

AZUWUR

Oregon National Guard

Salem homes built with Guard-donated materials

By Sgt. AMY ELKER

115TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

SALEM—

The American dream. Everyone wants it; yet not everyone can attain it.

However, due to the joint efforts of the Salem-area Habitat for Humanity and the Oregon Army National Guard, two Salem-area families are one step closer to that dream becoming reality.

Each of these families is about to move into their very own home.

Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations, Habitat builds and rehabilitates homes with the help of the partnering families.

The houses are then sold at no profit to these families and no-interest mortgages are issued over a fixed period.

The family makes small monthly payments, including mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and a repair fund, which are repaid over 20 years and deposited into a revolving "Fund for Humanity."

This fund supports the construction of more Habitat homes. A Habitat house in the Salem area currently costs approximately \$45,000.

The Oregon National Guard donated lumber used to build both of the Salem-area homes through the removal of the old Naval Reserve center, north of the Military Department.

All salvagable materials from the deconstruction of the facility were donated to organizations like Habitat.

John White, construction coordinator for Habitat, commented that without donations, these types of projects are not possible due to the costs involved with purchasing the materials on their own.

One hundred percent of the walls on one home, and 100 percent of the exterior and 75 percent of the interior walls on the other home, were built using the

Guard's donated lumber.

There is still more lumber remaining, which will be used to build another Habitat home in the near future.

Habitat chose the two Salem-area families based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the no-interest loan.

Once a family's application has been accepted, that family must invest 500 "sweat equity" hours into the construction of their home.

The family must put in 200 hours on another Habitat home and the remaining hours are invested into their own home. This helps reduce the cost of the house, increases the pride of ownership among family members, and generates stronger community relationships.

"We give them a hand up, not a hand out. They are earning every part of this," White said.

One of the Habitat homes will go to the Aguilar family. Judith, a single mother, cares for her three sons, one of whom became a paraplegic after a tragic auto accident.

She would never have been able to afford to buy her own home; especially one built with wheel-chair accessible modifications.

However, due to the program, she is able to purchase this low-cost, interest free home from Habitat.

The second home will go to Armando Garcia, who also qualified for the program after a friend suggested he apply.

"At first I didn't listen to him, but he kept after me to apply, so I finally did," Garcia said. "I tried to buy a house on my own, but I could never come up with the down payment."

His wife, Delma, has diabetes and is unable to work. In addition, a large portion of Garcia's income goes towards his wife's medical bills.

Despite these obstacles, the Garcia family is currently working, along with many Habitat volunteers, on the con-

SGLI increases coverage on April 1

By GERRY GILMORE

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—

Eligible troops will automatically be insured for a maximum \$250,000 in coverage through the military's life insurance program starting April 1.

The new coverage marks a \$50,000 increase over the previous maximum provided by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance. The premium for maximum coverage will be \$20 monthly, said Tom Tower, assistant director of DoD's military compensation office.

Participants can decrease or maintain their levels of SGLI coverage, Tower said, adding that service members who want less than \$250,000 of coverage after April 1 must apply for it through unit finance or personnel officials.

"If you don't want the increased insurance, you have a 30-day grace period to decline it, otherwise, you'll have to pay at least two months of increased coverage," he said.

The government and commercial in-

surers underwrite SGLI, which has been in existence since 1965, said Tower. It has been more than eight years since the last increase in maximum coverage, he added.

He said 98 percent of all service members are covered by SGLI and 80 percent have maximum coverage. This shouldn't be surprising, he noted, as military members, like police and firefighters, often perform hazardous duty.

At 80 cents for each \$10,000 of coverage, SGLI rates are competitive, and coverage "is guaranteed, whether you're an aviator, sailor or tanker," Tower said. Service members can also convert their SGLI policies to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program after they leave the service, he said.

Tower noted congressional interest in extending SGLI coverage, in lesser amounts, to service members' family members.

"It looks like there is support for passing that this year for spouses and children," Tower said. "Can't say it's certain, but it looks possible."



Sgt. Amy Elker

One hundred percent of the walls in this Salem-area home were built with lumber the Oregon National Guard donated to Habitat for Humanity.

struction of their home.

"I enjoy working for Habitat and have learned new things about how to build houses," Garcia said. "I have also enjoyed meeting new people; people who are willing to work for free—that is what has touched my heart."

One such volunteer is Jerry Shay, site supervisor for one of the homes. He is a stay-at-home dad, and by volunteering to work on the Habitat homes, he is able to get out of the house for a while.

Shay has volunteered his time building nine Habitat homes. He said that his payback is in terms of the compliments and socialization he receives.

"I've gotten to know the people who live in the homes we've built, and they

are so appreciative," Shay said. "It is nice to be able to see how other's lives were improved by the houses."

Improving the lives of others is the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

However, without the help and support of individuals and agencies, such as the donated lumber from the Oregon Guard, and the hundreds of volunteer workers throughout the community, the mission of Habitat and the dreams of these families cannot be achieved.

If you, or an organization you are affiliated with, are interested in volunteering time or donating materials to the Habitat for Humanity, contact the Habitat office nearest you or the Habitat help line at (800) 422-4828, ext. 2551.

Rosenfeld assigned to new post in Korea

SALEM—

Although everyone in the military must expect to get new assignments, Brig. Gen. Charles L. Rosenfeld, Oregon's assistant adjutant general, Army, since 1997, has been selected as the wartime chief of staff for US Forces, Korea (USFK).

Rosenfeld, an officer in the Oregon Army National Guard for the past 27 years, will now devote his entire military focus to coordinating support for all Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine forces assigned to Korea in the event of hostilities.

With a present assigned strength of 36,000 personnel, these numbers approach 250,000 during wartime, Rosenfeld will have the responsibility to coordinate the actions of general officers and their staff sections from all branches of the US military that provide forces to the Korean theatre of operations.

During his service as Oregon's assistant adjutant general, Rosenfeld became the first National Guard general officer to be "dual hatted" with responsibilities to a deployed active component unit overseas.

He has served as the wartime G1 (personnel), and subsequently as the wartime G2 (intelligence), for the Eighth US Army, Korea. In that capacity he performed 60 days of service annually in Korea, in addition to his duties within

Oregon.

Once again, Rosenfeld is a "pioneer," as his new position as the wartime chief of staff for USFK will be the first time that a National Guard general officer will have a joint services staff position with a deployed CINC.

Rosenfeld will remain an Oregon Guardsman, whose position will be an additional TDA to STARC as long as he remains assigned to Korea, with an authorized grade of major general.

He intends to continue teaching as a professor at Oregon State University, although he expects to spend more than 100 days in uniform each year, including five to eight trips to Korea.

When asked how he will accomplish this, he replied, "what other job allows one to take a 17-hour nap en route to work?"

On Jan. 6, 2001, Rosenfeld passed the responsibilities of assistant adjutant general, Army, to Brig. Gen. Terry L. Barker in a ceremony at the Military Department in Salem.

In his farewell remarks, Rosenfeld thanked all Guardsmen and their families for the dedication, sacrifice and service that they have given to demonstrate to the state and nation that they are truly "Oregonians at their best."

■ See related story
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Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

Recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend an adjutants general conference. We were briefed by the senior leadership of the National Guard Bureau as well as the US Air Force and Army.

The key points revolve around the new administration's efforts to define a national security strategy.

Obviously, all branches of the military are interested in the possible outcome, since many of the current debates involve how much force structure we as a nation need to meet future challenges.

I do not believe we will have a clear picture of what is in store for us for a number of months.

There is a possibility that all the services could face reductions in manpower.

Although Oregon still maintains high-priority units in both the Army and Air Guards, we will not be immune

if cuts are mandated nationally.

We are part of a larger team, and we will feel part of the pain.

I believe we are structured in a manner that is designed to support the active components in an exceptional manner. Our current weakness lies purely in the number of soldiers and airmen that we have currently serving.

If there ever was a time to focus all of our collective energies on recruiting and retention activities, it is now.

We need to see a significant increase in our numbers. I need your help to make this happen. I'm not sure what specifically will work, but together we can make a difference.

We have some great full-time recruiters in the field, and they are committed to improving our numbers, but there is no way they can do this alone.

I'm asking each of you to reach down and give the Oregon National Guard a 110 percent effort.

We have visibility at the national level, and there are those who say we can't improve. I know they are wrong.

While I was in Washington, D.C., a small group of leaders and myself visited our congressional delegation. We had the opportunity to tell your story and indicate our priorities for congressional support in the budget.

Our senators and congresswomen and men are very proud of the service that you continue to render for our state and nation. They were very impressed with your deployment schedule and your response during state emergencies. Our elected representatives are serving us well, and they understand our needs.

Changing themes, I want to make a comment regarding the upcoming fire season.

Due to drought conditions, the experts are predicting a very dry and dangerous summer. Under the direc-



tion of Governor Kitzhaber, we will be prepared to respond in the same professional manner that we have in the past. Remember, the citizens of Oregon are counting on you.

The months ahead will be challenging and exciting. Each of you play a very important role in our organization. Let's focus on readiness through quality soldiers and airmen.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

As the state command sergeant major, I have taken on the additional duty of reviewing all discharge packets for soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard.

After reading over 500 ETS exit questionnaires, I am convinced that we must learn to be better listeners.

Soldiers should not be leaving our organization because of promotions, schools, awards and recognition for jobs well done.

Surveys show that workplace miscommunication has high costs, including lowered productivity, increased turnover, and higher stress. Most people want to be heard but rarely make the effort to listen to others. Effective, thoughtful listening can help avoid troubled communications that lead to such unwanted outcomes as low morale, lost respect, reduction of fresh ideas, and poor service.

In a time when retaining and recruiting top-notch talent is tough, alienating your employees can be very costly. Studies show that employees choosing to leave a company often include the poor interpersonal skills of a supervisor and/or coworkers among chief complaints.

A key trait of influential people is facility with listening and understanding another's perspective. Interpersonal skills are now high on the list of



the abilities that make an individual successful in the workplace.

If people don't think their ideas are heard or accepted, they'll stop presenting them, reducing the organization's cache of knowledge and innovative ideas.

Not listening to and understanding soldiers' needs results in dissatisfied soldiers who gladly turn to a competitor to full their next need.

As leaders, we must improve our listening skills. By taking the time to listen to our soldiers, the soldiers will feel cared about. Caring for our soldiers is a priority for success.

Command Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Leadership, Guard culture, recruiting and retention, professional military education, paradigm shifts, and mission statements are the things leaders talk about.

As I travel around the state visiting our Air Guard units, I talk to commanders and senior NCOs about these things, but I also want to talk to first-term airmen and new NCOs about the things that are important to them.

As I look back over my first years in the military, the things most important to me were friends, relationships, family, and my job—the good parts and the bad parts. How would I get promoted or change the bad parts of my job? How would I know what my supervisors and commander expected of me? How would I keep my family happy when my job and work hours changed on short notice? These are just a few areas that come to mind.

As I continue visiting your units, I want to talk and listen to your concerns. The good and the not-so-good.

The Guard is a family, and the best family communicates with each other. A major part of my job as the com-



mand chief is to communicate your thoughts and concerns to our leadership. That is what I plan to do, and I'm happy to tell you that the leadership listens.

If you have anything you would like to communicate to our leaders, feel free to contact me.

You can reach me via e-mail at jstuart@orport.ang.af.mil, or by cell phone at (503) 705-7471.

Check out the Oregon Guard on the web at www.oregonguard.com and the Oregon Military Department at www.mil.state.or.us



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Oregon Military Department

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. John A. Kitzhaber, MD

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Charles Rosenfeld

Asst. Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. James Cunningham

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

Senior Enlisted Adviser, Air
Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Publication Staff

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Jeff Julum
jeffery.d.julum@mil.state.or.us

Editor
Colleen Breeden
colleen.j.breeden@mil.state.or.us

Managing Editor
Kay Fristad
kay.fristad@mil.state.or.us

Video
Staff Sgt. Tom Hovie
tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributors
ANG Visual Information Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain *Azurur* readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 15th of each month.

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News Focus

From combat to counseling, Brown's experience serves Kingsley well



1st Lt. Misti Oylar

Dr. Ben Brown, Kingsley Field's chaplain, served two tours in Vietnam before receiving a master's degree in divinity. He went from being the youngest staff sergeant in Vietnam to the oldest first lieutenant in the Air Force.

By 1st Lt. MISTI OYLER
173RD FIGHTER WING

When sitting down with Dr. Ben Brown, Kingsley Field's chaplain, you know you're with a person who has a heart for people.

Even though the interview was about him, he insists on getting to know you first. It's obvious that his focus is on

relationships and providing a safe place to communicate.

"The chaplain's highest order, beside representing their faith, is providing privileged communications," Brown said.

Brown sees what he does as a "needs-based" ministry, seeing where people are emotionally and spiritually and meeting those needs.

Brown's story is unique.

He had received a calling for full-time ministry at age 17, which had to be put on hold because of the Vietnam conflict.

He spent two tours in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Infantry.

Brown was assigned to areas of intense fighting, becoming the youngest staff sergeant in Vietnam.

As a platoon leader, he saw chaplains come and go for very quick visits in the dangerous areas where they were fighting.

One chaplain, though, really made an impression on him.

He would come out in a helicopter with the supplies and mail, get off and actually stay with the men.

It wasn't until the fourth visit, said Brown, that he even found out the visiting chaplain was Catholic.

Getting off that helicopter meant days of intense danger; how much that chaplain must have cared for those men to put himself in such a situation.

His men did like that chaplain coming by to stay, because as long as he was there they felt they'd be okay.

Brown has tried in the past to become a chaplain, but because of timing or logistically impossible circumstances, it didn't happen.

He has a master's degree in divinity from the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, and a doctorate from Denver Theological Seminary.

He is also the president for the Conservative Baptist Association, an association of 1,279 churches across the US, and serves on the chaplain's endorsing committee.

When the opportunity to become a

chaplain at Kingsley opened, he still had a hurdle—to get an age waiver.

Due to Air National Guard restrictions in the traditional guardsmen system, his education and experience didn't count towards rank.

He was to come in as a first lieutenant, going from the distinction of the youngest staff sergeant in Vietnam to the oldest first lieutenant in the Air Force.

"With the rules in place, even the Pope would have to come in as a first lieutenant. But it doesn't matter; what matters is the mission of ministering to people," Brown said.

Recently, Brown completed chaplain's training with 17 other men representing all faiths.

He had the special experience of becoming close friends with an Orthodox Jewish rabbi that he stays in contact with.

Theological perspectives and sensitivity training is one of those things that take up a lot of time when chaplains of different faiths work together.

However, he gets to work with Chaplain Maj. Prosize at Kingsley, who also happens to be an alumnus from Western Baptist.

Both have the same philosophy of getting to know Kingsley's personnel and being there to minister when there's a need.

Brown is available for appointments on Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon by calling (541) 883-2289.

He is also the senior pastor at BBC Ministries in Klamath Falls.

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The chaplain's highest order, besides representing their faith, is providing privileged communications.

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Dr. Ben Brown
Kingsley Field chaplain
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Milton-Freewater youth take Guard Adventure program one step further

By Sgt. LACINDA LEFORE
DET. 2/B/145 SUPPORT BATTALION

Although many armories became dimmer this month in an effort to conserve resources, the armory in Milton-Freewater grew bright with hope and adventure.

The Oregon National Guard's Counterdrug program Guard Adventure came to Milton-Freewater during the first two weeks of January, to help protect our most important resource—our children.

The students of Milton-Freewater's alternative high school, located in the Milton-Freewater armory, went through the Guard Adventure program facilitated by Senior Master Sgt. Joan Loftis.

Guard Adventure teaches, through experiential learning, how to go through a decision making process, how to identify goals, and the value of having a strong team.

The students responded very positively to this program, so positively they want to keep up their team con-

cept and form a youth group founded on Guard Adventure concepts.

Milton-Freewater's alternative high school students are currently in the process of organizing their group.

They have come up with some basic ideas of how they want their group to work, ideas like meeting one weekend a month; mentoring younger, "at risk" youth; performing community service; and participating in adventure group activities such as rafting and backpacking, in an effort to help keep kids in Milton-Freewater drug-free.

Several Guard members from Milton-Freewater have requested to be trained as Guard Adventure facilitators.

They would be able to help teach the fundamentals of Guard Adventure, thus keeping the Counterdrug program active in the community and helping serve the organizing youth group as "mentor's mentors."

This was such an exciting development in our community. The cost for this was non-existent to the community. Our taxes had already paid for it.

Looking Back

The Azuwur staff recently found back issues of the paper dating to 1974. As the Oregon Guard continues to excel into the new millennium, we would like to run selected stories to look back into the past.

Phase II of BDU issue scheduled for March

Salem—"All members of the Oregon Army National Guard are expected to have their first camouflage battle dress uniform (BDU) by March 1, when issue of the second BDU will begin," said Col. Hugh B. Nelson, US property and fiscal officer.

The BDU, consisting of cap, coat and trousers in woodland camouflage pattern, had been issued to most units during 1982. Issue of the second BDU, coat and trousers only, will require the turn-in of an OG-507 (olive drab fatigue) uniform (shirt and trousers), Nelson said.

Units will receive the uniform as determined by the 41st Infantry Brigade and Troop Command Brigade commanders, and units will be notified 30 days before they must submit the AGO form 701 to receive the BDUs.

The number of BDUs requested cannot exceed the assigned enlisted strength on the date the request form is prepared, Nelson said. Camouflage caps will not be requested for the second or third BDU.

BDUs will not be issued to enlisted personnel awaiting or attending REP-63 training, Title 10 or 32 personnel on active duty for more than six months, or to members who will be discharged within 60 days after the preparation of the AGO form 701.

Officers and active Guard reserve personnel are required to have a second BDU by Oct. 1, 1983, and a third by Oct. 1, 1984.

This article was first published in the December 1982-January 1983 edition of the Azuwur.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK

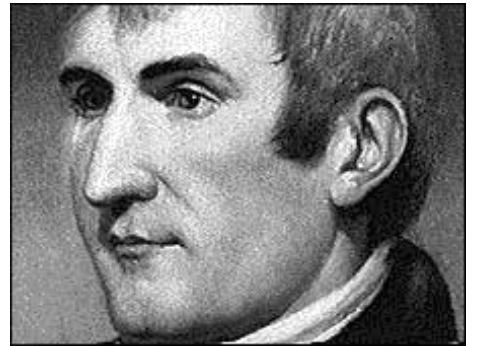
THE WESTWARD JOURNEY CONTINUES AFTER 200 YEARS



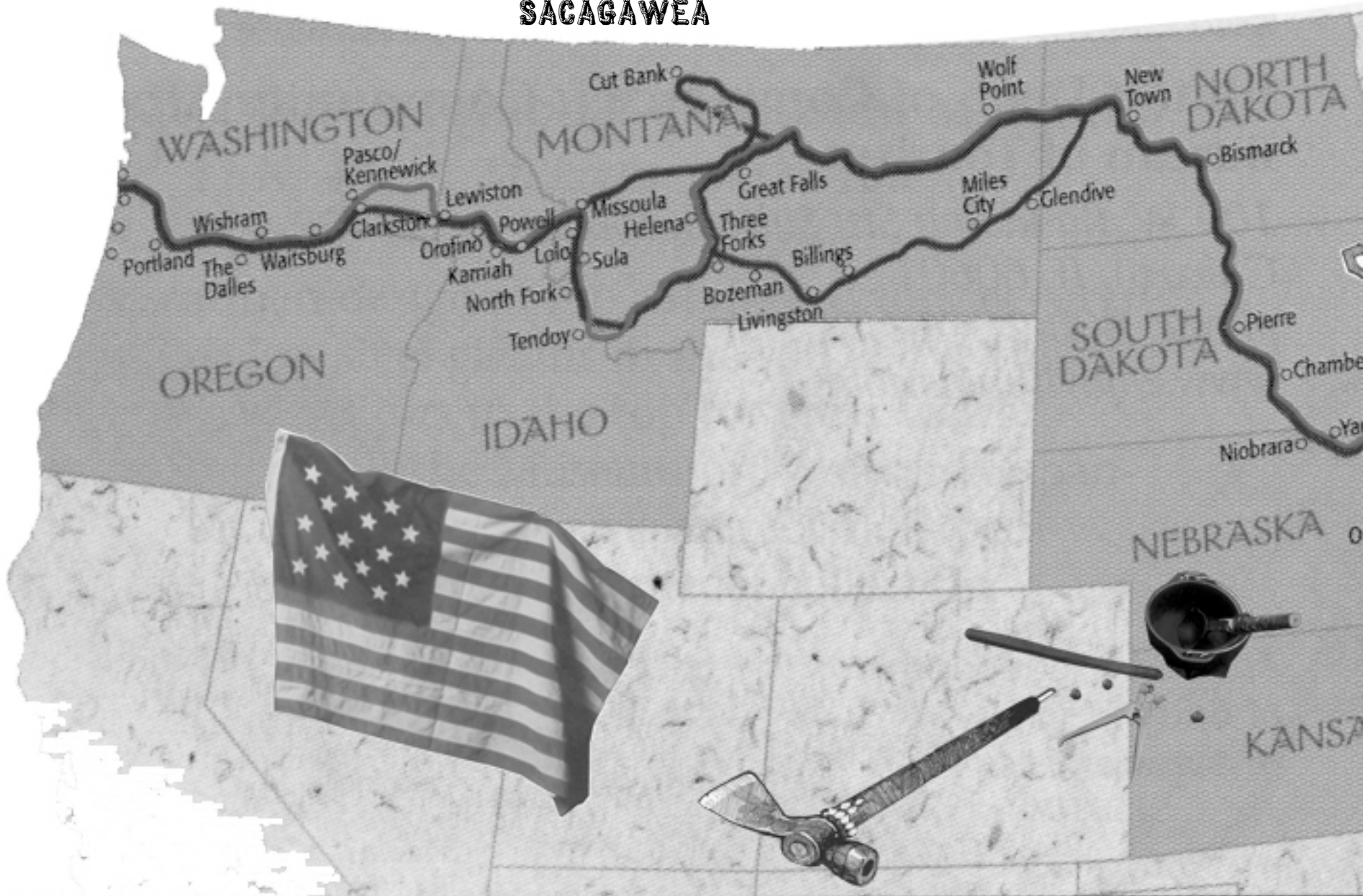
WILLIAM CLARK



SACAGAWEA



MERIWETHER LEWIS



MAP LEGEND

- Interstate Highway
- U.S., State Highway
- County Road

- Lewis & Clark Trail Highway
- Travel Restrictions (Local Inquiry)
- Streamflow Direction

LARK EXPEDITION:

The recent visit to the northern Oregon coast by the Secretary of the Interior, Gail Norton, clearly indicates the significance of the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorations," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, vice chief of National Guard Bureau, at a summit meeting held at Camp Rilea. "The Lewis and Clark commemoration is an outstanding project to connect with America and explain the militia and Army message."

Rees opened the summit meeting with encouragement to all the trail states to support the efforts of their local communities as well as a planned relay run.

"The Guard has a better opportunity to tell the (Lewis and Clark) Army story than any other component," stated Rees. By utilizing the Innovative Readiness Training program to assist tribes, local groups, and other entities with federal dollars, and recruiting as a large benefit for the Army and the National Guard, we can promote the commemorations in our states, while educating the public on this effort to connect the east to the west with internal waterways.

The National Guard will represent the military presence along the trail route. Representatives from 17 trail states were invited to attend the first meeting to discuss the ways the National Guard could work together to support the local commemorative activities and a national relay from coast to coast.

Also present at the summit was Jean Naus, the national coordinator for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Meredith Rapp, National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and Lt. Col. Sherman Fleek, chief of historical services for National Guard Bureau.

Since the participants of the expedition were regular Army at the time but many had militia service as part of their military careers, Fleek feels the National Guard is a natural to provide military presence at commemorations throughout the nation.

"Many citizens have no idea that Lewis and Clark were Army officers and the

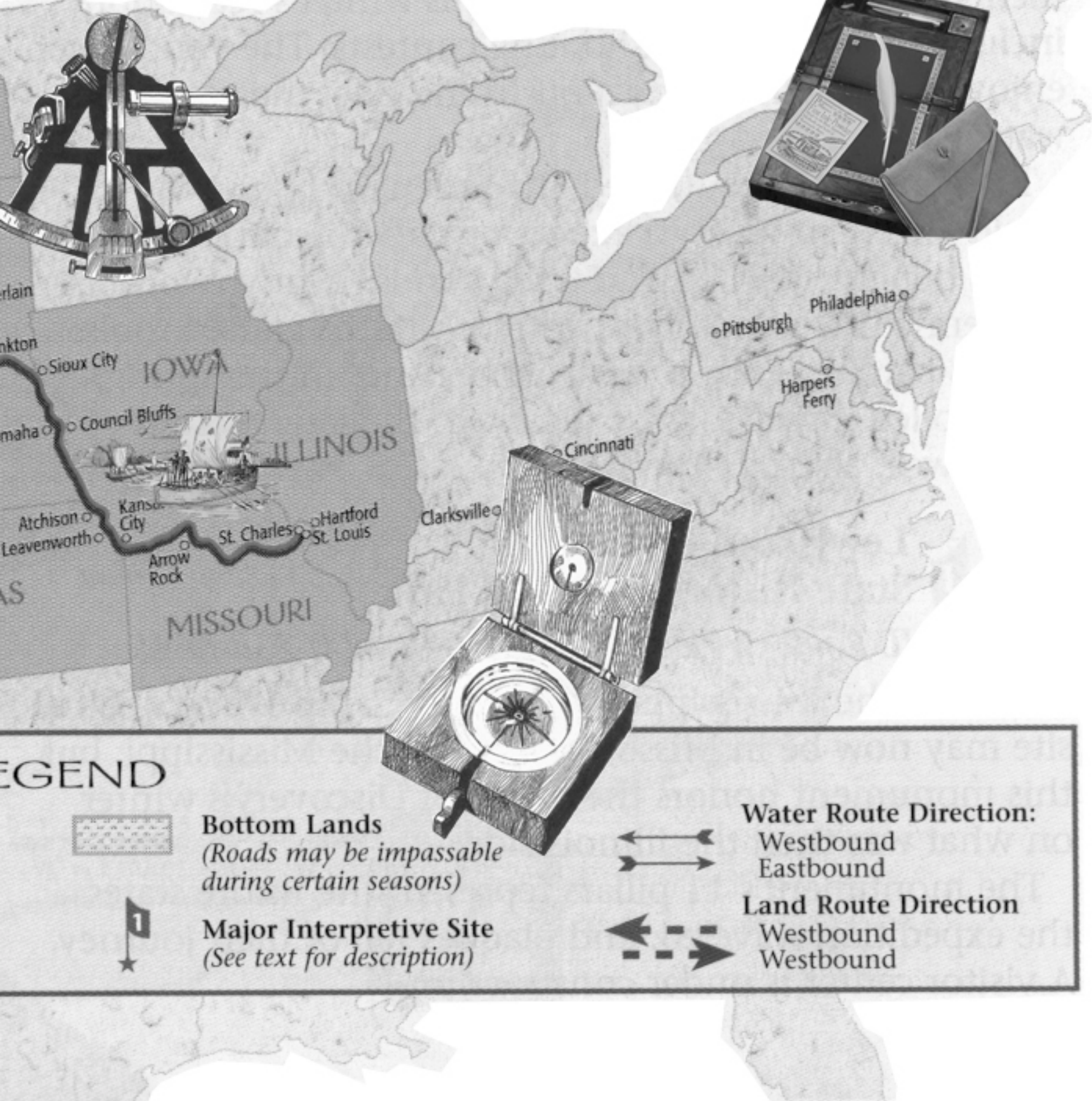
men were soldiers," Fleek said. He stressed that the Army cannot expect the Park Service, the Forest Service, or the Bicentennial Council to tell the "military story."

"The Army must educate the American public because no one else will during the commemoration years," Fleek said.

The US Army center of military history is the lead for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial and will advise the Army leadership and staff on issues through Lt. Gen. John Pickler, chair of the Army L & C executive council. The Army is planning various local and national activities and the state National Guard should get involved with local groups and organizers to assist in planning for the state activities from 2003-2006.

One event in the planning stages is a relay run along the historic route from Monticello, Va., to the Pacific Ocean and Fort Clatsop in 2004. Each state will have the complete freedom to conduct the run safely and independently, although NGB will have some oversight. It has been decided to use a 50-mile-per-day basis for planning the route nationally. As with the Olympic torch, there will be a handoff from state to state of a spontoon carrying the 15-star national flag of the period. States will be allowed to mount a state flag under the national flag on the spontoon. A spontoon is an infantry weapon of the 18th century used by junior officers. Capt. Lewis carried one through the expedition. All commemorative events will be open to both Army and Air National Guardsmen. The official title for this relay is to be "The U.S. Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Relay", and as a subtitle, "A National Guard Event."

Ted Kaye, of the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Lewis Clark Bicentennial Commission, will be compiling a list of planned activities for Oregon. Many of the activities for Oregon may be put together in association with Washington state as the expedition crossed back and forth across the Columbia River enroute to the Pacific.



Retiree Focus

Loan program planning underway for newly eligible veterans

On Nov. 7, the voters of Oregon showed their support for those who have served their country by voting for ballot measure 83 in overwhelming numbers. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is now making the necessary program changes to accommodate those newly eligible veterans who may wish to utilize the department's veterans' home loan program.

The recently-passed ballot measure removed the requirement that in order to be eligible, a veteran must have entered active duty prior to Dec. 31, 1976. A veteran must still have the required minimum of 210 days of active duty (unless released earlier because of a service-connected injury or illness), have served honorably, and be a resident of Oregon at the time of application for a home loan.

Ballot measure 83 also created an alternative method of gaining eligibility. Veterans whose service was in a theater of operations for which a campaign or expeditionary medal was authorized by the United States, are also now eligible. All loan applications must be made within 30 years of the date of the veteran's discharge or separation.

The first objective is to identify and evaluate sources of funding. Then, depending upon the funding source, the department may need to seek changes in current law from the Oregon legislature. Once the specific sources of funding are identified, and any necessary legislation passed, the department will work swiftly to make funds available for newly-eligible veterans.

When those objectives have been met, our experienced loan personnel will be ready to serve this newly-eligible group of veterans with the same level of dedication and professionalism that we have provided for more than 50 years. Of course, all loans will continue to be serviced by our own experienced staff, here in Oregon.

Veterans who believe they are the newly-eligible and who wish to receive further information as the program is developed, should contact the department at (888) 673-8387 (Oregon only) or at (503) 373-2070. If contacting us by email at orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us, please include your name in the subject line.

Veterans' benefits and job forum to be held at Chemeketa College

A veterans' benefits and job forum will take place on Saturday, May 5, 2001, at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. The purpose of this event will be to provide information to any interested veteran regarding available benefits, training opportunities, and job and career services.

Representatives from federal and state agencies will join together to provide information about veterans' entitlements and other veteran related interests. Agencies participating will include the US Department of Labor, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, and veterans service organizations. Various employers will also be represented at the forum to provide information.

Plan to attend and look into areas of interest to you. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this event, contact Bill Ward at (503) 362-9911.

Increases made in veterans' benefits, effective Dec. 1, 2000

On Nov. 1, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed legislation known as the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2000. This signed legislation became public law 106-413. Effective Dec. 1, 2000, the legislation included a 3.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment to the monthly rates of US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation and dependence and indemnity compensation, as well as other related benefit improvements. The first check to be received by veterans and beneficiaries reflecting this increase will be the check received on or about Dec. 31, 2000.

The increases are based on a cost-of-living increase of 3.5 percent reported by the Social Security Administration.

Monthly payments to veterans receiving disability compensation will now range from \$101 for a single veteran with a 10 percent disability rating, to \$2,107 for a single veteran with a 100 percent disability rating.

Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are rated 30 percent or higher may be entitled to receive additional allowances for dependents.

The 3.5 percent increase in payment

rates also applies to survivors of veterans who died of service-connected disabilities—the parents, spouses and children who receive benefits under the VA's dependency and indemnity compensation program. Surviving spouses of wartime veterans whose deaths were unrelated to service or service-connected condition and whose incomes are below an established threshold will also benefit from the increase in death pension benefits. The VA will also implement the same increase in VA pension for wartime veterans whose permanent and total disabilities are not service-connected.

Additional information is available from local county veterans' service offices or the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

I-205 designated as Veterans Memorial Highway in November

Veterans, state and federal officials, and others gathered at Willamette National Cemetery on Veterans Day to dedicate Interstate 205 as a Blue Star Memorial Highway and is to designate it as Veterans Memorial Highway.

The National Council of State Garden Clubs started the Blue Star Memorial Highway project in New Jersey in 1944 as a tribute to all who have served in the armed forces and also as a demonstration of roadside beautification. It was one of the most extensive projects ever undertaken by garden clubs and the first ever attempted on a nationwide scale.

The name "Blue Star" was taken from the small service flag that family members placed in their windows during World War II. A blue star signified a family member serving overseas, a red star represented someone who was injured, and a gold star meant a family member had died in action. While it originally began to honor World War II veterans, its mission was enlarged in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 392 (Portland) led the effort for the highway renaming, with assistance from elected officials and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Speakers at the ceremony included VVA members John Neuman and Mike Breshears, Nan Jean Roller of the Oregon State Federation of Garden

Clubs, Oregon Representative Kurt Schrader, Oregon Senator Rick Metsger, Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Alexander Burgin, and US Representative Earl Blumenauer.

Representatives from 29 veterans' organizations took part in the ceremony.

Tricare benefits extended to Medicare-eligible retirees

According to the Tricare web site, Tricare health care and pharmacy benefits were recently extended to Medicare-eligible retirees of the uniformed services, their family members, and survivors thanks to the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Under the new law, pharmacy benefits are effective on April 1, 2001, and the rest of the Tricare health care benefits are effective on October 1, 2001.

If you turn 65 prior to April 1, 2001, the new law states that you automatically qualify for the benefit whether or not you purchase Medicare Part B.

If you turn 65 on or after April 1, 2001, the law mandates that you must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to receive the Tricare pharmacy benefit.

According to the Medicare web site, you can currently sign up for Medicare medical insurance (Part B), if you are eligible, during Medicare's annual enrollment period which continues until April 2.

As long as you sign up by this date, your Medicare Part B coverage will begin on July 1, 2001.

If you are interested in enrolling in Medicare, call Social Security at (800) 772-1213.

For more information on Medicare and on the new law concerning Tricare health and pharmacy benefits for Medicare-eligible retirees, visit the following web sites: www.medicare.gov/ and www.tricare.osd.mil/ndaa/



Address changes

Retiree Services Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309

- New Retiree Change
 Stop Deceased

Name of retiree _____

Rank of retiree _____

Current address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retired from Army NG Air NG Federal State

Retiree Service Office

Open every
Tuesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(503) 945-3804 or
(800) 452-7500 ext. 3804

Mail inquiries and
changes of address to:
Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309

ATTENTION:

Eastern Oregon retirees

Address:
Military Retiree Office
3285 Airbase Rd.
Mountain Home, ID 83647

Phone:
(208) 587-9771
Fax: (208) 587-4222

E-mail:
milretoff@worldnet.att.net

Website:
home.att.net/~milretoff

Rosenfeld bids fond farewell to Guard men and women

By Brig. Gen. CHARLES ROSENFELD
WAR-TIME CHIEF OF STAFF FOR USFK

It has been my pleasure to serve as Oregon's assistant adjutant general, Army, since October 1997.

During this time I have seen eight of our units deploy overseas, each having benefited from home station mobilization that kept our soldiers close to their families and employers while preparing to do accomplish vital missions in foreign lands.

Headquarters, State Area Command (STARC) conducted its first unified annual training in over 50 years, in support of the 41st Brigade participation in a JRTC rotation which validated their 'coming of age' as an enhanced brigade.

In addition to insuring the military preparedness of the Oregon Army National Guard, we fought fires, floods and storms, built structures to enhance our communities, cleaned up our environment, mentored our youth and took care of our families.

From the governor of Oregon to the state's poorest citizens, the Oregon National Guard is respected for its service and dedication.

While the stature and esteem of our organization has grown in the public

eye, we must never forget that this is the result of the efforts of thousands of soldiers and airmen, and their families.

We, as a headquarters, must be equally as dedicated to their welfare and expectations, the well-being of their families, and consideration for those retirees who set the stage for our success with their years of service.

I am pleased to see the progress that has been made, especially with respect to increased administrative loads, more stringent educational and training requirements, and heightened expectations for deployment.

All of this has put a great deal of strain on our staff to meet higher recruiting and retention goals, achieve higher medical and personnel readiness levels, and provide increased training opportunities to meet the career goals of our soldiers.

Such achievements are never the result of strictly individual efforts, but reflect that which makes the Oregon National Guard so special; the collective efforts of many for the benefit of all.

I would especially like to thank our often 'unseen' volunteers, those dedicated individuals who have committed so much time and effort to making our mission objectives possible.

The family program and their chain

of concern gives every Guard family the assurance that the sacrifices, that inevitably occur due to military service, will be addressed with care and compassion.

I have taken volunteers from our Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee with me on visits to deployed units overseas. They have not only addressed the concerns of individual soldiers, but have rallied employers and communities in support of our troops and their families.

Similarly, the retiree council has endeavored to retain the spirit and enthusiasm of our emeritus Guardsmen and families, preserving the rich heritage that is so crucial to our future.

The Oregon State Defense Force has become a significant and meaningful service organization that supports and ensures our mission success.

Finally, I'd like to commend those who have given of themselves to support our National Guard Associations, both enlisted and officer, at the state and national levels.

These fine organizations have worked relentlessly on our behalf, insuring the success of important legislation that will have long term consequences for Guard families.

They lobbied on our behalf for state-

sponsored educational benefits and home loans, and guaranteed health and prescription drug benefits for our retirees and their families, among other things.

This summer, we will mark the transition to the total integration of the Army, as we wear the black beret as a symbol of that change.

It signifies that the Guard and Reserve are full partners in the defense of this nation, increasingly bearing the burden of peacekeeping overseas, and providing the combat strength of our armed services.

But there are things within the Oregon National Guard that I hope will never change, especially the spirit of community that unites our National Guard family.

As my military focus shifts toward Korea, I know that you will receive the best possible guidance and support from Brig. Gen. Terry Barker, who succeeds me as AAGA.

I know that each of you will give him your best efforts, and that the future of the Oregon Army National Guard is assured by your collective dedication.

Denise and I regret that we won't be seeing you quite as often, but you will remain in our hearts and prayers... until we meet again.

Family Focus

Reunion preparation key to successful return from deployments

With annual training season arriving quickly, it is important to prepare your family for the reunion at the end of the training schedule.

Reunions are reunions, regardless if you are coming home from a two-day weekend drill, an annual training, or any type of deployment, Air or Army National Guard.

One of the most common issues that arises after a long deployment is that of trust. Trust is very important; not just in being true to each other, but in promises to stay in touch. Trusting one another's feelings in making decisions. Will he/she still love me?

Communication is another issue that arises when reunions are at hand. When the airman or soldier returns home from a long deployment, you must learn to talk to each other again—face to face.

Some things that can be expected from the deployed partner are: they will be more tired than you think; or they may rebel against schedules and pre-planned events. They may want to stay in; they don't want to be "shown off."

Some decisions that were made by the partner at home may not be the deployed partner's idea of common sense.

Partners must be gentle; you know things may not be perfect, but if you say so too quickly, your partner may become defensive.

Some common ways to reduce the homecoming strain are to talk to each other. If there is an awkwardness about something, say so gently. Give each other a little space; you have adjusted to being single, now adjust to being married again.

The partners should expect readjustment from their children also. The child may be angry with the parent for being away for so long.

Do not be afraid to seek outside, or even professional, help.

Remember, the reunion can be either a building block or a stumbling block.

People stumble when they don't take the time to consider their partner's growth and experiences, when communication is not good, and when partners want to control each other.

Reunions can be made into a true building block process when growth and experience are appreciated and encouraged, people communicate openly and honestly, and partners accept each other and the changes that have taken place.

National volunteer week gives units a chance to say thanks

National volunteer week is upon us again. "Change the World—Volunteer!" is the theme for the 28th annual national volunteer week, April 22-28, 2001.

The purpose of the week is to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at local, state and national levels.

It is important that everyone make a sincere effort to extend a special gesture of appreciation to all of your volunteers.

The family readiness group in your unit consists of valuable volunteers who deserve recognition.

The Oregon National Guard has approximately 120 hard-working volunteers who spend many, many hours working towards our mission of unit readiness.

Mrs. Shirley Davis visits Oregon Family Program



Mrs. Shirley Davis, the wife of Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, chief of National Guard Bureau, visited Oregon in October.

Mrs. Davis was given a warm welcome and overview of the role of the Oregon National Guard at the Family Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe.

Mrs. Davis spoke to family program coordinators about the value of the National Guard family program, and departed Oregon with a positive opinion of the impact the family program has on Oregon soldiers.

This service to the National Guard should not be overlooked.

Commanders should make a concentrated effort during this week to say thank you to your family readiness volunteers.

Recognition should be sincere and genuine, timely and specific.

However, don't forget the every-day

recognition that makes volunteering continue to be worthwhile.

There are a number of ways to do this; the important thing is that it be done.

If you need help, feel free to call the family program office at (503) 945-3545 or utilize your volunteer leader for ideas.

Awards and Decorations

Legion of Merit

BG Charles Rosenfeld HQSTARC

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj Ronald Kessinger 142 SFS
 SMSgt Gregory Bauder 142 CES
 MSgt Lansing Belt 142 MDS
 LTC Scott McCrae HHC/41 Bde
 CW4 Lila Smith HQSTARC
 SFC Walter Warden 3/HQSTARC

Air Force Commendation Medal

MSgt Matthew Bergman 142 CES
 MSgt Steven Noble 142 AGS
 SSgt Ronald Shaddy 142 CES
 TSgt Sandra Gannon 142 CES

Air Force Achievement Medal

SSgt James Scott 142 CES
 MSgt Richard Gravett 142 LS
 SMSgt Daniel Haider 142 CF
 TSgt Jeff Ehrlich 142 LS
 TSgt John Jackson 116 ACS
 SSgt Rex Rekow 142 CES
 SSgt Glen Blackford 142 CES

Army Commendation Medal

LTC John Holly 82 RTOC
 LTC William Page 82 RTOC
 LTC Terri Wold HQ/82 Bde
 MAJ Ramon Angelucci HQ/82 Bde
 MAJ Casimiro Barruga 82 RTOC
 MAJ Jeffery Julum 82 RTOC
 MAJ Timothy Leitch 741 CSB
 MAJ John Millard 82 RTOC
 MAJ Anthony Offutt 3/HQSTARC
 MAJ Steve Strickland 82 RTOC
 MAJ Paul Sylvester HHC/41 Bde
 CPT Bruce Alzner HHC/1249 EN

CPT Chester Cary HHC/2-162 IN
 CPT Patrice Deveraux HQ/1-82 CAV
 CPT Stanley Hutchison 82 RTOC
 CPT John Jenkins HHD/741 CSB
 CPT Dean Perez HHC/1-162 IN
 CPT Ludwikoski HHC/41 Bde
 CPT Robert Roeder 241 MI
 CPT Stephen Schmidt A/2-218 FA
 CPT Thomas Wirth HHC/2-162 IN
 CPT Donald Zimmerman B/141 SPT
 1LT Rhythm Love HHC/1-162 IN
 2LT Danielle Delint 82 RTOC
 2LT Amy Patton HHC/41 Bde
 1SG Jason Broeckel A/1-162 IN
 1SG Gerald Casper F/82 CAV
 1SG Kevin Swogger A/2-162 IN
 1SG Lyle Wold HHC/41 Bde
 MSG Darwin Holbrook 82 RTOC
 MSG Pamela Kalberg 82 RTOC
 MSG Za Otto Shiere HHC/141 SPT
 MSG Jerry Worthey 741 CSB
 SFC Clyde Bell HHSB/2-218 FA
 SFC Daniel Charter HHC/1-162 IN
 SFC Fred Clark HHC/2-162 IN
 SFC Jerry Glesmann A/2-162 IN
 SFC Robert Hanks 82 RTOC
 SFC Eric Johnson HHD/641 MED
 SFC Kenneth Landgraver HHC/141 SPT
 SFC Quyen Le B/141 SPT
 SFC Lance Lefever A/2-162 IN
 SFC Shannon McNatt A/2-162 IN
 SFC Terry Miller HHSB/2-218 FA
 SFC Kevin Stanger A/1-186 IN
 SFC Darrin Stuva HQ/82 Bde
 SFC Mike Wilson 82 RTOC
 SFC William Woods HHSB/2-218 FA
 SSG Kenneth Anderson A/2-162 IN
 SSG John Ashford B/2-162 IN
 SSG Spencer Bassett 1/HHSB/2-218 FA
 SSG Gavin Bell HHSB/2-218 FA

SSG Darien Bowers C/1-162 IN
 SSG William Hamilton A/2-218 FA
 SSG Thomas Hatton A/2-162 IN
 SSG Jacob Iverson B/1249 EN
 SSG Phillip Jaques A/2-162 IN
 SSG Marcus Merrick G/82 CAV
 SSG Donald Miller HHC/1-162 IN
 SSG Scott Nottingham 1/HHC/1-162
 SSG John Schiermeister HHC/2-162
 SSG Michael Sears
 SSG Michael Stubbs HHSB/2-218 FA
 SSG Dora VanZandt HHC/141 SPT
 SSG Angela Watt HQ/82 Bde
 SSG Jennifer Webster 3670 Maint
 SGT Mark Browning HHC/1-162 IN
 SGT Timothy Budelman 82 RTOC
 SGT Kevin Devlaeminick G/82 CAV
 SGT David Duple
 SGT William Gillentine HHC/41 Bde
 SGT Jeffery Grant 1/HHC/2-162 IN
 SGT Basil Hoffman D/1-162 IN
 SGT Brien Kelley 1/HHSB/2-218 FA
 SGT Matthew King F/82 CAV
 SGT Dylan Leeman HHSB/2-218 FA
 SGT Rodney Peiper 82 Bde
 SGT Tommy Smith F/82 CAV
 SGT Charles Spiker HQSTARC
 SGT Jeffery Underland 1/HHC/2-162
 SGT Deborah Vaught 1/A/141 SPT
 SGT Kevin Weil 1/HHSB/2-218 FA
 SPC Chris. Anderson HHC/1-162
 SPC Bruno Borges A/1-186 IN
 SPC Dale Diehl
 SPC John Parsons 82 RTOC
 SPC Michael Paul 1042 MED
 CPL Joseph Fleischman HHSB/2-218
 CPL Brian Jackson HHSB/2-218 FA
 CPL Matthew Kaufman G/82 CAV
 CPL Curtis Mayo A/1249 EN
 CPL Judd Orcutt 1/HHC/2-162 IN
 PV1 Micah Wood HHC/1-162 IN

Oregon Exceptional Service Medal

CW4 Lila Smith HQSTARC
 1SG Paul Shipley B/141 SPT

Oregon Commendation Certificate

SGT Eric Vandermey HQSTARC

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AZZUR
 Oregon National Guard
 March 2001

From the old Naval Reserve Center to a new house, materials donated to Habitat for Humanity by the Oregon National Guard are put to good use.