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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon National Guard takes to the woods

Guardsmen attend fire school as part of governor's Operation Train Smokey

Story by Kathy Aney,
The East Oregonian
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Sp. Mark Loomis focused on an imaginary hot spot and chopped with his Pulaski as another novice firefighter sprayed the grass with his hose.

Suddenly, a voice came out of the trees.

"Drop your stuff and let's go," the male voice said with a sense of urgency. "Fire's coming."

The men dropped their Pulaskis - wildland firefighting tools used for digging and chopping - their hoses and bladder bags and quickly hoofed it to a pre-arranged safety zone, aware the imaginary fire had blown up and was quickly overtaking their position.

It was fire school - but with a twist.

Instead of bright yellow Nomex fire shirts, Loomis and the other novice firefighters

wore camouflage. Their trouser legs covered the tops of black logger-style boots, freshly issued.

The 58 men and two women - all members of the Oregon National Guard - attended fire school [in late July] at the behest of Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Operation Train Smokey will ensure that fresh firefighters are available in case fire season heats up this summer, and all other community and agency resources are depleted.

Two other groups of National Guard Soldiers - one in Klamath Falls and the other at the Oregon Coast - trained simultaneously. The classes were paid for with U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry dollars.

For three days, the Soldiers learned about fire behavior, weather, fuels and the basic dos and don'ts of firefighting from

See **SOLDIERS** on PAGE 8



Photo by Spc. Michael Bley, 115th MPAD

Pfc. Andrea McKellen takes her turn as the Soldiers learned about the many instruments of modern fire fighting and techniques used by the U.S. Forest Service. Equipment, procedure, and principles of fire fighting were pressed into the trainees' muscle-memory during long hours outdoors in the sun learning from a decidedly "hands-on" approach.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Oregon Guardsmen mobilize for a year in Iraq

Story by Peter Wong,
The Statesman Journal
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Three dozen men and women of the 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment of the Oregon National Guard got an official send-off and personal farewells [Aug. 6] before they head to duty in Iraq.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, families and friends gathered at the National Guard's Army Aviation support facility in Salem to see them off. They will go first to training at Fort Benning, Ga., then to the air base in Balad, Iraq, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. Their deployment is for a year.

Their commander, Lt. Col. Todd Farmer of Stayton, admitted to mixed feelings after the 25-minute ceremony in the hangar.

"A good portion of them have been deployed before, but this is my first opportunity to go forward," Farmer said. "I'm really excited about it. I'm also anxious, both for my family and my activities."

Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, said Democrats and Republicans often tussle about issues.

"But one thing we have never fought on a partisan basis is the care of and concern for these warrior-soldiers and their families," he said.

Rees, who is Oregon's adjutant general, said this is the fourth overseas deployment for one of the unit's Soldiers, dating to the Vietnam War.

The unit traces its start to 1971, and its typical missions at home involve fires, floods and rescues. In Iraq, the unit will ferry troops, equipment and supplies, and support military operations.

"It represents the pride that the Oregon Guard has put into the



Photo by Capt. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski looks on as Col. Todd Farmer, battalion commander, and Command Sergeant Major Karen Jacobsharryman unfurl the Headquarters, Headquarters Company 2/641 Aviation colors. This took place prior to the mobilization ceremony Aug. 6 as the unit readies for a year-long deployment to Balad, Iraq.

Army aviation structure," Rees said.

U.S. military involvement in Iraq coincides with the 5 years Kulongoski has been governor. Kulongoski has presided over many mobilization and demobilization ceremonies for ground and air units called into federal service, and has visited Iraq twice and Afghanistan once.

"You are going into a war-torn land to provide the promise of hope and the possibility of peace," he said.

"The next year will likely be filled with hours of boredom, shattered by moments of chaos. It is the nature of war. But this is not new to many of you. You have been tested before, you have passed the test and you will succeed again."

The Oregon Military Department

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The Adjutant General
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Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. David B. Enyeart

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley

State Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith

Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

State Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael S. Braibish
michael.s.braibish@mil.state.or.us

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
CPT Stephen S. Bomar
stephen.s.bomar@mil.state.or.us

Chief, Community Relations
Kay F. Fristad
kay.f.fristad@mil.state.or.us

Editor in Chief
Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
jeff.j.thompson@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Writer
Kimberly L. Lippert
kimberly.l.lippert@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Photographer/Writer
Master Sgt. Thomas L. Hovie
tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributors
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

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

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COMMENTARY

Oregon National Guard continues to improve readiness



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
Adjutant General,
Oregon Military Department

With the summer season ending, the Oregon National Guard continued to emphasize overall readiness. Units attended their annual training in diverse locations designed to enhance primary military skills. Soldiers and Airmen have focused on skills preparing them to mobilize for State emergencies as well as for Federal missions. In the past and presently, the Oregon National Guard responded with great success to emergencies such as forest fires, rescue missions, and other disaster relief missions. More

than 300 volunteers participated in interagency fire training, and units from both the Air and Army Guard answer the call to support the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq. This summer the Oregon Guard stood and continues to stand ready to provide support to the citizens of Oregon and our nation.

This summer we moved forward and fostered readiness with sustained federal, state and local partnerships. This allowed our organization to establish new facilities within the state as well to receive new equipment. Congress allocated approximately \$12 billion nationwide to update equipment in the Army National Guard over four years. Oregon has and will benefit from this program by receiving new tracked vehicles, up-armored HUMVEES, weapons systems and HEMMT-based trucks. Additionally, Oregon will receive equipment for units set to deploy in the near future. I am happy to announce this equipment procurement is scheduled to be completed by the fall season.

This is a historic period for the National Guard. This is the first time since the 1990's the Oregon Guard had received such an infusion of

equipment. These items will provide additional security to all Oregonians and to the United States, now and in the future.

Readiness is not only about the new facilities and new equipment. Readiness is also about the men and women who answer the call and proudly wear the uniform. We are on track to meet our goal of 101 percent strength of the July 1st assigned strength numbers by the end of September. We have retained our best while recruiting qualified citizens into the Guard. Readiness could not be successful without the individuals who are willing to become and stay apart of the National Guard team.

As units deployed this summer several completed their deployments to Iraq and returned safely to Oregon. Their value to our nation in a time of need shows not only Oregon's success in providing a prepared and ready force, but also the Guards significant contributions to national security. For these units, we sincerely thank you for your service to Oregon and to our nation. We are proud of your willingness and effort to stand ready when called. Welcome home and job well done!

Challenging times require leadership from every Guardsman

What makes up an effective fighting force? Technology? Tactics? Training?

In a word it takes leadership—especially at the Non-Commissioned Officer and Senior NCO level.

Each of us needs to believe in the abilities of the officers and enlisted members in our command structure. This is one way in which we develop the attributes and learn the skills of an Air Force leader. This type of self-development contributes to each of us becoming a confident and competent leader of character.

We have a rank structure and standards in place for a reason; it's imperative for good order and discipline. And we must have trust in this system, therefore it is incumbent on each of us to be the best Soldiers and Airmen possible to justify that trust.

We've all been through classes and training to gain the necessary tools and abilities to identify when our people fall out of standards. Each one of us is endowed with the responsibility to address any violations as they occur and to help people get back on standards. None of us is perfect, and we all need a hand from time to time. Also, when we get guidance like this we should recognize it for what it is; accept and

receive feedback.

Being a leader in the Oregon National Guard is not easy. There aren't any one-size-fits-all solutions for the challenges that face leadership, and there are no shortcuts to success. As a leader you are responsible to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in your junior Airmen and Soldiers. Give them the authority to effectively carry out tasks for which they are responsible; make them accountable for their actions, be they right or wrong; and assist in helping them learn from leaders' experiences and expertise.

We are all leaders in one aspect or another. How we lead determines where we go and who will follow.

As an NCO and a senior enlisted leader, you are expected to be tactically, technically and strategically proficient; to "be professional beyond reproach", and to be "the eyes and ears for your commander," and the voice of all Airmen, Soldiers and their families. You need to gain trust and respect from your military members. These are not rights; they need to be earned through consistent professional and proficient actions.

If you haven't already, I urge all of you to



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith,
State Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Oregon Military Department

read and understand the enlisted force structure. This is your blueprint for success in the guard. Embrace your role and responsibility as an Airman – Junior Airman, NCO or Senior NCO, and continue the tradition of the outstanding enlisted force that has always supported our state and nation's values.

Most of us would like to think or perhaps hope to someday "be" a leader. The truth is we already are. We all are leaders whether the rank has actually caught up with us or not. We lead when we are the "boss" and we can also lead when we are that newly assigned Airman or Soldier.

Conley new state Command Sergeant Major for Army Guard

Story compiled by
Sentinel Staff
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley of Sublimity, Ore. was appointed as the new State Command Sergeant Major in July 2008 by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard. The rank refers to the highest enlisted rank, just above First Sergeant. The leadership position, Command Sergeant Major, is the senior enlisted advisor to the commanding officer and carries with it ceremonial functions including caring for the unit's colors (flag). Primarily he serves as a monitor and advocate of the enlisted men and women of the command.

Brunk W. Conley enlisted in the United States Army in the Delayed Entry Program in December 1981. He reported to Infantry Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia on August 2, 1982. Upon completion of Basic/AIT he reported to Airborne School with a follow-on assignment at Ft. Lewis Washington to A Company, 3rd Platoon 2-75 (Ranger). 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. He left active duty and joined the Oregon Army National Guard. His first assignment was as a scout section leader with 1-249 (TLAT) in Silverton, Ore.

In October of 2003 he was selected as Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry headquartered in Cottage Grove, Ore. In that same month the battalion was activated into federal active duty and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom II. CSM Conley's battalion returned to the Continental United States in late March of 2005.

Upon completion of his tour in Baghdad, he was selected as the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Command Sergeant Major. Under Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, the 41st Brigade Headquarters Deployed as the Headquarters (HQ) for Task Force Phoenix V in Kabul, Afghanistan. The HQ was responsible for the training, equipping, and stationing of the Afghan National Army. In the middle of the deployment, the 41st was given the same responsibility for the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department

Outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe shares a light moment with incoming State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley at the Passing of the Sword ceremony held at Heritage Park at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore.

Afghan National Police.

CSM 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 and many other awards and decorations.

CSM 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.

Born in Albany, Ore. of Brunk J. and Mona Conley of Albany and LaPine, Ore., he spent the majority

of his early life in Sweet Home and Albany and graduated from Stayton Union High School. His father is a retired Oregon National Guardsman and his son Nick is currently a 1st Lieutenant in B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry based in Corvallis.

CSM Conley has a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Western Oregon University and a Master's Degree in Political Science from American Military University. In civilian life he is a high school chemistry/physics teacher. Conley and his wife, Laura, have five sons, Brunk V., Nicholas, Jacob, Zachary, and Lucas.

COMMENTARY

The importance of mediation in the military organization

By Senior Master Sgt. Max White,
142nd Fighter Wing
Human Resources Advisor

In July, four members of the Oregon National Guard had the opportunity to attend the Mediation Certification class at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. Three of the attendees work in the Equal Opportunity field in the Oregon National Guard and all serve on the State Diversity Council. The attendees included Maj. Sungshik Kim of the Oregon Army National Guard, Capt. Dawn Deland, Tech. Sgt. Brenda Bush, and Senior Master Sgt. Max White of the Oregon Air National Guard. After a rigorous week of classes, practice, and practicum, all four of us emerged as Department



of Defense certified mediators. What is mediation and why is it so important? Mediation is a process that is used in military equal employment opportunity complaints, personnel issues, and workplace disputes. During the mediation process, the parties are given the opportunity to express their interest and concerns. Through a guided dialogue, the parties are able to reach an agreeable resolution. The benefits to a military unit are many, perhaps most important are time and money.

According to the EEOC ADR (Administrative Dispute Resolution) Report for Fiscal Year 2006, the average processing time for complaints using mediation or other forms of ADR is 40 days and generally results in a 50 percent resolution rate. Mediation benefits the agency by reducing labor hours to process complaints, as well as reducing the actual costs associated with the process. ADR settlements are less expensive on average than EEO counseling settlements. The decreases in expenses for labor hours, actual processing costs and reduced settlement amounts all equate to an increase in available operational funds and to workplaces dedi-

cating their time and efforts to the mission rather than to complaint activity. Finally, EEOC reported the most popular source for mediators or neutrals are those from in-house.

What a privilege it was to obtain instruction at DEOMI! DEOMI is a joint schoolhouse where they teach equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity courses to active-duty, reserve, and civilian components of all the armed forces. DEOMI has been offering world-class equity training for over 30 years.

Mediation itself is done in six stages. Stage one is called the introduction and it gives the mediator the opportunity to set forth ground rules and guidelines for the session. In this stage, the mediator builds rapport with the participants, sets the tone, and puts the participants at ease.

Stage Two is called uninterrupted time and is where each party is given time to "vent" and tell the mediator their view. This in turn gives each party an opportunity to hear the other's point of view. The goals for the mediator in this stage are to accumulate information and to develop an agenda. For mediators to be effective,

they must be strong active listeners of both verbal and nonverbal communication.

Stage three is the dialogue between the two parties. In this stage, the mediator encourages and facilitates participants' discussion of the issues with each other. The goals are to help the parties understand each other and move the focus from past issues and conduct to the future. During this stage, the mediator may utilize the techniques of caucus (meeting with each party individually), role reversal, silence, or hypotheticals to get beyond an impasse.

Stage Four is problem solving. In this stage, the mediator assists the participants in viewing all possible solutions and facilitates negotiations.

Stage Five is writing the agreement. In this stage, the mediator serves as a scribe in helping the parties to draft positive, clear terms of the agreement. And again the mediator assists the parties in working through any remaining impasses.

Stage Six is the closing. Here the mediator acknowledges the parties' efforts and creates closure.

Army vice chief of staff retires, shares thoughts with Soldiers

Gen. Richard A. Cody, the 31st vice chief of staff of the Army, retired August 2008 after a distinguished 36-year career. A master aviator who saw combat duty in the Persian Gulf, Cody leaves a legacy of leadership, advocacy for Soldiers and lifelong service to the nation.

Interview by Alison Bettencourt,
courtesy Soldier's Magazine

You entered West Point during the Vietnam War. What made you want to join the Army during such an unpopular war? Did your family support your decision?

Cody: I was 17 in the summer of 1968. I had a lot of friends who were being drafted, and like everyone, I had been watching the war on TV. Especially the images of the helicopters - the 1st Cavalry Division and 101st Airborne Div. pilots. I just knew I wanted to be an officer and a Cobra pilot. My parents were concerned about Vietnam. They realized I could be going to combat, but my Dad wanted me to go to West Point. He understood.

It seems the Vietnam War really had an impact in shaping the cadet corps.

Cody: At Thayer Hall they put a plaque up every Friday any time a graduate died in combat. You'd see class of 1966 and 1967, guys that came before us. But it really hit me when George Bass got killed in Vietnam. He was class of 1969 - an upperclassman when I arrived. I was in his squad as a plebe. He was bigger than life to me. That's when it really hit me - I saw his name go up on that wall and ...well, it really hit me.

You have said that this Army is not broken, that you joined a broken Army. What kind of Army did you graduate into?

Cody: We did not have the redeployment process we have today. There were no mental-health assessments being done, absolutely no attention being paid to families or reintegration. We were experiencing some serious race-relation problems. There were race riots on post - we even had a group of Soldiers take over an entire quad for two or three days. We had a drug problem, mostly marijuana, but other drugs. As a young platoon leader, you had to carry a firearm during staff duty and any time you went into the barracks. The years 1973-1974 were some really tough years, especially from a lieutenant or young captain's perspective.

Did those who stayed believe we could be a better Army?

Cody: Even though the Army was struggling, you saw glimmers of good leadership. When the Army is stressed, good leadership

always holds it together. Always. Tough, charismatic, engaged, fearless leadership will hold an organization together. That's what I learned as a lieutenant. That's what made me stay.

I'm seeing the same thing today. That's how we get better. That's why we're the best. I can remember hearing about the All-Volunteer Force concept and believed it was going to transform us. Those of us who stayed the course and have watched the transformation of this force and had the privilege to be part of it, have been amazed. Not any one person can take credit, it was done collectively. We wanted our Army to be better every day, and we worked on it together.

What gives you courage as a leader? How do you balance the ego it takes to be a leader, to make the tough decisions, but still have the humility you do with Soldiers?

Cody: You have to have confidence in what is right. I don't know if that's ego or not, I'm not a philosopher. I know that as a leader, you have to have love of soldiering and Soldiers first and above all. Second, you have got to have confidence. None of the decisions a leader makes should be easy. If I think it's the right decision, it's OK if it's unpopular and people don't like me. This isn't a popularity contest. Respect for this institution is very important, and sometimes has to supersede personal likes and dislikes.

We are a team. If you allow ego to reign, emotion will trump true leadership. You'll have a clash of egos instead of a discussion about skill sets, capabilities and what is good for the organization. Some of this is cerebral, but hell, a lot of it is about the heart. It's about putting yourself out there, warts and all, as a rallying point for the troops. Soldiers don't care if you're smart; they give you the benefit of the doubt as a leader. They want to know if you can tell a joke that's actually funny; if the job you have now is more important than the one you might have tomorrow; and that you love them, the unit and this Army.

Why do you think Soldiers are staying with the Army today, despite the stresses we have?

Cody: First of all, this is absolutely the best Army we've ever had. There is not a time in my 36-year career when we have



Photo courtesy Army.mil

Born in Vermont, Cody entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1968 and graduated in 1972.

been better. But we have lost far too many captains and mid-level NCOs who would have stayed because they love the Army, but because we could not grow fast enough and the demands on our force are outstripping supply, had to choose between the Army they love and the families they love.

They should not have to make that choice, and that's why we're working so hard to grow this Army, get it in balance, get to the 1:2 and 1:5 deployment ratios. We stay because we have a sense of duty, honor and country that even when you get tired, when you lose friends or are frustrated by bureaucracy, can't be compromised. We stay because the Army isn't a job, it is a larger family that your own family is defined and sustained by. We stay because we look out there and say, if not me, who?

I know you are going to miss the Army. Do you think the Army will miss you?

Cody: This Army won't skip a beat on the day I retire. That's a good Army. That means there's good leadership, that the institution is strong and will persevere. I will take this uniform off, and I will live the Army life through my sons and nephews. There will still be five Codys in the Army. And I will continue to ask myself, like I do every day on my way home as I make that turn into Fort Myer and am greeted by the white headstones of Arlington: "Am I doing everything I possibly can to support our Soldiers serving today?"

"Am I showing the same moral courage, the same bravery in my job that I saw every day in the eyes of our Soldiers? "Am I living my life as an American to be worthy of their sacrifice?"

Time to switch to fall safety

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn K.
Woodward,
ORARNG Safety Manager

As we head into the Fall activities, I would like to remind you to review the hazards and take steps to minimize the risks. Back-to-school time requires us to be more aware of crosswalks during our commute to work. School zone speed limits are in effect and the weather causes visibility issues as the sun rises later, and rain and fog increase.

Ensure you and your children will be visible to drivers by wearing bright colors or reflective devices. Remember Guard members are required to wear reflective belts when running (road guards are required when running in formation) in traffic areas.

Hunting season begins in September with bow hunting and lasts through the fall. Checking and maintaining our hunting equipment and weapons is one of the most important steps. Following that we need to ensure we have updated our licenses and spent time at the range to improve our accuracy, which increases the safe operation of hunting rifles. Last year five people were shot by accident during hunting season in October and November. In addition to these precautions, every hunter should wear blaze orange while hunting during the various seasons.

Vehicles need to be checked; ensure wipers and windshield-washer equipment are in working condition; and the engine and heater are ready for the lower temperatures. Change to winter tires to decrease the likelihood of unwanted skidding while driving to and from hunting grounds. Put reminders in your day planner or electronic calendars to make sure you remember to accomplish these various tasks.

More information may be found on the ORARNG safety webpage, pedestrian and driver information at www.nhtsa.dot.gov, and hunting info at www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting.

Enjoy this change of season and good luck with the hunting!

NEWS

Klamath Falls hosts one of the largest air shows in the state featuring military and vintage aircraft

Klamath Air Show 2008

“Feel the Thunder”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173 FW Public Affairs

Story by
Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

Perhaps the most dramatic moment happened when a pyrotechnic wall of flame stretching nearly the length of the flightline leapt into the sky and down out the roar of passing aircraft.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173 FW Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight program featured a 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle which was joined by a World War II era P-51 Mustang.

Twenty thousand people from in and around Klamath Falls, Ore. felt the thunder of the 2008 Klamath Air Show at Kingsley Field June 21. The show was primarily driven by the Klamath Falls Chamber of Commerce, but certainly relied heavily on the 173rd Fighter Wing as well as other military units.



“We put in a lot of man hours and added a lot to the military end of the show including statics, and performers,” said Col. James C. Miller, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander. “We even had Maj. John Klatt out here, the ambassador for the Air National Guard.”

Klatt flies a handcrafted Staudacher S-300D (above)

which was built for world-class unlimited aerobatics and is painted in an Air National Guard scheme. The Staudacher is lightweight and is built with an all tubular and wood makeup allowing the airplane to weigh in at a mere 1250 lbs.

Visitors were treated to hands-on displays of several types of aircraft including an A-10 Thunderbolt II “Warthog,” a World War II era P-51 Mustang, and other military and civilian aircraft when not keeping their eyes on the sky. A U.S. Navy F-18 Hornet fighter, Kingsley Field’s own F-15 fighters and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds were just a few of the demonstrations on the day’s schedule.

“We had the premier demonstration team the Air Force Thunderbirds, they flew several shows and closed the air show on

Saturday,” Miller said.

According to the official Thunderbirds website, “the Thunderbirds represent the ultimate in skill, precision and American air power in the jet age, the Thunderbirds

era P-51 Mustang and made several passes in front of the audience. According to the Air Combat and Command website, “The U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight program was established in 1997 to commemorate the

Wing is to appeal to those who may consider joining the service.

“I think the most important aspect of the Air show was showcasing the Air National Guard and telling our story, and one of the big benefits of this is generating interest and drawing new recruits to our organization,” said Miller.

The festivities revealed a lighter side in addition to the “shock and awe” aspects like the F-15 demonstration team and the Thunderbirds.

“We put in a lot of man hours and added a lot to the military end of the show.”

— Col. James Miller, Commander 173rd FW

fly together, yet stand alone. Since their inaugural flight in 1953, the aircraft have evolved. Crewmembers have come and gone. But the Thunderbirds’ focus remains the same: precision flying with an emphasis on excellence.

Perhaps one of the most moving aspects of the air show occurred during the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight. The 173rd Fighter Wing’s own F-15 Eagle joined a World War II

Air Force’s 50th anniversary. It involves today’s state-of-the-art fighters flying in close formation with World War II, Korean and Vietnam era fighters such as the P-51 Mustang and the F-86 Sabre. The flight’s mission is to safely and proudly display the evolution of U.S. Air Force air power and to support the Air Force’s recruiting and retention efforts.” Miller says one of the reasons an air show like this is important to the 173rd Fighter

“We had a jet powered outhouse,” Miller observed with a wry grin. And, indeed, there was a traditional “porta-john” propelled to speeds of more than 35 miles-per-hour by a small jet engine lodged in the rear. Chip Massie, executive director of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, said approximately 17,000 people paid to attend the show making it a success, and added that he can’t wait to start preparation for the next one.

General Officer promotion for Oregon Air National Guard

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department

Salem, OR – Colonel Bruce W. Prunk was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the Oregon Air National Guard in a ceremony held at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore. Aug. 18.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk was also awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq when he deployed as the Deputy Commander of the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing in 2007.

“It’s a great pleasure to promote you on behalf of the Governor not just on your prior experience but your future potential,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard.

After receiving his promotion, Prunk recognized his family and friends within the Oregon National Guard and thanked them for their support.

“The job the men and women are doing in Iraq is nothing short of incredible,” said Prunk. “The enlisted force is the heart, soul, and backbone of the Oregon National Guard,” he added.

Prunk brings a wealth of military and civilian experience to his new post as Assistant to the Adjutant General, Air.

He retired as the Assistant Chief of Police from the Portland Police Bureau in 2004 after 28 years of service.

He joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1983, was selected for an officer’s commission through the Air National Guard’s Academy of Military Science in May 1984.

In 1996 he was selected as commander of the 142nd Security Forces



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, the new Assistant Adjutant General, Air, for the Oregon National Guard is sworn into his new position by The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees. Prunk’s wife Jan stands beside him.

Squadron; further proceeding as the 142nd Mission Support Group commander and the Vice Wing Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing before accepting the position of Chief of Staff-Air at Joint Force Headquarters, Salem, Ore.

Prunk resides in Wilsonville, Oregon with his wife Jan. He has one son, 2nd Lt. Justin M. Prunk, who is also a member of the Oregon Air National Guard.

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RECRUITING & RETENTION

IndyCar zooms National Guard into a new racing dimension

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill,
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – A new relationship with IndyCar promises to propel National Guard recruiting forward and give Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen a more personal interest in another sport.

The new 230-MPH, No. 4 National Guard IndyCar was unveiled at the Army National Guard Readiness Center here at Arlington Hall.

“We’ve been involved with NASCAR for a number of years,” said Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard. “This is the next step in racing for us. It’s a great, great opportunity for us to showcase our National Guard capability in a different forum. It’s a great, great step forward.

“The benefit for us is that it provides another venue for us to tell the National Guard story and reach out to a target population.”

Driven by Vitor Meira for Panther Racing team owner John Barnes, the Dallara IR car has a 3.5 liter Honda Indy V-8 engine and runs on ethanol. Meira’s stats? Hailing from Brazil, the Indianapolis resident is 31 and married.

Meira said a visit to wounded Guardmembers at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas was the moment he truly understood what the National Guard stands for.

“I’m gaining so much from every Soldier I meet,” he said. “It’s something very different than other sponsors. We pass the message on – a message of honor, a message to be proud and stand for the great things this country stands for. I’m really honored to drive the National Guard car. The Soldiers influence me. If I drove as good as they perform their duty every day, I would be in the winner’s circle every time.”

Meira sees common ground between the training he must do and the training Soldiers do. “Training is everything in life,” he said. “Soldiers and the Guard are a statement of that. The amount that they train and how well they perform their duty is a statement that training is everything.”

Adrenaline and the spirit of competition are among Meira’s driving forces. “It’s my way of life,” he said. “It’s not work. It’s something I was doing as a kid – something I would pay to do and now get paid to do.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Driver Vitor Meira, Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, and Panther Racing team owner John Barnes unveil the new 230-MPH, No. 4 National Guard IndyCar at the Army National Guard Readiness Center at Arlington Hall in Arlington, Va., on April 25, 2008. The National Guard is participating in the Indy Racing League for the first time.

The National Guard was the car’s primary sponsor at Richmond International Raceway on June 28 and is also scheduled to be on July 6 at Watkins Glen International in New York, on Aug. 9 at the Kentucky Speedway and on Sept. 7 at the

Chicagoland Speedway. Panther Racing hosts up to 200 Guardmembers at each race. Owner John Barnes is in his 42nd year of racing and he said he’s come full circle: The racing driver who was his father’s best friend and best

man and who inspired Barnes to enter the world of the track himself was a National Guardsman.

“Now to have the National Guard support my team is unbelievable,” he said, “something I never dreamed of.”

said. “Every day, 17 governors call the Guard to activate them for something or other, and to know that we have that support as American citizens is just incredible. It’s the framework of our country, and it’s an honor to be a part of that.”

Barnes’s car has 18 races scheduled in the 2008 IndyCar series, including appearances in Australia, Canada and Japan.

“Initiatives like this have contributed to the Army National Guard going from 330,000 end strength in June of 2005 to 358,000-plus today,” Carpenter said. “There’s not been any single silver bullet here. It’s taken a collection of NASCAR racing, of what we’re doing here with Indy racing and all of the rest of the things we’ve got out there – the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program, Active First – have all come together and made this happen.”

“If I drove as good as they perform their duty every day, I would be in the winner’s circle every time.”

— Vitor Meira, Team Driver

Chicagoland Speedway.

Chicagoland Speedway. Panther Racing hosts up to 200 Guardmembers at each race. Owner John Barnes is in his 42nd year of racing and he said he’s come full circle: The racing driver who was his father’s best friend and best

Sometimes race car drivers are called heroes, Barnes said.

“The true heroes work in this building, and they work at the Guard units across the country, whether it’s taking care of floods or tornadoes or whatever,” Barnes

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Prepare for the future

CW5 James Powell, Command Chief Warrant Officer,
Oregon National Guard



This month, we highlight some of the things for you to consider if you would like to become a warrant officer. All of the specialized warrant officer positions require “pre-requisites,” those things which must be completed before you can be approved to enter Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS).

Generally speaking, you should have attained the rank of E-5, and certainly have completed Warrior Leader Course. Some positions require completion of the Basic NCO Course. College degrees are not required, although it is a benefit to you to have two years of college (or an Associate Degree) in a related specialty when you apply.

For most of the positions, you must submit all NCO Evaluation Reports. For those of you who have Specialist or “E-4” evaluations, keep those for submission.

Completion certificates from military and civilian-related courses are a must. Military awards including copies of all award certificates are nec-

essary.

You need to complete an Army Physical Fitness Test, and be within the guidelines of AR 600-9.

Beyond these common personal history items, you can find all the requirements for each Warrant Officer MOS online by going to the US Army Recruiting Command website, located at www.usarec.army.mil. On the left side of the home page, click on “Warrant Officer Recruiting,” then on the next page, click on the drop-down menu for “all Warrant MOS page.”

This page will list each Warrant Officer MOS; click on your desired position, and you can learn the requirements for that position. Please don’t call the proponent office to ask them questions about the job. Call me at (503) 584-3579, or call Sgt. 1st Class Lenora Landwehr at (503) 584-2886. We are ready to answer any or your questions! Good Luck, review the requirements, begin preparing now for your future as a Warrant Officer in the Oregon Army National Guard!

Oregon Guardsmen head to Washington, Idaho to

Iraqi refugees help Soldiers develop new skills for the battlefield

Story by
Spc. John Crosby,
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Over the course of the last two decades and two wars fought in the Persian Gulf, many displaced persons have found their way to America, many of whom are Iraqi.

Iraqi Americans displaced from Operation Desert Storm are stepping up to make a difference in their native country more than a decade later in the midst of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Iraqi Sunnis, Shias and Kurds, Muslims and Christians are working together with one common goal in a program integrating the knowledge, customs and culture of Iraqi nationals with the experience of the U.S. Military in Iraq.

The program is aimed at preparing the U.S. Armed Forces for service in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Contractors and Iraqis, working together under Blue Canopy, are assisting the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) in training to prepare for a deploy-



Photo by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

Sergeant of the Guard Sgt. Joshua Toney, a Central Point, Ore. native in 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1-186 Infantry, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, radios higher after several Iraqis attempt to gain entry to Forward Operating Base Bayonet without proper identification.



Photos by Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

A Nevada Air National Guard C-130 Hercules from the 192nd Airlift Squadron lifts Soldiers into the air from McNary Field, Salem, Ore. The C-130 is transporting the Soldiers from A Troop of 1-82 CAV, Oregon Army National Guard and a second C-130 from the Alaska Air Guard transported B Troop to Boise, Idaho for Annual Training.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Chad Layton, Battery A, 2-218

Field artillerymen of Battery A, 2-218th Field Artillery, fire a 105mm shell from a Howitzer at Yakima Training Grounds, Wash., during the units annual training Aug. 9.

ment to Iraq, slated for 2009.

"The benefit of the Iraqi participation here is indescribable," said 1st Lt. Spencer Cookson, engineer platoon leader, Company A, Special Troops Battalion (STB), 41 IBCT. "The training here is not like any I have ever seen. They speak authentic and fluent Arabic,

with Coalition Forces in Iraq as interpreters.

"The Iraqis always have something to add during our (after action reports)," Cookson said. "They have lived many of the things we are training for first hand in Iraq."

More than five years into Operation Iraqi Freedom and more and more Iraqis are standing up across the United States to fight

Yousef deployed with the U.S. Army as an interpreter to Iraq for a one year tour.

He has worked with Blue Canopy ever since readying Soldiers for what they may face in deployed life.

"I love my job," said Alaa Al Janabi, a former Iraqi Republican Guard Soldier turned refugee in 1991 after Desert Storm. Al Janabi spent five years in a refugee

"We all want the violence to end," Jalal said as his brother agreed.

"It takes sacrifice to build something great," Alaa said. "I think we have sacrificed enough. We are ready for a new, free Iraq. That is why we are here."

Blue Canopy moves across the U.S. training Soldiers, Marines and Seamen.

They help familiarize new Servicemembers with what they are up against, and remind seasoned Servicemembers to train as they fight.

"I feel that the Soldiers really need us and we are here for them. We teach them our culture and our customs, and give them insight into our way of living."

— Al Janabi, former Iraqi Republican Guard Soldier turned refugee in 1991

making the training that much more realistic."

Most of the Iraqis involved in the program have served side-by-side

for their motherland.

"We are all Iraqis," said Azad Yousef, an Iraqi refugee who moved to the U.S. in 1996. We live together and work together. We joke with each other about being Kurdish, Sunni or Shia. People make it a big mess, it's all propaganda. We are all Iraqi. We are all family."

In 2004

camp in Saudi Arabia until reaching the U.S. in 1996.

"I really love it," Al Janabi continued. "I feel that the Soldiers really need us and we are here for them. We teach them our culture and our customs, and give them insight into our way of living."

Al Janabi's brother, Jalal Al Janabi was a student in Iraq before Desert Storm.

He also became a refugee in 1991 and came to the U.S. in 1996.

"The Americans helped us in 1991," Jalal said. "They helped us get from Iraq to the refugee camp in Saudi Arabia. They really did everything they could for us. Like the Americans we are fighting for what we believe in."

They really did everything they could for us. Like the Americans we are fighting for what we believe in."

experience and skill sets are invaluable to the war fighter," said Dave Pawlus, a Blue Canopy employee that works with the Iraqi-Americans.

Pawlus, like many of the Blue Canopy contractors that work with Iraqis, served in Iraq as a Soldier and contractor.

"Using true Iraqis for the exercises allows them to make more realistic and more intense training for the Soldiers, and enables them a chance to evaluate how they act and react," Pawlus said. "Basically anything that is happening in Iraq, we try to recreate here," Pawlus said.

Lt. Col. Ken Nygren, STB commander agrees. Nygren said it gives his Soldiers a chance to interact with the Iraqis in a role-playing environment as well as a relaxed classroom.

It allows them to get one-on-one time with the Iraqis.

"It gets us in the mindset that the bad guys and the good guys will look alike," said Nygren. "It helps show us that the Iraqis are people just like us with the same wants and same needs as we do."



An aircrew member inspects the wing of the C-130 prior to troops loading at McNary Field, Ore.

Hone skills during annual training



Photo by , Oregon Military Department

Craig Munshower acts as rear gunner for 41 IBCT, 1-186 Infantry, Co Company, during xCTC training at Orchard Training Area, near Gowen Field in Idaho.



Medics maintain mission readiness

Story and photo by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

Medics of 1-186 Infantry, 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard are hard at work, Aug. 4 at the Orchard Training Area near Boise, Idaho, for an upcoming deployment slated for 2009.

On a desolate landscape, the medics prepare for real world missions using front line ambulances (FLA), UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters and other various military vehicles to simulate medical evacuations (MEDEVAC).

"I love it," said Pfc. Mathew Keeling, a Medford native and medic in Company D, 1-186 IN. "I'm really excited. This is my first time around a hot Blackhawk."

This is Keelings second annual training since joining the Oregon Army National Guard. "This AT blows any other training I've received out of the water," Keeling said. "We're focused on our mission and we're operating the way we would be in Iraq."

Before conducting practical exercises, the medics receive several blocks of instruction from Staff Sgt. Eric Powell of Eagle Creek, Ore., medical platoon sergeant, Head-

quarters and Headquarters Company, 1-186 IN.

"I want to get the (advanced individual training) mindset out of them," said Powell. "Medics fight too. Shoot, move, communicate. I want them to be autonomous units, moving on their own, responding to any situation, and getting the casualties off the battlefield as quickly as possible."

In addition to medical training, the medics receive their fair share of tactical training as well.

"The medical training has been great," Keeling said. "We get the best of both worlds. We run around doing the infantry stuff in the field and come back and do more medical training."

As annual training at the Orchard Training Area comes close to the end, Soldiers are working to get the most out of this opportunity.

"I'm excited about having the chance to get these guys thinking like Soldiers instead of (Emergency Medical Technicians)," Powell said. "I want them to be as prepared as they possibly can for their upcoming deployment."



Photo by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

An M1A2 Abrams tank is silhouetted during a live-fire night exercise conducted by 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.



Photos by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

An M1A2 Abrams tank fires its main gun during a live fire exercise conducted by 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard at Gowen Field, Idaho, June 20. Soldiers fire machine guns and main guns at pop-up targets on the range, honing their gunnery skills.



Photo by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

Spc. Andrew Flores, a designated safety on this convoy security training lane, watches as Pfc. Jessica Greer opens up an M2 .50 Caliber machine gun from an up armored humvee on pop-up targets on the horizon. Flores and Greer are both truck drivers in the Transportation Platoon, Company A, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard.

Brigade Support Battalion live-fire

Story by Spc. John Crosby, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"Contact right! Contact right!" is echoed over several machine guns varying in caliber, opening up from up-armored humvees on their respective targets. Carbon laced CLP spits from the bolts of rhythmically blazing automatic weapons into the sweaty faces of gunners belonging to the 141 Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The BSB's mission today was to provide security for a convoy carrying much needed supplies to nearby troops. That and learn a thing or two in the process. It was another day of lanes training in the Orchard Training area near Boise, Idaho, Aug. 12.

"It's an excellent starting point," said Company A Commander, Capt. Ginger Roberts, 141 BSB. "It will help put us in the right frame of mind and enable us to look at the things we need to look

at in order to become proficient on a daily basis." Roberts said approximately 65 percent of the Soldiers in her company have not yet deployed.

"This is my first time firing the .50 Cal. while moving," said Pfc. Jessica Greer, a truck driver in the Transportation Platoon, Co. A, 141 BSB, from Portland, Ore.

"I really enjoyed it. The desert, the heat and getting us used to the possible scenarios we might face in Iraq. I think they're making this as realistic as possible," she said. Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company as well as Company A were tested against simulated improvised explosive devices, rocket propelled grenade fire, small arms and indirect fire.

Mounting and dismounting vehicles and providing tactical aid to combat casualties were also scenarios thrown at these Soldiers.

"This training will get us thinking tactically and remind us of our battle drills," said Roberts. "It helps us to know what to expect when we're in country."

Exportable Combat Training Capability upgrades AT



Photo by Spc. John Crosby, 115th MPAD

xCTC keeps track of everything that happens on the battlefield including these 116th Cavalry Soldiers as they resupply a tank for the range.

Story by Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

The Oregon National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) conducted annual training at Gowen Field, Idaho from Aug. 4 to 24.

The training, called Exportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC), replicated the contemporary operational environment the brigade will face during its deployment to Iraq in 2009.

During xCTC Soldiers underwent intense combat training where they were taught and tested in realistic war scenarios and military missions.

"The range itself is set up as close to realistic as you can possibly get," said 1st Sgt. Bradley Huppunen. "We have civilians on the battlefield; we have embedded reporters; we have people that are out there shooting at us," he added.

The program provides a unique way to evaluate their performance.

Commanders see the battlefield in real time, through 2D, 3D and video battlefield surveillance.

Global Positioning System technology monitors Soldiers' movement, and civilian and military role-playing elements create a more realistic battlefield environment. It prepares these Soldiers for theater immersion, and it is very mobile.

"It lets us go virtually anywhere we need to go, wherever the unit that's getting ready to go next needs to have that capability," said Phil Stemple, Army National Guard Training Chief. "So that we're not having the cost of moving units halfway across the country," he said. The program benefits Soldiers by reducing the amount of time spent on deployment, and by cutting the amount of time needed for training prior to a unit's deployment.

"The xCTC is one of the best training events available to prepare our Soldiers for next year's deployment," said Col. Daniel Hokanson, Commander of the 41st IBCT. "We have programmed a series of realistic training scenarios that our Soldiers are likely to encounter during their deployment utilizing the many resources provided by xCTC and the similarity of terrain and atmosphere of Idaho's high desert."

The Brigade's deployment to Iraq will be the largest war-time deployment of the Oregon National Guard since World War II. It will be three times larger than the Brigade's recent deployment to Afghanistan in 2006-2007 and will involve the entire Brigade of 3,400 Soldiers and will likely affect every community in the State of Oregon.

NEWS

Soldiers train for "Operation Smokey"

Continued from FRONT PAGE

U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry instructors. On Thursday, the Soldiers gathered on the backside of Mount Emily to test their mettle with hand tools, hoses and fire shelters.

Conditions were too dry to use actual flames, so Soldiers exercised their imaginations a bit.

"We flagged the area to indicate stump holes and hot spots," said Angie Johnson, incident commander for the day along with 1st Lt. Chris Nicely of the Oregon National Guard.

Nicely said his troops were soaking in the training with gusto.

"They're motivated," he said. "Their spirits are high."

The enthusiasm showed as they got ready to deploy their fire shelters. Loomis, 24, and eight fellow Soldiers fixed intense gazes on instructor Rocky Desimini, of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

"Your goal is 25 seconds," Desimini said. "Once you get down, make sure you're tucked in."

If not, he said, legs and arms will burn and nasty hot gasses will roll into the shelter. He told them to lay spread eagle, grasping the four handles with hands and feet. Bring water to drink, gloves, eye protection and a radio.

Loomis, 24, donned his goggles and braced himself for Desimini's command.

"Go," Desimini barked.

Loomis whipped his emerald green tent out of the stuff bag.

"Five seconds."



Photo by Spc. Michael Bley, 115th MPAD

Spc. Brian Ward surveys the simulated wildfire. Training included entry-level firefighter kills, safety classes, and firefighting equipment with a strong focus on the strength and maintenance of the all-important "fire line", a thin trail of upturned earth meant to curb the wildfire's path of destruction.

He draped the tent over his body.

"Ten seconds."

He grabbed the edges and positioned them.

"Fifteen seconds."

Grabbing the handles, Loomis hunkered down.

Per instructions, the men stayed inside their tents and chattered to one another like they would in a real burnover situation.

"You guys all right out there?" one soldier ventured.

"Sgt. McCracken - you want to come over for a barbecue?" said another.

Finally, they got permission to come out. Loomis emerged, sweaty and smiling, and

described the imaginary burnover.

"It was hot," he said. "I dug a little hole for clean air so I wouldn't have to breathe hot gasses and waited for the fire to blow over."

The Pendleton Guardsman said it was his first experience with wildland fire, real or imaginary, but said he's ready to go.

"I feel pretty confident in myself and my fellow Soldiers," he said.

Though Oregon is having a tame fire season so far this summer, Nicely thinks the governor is acting wisely.

All one has to do, he said, is look south to California to see how fast the fire situation can heat up.

Commissary on-site at Camp Rilea

Story by Spc. Michael Bley,
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Servicemembers, along with veterans and their families, were treated to goodwill and great deals last month during Oregon's first ever On-Site Commissary Sale at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

The event was arranged in order to provide the opportunity for lower commissary prices, a benefit of military service, to military members who serve in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

The nearest major commissaries are located several hours north in Tacoma, Wash. at McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis.

With fuel prices at an all-time high, it simply may not be a viable option for many military families.

At the sale, which went from June 27th through the 29th, customers were given shopping carts and a complete list of all available items and prices.

Under a large canvas tent, everything from laundry detergent to fresh fruit was on hand; most products were marked down significantly from neighboring retail stores like Fred Meyer and Wal-Mart.

Customer service was also a priority for commissary workers at the event. Dan Witcock, a resident shopper, described staff members at the event as being "very prompt," stating "everyone here seems to really care about this and how much this (event) helps people who live far from a commissary."

The On-Site Commissary Sale was conceived and organized by Zone 12 Commissary Manager Robert J. Bunch, who recognized the need for additional coverage in states without commissary support and wanted to do his part to help Oregon military members who serve their country during a period when food prices are on the rise.

With enthusiastic cooperation from the Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base commissaries, he quickly arranged the event and several vendors such as Proctor & Gamble and Del Monte became involved.

Even the Buffalo Bills chose to lend their support by flying two of the team's cheerleaders to meet and greet servicemembers at Camp Rilea.

There were indeed many uniformed Soldiers who browsed the provisional commissary on their own, eyeing merchandise and looking for bargains.

Staff Sgt. John Reeves said that the sale was "a great idea and really shows us that the people who run the commissaries actually do care about the fact that it's hard to get up there, especially with the high gas prices."

The June 2008 On-Site Commissary Sale was an undeniable success, according to Reeves.

The next such event is scheduled to be held at Portland's Jackson Armory located at 6255 Northeast Cornfoot Road September 12 through the 14 followed by another on-site sale October 17-19 in Klamath Falls.

Plans are also being made to host another such on-site sale near Bend for the military families living in central Oregon.

Portland Air Guard Supports PDX Air Fair

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Rachele Avery,
142nd Fighter Wing

Members from several organizations around the Portland metropolitan area got a closer look at the Portland International Airport during the PDX Air Fair, held at the airport on July 12, 2008.

Community members joined representatives from the Port of Portland, Oregon Air National Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, Oregon Department of Transportation, and several other groups to learn about airport operations, and what the airport is doing for the community.

Held under the airport skyway adjacent to the main terminal, and on the airport's flight line, the fair featured a one hour bus tour, where participants were shuttled onto the Portland Air Base flight line.

While there, visitors saw F-15 Strike Eagles belonging to the 142nd Fighter Wing, including the oldest Air National Guard F-15 still in active service.

There was also a munitions trailer with several examples of air-to-air missiles the F-15 carries, and a Pratt & Whitney engine capable of propelling the F-15 to more than twice the speed of sound.

The 125th Special Tactics Squadron showed off their inflatable Zodiac power-

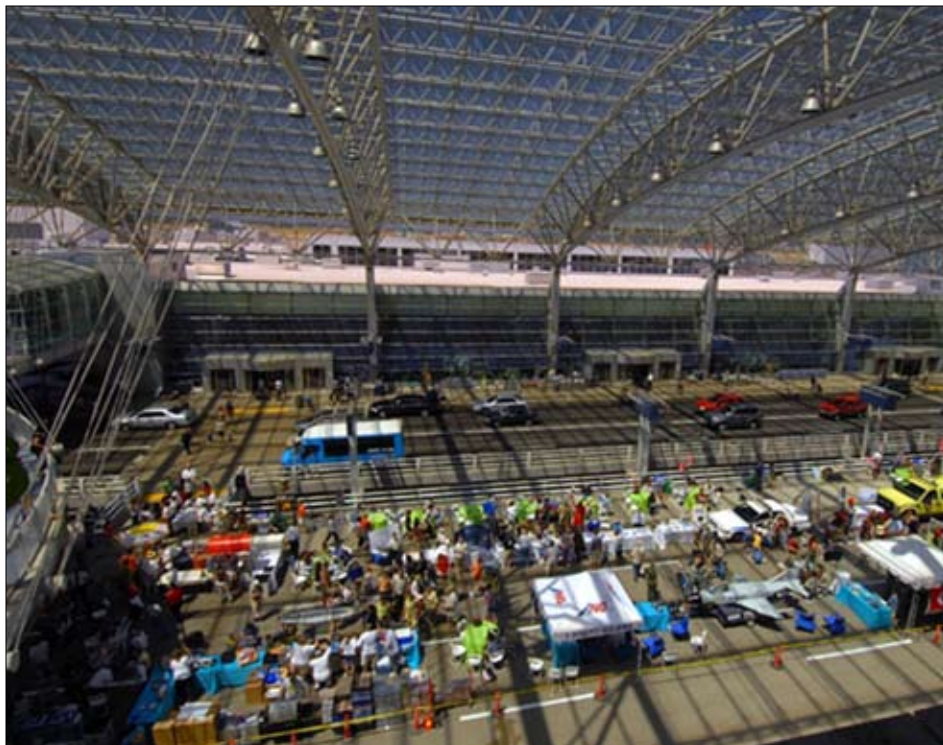


Photo courtesy Shannon McArthur, Port of Portland

Air Guard Booths and Port of Portland Booths; taken from above during the PDX Air Fair which was Held under the airport skyway (shown here) adjacent to the main terminal, and on the airport's flight line.

boat—which supports high-speed amphibious training in open water, S.C.U.B.A. operations, waterborne jumps, and smaller boat operations.

Also on display were the unit's motorcycles and ATV's, which are used in a variety of special operations missions.

Another rescue boat was displayed by the 304th Rescue Squadron.

The unit continues an ongoing tradition of 50 years of providing rescue assistance to the people of the Pacific Northwest.

C-23 Sherpa aircraft belonging to the Oregon Army National Guard's 641st Aviation Regiment were also on display.

The smaller transport aircraft are used in austere environments—often in deployed locations—and are used to deliver personnel, equipment, and supplies to remote locations.

Other displays included several of

Oregon's Air National Guard units, each showcasing their individual services and expertise.

The event also provided interactive displays for children, featuring pilots' helmets and harnesses, and a miniature F-4 Phantom jet, with which many visitors paused to take their picture.

Lt. Col. Michael Bieniewicz, an F-15 pilot and 142nd Wing Safety Officer, answered questions about the 142nd FW and the F-15 Eagle.

He was also featured on KGW News Channel 8 prior to the event opening that morning.

To top the day off members of the 125th STS, Master Sgt. Aaron Massey and Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Miller conducted a demonstration using a remote-control drone and laser guided tools used to paint targets for precision guided munitions.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Avery

Jim Brown, a local youth, stands with a mannequin displaying how the uniform and equipment is worn.

NEWS BRIEFS

Veteran's provided burial benefit by VA

Story by Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.)
Dirk Kruysman,
ORNG Retiree Council

This is a somber topic but it is something we need to think about since it is going to happen to all of us. If you qualify for these benefits, you, and your spouse, are provided not only with a well-maintained burial space but this is done at very little expense to you. In addition, the veteran is provided a place where he or she will be honored in perpetuity.

The Veterans Administration (VA) can provide burial space in a national cemetery as well as a headstone or marker and a flag for all deceased veterans. Burial space is also made available for your spouse. If your spouse passes on before you, burial space and a headstone are still provided.

If the burial takes place in a private cemetery, the VA can still provide a headstone free of charge.

The many VA definitions of a Veteran includes: "A Reservist or a National Guard member who is entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60."

It makes no difference whether you served in wartime or two years of active duty. You are eligible for the benefit if you collect military retired pay or were eligible for that pay had you reached age 60.

In addition, Guardsman and Reservists who were mobilized and who served the full mobilization time period are also considered veterans and are eligible for burial in a National Cemetery.

The VA has additional definitions of veterans and these are available on their website at www.cem.va.gov.

In Oregon there are National Cemeteries in Eagle Point, Roseburg, and Portland. Due to space limitations, the Roseburg National Cemetery will only accept cremated remains for burial.

Contacting the VA at their website will provide a wealth of information on the burial program but it will not get you a burial space or a headstone.

The very best way to take advantage of this benefit is to have the funeral home make the arrangements. Having a record of the military service such as a DD Form 214 is required.

The funeral home should also be able to provide the next of kin with a flag. If an Honor Guard is desired for the burial service the funeral home can also contact the various groups able to do this.

Benefits changes require update of emergency data

You may want to update your DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, due to recent changes to death gratuity beneficiary policies. Learn more about the policy changes at www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/death-gratuitybeneficiarypolicychanges.html.

Stronger Couples workshop in Sept.

There will be a Strong Bonds Couples Weekend Retreat (formerly known as Marriage Enrichment) offered September 19 - 21, 2008. This seminar is open to Oregon Army National Guard members and their spouses only.

Long separations and the stress of deployment can subject Army marriages to extreme hardship.

Strong Bonds programs are offered by Army Chaplains with the full support of Command.

You'll gain practical, useful information based on world-class curriculum developed from years of research.

In small groups, you'll participate in activities that renew bonds with your peers.

And, as a couple, you'll practice communication and relationship building skills, as well as share intimate moments.

The Strong Bonds Couples weekend retreat is designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope and rekindle marriages - even start the journey of healing for relationships under fire.

The retreat will be held at Sunriver Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Sunriver, OR 97707.

Lodging for the retreat is pre-paid. There is a continental breakfast and a lunch provided on the 20th of September only. The course and course materials are free to attendees.

Service members' spouses are placed on invitational travel orders to attend the retreat. Mileage and remaining per diem are reimbursed.

Travel orders and completed travel vouchers are presented to service members' spouses at the event. A Family Programs representative will be present at the event to obtain signatures on the travel vouchers and Direct Deposit Forms (SF 1199) are completed by the spouse (a requirement by law for reimbursement).

Please be prepared to complete an SF 1199 (you will need your bank account number and routing number for your account). The travel vouchers and support documents will be filed for you by the Family Programs Office.

Attending service members need to coordinate their participation through their Command channels. It is at the discretion of Command to allow a split training or attendance in lieu of drill.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the registration form (attached to e-mail) and return it ASAP to Diane Gooding at diane.gooding@ng.army.mil Please direct any questions to Diane Gooding at (503) 584-3856.

Veterans "Stand Down" in Lane Co.

Stand Down 2008 - Eugene, OR The Lane County Stand Down occurs September 27, 2008 at the Eugene National Guard Armory.

All veterans are invited to join in, with local veteran organizations exhibiting programs and activities throughout the day.

Veterans of every age, branch and economic level come together for one day, said Lt. Col. David L. Stone (retired), Chairman of the Stand Down Committee.

Discounting the entertainment, and free meals, the real attraction is the information and mixing with fellow veterans. We have WWII, Korean War, Viet Nam era, and Mid-East veterans all taking part in the event, said LTC Stone.

This will be the 8th annual Stand Down in Lane County. Each year the event grows in size and attendance, said Stone.

We started out on a shoestring, and have grown to a point where we can offer a wide range of services and activities to our local veterans.

The Lane County Stand Down has evolved and adapted to the unique needs of local veterans; from the support of homeless vets, to addressing health and family issues, to legal and tax advice, plus financial and educational programs, there is something for every Vet at Stand Down 2008.

For more information contact Mr. Bob Gwozdz at phone number 541-689-8181 or e-mail him at Gwozdz@uoregon.edu.

Transition Assistance for Soldiers, Family

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

For the last three years the Oregon National Guard Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) has been helping hundreds of Oregon Soldiers and Airmen land jobs. But it's not just service members utilizing CTAP services, family members are also gaining career guidance.

"We've had 463 hires in the last 18

months and not all are servicemembers, we've been very successful for family members and spouses as well," said Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas, Program Manager for the Career Transition Assistance Program.

The Career Transition Assistance Program offers career guidance to returning Soldiers through coaching, contacts with potential employers and help filling out job applications. Currently, 175 employers from across the state have created partnerships with CTAP allowing Maas to match job seekers with potential employers.

"If we can get a person involved in a career it relieves a lot of pressure not only for the Soldier but also the Soldiers' family," said Maas.

Maas said it is inevitable that the Soldier and his family will change over the course of a deployment. With that growth often means a shift in career goals for both the Soldier and sometimes his or her spouse.

"Fourteen months in Iraq or Afghanistan equals about four years of maturity...you are a different person when you come back here," said Maas.

The Oregon National Guard CTAP program is aimed at helping those Soldiers and their families chart a career path. The program is staffed with two full time people whose sole purpose is to meet with individuals and help them realize their career potential.

Another place Soldiers can speak with CTAP members and potential employers are Career and Benefit Fairs held throughout the state several times a year.

"We're one more iron in the fire, and we're here to help you," said Maas.

For more information on the Career Transition Assistance Program please call Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas at 503-584-2389.

TSP limits change for those who deploy

If you work in a combat zone anytime during the calendar year and also contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the annual addition limit is important to understand.

Learn more about the annual addition limit of TSP at www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/annualadditionlimit.html.

Retiree Luncheon scheduled for Sep 19

Twice each year, in April and September, a retiree luncheon is held at the Salem Eagles Lodge. The next luncheon is scheduled for September 19.

Attendees are retired members of the Oregon National Guard, both Army & Air, and former civilian employees of the Oregon Military Department.

Luncheons begin with a "get acquainted time" at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon is served at 12:20 p.m. The lodge is located at 2771 Pence Loop in SE Salem, Ore. A small fee is charged for the meal which includes a full luncheon and dessert.

Should you want to be on the invitation list, and are not, please contact Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Lee Ashwill, at (503) 393-9320 or by e-mail at leebarbiashwill@comcast.net.

Creative Writing group seeks military women, veterans

An award-winning Oregon writer and founder of the Mid-Valley Veteran's Writing Group is interested in starting a writing group designed for women Vets or women who have military backgrounds.

The group is open to women with either considerable or with little creative writing experience, and regardless of writing genre (whether it be poetry, essays, short stories, etc.).

There is no cost for participation. The time and dates for the writing group will be determined at the first meeting, based on

availability of participants.

To express your interest or for further information, e-mail Rosy Macias, Rosa.Macias@va.gov or Marilyn Johnston, RedDustRising@att.net.

Expanded retiree program available

The Oregon National Guard Retiree' and Veterans Council has expanded its area of responsibility to include veterans, and retired state or federal civilian employees of the Oregon Military Department.

A veteran is anyone that has been discharged or relieved under honorable conditions from the Oregon National Guard.

The Council's challenge is to recognize the future changes in the make up of our civilian employees and military members.

The challenging role that the Oregon Guard plays in our deployments and continuing efforts for peace throughout the world, brings our people closer together.

It is the Councils mission to provide a communications link to our veterans and retired military with their units and the Oregon Guard.

By expanding our web site, www.orngre-tirees.info, and articles in the Oregon Sentinel, the council hopes to provide continuing support to our retirees and veterans.

State agencies host career fair in Salem

The state of Oregon will host a major career event in September on the Capitol Mall to showcase the many diverse job opportunities that are available with state agencies, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) announced Thursday.

The event, careerfairOregon, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the lawn of the Capitol Mall. Its purpose is to invite Oregonians to check out employment opportunities with state government, Oregon's biggest employer, and to encourage existing state employees to explore new job possibilities within state government.

"Within the next five years, a third of our state workers will become eligible to retire," said DAS Director Scott Harra. "State government needs new people to step into the jobs retirees will leave behind. This exciting career fair will enable Oregonians to meet state recruiters face-to-face, and find out about the great opportunities that await them."

More than 40 state agencies will participate in careerfairOregon, Harra said. Agency representatives will describe to job-seekers the advantages of working in state government, and the satisfaction of following a career in public service.

"The fair will help job-seekers understand the progressive and innovative ways that state government serves the needs of the workers, consumers and citizens of Oregon," Harra said. The event will include training sessions and on-the-spot informational interviews, he added, with emphasis on how someone can get a job with the state.

For additional information about this event, contact careerfairOregon at (503) 373-7677, or visit the website at: www.oregonjobs.org and click on "careerfairOregon."

DMDC website offers free service for active duty personnel

A new free service is available on a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Web site to obtain certificates of current active duty service needed for creditors under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA).

Learn more about the DMDC at www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/freeActiveDutyServiceCertificates.html.

NEWS

Senator Observes Troops Training For Future Deployment

Sen. Ron Wyden expresses his support and appreciation for troops of 2-162 Infantry Battalion of 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team during xCTC training near Boise, Idaho. He was able to see methods used to extricate a wounded Soldier from the battlefield into a more stable triage area.

Troops gathered in a half-circle as Wyden expressed his support and appreciation for their efforts in current and past conflicts.

"You are folks who represent our country and do it with great courage and great patriotism. And as much as anything I wanted to say, I've got your back," Wyden said.



Photo by Sgt. Tina Villalobos, 41 IBCT Public Affairs

Operation Tiger Balm:

Joint U.S. and Singapore exercise in Hawaii builds skills and relationships

Right: Brig. Gen. Phillip Lim and Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte, commander of the 82nd Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, meet to discuss the success of Operation Tiger Balm, a joint exercise between U.S. and Singapore forces at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii July 20. Operation Tiger Balm, which cycles every two years, is an exercise

designed to give the United States Army the opportunity to both train military leaders and foster positive cultural connections with other countries such as Singapore.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD, Oregon Army National Guard



New GI Bill Offers more options to veterans for education

Story by
Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

President Bush signed new legislation which included a revamped GI Bill July 24, 2008. Many

post-9/11 veterans and servicemembers will soon see be eligible for a new comprehensive education benefits package that goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition. Many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies.

The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits. The Post-9-11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act goes into effect on August 1, 2009 and is not retroactive.

"It levels the playing field in that our Soldiers will now be treated the same as the Active Duty Soldiers," said Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department. "It's not a perfect bill by any means, but it does help out our combat veterans."

Caldwell said it's important for Soldiers to look at all of their options, because some Soldiers may actually receive more money under the existing Montgomery GI bill. The Post 9/11 GI Bill gives financial credit based on how many months a soldier

has in active duty status.

"You've got to look at all programs, put your circumstances against all programs and see which one will benefit you most," said Caldwell. The Post 9/11 GI Bill will cover classes and programs completed after July 31, 2009. Service members must have served a minimum of 90 days on active duty under Title 10 status after September 11, 2001. Active duty service will be counted cumulatively and not based on the single longest deployment, meaning that all Title 10 time will be counted whether it occurred on continuous orders or not. Generally, only federal activations count toward total active duty service, training and state call ups do not qualify. The amount of money paid under the benefits varies depending on your state of residence, number of units taken, and amount of Post September 11, 2001 active duty service. The breakdown of the percentage of total combined benefit eligibility based on the on the following periods of post 9/11 periods is stated below:

- 100 percent- 36 or more total months
- 100 percent- 30 or more consecutive days with Disability related Discharge.
- 90 percent - 30 total months
- 80 percent - 24 total months
- 70 percent - 18 total months
- 60 percent - 12 total months
- 50 percent - six total months
- 40 percent - 90 or more consecutive days.

(source: www.military.com)

Three of the major benefits of the new GI Bill are up to 100 percent paid tuition, a monthly housing stipend, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 a year for books and supplies. The housing allowance is calculated using Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for your area and are determined specifically based on the E-5 pay grade. The stipend for books and supplies is paid in full if you are a full-time student, however if you attend less than full-time you will receive a proportional amount of the payment based on the number of units of study. These benefits are prorated on the above scale, for example If you aggregated 12 months of active duty service in the guard or reserves, and were going to school full-time, you would be eligible for 60 percent of the tuition and fees rate, \$600 (60% of \$1000) for books and supplies, and 60 percent of the BAH allowed for the area.

One of the newest benefits provided in the new legislation is transferability. It will be possible under the Post 9/11 GI Bill to transfer your benefits to your spouse or family member, but that benefit will not be available until August of 2009. Following passage of the bill through the U.S. Congress and upon signature by President Bush the bill became law, however as the law is enacted and interpreted changes to the new GI Bill are inevitable where eligibility and other aspects are concerned. The editorial staff here at the Oregon Sentinel will work to keep you updated as new developments arise.

For more information on the GI Bill as well as a list of answers to frequently asked questions go to www.gibill.va.gov or contact the Oregon National Guard Education Services Officer, Chief Warrant Officer Diane Beach at (503) 584-3456.

Oregon Senators join together to improve mental health care services for veterans

Story by
Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

Oregon Senators Gordon H. Smith (R) and Ron Wyden (D) joined forces in an effort to improve mental health care services for America's veterans by introducing the Healing Our Nation's Heroes Act of 2008. The bill will establish a commission to oversee mental health services to veterans and also recruit and train veterans to serve in the mental health care profession.

"Whether it is referred to as post-traumatic disorder, shell shock or combat fatigue, these very serious mental illnesses deserve equal attention and care as a physical wound," said Smith. "Our goal is to ensure our heroes in arms face no shortage of trained professionals available to treat their unique health care needs."

Senator Wyden stressed the importance of helping soldiers move past their war wounds and lead productive lives.

"Surviving the trauma of combat shouldn't sentence our forces to a lifetime of mental and emotional pain," Wyden said. "This bill will help them move beyond the invisible scars of the battlefield and rebuild their lives at home."

More than a year ago, Smith and Wyden held a Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing at the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Oregon. The recent legislation introduced to the Senate focuses on the issues brought to light at the hearing, by veterans advocates.

The bill has three important parts with the potential to improve mental health services to our veterans. First, it will establish a commission to oversee care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other disorders that affect their mental health. The commission will report to Congress and make recommendations to the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense, and look for innovative ways that the two can collaborate to better support veterans' interests.

Second, the bill will establish the Heroes-to-Healers program to train former service members to become part of the mental health work force. This proposal builds upon the success of the Troops-to-Teachers program which transitions troops to teachers in high-need school districts. This will help alleviate workforce shortages and bring professionals with military experience into the mental health care field.

Finally, the legislation will create a grant program for Mid-Career Professionals that will allow state and local mental health agencies as well as non-profit mental health organizations, to establish, expand or enhance mental health provider recruitment and retention efforts.

Post 9/11 G.I. Bill Benefit Eligibility Requirements:

- Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or
- Be released from Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or
- Be released from the Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or
- Be discharged or released from Armed Forces for:
 - EPTS (Existed Prior to Service)
 - HDSP (Hardship) or
 - CIWD (Condition Interfered with Duty);
 or
- You are eligible for chapter 30, 1606, 1607 education benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs after September 11, 2001
- Remain on active duty.

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays,
10 am to 2 p.m.

(503) 584-2891
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

ORRSO@or.ngb.army.mil

<http://ornngretirees.info/>

Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard Engineers Lend Assistance to Salem Community

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Anna Nam and
Maj. Arnold Strong

The 1249th Engineer Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard is at it again on the South Salem High School campus. The 224 Engineer Company Commander, 1st Lt. Joshua Zumwalt, spearheaded the project along with the head of the National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training Program, Capt. Robert Earhart.

Each year, Guard Soldiers are required to complete a two-week annual training.

Zumwalt and Earhart were able to incorporate the South Salem High School construction project into a busy annual training schedule.

The purpose of the project was to redevelop Bennett Field, the high school's athletic field where football games and other sports events are held. On average, the field hosts roughly 40 events during the school year and receives an abundance of rain. In order to accommodate this use during rainy conditions, Soldiers will install a new Pro-Turf field which will be able to accommodate 200 to 300 events

for various extracurricular activities such as band, cheerleading, lacrosse or any other events for which an athletic field is suited.

The 224 Engineer Company and the IRT program teamed with the high school administration and the South Salem Boosters to fund the \$1.3 million project.

The reasons for this community involvement is well summarized by The Adjutant General of Oregon, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees when he was quoted by the Salem Statesman Journal saying, "the secret of success in the National Guard is being a partner in the community, so we're not some remote organization in Camp Swampy or Fort Lewis or somewhere hundreds of miles away."

The South Salem High School project is one of many the IRT and 1249th Engineer Battalion have completed in this community and others around the state.

The project began in late June and was completed within a month. The new field can be viewed over the Saxons live Web cam at www.southsaxons.com.

The 224 Engineer Company is based out of Albany, Ore. with a detachment in Newport, Ore.

The company specializes in horizontal construction and has worked on various construction projects around the local community, as well as throughout the state. The company recently demobilized from a year-long tour in Iraq, clearing roads and rebuilding critical infrastructure.



Soldiers from Forward Support Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, position vehicles in preparation for work on the South Salem High school field. The soldiers are working on the field as part of their annual training.

Important
Announcement

Would you like
to save a tree?

In an effort to be responsible stewards of our environment, the staff of the Oregon Sentinel is offering an "opt-out" for the printed publication.

Simply contact us via phone or e-mail to have your name and address removed from the mailing list.

You can then still enjoy every issue of the Oregon Sentinel online:

www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml

Contact the State Public Affairs Office at: 503-584-3917 or via e-mail at: sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

Friendly game of checkers shows safety, tranquility has returned to war devastated region

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Margaret Nelson
1BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. PAO

Hawijah, Iraq – Two middle-aged men enjoying a 'friendly' afternoon game of checkers in a bustling marketplace as shoppers and traffic pass-by. A scene that would not warrant a double-take in any small town in America's heartland, however, this game united a U.S. battalion commander and a Sons of Iraq leader in a demonstration of 'normalcy' in an area once nicknamed 'the Anbar of the North'.

"This is an incredible period in the development of a democratic, representative form of government in the district of Hawijah, and specifically, this once violence plagued city," said Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek, the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regt. Commander, reflecting on a before and after comparison to the Hawijah the battalion faced upon their arrival in October.

"A game of checkers, a crowd of shoppers, traffic, no body-armor, partnered with Khalaf Ibrahim Ali, not against him, this is success in Iraq," he said. Both Vanek and Ali credit the change to an increased confidence in the Iraq Security Forces, coalition tactics--targeting only suspected terrorists, and the empowerment of local citizens to re-claim their streets through the Sons of Iraq, according to Vanek. These efforts have nearly eliminated Al-Qaida in Iraq's presence here he said.

"They disguise themselves, like thieves in the night now," Ali said, comparing AQI's unchallenged presence in the past. "Now, during the day, they disguise themselves by changing their eye color, cut their hair--change their appearance," Ali said. He also said that the insurgents are getting the message that the citizens of Hawijah will not assist their efforts. "They are not wanted here. They have brought us nothing but violence, destruction, fear and lies."

Close to 8,000 SoI's are positioned throughout the Hawijah District, measuring roughly, 4,200 square miles, since the inception of the reconciliation program here in December.

"We were able to offer a choice to fathers who were trying to feed their families and men who were trying to begin families--eliminating a huge recruiting pool for the



Stars and Stripes reporter James Warden photographs the game of checkers between Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek, commander, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regt., and Hawijah's Sons of Iraq contractor Khalaf Ibrahim Ali, in a downtown market recently. "It's a statement to the enemy, the peace loving people of Hawijah, and to the provincial government--that enduring security gains have been established, representative government is working well, ISF is responsible for security, the economy is booming, and it is time for the provincial government to step forward and serve all districts," Vanek said

insurgents here," Vanek said.

Sons of Iraq also provided an avenue for the Coalition Force and Iraqis to interface. "Before Sons of Iraq, the Coalition Force

are not so different," Ali said. "We all want peace and a place where our children and grandchildren can live and prosper without fear and violence."

winners, more importantly--the citizens of the district are the true winners."

The idea for the game of checkers came about when the key leaders of Task Force Summit and the Hawijah district began to realize the "dynamic" security gains in January, according to Vanek.

He thought that a true demonstration of increased security would be to, "conduct a game of checkers in the middle of the day in the most crowded area of the city, with no body armor in June." He said the game served several purposes.

"It's a statement to the enemy, the peace loving people of Hawijah, and to the provincial government that enduring security gains have been established, representative government is working well, ISF is responsible for security, the economy is booming and it is time for the provincial government to step forward and serve all districts."

would be too busy fighting the enemy to get to know the people around them," Ali said.

Both were able to interact and form relationships such as the bond that Vanek and Ali have developed during their efforts to establish the city of Hawijah's SoIs. "We

As to who won the checker game, Vanek smiled and said, "considering Ali and I are here together; me--without body-armor, in an area where commerce has returned, and the citizens can reap the benefits without fear of reprisals, in an area once thought lost to the insurgency--we're both

"We all want peace and a place where our children and grandchildren can live and prosper without fear and violence."
— Khalaf Ibrahim Ali, Hawijah Sons of Iraq leader

New General joins ranks of Oregon Guard



Photo by Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Dept.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, officiates over a ceremony at Heritage Park July 31, 2008 where Col. David B. Enyeart is promoted to brigadier general. Brig. Gen. Enyeart is joined by his wife, Kate Enyeart, and daughter Amanda Lowe.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

In a ceremony July 31, 2008 Col. David B. Enyeart was promoted to the rank of brigadier general by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard at Heritage Park adjacent to Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore.

Enyeart enlisted in the United States Army October 30, 1978. He received his initial training as a military police officer at Fort McClellan, Ala. On June 29, 1985, he graduated officer candidate school from the Oregon Military Academy, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry. He was assigned as a platoon leader at Company A, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry and later served as a mortar platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander, and Battalion S3.

On August 1, 1998, Lt. Col. Enyeart took command of the 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry and on August 2, 2002, he was appointed brigade executive officer of the 41st Brigade Combat Team.

In 2004 he was called to active duty to serve as a commander, brigade embedded trainer in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He served with the 76th Infantry Brigade out of Indiana and was part of an elite team sent to Afghanistan to recon the pending mission for the 41st BCT.

On February 18, 2005, Lt. Col. Enyeart was promoted to colonel and appointed the task force deputy commander for Task Force Phoenix III. After returning to the United States, he was assigned the deputy commander for the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, which deployed to Afghanistan in June of 2006- June 2007.

Col. Enyeart assumed command of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team August 1st, 2007 and his current position is the Oregon Assistant Adjutant General Army.

Brig. Gen. Enyeart has received the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf cluster and many other awards and decorations.

Enyeart has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Oregon and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He graduated the Basic and Advanced Police Safety Standards Training Academy in 1999 and currently serves the community of Toledo, Ore. as a patrol officer.

Enyeart and his wife, Catherine, reside in Toledo, Ore.

60th Anniversary of military desegregation celebrated

Story and photo
courtesy of Oregon Department of
Veteran Affairs
Reprinted with permission

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address that we live in "a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." However, for veterans attending the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Desegregation of the Armed Services, July 18 in Salem, their liberties were hard won during a different time in our nation's history.

Hosted by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) and the Oregon Military Department, the celebration drew more than 100 family, friends and interested visitors to honor the American veterans of African, Japanese, Hispanic, Indian and other descent. Oregon's first African-American general officer, Brig. Gen. Garry C. Dean, was the keynote speaker.

ODVA Director Jim Willis welcomed guests to the ceremony and praised the military's changes to establish equality for all service members. "It is important that we hold events commemorating the successes we have achieved as a result of President Truman's Executive Order desegregating our armed forces," he said.

Among the honored guests who served in World War II were two members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen—the first "black flyers" in the Army Air Corps during World War II—and six Japanese-American veterans who were assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Retired Lt. Col. Bill Holloman, of Kent, Wash., began his military career in 1942 as a cadet in the famed, yet scrutinized 332nd Fighter Group that trained in Tuskegee, Ala. A combat veteran of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, Holloman, 84, said at the time people thought black Americans lacked the intelligence and skill to fly airplanes or do anything but menial tasks.

Nearly 1,000 airmen had been trained as pilots, bombardiers, navigators and ground crews. "It was the only flying school of its

kind in the world," he said. "We proved all doubters wrong."

Holloman flew the P-40, P-47, and P-51 before climbing into fighter jets in Korea and later became the Air Force's first black helicopter pilot.

Ed Drummond, a retired lieutenant colonel from Lakewood, Wash., was in the final graduating class at Tuskegee in 1946. Assigned to serve in Japan in June 1949, Drummond, 82, was one of the first two African Americans to be both stationed at Misawa Air Base and fly combat missions in Korea in the 49th Fighter Group.

Holloman added that racial tensions weren't as intense in Europe. "In Italy, the (white pilots) were very friendly and wouldn't let us buy our own drinks."

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans stateside were deemed enemy aliens and reportedly not suited for military service. Those in the service at that time were discharged and then joined their families in relocation camps. Later when allowed to join the military and serve, many of the more than 5,000 Japanese American Soldiers were assigned to pick up trash and pull weeds.

By February 1943, the War Depart-

**Your response to segregation was
to serve with honor.**

— Brig. Gen. Garry Dean, keynote speaker

ment approved and created segregated combat units, including the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. After once ordering Japanese Americans and their families into the camps in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called upon Japanese American men in 1943 to volunteer and serve in the 442nd. For Kennie Namba and other young Japanese American men, the option to being held in a relocation camp was to volunteer and join the Army.

"At the time we weren't considered American enough to carry a rifle. We wanted to show that we were proud Americans to fight and willing to die for our country," Namba told the crowd. Like many Japanese American veterans, when Namba returned home after the war, it was another world for him and his wife, Ruth. A Purple Heart recipient, he was in uniform when Namba



Kennie Namba a Purple Heart recipient recounts his military experience following World War II during the ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. saying "At the time we weren't considered American enough to carry a rifle. We wanted to show that we were proud Americans to fight and willing to die for our country!" He went on to say that today his family's life is much improved.

and Ruth went to purchase groceries in her hometown of Hood River. The signs in many store windows read "No Japs." Japanese returning to their homes in Hood River County were strongly encouraged to "dispose of their holdings" while buyers would offer them "a square deal," Namba recalled. "But, that was a long time ago and our lives have changed since then."

Delivering his remarks in uniform, Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Ricardo Gloria, said that bravery isn't limited to a person's skin color. He noted that Hispanics have been awarded the Medals of Honor during the Civil War (2), World War II (12), Korean War (9), and in Vietnam (8).

"All races make the military the strong and cohesive force it is today. I am so very proud to serve and had so many great opportunities serving in the Guard."

Now serving at the Pentagon as the U.S. Air Force's Deputy Inspector General, Dean personally thanked the special guests in attendance for their service. Dean saluted all veterans of color for paving the way for him to reach his potential by opening doors of opportunity that he could walk through.

"I value your courage and determination to serve our nation," Dean said. "You did so with dignity and honor. I truly salute your service. You were discriminated against, yet you chose to defend freedom. Your response to segregation was to serve with honor."

Oregon Guard bids fond farewell to 30-year Soldier

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

After nearly 40 years of military service, Col. Timothy Kelly retires from the Oregon National Guard. In a retirement ceremony held at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem August 18, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard recognized Kelly for his dedication to his state and country.

His service includes two combat tours of duty in Vietnam and a combat tour in Iraq, in which he flew missions alongside his son.

Kelly, a dual rated Master Army Aviator, amassed over 10,000 hours of flight time in rotary and fixed wing aircraft, and was

commended for serving with distinction throughout his military career by Rees.

Kelly served two tours in Vietnam. During his first tour, he was assigned to the 352nd Helicopter Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. A naturally gifted pilot, Kelly quickly progressed to Aircraft Commander and was designated a unit Instructor Pilot. During this 12 month tour, he flew over 1,200 hours of air assault and combat missions. He was awarded the Bronze Star and 30 Air Medals.

In 1986, he transferred into the Oregon Army National Guard as a pilot in the newly formed B/1-108 Assault Helicopter Company. Over the next two decades, Kelly served in a variety of leadership capacities and was credited with building a superior Army Aviation organization that went on to earn many accolades for its performance in combat and peacetime.

During the 1990's Kelly oversaw the training and fielding of the CH-47D helicopter unit in Pendleton and the construction of the Oregon Army Aviation Support Facility.

In 1996, his efforts paid off when the unit flew numerous air support rescue missions during the floods and wildfires.

Rees selected Kelly for command of the 641st Medical Evacuation Battalion where he served from 2000 to 2002. Simultaneously, Kelly became



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

The Adjutant General, Oregon Maj. Gen. Rees presents Col. Timothy Kelly with his certificate of retirement after nearly 40 years of service.

the Oregon National Guard State Army Aviation Officer (SAAO). While serving as the SAAO, Kelly oversaw the frequent mobilization of the state's aviation units.

In December 2007, Kelly reverted from Colonel to Warrant Officer for the opportunity to serve in combat with his son.

CW3 Kelly volunteered to serve with the B/2-147 Assault Helicopter Company of the Hawaii National Guard for their Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

While in Iraq, Kelly served as the unit Tactical Operations Officer and flew hundreds of aviation support missions, frequently with his son, under challenging combat conditions.

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