among others.

Stencel also recognized the families and employers of the deployers.

"First, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to those of you who supported our troops while they were deployed...if not for the flexibility of the employers and the support of the families that hold their lives together while they were gone, our Airmen would not have been able to serve."

The deployed Airmen were from many career fields and represented nearly every organization on Kingsley Field.

Rep. E. Werner Reschke was also part of the official party and spoke to the Airmen and their families thanking them and welcomed them back home.

"I would like to extend a job well done to the deployed Airmen as well as those who have assisted in the wildfires," Reschke said. "It is my privilege to be here and to offer my personal thanks and the gratitude of your state for your work that you have done and continue to do, well done. Welcome home"

Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Greg Walden were unable to attend, but thanked the



Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing take part in their demobilization ceremony, Nov. 4, 2017, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. The ceremony formally recognized the wildland fire fighters and the 56 Kingsley Field Airmen who deployed during the wing's first ever large-scale deployment throughout 2017.

Right: Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks to members of the 173rd Fighter Wing and their families at a demobilization ceremony Nov. 4, 2017, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. The ceremony formally recognized the wildland fire fighters and the 56 Kingsley Field Airmen who deployed during the wing's first ever large-scale deployment throughout 2017.

Airmen for their service in written letters.

"I consider it one of my highest privileges as a United States Senator to represent the men and women of our armed services," Wyden wrote. "I am truly proud to know that Oregon Air National Guard members continue to represent our great state and country throughout the entire world."

The first 173rd FW Airmen departed in October of 2016 and the last returned home September 2017.



Brothers in life, brothers in arms reunite downrange

Story and photo by
by Tech. Sgt. Louis Vega,
386th Air Expeditionary Wing

Saying goodbye to family members before a deployment can be stressful. But rarely does a service member cross paths with a sibling while downrange; this recent uplifting experience was the case for two brothers on separate paths.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Roche, 737th Airlift Expeditionary Squadron operations director, and Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-2 Brian Roche, G Company, 1st Battalion, 189 Aviation Regiment, medical evacuation helicopter pilot, found each other at an undisclosed area for approximately three hours to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

"It was a surreal experience," said Brian. "Had you asked me in January if I would be able to see my brother halfway across the world, I'd have told you flat-out, no. There was a strange sense of normalcy in a region that is anything but."

Their father passed away earlier this year and the last time the brothers saw each other was at their father's funeral. Brian, who deployed at the beginning of the year briefly returned home to be with family during the burial.

According to Kevin, his mother became very emotional after witnessing photos of their reunion.

"The idea of being deployed in a combat environment and crossing each other's paths never occurred to us," said Kevin. "Our missions didn't particularly line up but seeing each other this close

to the holidays and sharing our experiences since our dad passed away was very meaningful to me."

Their father served as a U.S. Marine for a full career. The Roche brothers knew they were on track for military professions and followed in the footsteps of a long line of relatives who served their country dating back to World War I, Kevin explained.

"Our wives were ecstatic to see the two of us together," said Kevin. "This was just a reminder that even though we are away from that part of the family, we are not necessarily away from all of the family."

Kevin has been in the Air Force for 16 years and his home station for the last 10 years has been with the Minnesota Air National Guard, 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, Minn. He is the 133rd Operations Support Squadron commander and he pilots the C-130 H.

Brian was one of 70 soldiers who deployed to Southwest Asia with the Oregon Army National Guard from Salem, Ore. He flies the Sikorsky HH-60M Black Hawk, a four-blade, twin-turboshaft utility helicopter.

Brian has been flying with a folded casket flag in his aircraft since his father's passing. He was able to pass this along to Kevin in person during the reunion, and now it's flown all over the theater, in multiple types of aircraft, and on different missions.

Between the two of them, they share a total of seven deployments.

"I've spent a good portion of my life trying to be just a fraction of the man that my father was. Getting a chance to see my brother while deployed reminds me that we're doing all right."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Roche, 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron director of operations, and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Roche, G Company, 1-189 Aviation Regiment medical evacuation helicopter pilot, embrace October 12, 2017 while posing for a photo. The brothers were able to catch up for about three hours while deployed in Southwest Asia.

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard partners with Chinese for Disaster Management Exchange

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

WARRENTON, Oregon - "Earthquake, earthquake, earthquake!" is shouted overhead, prompting Chinese and American military search and extraction teams to immediately sprint into action. Working together, they must quickly find and rescue disaster victims scattered throughout the village. They pay no attention to the rain on their faces or the flags worn on their uniforms as shoulder-to-shoulder they carry litters of wounded casualties to safety.

The disaster was notional, the casualties were mannequins, and the endangered village was a rain-drenched training area at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center along the coast near Warrenton, Ore. Engineers and medics from the Oregon National Guard and Joint Logistics Force Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) worked alongside each other to share disaster response capabilities during the 13th annual U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange (DME), Nov. 16-19, 2017.

U.S. Army Pacific hosts the annual U.S.-China DME to foster mutual trust and understanding with the PLA while sharing lessons learned to increase disaster response capabilities in the Pacific region.

"You don't want to wait to form relationships during a crisis, you must do it beforehand and that's why this is so important," said Gen. Robert B. Brown, U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General.

This year, the DME consisted of an expert academic discussion (EAD), a tabletop exchange (TTE) with a Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC), and a practical field exchange (PFE) to enable hands-on and side-by-side interaction between U.S. and PLA Soldiers. The DME scenario simulated response to a third country suffering from severe flooding and was based on real world damage assessments from the Spring 2017 flooding in Peru.

"By sharing our experiences, techniques and best practices we all improve our ability to respond quickly and effectively - because ultimately this is about saving lives and minimizing human suffering in disaster zones," said Brown.

More than 20 Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the PFE, including vertical engineers of



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

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, meets Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment (EUD) and medics of Detachment 1, 142nd Medical Group. They are part of the search and extraction team for the CBRNE Enhance Response Force Package (CERFP), which is trained to respond to large-scale disasters in the Pacific Northwest region.

"We all have emergencies and we're responsible for taking care of our communities and our citizens," said Col. Leah Sundquist, chief of staff for the Oregon Army National Guard. "This allows for a military to military engagement where both countries can show expertise in how they do rescue activities."

Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Caleb Tomulty, training and operations officer for the CERFP, led the Oregon search and extraction team during the DME. He said his team was very excited to work with the Chinese.

"Overall, the experience and enjoyment of working with another country is a huge opportunity that we don't often get the chance to do as National Guardsmen," he said.

The first day of the PFE focused on urban searches, locating and extracting casualties in different scenarios. The second day focused on shoring; building walled structures to temporarily support weak buildings in danger of collapse. The third day consisted of breaching and breaking techniques using drills, power saws and jackhammers to access confined spaces where casualties are trapped.

"I think this DME is very good for my team because we learn new ways we can save the people," said PLA Cpl. Wang



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

Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and members of the Oregon National Guard pose for a group photo together at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 16, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore. Engineers and medics from the Oregon National Guard and PLA worked alongside each other to share disaster response capabilities during the 13th annual U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange.

RunZe. "U.S. Soldier is very friendly. We can study each other and learn many new ways from each other. We have different ways to do search and rescues. We are both students."

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Nason, of the 442nd EUD, echoed the mutual learning opportunity. "They've been eager to learn from us and to show us their techniques," he said. "They have impressed us at every turn and we've learned some really great things from them that we can incorporate ourselves."

The Oregonians learned new methods to locate survivors trapped underneath the rubble. They said they were impressed by how patient and disciplined the PLA Soldiers were in conducting methodical and synchronized searches.

"It was really cool getting to see what they do," said Staff Sgt. Virgil Newberry, 442nd EUD detachment sergeant. "They had no wasted movement, every movement

had purpose."

The PLA Soldiers said they appreciated the Americans for their efficiency and adaptability. "Even in the most emergent situation, we do the job step by step according to our rules and training," said PLA Lt. Mo SiHua. "The American side does their job very flexible. They can make the plan according to the situation and can change the plan any time the situation is changed."

SiHua said another takeaway for the PLA team was the concept of using a casualty collection point (CCP) to gather the injured in one location for triage and evacuation.

"The casualties who can walk by themselves on their own to the CCP saves rescue resources and improves the rescue efficiency," SiHua said.

The Oregon Guard and PLA teams took turns showing each other their techniques and then combined into mixed teams to work together.

"We mixed groups with them and we had to do the job together, that was the most difficult on both sides," said SiHua. "We dealt with difficulties because we have to communicate with gestures and eye contact."

Spc. Philip Costa, with the 442nd EUD, said everyone started out shy, but by the end of the exchange they were laughing together.

"The cohesion has just been incredible," he said. "This is the first time in my



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

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jason Cushman, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, assists Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with using a saw to cut wood for shoring structures at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore. Shoring prevents a damaged structure from collapsing enabling rescuers to extract casualties.



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

Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. Daniel Gates (center), with Detachment 1, 142nd Medical Group, and Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment extract a simulated casualty alongside Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

military career that I've worked in this fashion with a foreign country and it's been a great experience. I'm glad that we are getting this opportunity."

Despite the cold, rainy weather and navigating the language barrier, the participants remained positive and gained more than just search and rescue knowledge.

"Americans are very friendly and warm and considerate," said SiHua. "They make us feel very welcome."

Nason said he appreciated the chance to learn about the Chinese culture from their perspective.

"Everybody just wants to get to know each other and they are really open and friendly," he said. "We are all literally the same, we are all Soldiers only the nation is different."

They were curious about their differences, but bonded over the things they had in common.

"It really opens your eyes to who they are versus what your expectations might be," said Tomulty. "They're wonderful people and just like us they've got families back at home that are missing them."

Since 2005, the DME has been held at locations in Hawaii, Washington, D.C., New York, Washington and multiple areas in China. This was the first year the exchange was held in Oregon.

In addition to providing a learning opportunity for the U.S. and PLA Army participants, this year the DME included military and government observers



Photo by Spc. Alisha Grezlik, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard's 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard's Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 18, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.



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

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment and Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) work together to build a shoring structure at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore. Shoring prevents a damaged structure from collapsing, enabling rescuers to extract casualties.

Left: Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) listen to a briefing in preparation for a search and extraction exchange at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 16, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Philip Costa, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, assists Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with building a shoring structure at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.



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



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

Soldiers from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard's 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to assess and extract a simulated casualty at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Medical Group conducts lifesaving training for volunteers

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

Valuable lifesaving training was conducted during the October drill at the 142nd Fighter Wing with the Oregon National Guard's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives, enhanced response force package, or CERFP team that work with civilian authorities to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

The civilian group involved in today's training was the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) is a collection of licensed healthcare professionals who have registered to volunteer in response to Federal, State, and/or local emergencies.

"Today we get to showcase what we do as military organization and how we go about our processes of packaging, triaging and medical treatment of patients in a mass casualty scenario," said Senior Airman Andrew Chapman, a triage medic with the 142nd CERFP.

A number of individuals from the 142nd were tasked to play the casualties for this particular exercise to help the SOLV-OR volunteers get a realistic experience, with a variety of simulated wounds and dramatic patient acting.

Patients were brought into triage areas via field gurneys or by foot to be evaluated by the staff which wrapped up the day long exercise at the Field Triage and Casualty

Collection point.

"It was good training for us as well as the SERV-OR team were able to give us a presentation on what they do and their background." Chapman continued, "The only other outside non-military organizations we've recently worked with was the Portland Fire Department at their training facility to see how they train and use their facility."



Members of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group CERFP facilitate a mock mass-casualty scenario in which SERV-OR volunteers utilize newly learned skills to effectively triage and transport patients with a variety of simulated injuries at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oct. 14, 2017.



Members of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group CERFP facilitate a mock mass-casualty scenario in which SERV-OR volunteers utilize newly learned skills to effectively triage and transport patients with a variety of simulated injuries at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oct. 14, 2017.

Airman awarded Bronze Star

*Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing*

Master Sgt. Garron Dahle, combat control craftsman for the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), Oregon Air National Guard, received The Bronze Star, November 4, 2017 for accomplishments while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan.

Dahle received the medal from Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

"You've heard me talk about 'every airman a leader' in this organization, and Garron epitomizes that," said Stencel.

Dahle was assigned to the 21st Expeditionary Special Tactics Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan, from Sept. 1 to Nov. 15, 2015.

In his Bronze Star Citation, Dahle was credited for his contribution to a successful combat operations mission in directing airborne assets in support of ground

schemes of maneuver for his special forces team, serving to eliminate insurgent strongholds and helping to restore order to the volatile regions of Afghanistan.

Dahle's wife, Rachel Dahle was recognized during the ceremony for her deep devotion and continued support to her country.

The Bronze Star Medal was established in 1944 and is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the U.S. Military. It is awarded to members of the armed forces who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious service in a combat zone.

The 125th STS organizes trains and equips special tactics forces worldwide to integrate, synchronize and/or control the elements of air and space power in a deployed environment. It also provides long-range operations and logistical planning, and deploys command and control elements during tactical force employment or deployment.

With this award, Dahle joins an esteemed group of Bronze Star Medal recipients in the Oregon Air National Guard.



Master Sgt. Garron Dahle (right), combat control craftsman for the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), Oregon Air National Guard, receives The Bronze Star, November 4, 2017 for accomplishments while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan. Dahle received the medal from Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Oregon F-15s conduct elephant walk



142nd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles conduct an elephant walk during a combat readiness exercise at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., November 22, 2017. The exercise included 13 F-15s launching after a 24 hour notice. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

173rd honors WWII POW with flyover



173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles performed the Missing Man Formation flyover, Dec. 8, 2017, for Lt. Col. Karl Garlock's memorial service in Medical Lake, Washington. He retired from the wing in 1969 after a distinguished flying record in WWII that included time as a prisoner of war. (U.S. Air Force photo by Michael J. Pausic)

HURRICANE MARIA RELIEF

173rd Fighter Wing Airmen deploy in support of Hurricane Maria relief

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

Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing deployed in support of relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria's trek across the island of Puerto Rico.

Maj. Michael Balzotti and Master Sgt. Michael Moore from the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron deployed to Ponce, Puerto Rico a city on the southern coast of the island.

Tech. Sgt. Brad Kortum, Staff Sgt. Jeff Ochoa, Senior Airman Robert Gillard, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Bowman from the logistics readiness squadron, and Tech. Sgt. James Mossett from the maintenance group, are all in Savannah, Ga., supporting the state-side hub for relief efforts.

Guardsmen across the nation are often referred to as minutemen. This is because historically they can be ready in a minute. This was clearly demonstrated with the wing's response to the call for assistance.

"We found out on a Thursday and processed them out on Friday and Saturday; they left Sunday," said Tech. Sgt. Erika Meng, 173rd Fighter Wing Plans and Integration Office.

Balzotti said that he and Moore flew to Missouri to fill a team left shorthanded by other deployment commitments overseas. They spent a single night stateside and then planned to proceed to Puerto Rico, but were stalled by further poor weather on the island.

"We flew to Savannah, Ga., because another rainstorm flooded the airport on the 16th [of October]," he said.

"We were able to begin equipment setup the 19th and began controlling aircraft on the 21st," Balzotti said.

Once the airport became operational an array of aircraft populated the airspace including many helicopters for aid deliver as well as medical response, Air Force transport aircraft delivering aid, as well as civilian and commercial aircraft.

He added that in, what is typical for many Guardsmen, Moore's breadth of training is proving extremely valuable in a crisis response situation.

"He stepped in as the senior maintenance technician," Balzotti said. "He's got a number of AFSC's — power production, HVAC, weather, and airfield systems a lot of training. He's fixed issues we've had with our radios at home and we have had the same issues here, he's already got that fixed extending range from 1 mile to 30 miles and he also passed that along to the Marine Corps who employed the same fix to extend their range as well."

Mossett, a crew chief on the F-15 Eagle, is also employing previous experience to lend a hand to the disaster response.

"He's working on C-130s because he holds that AFSC; it's what he did before coming to the wing," said Meng.

He and the other members from the wing are helping at the staging ground for relief operations in Savannah, Ga.

Bowman and Gillard are helping with transportation management and Ochoa and Kortum are drivers for buses and other large vehicles.

The estimated length of the deployments range from 24 to 60 days.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno, 621st Contingency Response Wing

Above: Local villages destroyed by Hurricane Maria, near the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico.



Right: A mobile air traffic control tower is set up in Ponce, Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria. Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing were sent there to support the restoration of air traffic control services following Hurricane Maria.

Photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing

142nd Fighter Wing deploys in response to Hurricane Maria

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



Oregon Air National Guard members from the 142nd Logistical Readiness Squadron work together with Airmen from the New York Air National Guard as they load a C-17 Globemaster III, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Sept. 29, 2017.

PORTLAND, Oregon - In the aftermath of three devastating hurricanes that struck Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean region of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, eight Oregon Air National Guardsmen deployed to Puerto Rico, Sept. 29, in response to Hurricane Maria.

To restore vital communications capabilities, the Oregon Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing's Communications Flight (CF), will be providing emergency communications for both the National Guard and civilian first responders.

Hurricane Maria's devastating effects have overwhelmed the electrical grid and downed most of its telephone wires in Puerto Rico. Utilizing the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) will provide satellite service while interlacing communication assets between the two agencies with internet, telephone, and radio communication.

Building on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, civilian and military first responders could not talk to each other on separate systems. The JISCC is a 20-foot mobile communications system, which allows for interoperability between the two agencies, providing a streamlined system for the emergency



Oregon Air National Guard members from the 142nd Logistical Readiness Squadron work together with Airmen from the New York Air National Guard as they load a C-17 Globemaster III, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Sept. 29, 2017. Eight members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Communications Flight deployed to support Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

responders.

"Heading out the door, we're fully self-sufficient with generators, a ton of diesel fuel, food and the ability to shelter wherever we need to work," said Master Sgt. Gus Johnson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the rapid deployment team.

When the Oregon Air National Guard deployed to Katrina, they did so with over 40 members and supported the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team. With a group of eight, the CF members are a marked contrast to how the unit responded when deploying 12

years ago to the Gulf Coast.

"We took a strictly military, combat communication squadron to Katrina that required a larger force to operate," Johnson said, comparing the two hurricane response deployments. "With the JISCC; it is lightweight, versatile and we only need eight people to run 24-hour operations."

The Airmen train monthly for specific situations like this, setting-up in the field to support domestic operations for other civil authorizes.

"The team is not compartmentalized, if someone happens to fall out during the

mission, another team member can easily step in and work on the system," he said.

According to the Army Col. Les Melnyk, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau, the Puerto Rico National Guard had two on the island, which they took down to protect them before Maria hit. Each system costs about \$1.5 million, in total, six more JISCC systems will be added for this hurricane response.

"Probably the greatest concern is the state of the infrastructure when we get there," Johnson said. "We've been packed and ready to go for the past few days so this is a great opportunity to go and assist."

NEWS

Big changes for former Umatilla Army Depot, Camp Umatilla

*Continued
from Page 1*

utilizing the Depot as a local training area in the early 1980s where it constructed and operated a number of small arms ranges and stored and maintained military vehicles. In 1988, the Depot was identified for realignment under BRAC, which relocated the Depot's conventional ammunition and general supplies missions to other U.S. depots and installations. As a result of the 1988 BRAC decision, the Oregon Military Department worked collaboratively with the formally recognized Local Redevelopment Authority, consisting of leadership from Umatilla County, Morrow County, Port of Umatilla, Port of Morrow, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in an effort to preserve a permanent training center that would accommodate the National Guard. These redevelopment planning efforts were reinvigorated by the decision to ultimately close the depot as a result of 2005 BRAC legislation.

Destruction of the chemical agents stored at the Depot began in the fall of 2004 and the last stockpiled ton containers filled with mustard chemical agent were incinerated on October 20, 2011. The formal closing of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot occurred

on August 1, 2012, and resulted in the Department of the Army declaring 19,729 acres of property as an excess to its future needs.

On November 27, 2017, The Adjutant General, Oregon, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a license that dedicates 7,500 acres of the former depot's 19,729 acres as a new Oregon National Guard Training Center. This new training center, now named Camp Umatilla, will accommodate the weekend and annual training requirements of the Oregon National Guard as well as military units from other services. It is also home to the 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI). The 249th RTI is the Oregon National Guard's premier training institute for forging exceptional leaders and is a leader in the nation for conducting infantry transition and advanced infantry leader training.

In anticipation of transforming the former chemical depot to a new training center, the Oregon Military Department has recently invested \$2 million in infrastructure improvements to the 1940s era installation and is in the early stages of investing another \$25 million dollars in facility improvements over the next few years that include sewer line repairs, new water distribution system, road realignments, security fencing, administration and office space enhancements, new classrooms, as well as



Photo courtesy Oregon Military Department Installations

lodging and dining facility improvements.

Eric Manus, the senior project manager for the Camp Umatilla construction projects, is excited for the future of the site and has already laid a good amount of the infrastructure groundwork to support the future projects.

"A lot of the facilities and infrastructure out there haven't been updated in decades if at all," Manus said. "We have already been out there working projects to modernize the infrastructure so that we have a solid foundation for building renovations over the next several years."

Melissa Burns, one of the project managers for the Camp Umatilla projects, said one of the key priorities as they begin to give the whole site a much needed modernization, is keeping with the governor's priorities and standards for the environment.

"The water out on the site comes from wells," Burns said. "So we want to make sure that our renovations throughout the process reflect that the site is in a desert and that water is precious there."

Jim Willeford, head of construction for the Oregon Military Department, said that balancing the needs of the Oregon National Guard with the needs of our neighbors and the historic value of the site is key to the building process.

"On one part of the former site, there is going to be a nature reserve," said Willeford. "So as we train out there, we want to have

plans in place so that we can balance getting our training done with having minimal impact on the surrounding land and wildlife. We also want to preserve some things like the old parade grounds for their historic value, at the same time reducing the amount of manicured and irrigated lawn area. This will reduce our consumption of well water for irrigation."

Willeford also said that the modernization has to be balanced with trying to preserve the sites historic structures.

"It will be a fun project for us to refurbish the old masonry buildings," said Willeford. "Many of the buildings on that site date back to WWII, and maintaining that heritage is really important for both the military and the local community."

Dave Stuckey, Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department, said he is very pleased with the direction that the projects are going for Camp Umatilla.

"Being able to breathe new life into Camp Umatilla is a great investment for our agency, as it provides a way for us to train in a great environment and allows us to accommodate training for other military units throughout the country," said Stuckey. "It also keeps with our larger goals of modernizing our facilities to make them better suited for modern war-fighting needs and support during times of emergency with greater care and consideration for the environment."



Photo courtesy Oregon Military Department Installations

Infantry Soldiers help restore former gravel mining area

*Story and photos by Sgt. Cory Grogan,
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs*

EUGENE, Ore. – Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of A Company "Atlas," 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, supported their community, Nov. 19, 2017, with an outreach project to restore a former gravel mining area to its natural habitat. The Soldiers helped the Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah reintroduce native plants to the area known as Turtle Flats near Eugene.

Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that helps care for and enhance the park's habitats and trails. Atlas Company Soldiers were able to support that effort by spending a day of their drill planting trees.

1st Lt. Alan Mishler, Atlas Company commander, worked with Mieko Aoki, the trails and volunteer coordinator for Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah, to organize support that involved planting the native trees in their natural habitat.

"We're here to help the community by getting out to show our job isn't just to deploy and help during emergencies, but also to support the communities we live



Mieko Aoki, the Trails and Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of Buford Park hands a potted tree to Staff Sgt. Clinton Stayton, Nov. 19, during a restoration project at Turtle Flats just outside of Eugene.

in," Mishler said. "It feels great and it's nice to have the opportunity to give back."

Aoki appreciated the willingness of all the Soldiers to lend a helping hand and said they were able to accomplish a lot.

"We're always happy to have strong groups of people come out and it's wonderful to see these guys out here," said Aoki. "It is great to get a group that follows directions well and is willing to do hard work."

Spc. Evan Clark, an infantryman from Eugene, said he enjoyed getting some fresh



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment's Atlas Company work to plant native trees at a former gravel mining area for a community service project at Turtle Flats near Eugene, Ore., to support the Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgahan, Nov. 19. Turtle Flats is a natural area at the confluence of the coast and middle forks of the Willamette River.

air and doing something for the community.

Staff Sgt. Clinton Stayton, assistant operations noncommissioned officer with Atlas Company, agreed. He said it was great to have a chance to do something

positive for his community.

"We're Citizen-Soldiers who belong to the community, and projects like this help show the community we're people who care that can be trusted," said Stayton.

NEWS

1-82 Cavalry gets new strykers and job opportunities

Story and photo by

Capt. Leslie Reed,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

REDMOND, Oregon – Members of 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, took their reconnaissance-variant Strykers out for a three-day training event, Oct. 21, at Biak Training Center near Redmond, Oregon. This was only the second time since receiving the new Strykers that they've been able to do so, following the initial issue at Joint-Base Lewis McChord near Tacoma, Washington.

The Stryker is a fast-moving, mobile, eight-wheeled vehicle that has more than 18 different variants. The unit, headquartered in Bend, Oregon, received their last 19 Strykers to complete their inventory prior to Thanksgiving.

The new equipment provides new job opportunities for Soldiers. Due to the changeover from Humvees to the Stryker, the unit is looking to add Soldiers to their ranks with the 25U designator (signal support system specialists) who are responsible for maintaining radio and data systems for the Strykers, and 19D (cavalry scouts) who act as the eyes and ears during battle, collecting data and tracking enemy movements.

In order to help facilitate these personnel needs, the unit hosted two different groups



An Oregon Army National Guard Stryker vehicle with Charlie Company, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment provides overwatch during a field training exercise at Biak Training Center near Redmond, Oregon on October 21, 2017. The unit is tasked with a reconnaissance type mission where they fact as the forward eyes and ears on the battlefield.

in "CAV for a Day" sneak-peek looks at training with the unit. One group was current Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers looking to potentially switch their military occupational specialty (MOS) to join the unit, and the other was a group of high school-aged young adults looking at joining the Guard following their graduation. In total, nearly 60 participants attended between an earlier event in Lebanon, Oregon, and the event at Biak Training Center.

Pfc Ethan Welch, an infantryman, found

out about the event after being contacted by several members in 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, "I came with an open mind. We started with an early wake-up, went on a recon, got to experience calling for support, just knowing their weapons and the capabilities of their Strykers."

Welch currently resides in Bend, Oregon, and potentially living close to his unit would be beneficial, but even if he decides not to join the squadron, he still walks away with new knowledge, "They are a valuable assets (Strykers) and it was good to see how they do things. I know how to call in for support, I know their capabilities."

He did feel a bit at home after being called upon to dismount and help provide personnel security for the Land Component Commander, Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards, during a portion of the training.

"I found out an hour before, so it was kind of a surprise," he said. "I've never seen a general before, let alone escorted one or ridden in a Stryker with one."

Sgt. Jacob Meyers, a 91F (small arms/artillery repairer) also attended the "CAV for a Day" event. He previously deployed with Charlie Troop to Afghanistan 201-2015, and has been trying to get back to this unit since the deployment. Meyers said he had a good experience downrange being a driver for 3rd Platoon, Charlie Troop.

"I knew what to expect since I had been with the unit before," he said. "I got out of the unit right before they got the Strykers."

Meyers currently works to diagnose broken weapons, but because technicians complete the actual repairs, feels his job is a bit obsolete. He's looking for something "more dynamic" and something that keeps him busy. He says he often ends up assisting with supply in his current unit.

"I want a job where the description of MOS actually is what you do," he said. "I decided to come to Bend because these are the guys I deployed with, I already knew Charlie Troop."

The squadron is scheduled to complete an upcoming exercise with 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), at Yakima Training Center in Washington. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron transferred under the 81st SBCT command last winter after formerly being a part of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). Although structured under a Washington Army National Guard brigade, the unit remains in Oregon under the operational control of 82nd Brigade Troop Command when not deployed.

1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, is made up of units from Bend, Lebanon, Prineville, Redmond and The Dalles, Oregon.

Officer candidate commissioning commemorates historic event

Story by

Staff Sgt. Amy Elker,

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MONMOUTH, Oregon – Located on the serene campus of Western Oregon University (WOU) in Monmouth, the Oregon Military Academy (OMA) has housed multitudes of officer candidates since its doors opened in 1992. Saturday, Sept. 9, however, marked a historic event with the last commissioning and appointing of officers to take place at the facility.

Nine candidates from Officer Candidate School (OCS) Class 60 received their commission to the rank of second lieutenant in the Oregon Army National Guard. The commissioning was coupled with a Final Retreat ceremony, commemorating the departure of the OCS from the OMA building in Monmouth. The OMA facility has been sold to the University and OCS will be moved to a new location at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, approximately eight miles south of Astoria.

Building the OMA on a 10-acre plot on the northeast campus of WOU 25 years ago was also considered a historic event, as it was the first armed service training center on the campus of a four year, degree-granting university in the country. The OMA was home to the 249 Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) for nearly 20 years until, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure process, the Department of Defense began the transfer of 7,500 acres of land at Camp Umatilla to the Oregon National Guard to own and manage as a training site. The RTI moved to Umatilla in 2014, while the OCS remained as a detachment at the OMA in Monmouth.

The official party of the Commissioning and Final Retreat ceremony included the Assistant Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Prendergast, Oregon Joint Force Headquarters, who was the guest speaker, and Maj. Joshua Rapp, commander, 249 RTI, OCS.

Prendergast earned his commission from the OCS at the OMA in 1994, and his class, Class 37, was the first full class to go through the training at the Monmouth facility. He also served as a former commander of the 249 RTI from 2012-14. During his remarks, Prendergast said it was an honor to be there to celebrate with the 60th Class of officer candidates, recalling some of his own experiences and inspiring



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th MPAD

An Oregon Army National Guard color guard folds an American flag during the retreat ceremony held at the Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth, September 10, 2017. The academy was home to Oregon Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School. The ceremony was performed at the end of the last commissioning, OCS Class 60, graduation ceremony.

the candidates to reach great heights.

"Twenty-three years ago, we had the same ceremony, on the same piece of asphalt ... I was sitting in the chairs where you are sitting," he said. "I've been here; I fully know what you've gone through ... There is no reason why you can't achieve the same success as a traditional guardsman in this organization to become a general officer, serving the state at a higher level."

Yet, Prendergast also found the experience to be bittersweet with the final retreat of the OMA in Monmouth.

"But we are about change," he said. "We need to be able to embrace change and be able to drive forward, so I think this is a great opportunity for the university to accept this facility and for us to be able to start a new chapter in the Military Academy's book of life."

Rapp also addressed the audience and explained how the officer candidates who were earning their commission on that day "was no small feat."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

New Oregon Army National Guard lieutenants of Officer Candidate School Class 60, take their commissioning oath of office from Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast, Assistant Adjutant General, Oregon Army National Guard, during their graduation ceremony held at Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth, Oregon, September 9, 2017. This is the last commissioning class to graduate from the OMA. The OCS will be moving to Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

"Not many people here today are aware that Class 60 began with nearly 50 Soldiers who had the dream of becoming an Army Officer," he said. "Well, as you can see, 16 percent of those who showed up, demonstrated the will and tenacity to see it through to the final day and accept their commission here at this ceremony. If you ask me, that's a pretty big accomplishment. But now, as I've told these Soldiers several times before, this is where the hard part starts."

He continued by giving the officer candidates some valuable advice.

"As you move forward from today into your career as an officer," he said, "be humble, be confident, care for your Soldiers with all of your heart, listen to the input that your NCOs will give, and I assure you they will give freely and often, and lastly, always do what is right in every situation, and you will be just fine."

Rapp closed out the commissioning ceremony by leading the Final Retreat. According to Capt. Sean Younk, who served as master of ceremonies, the Final Retreat serves a twofold purpose: It signals the end of the official duty day and serves as a ceremony for paying respect to the flag.

As the end of the duty day varies, Rapp designated that time and occasion for the final lowering of the flag to commemorate the departure of the 249 RTI OCS Company from the OMA in Monmouth.

"This ceremony marks the end of an era, but not the end of the Oregon Military Academy, which will continue to produce world class leaders from its new headquarters at Camp Rilea," Younk said. "As the flag is lowered, it commemorates the tremendous efforts of an honorable past and also signifies the coming achievements of a bright future."

Lt. Col. Demian San Miguel, regimental commander, 249 RTI, OCS, supported Rapp with the ceremony and also stressed the historic significance of the event.

"I think it's pretty important that we remember our history, remember our traditions," he said. "Seeing a lot of former general officers here – a lot of former officers who were commissioned at OCS – coming to show appreciation and support these young lieutenants getting commissioned, is pretty important; that's why today was such an impactful event for all of us and for the Oregon National Guard, specifically."

FEATURES

1249th Engineer Battalion hosts 5K obstacle course and recruiting event



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and community members begin the race during the "Storm The Castle" fitness and recruiting event hosted by the 1249th Engineer Battalion at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017.



A competitor participates in the low-crawl obstacle during the "Storm The Castle" fitness and recruiting event hosted by the 1249th Engineer Battalion at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017. Two-man teams paired up to compete in a five-kilometer run and military style obstacle course. The event also included a rock climbing wall, pugil stick arena, live music and a recruiting booth.



Competitors drive engineer stakes into the ground during the "Storm The Castle" fitness and recruiting event hosted by the 1249th Engineer Battalion at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017.



Oregon Army National Guard Pvt. Hector Bravo, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, observes as competitors navigate obstacles during the "Storm The Castle" fitness and recruiting event hosted by the 1249th Engineer Battalion at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017.

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s 1249th Engineer Battalion invited their local community to participate in the first-ever “Storm The Castle” fitness and recruiting event at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017.

Soldiers and Salem-area residents paired up in two-person teams to compete in a five-kilometer run and military style obstacle course. The teams performed military tasks at seven stations along the run route.

The name of the event was inspired by the Corps of Engineers logo, a turreted medieval castle that symbolizes fortifications and architecture. All of the units from across the 1249th Engineer Battalion (from Seaside to Albany, Ore.) came together and put their skills to work constructing and managing multiple obstacles for the course. The

engineers also provided equipment displays, safety personnel, and teams to compete alongside community members in the race.

“We wanted to do a high-speed recruiting event but we also wanted to specifically showcase the skills of our engineers here in the community,” said Lt. Col. Marc Mouser, 1249th Engineer Battalion commander. “What better way than to build obstacles and have people run through them, as well as showcase a lot of our equipment.”

The obstacle course stations included low crawling, tire crossing, throwing simulated hand-grenades, individual movement techniques, litter carrying, and pounding engineer stakes. The final station featured obstacles constructed out of wood, in which competitors had to navigate through windows, high leg-over beams, balance beams, and over a six-foot wall.

Shawna Jepson, of Salem, Oregon, said she wanted to come out and run with Soldiers as a show of support. She brought

her teenage sons to the event for a friendly family competition.

“I thought this would be a fun event. If I win, they [her sons] have to keep the house clean for a whole month,” Jepson said with a laugh.

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command (RRC) provided some entertainment with a rock climbing wall, pugil stick arena, live music and a recruiting booth.

“This is kind of an historic event for the Oregon Army National Guard,” said Master Sgt. Scott Dickey, with RRC. “In the 18 years I’ve been in recruiting, I can’t remember a battalion-wide event like this. For the 1249th to put on this type of race in the backyard of their community is a great idea. It attracts the demographics we’re looking for to join the Army National Guard; we’re looking for competitive individuals who are physically fit.”

Capt. Annabel Ortega de Radillo, assistant operations officer with the 1249th and a recruiting officer with RRC, said the value of the event goes beyond recruiting, “The competition definitely builds esprit de corps amongst our ranks from all the units in the battalion and connecting with the public builds positive community relations

as well.”

The battalion commander said he hopes to make “Storm the Castle” an annual event.

“I’m really pleased with the turnout,” said Mouser. “We’ve got a lot of people out here, so it looks like it’s going to be a great success.”

Henley High students pursue personal growth through Junior ROTC

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

School curriculum is traditionally summed up by the colloquial “three R’s: readin’, writin’, and ‘rithmatic.” Those three areas demand the lion’s share of the resources that school districts around the 50 states have to dedicate to their students. It’s a tried and true approach and helps to prepare students for higher education, if they so choose.

However, the general consensus is that students need to be able to walk away with a broader learning than just these basic concepts to be truly successful. One program that looks beyond the basic education concepts of the “three R’s” is the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps that is found in many schools around the country.

Col. (retired) John Woodward, the senior instructor for Jr. ROTC at Henley High School, sees the commission of this program this way. “The mission of the program is to build better, more successful citizens,” he says. “The way I think we can do that is by helping them build character and understand how important that is including things like service and being a part of your community.”

This emphasis on community is clearly seen during a commander’s call where all of the cadets gather in formation in dress blues and many are recognized for their hours of community service.

Matt Edwards, a senior and the cadet vice commander, has amassed 170 hours of service to his community during his three years. Hey says it is important to him for a number of reasons, not least of



The color guard for the Henley High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps posts the Oregon Flag and the unit flag during a commander’s call, Sept. 20, 2017. The ceremony presents the cadet leadership and the instructors an opportunity to communicate with all of the cadets at one time and it gives them a reason to don their dress blues for a day of school just outside the town of Klamath Falls, Ore.

which is his potential of attending the Air Force Academy after graduation.

During the ceremony the cadet Wing Commander Conner Dixon introduces the leadership team for the assembled cadets. This structure mirrors that of an organized wing such as the 173rd Fighter Wing located just a few miles from the school— vice commander, mission support group commander, command chief and the

list goes on. She demonstrates a good memory and introduces each of them for the group of more than 50 cadets.

Dixon says that the hardest part of her job is “getting cadets to do what they are supposed to do it,” something that may well be the best preparation for management in the real world, well beyond the graduation.

She says that is true for much of what she has learned in the program. “We learn a lot of useful stuff. Kids say, ‘why don’t we learn stuff we will use in the real world?’ well, in here, we do.”

The curriculum touches personal financial management, the science of our weather, history of flight and a capstone project of choice for seniors and much else.

Dixon says she wishes to pursue a career in the Air Force as a trauma surgeon and her capstone project is with Sky Lakes Medical Center where she will see the medical profession first-hand.

When the senior non-commissioned officer in charge, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wigen who retired from the 173rd Fighter Wing, reflects on what he hopes these high school students get in his classroom he sums it up with one word.

“Confidence,” he says. “I want them to leave and realize that ‘I can do this’. Hopefully they have the confidence to put themselves out there—succeed at a job interview, get that job, start creating those stepping stones for success in life.”

Dixon says she will look back fondly at her time in JROTC.

“Coming in as a freshman I didn’t know what I doing; this became my family inside the school, a safe place,” she adds.

Wigen reinforces that, saying that the



Col. John Woodward, retired, cuts the cake with a saber to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force with his cadets, Sept. 20, 2017. Woodward, who retired from active duty as a pilot, is the senior instructor for the Jr. ROTC OR-931, at Henley High School just outside Klamath Falls, Ore.

program cuts across many of the cliques common to high school and that when it happens in the classroom it also bleeds over into the rest of their school life.

Ultimately he hopes to see these students move on to be good citizens, the stated goal of the program. Some will go on to serve in the military but many will not.

“A lot of people think that the program is a recruiting tool for the Air Force, but it isn’t; in fact, the number of cadets who go on to serve is about the same as the school as a whole,” said Wigen.

FEATURES

Soldiers share best practices at annual logistics workshop

Story and photo by

Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard logisticians from across the state gathered for the 2017 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 4-8, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The weeklong conference gave logisticians a chance to network while becoming familiar with updated policies and procedures.

The workshop covered a range of topics from property management and budgeting, ordering and issuing all classes of supplies, to vehicle maintenance and dispatching, among many others. Classes included hands-on practical exercises and computer-based training with the systems logisticians use to order and track their supplies. A portion of each day was set-aside for the battalions in both the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 82nd Brigade Troop Command to collaborate in preparation for upcoming operations.

“We have certain types of units in the state that require a higher state of readiness due to their missions and this workshop will help those units do their part towards that goal,” said Col. Sean Nikkila, Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics (DCSLOG).

Master Sgt. Christian Watts, operations NCO for DCSLOG, said the supplemental training is especially important due to the 50-60 percent turnover rate for supply sergeants every year.

Newly hired supply sergeant, Sgt. Justin Symons, with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, said the workshop was very informational for him. He gave up his commission as a part-time armor captain to obtain a full-time Active Guard Reserve job.

“Understanding the whole entire picture gives me more of an idea of what needs to happen and everything I need to be tracking,” he said. “Seeing the new ordering systems and learning changes in different processes benefits everyone whether they’ve been doing this for two months or two years.”

Sgt. Alyssa McEvoy, supply NCO with A Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, was hired on Oct. 1 as a new



Oregon Army National Guard logisticians Maj. Carmen Barteling (left), Staff Sgt. Brent Neer and Sgt. Kaila Talley, attend classes during the 2017 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 6, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The workshop brings together logisticians from units across the state to network and share best practices.

supply sergeant. She spent six years doing supply tasks as a traditional part-time Guardsman with a few tours on active duty operational support and temporary technician status. She welcomed the opportunity for refresher training at the workshop.

“It’s always good to reassure that I’m doing things correctly and that I’m not missing something,” she said. “It’s been helpful to make connections with other experienced supply sergeants in my battalion to fill that knowledge gap.”

Watts said the most important aspect of the workshop is the chance to network and “put faces to names” with other logisticians that are geographically spread out across the state.

“We try to pair senior logisticians with junior NCOs,” he said. “The goal is to bring new supply sergeants and seasoned supply sergeants together to mentor, share knowledge and best practices.”

Retired Chief Warrant Officer-4 David Willis, a supply systems analyst for USPFO, said the free exchange of thoughts and ideas at the workshop is a tremendous benefit with a high payoff.

“I learn something and get a new perspective every time I come here,” said Willis, a former supply sergeant before serving 29 years as a property book officer.

While networking and mentorship is the intent of the workshop every year, this year focused heavily on training with the Army’s new Global Combat Support System (GCSS-Army). The program was implemented in June 2016 to combine six separate maintenance and property accountability functions into one centralized web-based program. It’s designed to be a cost-saver to the government by providing better asset visibility, enabling logisticians to do more lateral transfers instead of making new purchases.

Sgt. Rusty Earl, budget program analyst for DCSLOG, said both new and experienced supply sergeants need dedicated time to learn the GCSS-Army system beyond just the online courses that are required to gain access to the site.

“A lot of training is required for this transition to ‘G-Army.’ It’s the new basic standard that every supply sergeant should know,” said Earl, who is a member of the

team that helps train and assist units with logistics.

The workshop also gave DCSLOG subject matter experts a chance to address questions from the field in an open-forum.

Capt. Richard Helzer, service maintenance manager for DCSLOG, said that the interactive feedback from unit supply sergeants is vital to making necessary improvements that affect readiness across the agency.

“These Soldiers work really hard,” said Helzer. “It’s about the only job in the Army where you have pecuniary liability and you have a direct impact on the readiness rating of your unit. It’s a big responsibility.”

Willis agreed, saying that supply sergeants also play a role in Soldier retention.

“Soldiers will have a positive view of their unit if their logistical needs are taken care of,” he said.

At the awards banquet on Dec. 7, many individual logisticians were recognized for going above and beyond in their work. Among those recognized were Sgt. Kevin Coelho, supply NCO for D Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, who earned the Oregon Unit Supply Excellence award, and Sgt. 1st Class Victor Maxfield, logistics NCO for 1249th Engineer Battalion, who earned both the Oregon Battalion and State Supply Excellence trophies. Three logisticians were recognized on the occasion of their upcoming retirements; Master Sgt. Ken Outfleet, Master Sgt. Linda Cassle and Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Robertson.

Every year, logisticians who have made significant contributions to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps are inducted into the Order of Saint Martin, part of the Regimental Awards Program for the Association of Quartermasters. This year, Mr. Willis and Sgt. 1st Class Jack Chase were inducted into the order.

“Recognizing these logisticians for excellence in front of their peers builds camaraderie and esprit de corps in their field of specialty,” said Lt. Col. Jessica Dunn, logistics readiness officer for DCSLOG. “We could not be where we are at our current level of readiness as a state without their hard work and dedication.”

Oregon Guard participates in Oregon International Airshow

Photos by Spc. Timothy Jackson,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

An Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle with the 142nd Fighter Wing, out of Portland, Oregon, flies by the crowd during the Oregon International Air Show, September 24, 2017, at the Hillsboro Airport.



Right: Oregon Air National Guard Capt. Kim “Hustle” Uzzell, an F-15 Eagle fighter pilot with 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, out Portland, Oregon, chats with Masha, age two, during the Oregon International Air Show, September 24, 2017, at the Hillsboro Airport. Uzzell also gave tours to hundreds of people at the show to get up close with the F-15 Eagle fighter jet.



Above: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jesse Thompson, with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, out of Forest Grove, Oregon, talks with potential recruits during the Oregon International Air Show, September 24, 2017, at the Hillsboro Airport. He said the M777 A2 Howitzer the unit displayed at the airshow was an interesting draw because it’s not something people often get to see.

AZUWUR

French community honors Oregon's 41st Division



Story by

Christopher L. Ingersoll,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

A celebration of the 41st Division's presence in the Cher Valley during World War I nearly 100 years ago, took place on November 11, 2017. While the 41st did not send the full division to France, the number of Soldiers sent through the French area had a big impact on the small country communities beset by war on a vast scale.

Valerie Chapeau, historian for the French Region of Vallée du Cher et du Romorantinais, said that between 1918 and 1919, nearly 300,000 Soldiers rotated out of the 41st Division, stationed in the area for training before moving to the front lines to replenish units who had taken casualties. The interchange between the local villagers and the Americans left a lasting imprint on both cultures and countries.

"The town of Noyers, with about 1,800 inhabitants at the time, welcomed up to 30,000 American Soldiers in January 1919, resulting in a clash of civilizations. Initially, there was a lot of mistrust, but the barriers fell quickly between the two peoples. Friendships were created. Couples formed, leading to Franco-American children," Chapeau said.

Leading up to the event, French historians erected three exhibits, showcasing the 41st Infantry Division's presence there in WWI. The first was an exhibition of camp life at Three Provinces Roadside Park and rest area at Noyers-sur-Cher, where visitors can see a diorama of uniforms and equipment used in a Soldier's daily life. The building and the site were inaugurated during the November 11 ceremony on the commemoration of the century since the U.S. military presence in Cher Valley. The second exhibit included five vehicles dating from the First World War; two taxis of the Marne, a vehicle Brasier, a Ford Model-T and a truck Berliet, were on display at the technical services of Noyers-sur-Cher through November 13. Lastly at the Noyers festival hall, throughout the week were the pieces of Alvaro Rodriguez's private collection of historical pieces from the war. The Portuguese grandfather of

Alvaro Rodriguez fought in France in the First World War. Rodriguez, resident of the Cher and a member of to the Military Archaeological Circle of Saint-Amandois, shares an incalculable number of artifacts related to the war, among them, a blood storage container that revolutionized blood transfusion as it allowed storage and shipment of packets of blood, keeping them safe for transfusion for four days. Additionally, weapons, helmets, flags and more give insight to the day-to-day life of the period.

In attendance to participate in the event was Dan Sokol, president of the 41st Division Association; David Funk, 41st Division Association ambassador; retired Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, who served for 28 years in the Oregon National Guard, and his wife, Diane. They brought with them a flag and plaque that became a permanent part of the display at Noyers-sur-Cher.

During his remarks at the commemoration, Dan Sokol emphasized the importance of honoring history as a way of honoring those who made it.

"The centennial anniversary of the activation and mobilization of the units that became the 41st Infantry Division is a milestone and a good time to acknowledge the division Soldiers for their exceptional accomplishments as an integral component of the American Expeditionary Forces in the First World War," said Sokol. "In Oregon, the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team bears the lineage and honors of the 41st Division. With that comes a responsibility to preserve the history, to learn the lessons, and to honor the accomplishments for which our predecessors fought, toiled, and bled.

He further highlighted the 41st Division Association's appreciation for recognizing our shared history.

"We look forward to building on the strong friendships established in the past. Your efforts inspire us and reinforce the responsibility we have to preserve our shared history. You have generated an interest in many who have served in the 41st Infantry Brigade to visit the Cher Valley in appreciation for the history you are preserving."

Retired Brig. Gen. Steven Beach said events such as this are an important way to forge and maintain allies.

"Very strong friendships and partnerships were established and renewed during World War I," said Beach.

The United States and France are allies and we owe the French gratitude for their willingness to help us in our fight against the British during the founding of the United States. We have repaid the debt

over the years, keeping the ties strong. The Soldiers sent from Northwestern States to the Loire-Cher valley in 1917 shared time and endeared themselves to the citizens of that region."



Photo by Pvt. Jas. W. Morse Signal Corps

Left to Right: Col. Frank White; Ma. O.S. Perry, Chief of Staff; Lt. Col. L. W. Cass, Commanding Officer; Maj. W. W. Cramer; Lieut. Col. Geo. L. Tait, Adjt.; Capt. G. L. Barron. In background, Chateau of the Count de la Rochammeau at St. Aignan, France, where the chief of staff and staff officers of the 1st Replacement Depot, Classification Camp, lived. St. Aignan, Loir et Cher, France. Photo taken Feb. 22, 1919.



Courtesy photo by retired Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach

Left to Right: Dan Sokol, World War II Veteran and President of the 41st Division Association; Retired Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach, Oregon Army National Guard; and Dave Funk, chairman of the 41st Infantry Division Association, stand in front of Chateau of the Count de la Rochammeau at St. Aignan, France, Nov. 11, 2017, where the chief of staff and staff officers of the 1st Replacement Depot, Classification Camp, lived during WWI. St. Aignan, Loir et Cher, France.

Oregon Military Museum seeks volunteers

Story and photo by

Brig. Gen. Ret. Dan O'Hollaren

Chairman, Oregon Military Museum Project



The newly remodeled Oregon Military Mussem at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas Oregon.

In case you haven't been to Camp Withycombe lately, a major transformation has taken place. Today, following a major renovation, the first phase of a 5-year plan to build the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum's new home is complete. This renovation and preservation effort is the first phase of what promises to be a significant addition to the base landscape, one that will forever honor Oregon military history and the men and women who were a part of it.

Until 2009, the museum was located in several buildings on the camp. As a result of a base realignment project, the museum relocated to the 1954 Clackamas Armory building. The move provided the museum with unique opportunities to expand operations and better fulfill its mission. Together with the original armory, three other historically significant structures were saved. The Battery A Field Artillery Horse Barn, the Quartermaster Storehouse, both circa 1911, and a WWII quonset hut round out the Camp Withycombe Historical Area.

Even with this first step, the official opening of the museum is still many

months away. Tracy Thoennes and a handful of volunteers are beginning the long, methodical process of relocating, unpacking and inventorying more than 14,000 artifacts, 30,000 books and 75 file cabinets of historical documents. Concurrent with this activity, our non-profit support organization, the Oregon Military Museum Project (OMMP), is funding the design and fabrication of the exhibits that will display the artifacts and their history. Looking ahead, the 5-year strategic plan includes the renovation of the education wing in 2018, followed in later years by the construction of an adjacent structure housing larger tracked and wheeled vehicles, a theater and a static display aircraft of a type flown by the Oregon National Guard

As this next phase to open the museum begins, the need for a strong cadre of volunteers is becoming increasingly more

important to assist in the preparation of the museum collection. A major focus for the volunteers will be the Withycombe Library, to include erecting shelving, placing books in their assigned areas. Additionally, clerical and other general support are going to be required both with the museum as well as with the OMMP. The museum leadership is developing a volunteer training curriculum that will ensure those assisting in this next phase of preparation are fully trained. What is needed now are people with a strong sense of historical preservation and a dedication to building a lasting tribute to Oregon's military history. For more information, please go to our website (www.oregonmilitarymuseum.org), download and complete the volunteer application form and send it to our volunteer coordinator Diane Beach (diane.beach1@frontier.com).

Logo Contest

Do you have a creative flair for design? Is military history an area that interests you? If so, you may be someone the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum is interested in hearing from. The museum is seeking a new logo that will be established concurrent with the opening of its new home at Camp Withycombe. A decision was made earlier this year to ask the Oregon military community to put forth their design ideas. Originally, the deadline was earlier this year but has been extended to March 1. The new design should reflect some representation of all branches of the military with a land, sea and air theme. Colors used should also reflect our Oregon military heritage. The winning design will become the official logo of the Oregon Military Museum, subject to the final approval of the adjutant general. As the winner of the final design, you will have the pride in knowing that your logo will represent not only the museum but all of the history that it represents. The official form describing the contest rules is available by contacting the Oregon Military Museum (museuminfo@oregonmilitarymuseum.org). So, start putting pencil to paper, or fingers to your keyboard, and give the museum a logo all Oregon Veterans can be proud to call their own.