



# Oregon Sentinel



OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Special Commemorative Edition on Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, pg. 4

## 3rd Battalion 116th Cavalry, G Troop 82nd Cavalry return to Oregon

Story prepared by Sentinel Staff

**LaGRANDE, Ore.** — The official demobilization ceremony for more than 400 members of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard was held on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at Eastern Oregon State College's Quinn Coliseum.

Thousands of family, friends, and supporters packed the building to overflowing capacity. In addition to a number of Oregon National Guard leaders, former 116th Battalion Commander, Major General Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General of Oregon, and Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski attended the event.

Also on hand was the current 116th Battalion Commander, Brigadier General Alan Gayhart, from the Idaho National Guard.

The unit spent the last year supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were stationed at Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq. They provided patrols to seek out roadside bombs, insurgent activity, and protection for Iraqi citizens and other coalition forces.

Members of the unit were also responsible

for the success of the national election held earlier in 2005, during which Iraqi citizens were able to vote on their new constitution. The unit participated in more than 3,000 patrol missions, which resulted in the disarming or collection of thousands of pounds of explosive devices.

Lt. Col. Dan McCabe commanded the battalion, which was comprised of Soldiers from Hermiston, Ontario, and LaGrande, where the unit is headquartered. A number of other volunteers from across the state of Oregon also joined their ranks.

Governor Kulongoski said, "As I look out at you and families... there's one thing I must say: 'Welcome home 3-116, and a job well done.'"

Kulongoski cited the unit's efforts in Iraq, saying it was full of 'courage, grit and sacrifice'.

"You just spent the last year and a half in service to your country, wearing the American flag on your shoulders, and American values in your hearts," Kulongoski said to the Soldiers in formation.

A welcome home ceremony was held for

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Dan McCabe salutes during the playing of the National Anthem at his unit's official demobilization ceremony in LaGrande, Ore. on Nov. 16. Members of the 3rd Bn., 116th Cavalry were deployed to Iraq for just over a year.

## Soldiers alerted for ANA mission: 41st BCT will deploy to Afghanistan in '06

Story by Capt. Michael Braibish, Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

**TIGARD, Ore.** — The 41st Brigade Combat Team received an alert order from the Army Oct. 27 for possible deployment to Afghanistan next summer.

The 41st BCT will lead Joint Task Force Phoenix, the organization assigned to continue the training mission for the Afghanistan National Army.

The 41st BCT is expected to mobilize next spring for training with additional units. Officials in the 41st BCT said this deployment represents the largest overseas deployment of the Oregon National Guard since World War II.

"We're going to take somewhere in the neighborhood of eight to nine-hundred Soldiers and Airmen from Oregon with the remainder of the Brigade comprising Soldiers from other states," said Col. Cameron Crawford, deputy commander of the 41st BCT.

The deployment is also unique, in that Oregon's Army and Air Force assets are

deploying overseas together.

"Deploying these Airmen with the Brigade is a first for the Oregon National Guard, but it's a move that just makes sense," said Crawford. "We've got the resources we need right here in the state, and we know how to work together quite well already."

Seasoned veterans, who recently returned from Afghanistan, will be among the troops who are deploying for the first time. The Embedded Training Team led by Col. Dave Enyeart from July 2004 to August 2005 gained valuable insight into what the 41st BCT will face and developed a strong understanding of the value of the deployment.

"Our mission there is very important, so they can have security and stability for their people, and so they can take care of the terrorist activity themselves," Enyeart said. "Once the [Afghanistan National] Army is built up and they can sustain themselves, we can leave."

Although the personnel rosters have not been finalized, some major units from Or-

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Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

Units in the 41st Brigade Combat Team spent Annual Training last June preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. Above: Soldiers from 1st Bn. 162nd Inf., Lt. Vince Habeck of B Co., (l.), and Spc. Beverly Bradley of HHC, (r.), during urban operations training in Idaho.

## National Guard celebrates 200 years of military heritage with Lewis & Clark bicentennial

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

**WARRENTON, Ore.** - The American flag was boldly flying atop the flagstaff outside the Military Museum at Fort Stevens State Park on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. The early morning sun peeked briefly through gray clouds to cast a rainbow over the flag, as if symbolically honoring the treasure it found waving below.

Meanwhile, Soldiers, Airmen, park rangers and community volunteers were busy setting up chairs and tents along the grass field of the Fort Stevens battery grounds.

Years of planning and coordination culminated as the workers prepared for 'Destination: The Pacific', one of fifteen Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature events held throughout the U.S. along Lewis and Clark's historic trail to the Pacific Ocean.

"Oregon's commemoration is unlike any of the other National Signature Events," said Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn, ORNG Education and Community Outreach Program manager.

Rathburn has been the Oregon Guard's liaison for the bicentennial summit meetings, helping to coordinate the event since its conception. He said the National Guard has been involved with planning the bicentennial for six years working in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association and Destination: The Pacific Committee.

According to Rathburn, the opening ceremony was the Oregon Guard's largest undertaking with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration.

"It has been primarily organized, planned and managed by the Oregon and Washington National Guards," Rathburn said.

"We asked the National Guard to host the opening ceremony because the Corps of Discovery was a military expedition, so it was appropriate to have military involvement," said Cyndi Mudge, executive director for 'Destination: The Pacific' Committee.

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Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

Members of the Oregon, Washington joint-service Color Guard and the Fife & Drum Corps of St. Charles prepare to begin the opening ceremonies for the Lewis & Clark bicentennial.

**Tell us what you think!**

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

**The Oregon Sentinel****Attn: Editor**

c/o State Public Affairs Office  
P.O. Box 14350  
Salem, OR 97309  
sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

**The Oregon Sentinel**

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage.

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the Oregon Sentinel staff members listed below.

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**Oregon Military Department**

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**State Command Chief**  
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith

**Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff**

**Associate Editor/Copy Editor**  
Kay F. Fristad  
kay.f.fristad@mil.state.or.us

**Managing Editor/Contributing Writer**  
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy  
nick.choy@mil.state.or.us

**Contributing Editor/Contributing Writer**  
Capt. Michael S. Braibish  
michael.s.braibish@mil.state.or.us

**Senior Copy Editor/Contributing Writer**  
Spec. April L. Dustin  
april.dustin@or.ngb.army.mil

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

**Audio/Visual/Contributing Photographer**  
Sgt. 1st Class Tom 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

**Governor Kulongoski: "Oregon National Guard a light of hope"**

For many of us, Veteran's Day calls to mind images of graying Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen of yesteryear parading down Main Street while young families wave U.S. flags and cheer as they pass. They are the heroes of our past, a generation that earned our admiration, respect, and is aptly named the "Greatest Generation."

Yet as the procession of brave Oregonians continues, we see a change in those marching by. Among the rank and file of this parade we now see familiar faces: a neighbor, a friend, or a coworker. Some are students, some firefighters, police officers, nurses, and doctors. Still others are mill workers, small business owners, farmers. These new faces should be familiar. You see them in the mirror every day.

The ranks of Oregon heroes are growing. You, the members of the Oregon National Guard, are the next generation to command the admiration and respect of this state. The nation has turned to you during our darkest hours, and you've been a light of hope, help, and comfort.

On behalf of my family and the people of this great state of Oregon, thank you for your dedication, sacrifice, and service so that we may live in freedom. Whether your duty takes you to firefights in Iraq or forest fires in Oregon, we are assured in knowing you are there for us. On this day for all Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen of this great land, for all you do, we are eternally grateful.

May God be with you and bless you today and always.

*Theodore R. Kulongoski*



Governor Theodore Kulongoski,  
Governor of Oregon

**Letters  
From The Front****41st PSC earns mobilization rites of passage  
Team members learn about winning, not quitting**

Photo by Spc. Janelle Henderson, 41st PSC

Soldiers from the 41st Personnel Services Company practice on the range during mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas in September, 2005.

Story by Spc. Janelle Henderson,  
41st Personnel Services Co.

Summer and fall is gone and so are we ... for a while. Just as the trees and foliage change with the season, the 41st Personnel Services Company makes its transition from National Guard to active Army Soldiers.

From early August to Mid-October we went through mobilization training at an old WWII internment camp in the desert near Dana Ana, New Mexico, located outside Fort Bliss, Texas.

The training consisted of Urban Operation Training, Convoy Operations training, Individual Movement Training, Weapons Qualification, Detainee and Enemy Prisoners of War, Combat Life Saver, Nuclear Biological and Chemical training, Land Navigation and a whole lot more. Whew!!! It was hot and long, but we did it! Hooah!!!!

We completed our training with everyone's efforts and motivation. Every evening marked one more day fulfilled and one day closer to the culminating test of our unit, which consisted of a very long day of combining all our training and knowledge and putting it to the test.

Training brought our unit together in a very particular, but special way. I know a lot more about my sisters and brothers than I thought would ever happen, but it did make us closer, and in a way that got us through the tough times.

A broken finger from Individual Movement Training, broken ribs and a broken wrist from Urban Operations, strained backs from full "battle rattle" gear, and blisters on

our feet the size of a ping-pong ball claimed a lot of us throughout our training. Yes, a ping-pong! My blisters were so bad, our unit medic drained 1.5 cc's of fluid out of them so I could walk. Another Soldier suffered a sprained ankle, blisters on her feet and an infected toe, but she made it through.

There were some hot days that weren't for the faint of heart. Water seemed to be the answer to everything. When I'd mention how bad I was feeling, someone would pipe up and say, "Drink more water."

These moments of blood, sweat and tears brought us closer because of that special bond we claimed upon our validation day. Our rites of passage have been fulfilled through the teamwork of everyone.

Two months of mobilization training led us to our final 12-month resting place in Kuwait, where we now proudly wear a wartime service patch on our shoulders.

As human resource specialists, we are given the responsibility of taking care of Soldiers who are serving a very paramount purpose "up North" in Iraq. Our unit's work stations are spread out in many different places throughout the camp where we are stationed. That makes it difficult to see each other on a frequent basis unless it's during a mandatory briefing or bumping into each other on the way to the latrines late at night.

Being in Kuwait, I finally realize how much I miss Oregon. With the sand covering the sun with its unforgiving clouds of dust, I look around and see the flat earth of a place where nature forgot to bring color and detail. The dreary atmosphere, the uneasy

**Your Letters****New Orleans resident thankful for Oregon's assistance**

Hello.

My name is Lisa Zalewski. I live in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was one of the Katrina survivors that did not evacuate. I stayed in the Marigny and Bywater areas. I wanted to write and thank all of the men and women from ORNG for all that they did for us after the storm.

To say that right after the storm there was a lot of chaos is beyond an understatement, but the ORNG came in and within days things were much better.

It has been reported the New Orleans Police Department was not at all helpful. In fact, they were oftentimes a large part of the problem. Luckily, we had the National Guard here to keep EVERYONE in line and everyone safe.

I especially want to mention Captain Todd and his unit. They repeatedly went above and beyond to make sure that things were going the way that they should. They were always polite, helpful, and friendly and were the bright spot during a very dark time.

The National Guard is still here... units are here from all over the country. Their presence is a blessing to all of us, and we appreciate all of the help they've given us.

I wanted to make sure that those men and women that were here during those first very stressful weeks, those who had to deal with that initial chaos and all that went with it, those who went about their duty in the most honorable way with such humanitarianism — know how much all of their effort meant to us.

I thank all of you with my heart.

Sincerely,  
Lisa A Zalewski,  
New Orleans, La

quietness in the air sometimes becomes so loud that I can hear the sand whispering to me in a language as foreign as the native tongue spoken here. But this view I see every time I step outside my living quarters doesn't stop me from remembering that I'm here because my country called me to serve as a Soldier.

Asked by many why I eagerly volunteered for this mobilization, I answer; "Because I'm a Soldier." We as Soldiers serve our country because many people cannot or choose not to, that is their choice ... and this is our choice.

There is no quitting; only winning.

Spc. Janelle Henderson, 41st PSC  
1st PERSCOM FWD  
Personnel Action Division



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees  
Adjutant General, State of Oregon

I have many opportunities to visit communities and private organizations around the state, and I'm often invited to speak at events. Everywhere I go I find incredible support for our organization. People tell me how proud they are of you and what you do, but as I'm speaking, I tell them, "You may think you know the Guard, but I don't think you do."

I have no desire to be rude or to ruin the outstanding support, so I explain what I mean. To get my point across, I ask people to consider the month of September 2005. September was extremely busy, and if you look at everything we did it's absolutely clear why the Oregon National Guard and the Soldiers and Airmen who are part of the organization are so important to the state and nation.

In the early days after hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast we were asked to send a contingent of Army Military Police and Air Force Security Forces to help restore order in New Orleans. We expected our commitment to be about 150-200 troops, and we had them in Louisiana in about 48 hours. On Sept. 2 our governor received a call from Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, she asked Oregon to send a brigade to help stabilize the situation and aid in rescue and recovery operations.

We went from a cold start at 8 a.m. that Friday morning, Sept. 2 — the Friday before a three day holiday weekend — to a full-on deployment of the Army Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team and the Air Guard's

## Rees: "You may think you know the Guard, but I don't think you do."

272nd Combat Communications Squadron. By Sept. 7 we had more than 1,900 Soldiers and Airmen in New Orleans. In a matter of days our troops rescued about 2,300 people and controlled the chaos in about 75% of the Crescent City.

As hurricane Rita approached, Task Force Oregon was designated as the Quick Reaction Force for all of southern Louisiana — covering about 40% of the state. We had five engineering battalions, a detachment from a Stryker Brigade, and aviation assets all from other states under our direction and coordination.

There were several things that made the deployment an incredible success: years of honing our skills at the Soldier Readiness Processing made for a rapid call-up, outstanding leadership at every level, and superbly qualified and motivated Soldiers and Airmen. We also received wonderful support from the Air National Guard of Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Tennessee, and New York providing our airlift. No one but the Guard can do what we did.

Although the hurricanes were big news and a big effort on our part, there's more. This was done with about 850 soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry and G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry were hunting down insurgents in northern Iraq, searching for improvised explosive devices, finding and destroying weapons caches, training Iraqi soldiers and police, and assisting local governments in preparation for their constitutional referendum. We also had F-Troop, 82nd Cavalry as well as Det. 1, Alpha Company, 249th Aviation in Balad, while two platoons from the 3670th Maintenance Company were working in Camp Caldwell.

In Afghanistan the 1042nd Medical Company provided daring air ambulance evacuations in our UH-60 Blackhawks to troops and civilians wounded by the Taliban and al Qaeda as the terrorists tried to disrupt the elections for the Afghani parliament. The terrorists failed. We succeeded.

Our CH-47 Chinooks have been providing essential airlift of cargo and troops throughout the mountainous terrain in Afghanistan as well. Our soldiers from Det. 1, D Company, 113th Avn. have been taking Soldiers, Special Operations troops, Marines, and their equipment throughout the country -- wherever the terrorists may be.

Between the 1042nd and Delta Co., we have about 50-percent of Oregon's Army aviation assets overseas. These deployments have come with a price. On Sept. 25, two of our Soldiers were killed when enemy fire brought down one of our CH-47s. Warrant Officer Adrian Stump and Staff Sgt. Tane Baum were killed in that attack. We lost two professional aviators, two fine Oregonians, and two of our friends that day. Despite the immense grief, our Soldiers have done what they always have: Soldier-on.

We've also faced challenges in addition to our deployments and blistering operations tempo. This came to a culmination point on Sept. 8.

The Air Guard was threatened with the loss of our F-15 Eagle fighters based out of Portland Air National Guard Base. The Department of Defense recommended realigning the fighters and the related maintenance missions to other states under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The BRAC Commission rejected the DOD proposal on the grounds that the recommendation failed to put security as the top concern for the Pacific Northwest. Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing did a superb job of communicating the importance of the F-15 mission and that we couldn't afford to gut air superiority in the in the Pacific Northwest.

We also kept our eye on long-term issues we'll face in the coming months and years.

As our forces return from overseas deployments, we're facing recapitalization concerns--much of the equipment we took with us is remaining in the combat theater. Before the war on terror was thrust upon us, we had roughly 75-percent of the equipment we needed to be completely effective. The result is that we now have about 30-percent of the equipment we need--equipment such

as Humvees, night vision goggles, tactical radios, and M-4 rifles to name a few items. We were considered a strategic reserve, and the prevailing thought was that we could get ourselves fully equipped prior to deployment. Strategy changed, and we have quickly become an operational reserve. We are now on the frontlines in the first days of battle along with our active duty counterparts. We're making do with what we call "in-lieu-of" items and by cross-leveling equipment within the state, but we're going to be better served if we have the right equipment for training.

These concerns are especially poignant as we continue our efforts to transform our forces. Nearly 90-percent of the Oregon Army National Guard will be affected by our transformation to modularity. In short, modularity means new missions for the state, and new missions mean we will need new equipment. We can't afford to let our needs be neglected, and we won't. We are participating at every level in DoD and with our elected officials to deal with these issues.

At every chance I have to tell people about the Guard, I tell them just how important we are. I let them know their friends, neighbors and coworkers are going above and beyond expectation. And as I tell them about the month of September their pride starts to grow even more.

So, if you think you know the Guard, I invite you to take another look. I think you'll be even more impressed than you were before.

*Raymond J. Rees*

Raymond F. Rees,  
Major General, The Adjutant General,  
Oregon National Guard



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith,  
State Command Chief Master Sergeant

## Holidays a time to reflect & look forward

The holiday season is once again upon us. It is a time for families and friends to gather together and enjoy each other's company. It is always nice to take time to enjoy the feeling of good will that is associated with this time of year. I truly hope this season is safe and happy for you and your family.

This last year was busy as ever for the Oregon National Guard, we deployed in record numbers and by all accounts have performed magnificently serving alongside our active duty counterparts. We found ourselves overseas in support of national security and the Global War on Terror, helping out our neighbors with security and cleanup following natural disasters, and on numerous training missions across the world. We were also tasked with operations in support of state emergencies along with focused efforts to increase our assigned strengths throughout all the units within our state. I am extremely proud of your professionalism and work ethics.

We are on the threshold of a new year. We must continue to focus on our future missions. We will once again deploy Airmen and Soldiers overseas, for both national security and training. Major inspections are coming to both wings, and the units within the COG will again be called upon

to support Air, Army and national missions. I know all of our units will maintain the highest levels of readiness and be ready when we receive these calls.

Once again this year recruiting and retention will be a top priority. It is all of our jobs to go out and sell the Oregon Guard to our communities. With your help we can grow and strengthen our force throughout the state. We are in for a challenging year, and it is going to take all of us to pull together and once again make all our missions (and inspections) a successful venture. Our challenge is to apply our experience and expertise in an adaptive and creative manner, encouraging initiative, innovation, and efficiency in the execution of our responsibilities. It is not enough for us to be successful in responding to today's challenges; we must shape our future by the actions we take now.

We must become a more agile force, capable of reacting to change and executing our responsibilities. One of our challenges this year is continuing with transformation. Transformation is a continual process. We must transform if we are to meet future challenges. Transformation is concepts and practices, technologies and capabilities, roles and missions, organizational structures, education, and personnel policies. This applies to every member of the Oregon National Guard. It is as much a mindset and a culture as it is a technology, and at its heart is willingness from individuals and the organizations to embrace innovation and accept analyzed risks. We can and must influence its direction and rate of change. If we do not change a single tool at our disposal, but simply change how we employ those tools, then we will make significant progress in transformation.

In closing, I ask that each of you take time to remember those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Please take the time during this holiday season to pray for and remember our fallen comrades and those serving away from home that will once again be separated from family and loved ones this holiday season. To all our deployed service men and women, I say thank you very much for your service.

To all members of the Oregon National Guard, have a safe and joyous holiday season and a peaceful New Year.



Command Sgt. Major Thomas R. Moe,  
State Command Sergeant Major

## Veteran's Day a good time to thank our Soldiers and Airmen

I recently attended the Lewis and Clark ceremony on Veterans Day (November 11). The observances held throughout the state made me think about the Army National Guard's long and celebrated history.

I then attended the recent demobilization ceremonies for G-Troop 82nd Cavalry, and the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry held during the second week of November. The common thread running through the Lewis and Clark expedition and these Oregon Army National Guard troops who recently returned to Oregon

after serving in Iraq, is that they are comprised of soldiers who volunteered to serve their country.

After I read the Governor's Veteran's Day letter (the text of that letter is featured on the previous page), and a number of other very supportive editorials about the National Guard, it occurred to me that the National Guard continues an historic legacy set down by generations of Soldiers who made sacrifices throughout our nation's history. The mission of providing defense for our state and nation continues today because of these brave men and women — both current and former members of the National Guard.

The Army National Guard began when the Massachusetts Bay Colony organized three militia regiments on December 13, 1636. Now, 369 years later, our dual mission of protecting our state against natural disasters, and the nation against threats of terrorism, is more important than ever.

Nowhere was the importance of our homeland mission more evident than Oregon's involvement in assisting Louisiana officials in the rescue, recovery, and security mission following Hurricane Katrina. And likewise, the Oregon Army National Guard's involvement in Iraq has helped to make the Middle East, and indeed the rest of the world, a much more stable and safer place to live.

It is through this selfless sacrifice and service that the men and women of the Oregon Army National Guard have contributed to making the State of Oregon and the United States of America the safest and best place in the world.

Thank you for your service.

## We volunteered then, we volunteer now

### Lewis & Clark education emphasizes Army values

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Just as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Corps of Discovery wintered through the unforgiving climate of the lower Columbia River region 200 years ago, Soldiers and Airmen weathered wind, rain, and hail to host the opening ceremony commemorating Lewis and Clark's arrival to their Pacific Ocean destination.

"They have really worked hard to make this event an appropriate military ceremony," Mudge said. "The partnership between the Oregon and Washington National Guard has made this a unique bi-state commemoration."

The cooperation between states could be seen and heard throughout the ceremony, beginning with the posting of Colors by a joint-state, joint-service Color Guard and music by Oregon's 234th Army Band and Washington's 133rd Army Band, sharing the stage together for the first time.

Governors Theodore R. Kulongoski of Oregon and Christine Gregoire of Washington and Adjutant Generals Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees of Oregon and Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg of Washington also shared the stage during the ceremony.

The echo of howitzers firing a joint-state 21-gun-salute was sounded by Soldiers from Oregon's 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery and Washington's 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery.

For the grand finale, a joint-service flyover was performed with two Air National Guard F-15s of the 142nd Fighter Squadron from Portland, two Army National Guard 'Blackhawk' helicopters of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Salem, and a 'Jayhawk' helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Astoria.

Maj. Alisha Hamel, co-chair of the opening ceremony, said hosting the bicentennial celebration put a national spot-light on the Oregon Guard.

"National Guard history is deeply intertwined with American history," said Hamel. "When we become involved with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial we are commemorating our history as National Guardsmen along with teaching others about the rich history of the National Guard."

Hamel is the Lewis and Clark special projects officer for the ORNG Education and Community Outreach Program. She said although hosting the opening ceremony was the largest visual display of the Guard's involvement with Lewis and Clark, the Guard has also been actively supporting the bicentennial in many other ways.

"By becoming involved in this historic event we also develop ties with the communities that support us," said Hamel.

The Oregon and Washington National Guards were on hand to support the community by providing transportation for event participants and traffic management during the week-long signature event. The National Guard also assisted local authorities in the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office with monitoring public safety and security in the emergency operations center.

"As far as safety is concerned, it's covered in every corner," said Lt. Stephen Bomar, a public affairs officer from Salem who operated out of the EOC, handling inquiries from local news media.

The Oregon National Guard has also been supporting the National Park Service. Rathburn said Oregon Guard engineers have been helping to tear down the burned remains of Fort Clatsop, following a fire that claimed the replica.

"It is remarkable when we consider that (Fort Clatsop) was originally built by the militia 200 years ago and is now being torn down by the militia of today," said Rathburn.

Hamel said Fort Clatsop officials have asked the National Guard for assistance with rebuilding the fort after archeological digs for Corps of Discovery artifacts are completed.

Fort Clatsop is not the only National Park construction project the ORNG has assisted with. The Innovative Readiness Training program helped complete the Fort to Sea Trail, which allows visitors to walk along the same trails Lewis and Clark followed 200 years ago.

"As partners in the very first Oregon Solutions Team we helped ensure the trail would be complete in time for its dedication during the bicentennial events," said Hamel.

Hamel said Oregon Soldiers have received many compliments for their support to the National Park Service during the bicentennial celebration, especially in areas of education.

The ORNG supported the National Park Service's Corps II interactive education trailer throughout six locations along the Columbia River. Soldiers dressed in the Army uniform of 1804 and today's Battle Dress Uniform helped to educate the public about the tradition of military volunteerism from past to present with a "Then and Now" display.

The volunteer militia of today's National Guard also followed in the footsteps of yesterday's Corp of Discovery while providing support to the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, a Lewis and Clark re-enactment group. Soldiers from Oregon and Washington assisted with transportation and medical treatment as re-enactors traveled along the original path of Lewis and Clark down the Snake and Columbia Rivers.

One of the actors reliving the expedition is the Oregon National Guard's own Lt. Joseph Bradford who has been portraying York, William Clark's servant, along the journey across the U.S. When he is not traveling with the Expedition of St. Charles, Bradford travels throughout Oregon teaching Lewis and Clark history to children as a member of the ORNG Education and Community Outreach Program.

Oregon's Education Program has six Soldiers who travel to schools and organizations across the state to educate audiences using movies, maps, interactive CDs, and a Discovery Box designed by the Army Corps of Engineers, containing replicas of Corps of Discovery items.

"The Education Program is our chance to give back to the community," said Hamel. "Children learn that Soldiers are real people and that we have really cool jobs."

Rathburn said The Educational Outreach Program has performed over 650 presentations to over 60,000 people. He said the presentations focus on the Corps of Discovery as an Army Expedition, high-lighting military values the Corps possessed to endure their journey and how they relate to the Army values of today.

"The Corps showed the Army at its best," said Rathburn, "with one diverse group using team work to help build our nation, from sea to shining sea."



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

A re-enactor from Friends of Fort Stevens and Soldiers from 2nd Bn. 218th Field Artillery await the signal to fire a joint-state 21-gun-salute during the opening ceremony for Destination: The Pacific Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration.

## Lewis & Clark celebration an opportunity to thank and recognize all Oregon veterans



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Glover, 115th MPAD

WWII Veteran, Seaman 1st Class (Ret.) William Thomas (center) is given a Freedom Team Salute pin by Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers at a ceremony on Nov. 11, while Oregon National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees looks on.

Story by Sgt. Clayton Jones, 115th MPAD

**CAMP RILEA, Ore.** — Veterans from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and Operation Desert Storm gathered inside Warrior Hall at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Ore., on Veterans' Day to be recognized for their service as part of the Freedom Team Salute program.

Bringing the veterans together for the reception was part of the National Guard's involvement with activities for Destination: The Pacific, commemorating the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

Congressman David Wu and many general officers attended the reception and spoke of the common values that all members of the armed forces share in service to their country — from the days of Lewis and Clark to the present.

"It is this common American vision, courage, and willingness to push beyond the known frontier that has defined the character of this nation," Congressman Wu said to the crowd of veterans. "The Corps of Discovery answered the call to duty and carried out their orders with pride and with conviction, and so have you, and so has every other generation of American veterans."

Recognizing the veterans for their service was the work of the Freedom Team Salute program, which began in May. The program was initiated to give all service members the opportunity to recognize parents, spouses and employers for their support. It was also created to recognize veterans and give thanks for their service.

At the reception, the Freedom Team Salute program honored veterans with a pin, commemorative letter, certificate and a coin. Four veterans were recognized in front of the crowd, one from each of the conflicts since WWII, and all of them received standing ovations.

The WWII veteran recognized at the reception was Seaman 1st Class William Thomas who was a survivor of Pearl Harbor. He was pinned by Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Recognized for service during the Korean War was Lester McNary, Chair of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Association, one of the two parent organizations of Destination: The Pacific. McNary was pinned by Lt. Gen. James Dubick, Commanding General of Fort Lewis and I Corps.

The Vietnam veteran recognized was Sgt. Louis Nelson who was a door gunner for 7/17th Air Cavalry who was pinned by Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen, chair of the Lewis and Clark General Officer Steering Committee and Adjutant General of North Dakota.

"I didn't know that any of this was going to happen and it was a good surprise," Nelson said.

Nelson met Brig. Gen. Alberto Jimenez, a fellow 7/17 Air Cavalryman, before the ceremony began.

"There aren't too many of us cowboys left," said Nelson.

Nelson added that it is great the military takes time to show their appreciation to service members of all the military departments, but to him and his fellow Vietnam veterans, it means something more.

"What I like about the recognition is that finally we are being recognized, as a Vietnam veteran, as a U.S. Soldier and not a victim of something political," Nelson said. "That is some of the best things that have been happening across the country over the last few years."

The Desert Storm veteran recognized was Chief Warrant Officer Stacey Nelson-Hale, who was one of the first Oregon National Guardsmen to be called up for active duty in 49 years. She was pinned by Brig. Gen. King Sidwell, Adjutant General of Missouri.

"It is a little overwhelming to be a part of this day and it has been a very rewarding experience," said Nelson-Hale, who was a lieutenant during Desert Storm. "I didn't realize at the end of the event I was going to go up there and be awarded, which was probably a good thing because I would have got stage fright."

Nelson-Hale said it wasn't only rewarding to receive the honor, but to talk with other veterans about their adventures in the military.

"These are all experiences we can share," she said.

For one veteran attending the reception, the day brought back old memories.

Robert McNeil was a Navy electrician on the USS Bunker Hill during World War II when on May 11, 1945, Mother's Day, two suicide planes plunged into the aircraft carrier while the ship was supporting the invasion of Okinawa. After many explosions and fires, the ship was severely crippled and 346 people lost their lives. McNeil, a Bremerton, Wash., native, had been assigned kitchen patrol on the day of the attack and he believes he would have perished like many of his comrades did that day if not for that duty.

Jo, his wife of 55 years, explained since Robert's memory has faded in recent years, how upset he was to be on KP.

"He told me he was so mad to have to do KP that day," she said. "He lost almost all of the men he worked with."

"We lost a lot of good guys," McNeil recalled.

The ship would make it back to Bremerton to be repaired, but going back to his hometown was difficult, as a lot of his shipmates were from the area.

McNeil, who came to the reception with his American Legion group from Ilwaco, Wash., said coming to a ceremony like this helps him remember those men he served with and to build camaraderie with other veterans who were involved with World War II.

"You run across guys you went through hell with," he said.

Although only four veterans were pinned in front of the audience, all the veterans in attendance at the reception received Freedom Team Salute awards.



# The Corps of REDISCOVERY

*Oregon Commemorates the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial*

Story by  
Spc. Patrick Lair, 115th MPAD

**In the winter of 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a group of weary men down the Columbia River to their journey's destination: the Pacific Ocean.**

**According to their journals, the weather experienced on the Oregon coast by the men of the Corps of Discovery two hundred years ago differed very little from that which visitors encountered at the Fort Stevens' commemoration celebration on November 11, 2005.**

**It rained and hailed, and then it rained some more.**

More than 1,000 people were in attendance to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of Lewis and Clark's historic journey across the continent in search of a river passage to the West. The party arrived at the confluence of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean in November 1805. It seemed fitting that Oregonians and Washingtonians would celebrate the Corps of Discovery's accomplishment on Veterans Day.

The ceremony, which opened the week of events titled "Destination: The Pacific," was filled with patriotic fervor of many kinds. Numerous veterans of former wars and prior service members were in attendance. Members of Oregon and Washington's Army and Air National Guard were on hand, as well as active duty members from every branch of the service.

The ceremony, sponsored by the Oregon and Washington National Guard, began with the Oregon's 234th Army band, and Washington's 133rd Army band performing an array of military classics, including a performance with vocalist Katie Harman, Miss America 2002. Keynote speakers at the event included Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, himself a former Marine; Washington Governor Christine Gregoire; Oregon National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees and Washington National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg.

Members from Native American tribes around the country also participated in the commemoration, with tribes from as far away as Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma,

bearing tribal flags in honor of their veterans or soldiers currently serving overseas.

Dick Basch, a direct descendent of Chief Cobboway, upon whose ancient village site the ceremony took place, gave a tribal blessing.

"It was on these grounds that our people met Lewis and Clark, and it was a friendly meeting," Basch said, adding that he was very happy to be among so many veterans.

Kulongoski then took to the microphone, thanking the tribes for their participation.

"We're very honored to be part of this celebration with you," Kulongoski said.

The governor called the commemoration "... one of the greatest moments in Oregon's cultural history."

"If ever there was a day to celebrate courage and the human spirit, this is it," Oregon's Governor announced to the crowd's applause. Though battered by freezing rain, onlookers continued to cheer each speaker's references to veterans and the Corps of Discovery.

"The values that inspired Lewis and Clark inspired all American veterans," Kulongoski continued. "Those values are love of country, commitment to duty, courage to walk in the valley of the shadow of death and willingness to sacrifice."

The Governor went on to say that he sees the same values in the soldiers serving overseas today as in the generation that fought World War II.

The adjutant generals from the Oregon and Washington National Guard thanked the Native Americans for their participation in the ceremony, and praised the service of

America's veterans.

"The Corps of Discovery was a military expedition. It was of great consequence to this country and we thank all veterans of all backgrounds," Rees said.

Continuing with the theme of America's military being comprised of people from different ethnic backgrounds, Lowenberg remarked, "This exemplifies our nation's motto: E Pluribus Unum. From many: One."

"And we're still an army of one," he added.

In addition to veterans and current service members, a large number of Lewis and Clark re-enactors also attended the ceremony. Some of the actors were from as far away as Monticello, Va., where Thomas Jefferson originally dispatched the Corps of Discovery westward. Some of the actors had followed the corps' exact route up the Missouri River from St. Louis, through Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Montana, over the mountains into Idaho and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to be at the Veterans Day event.

Warren Keller of Lebanon, Ill., spent the last two years tracing the Corps' route with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, dressed in costume as John Shields, the group's blacksmith.

"At 35 years of age, Shields was the oldest member of the group," Keller said. "At 77, I'm also the oldest member of our group."

Other groups brought ponderosa pine canoes, hollowed from trees 30-foot long and 5-foot wide. The group paddled them along the Columbia River the same way the Corps did — the only difference, according to one member of the canoe-building Bitterroot Corps, is that the original explorers traversed the major rapids of the Columbia in their canoes. Today, the rapids have been replaced by hydroelectric dams.

Representatives from the Clatsop-Nehalem tribe of the Oregon coast brought hand-carved redwood canoe paddles, which they used later in the day to paddle a handmade canoe out into the ocean to commemorate an ancient tradition.

The ceremony concluded with a joint-force flyover consisting of a pair of Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, two Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopters from the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Salem, Ore., and a Coast Guard UH-60 "Jayhawk" helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Astoria. Even though the storm increased in

See LEWIS & CLARK on PAGE 8



Above: The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles re-enactors make their way down the Columbia River. See related story on following page. Photo courtesy of National Geographic Magazine.

Top of page: Reenactors from several states came together at Fort Clatsop near Warrenton, Ore. to celebrate the bicentennial of Lewis & Clark's historic journey to the Pacific Ocean. Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

# The Corps of REDISCOVERY

"A cloudy foggy morning Some rain. we Set out early... the fog So thick we could not See across the river."

— Capt. William Clark, Nov. 7, 1805

"Great Joy in Camp, we are in View of the Ocean, this great Pacific Ocean which we been So long anxious to See."

— Capt. William Clark, Nov. 7, 1805



"At night, the party were consulted by the Commanding Officers, as to the place most proper for winter quarters."

— Sgt. Patrick Gass, Nov. 24, 1805



"Capt. Lewis returned having found a good Situation and Elk Sufficient to winter on."

— Capt. William Clark, Dec. 4, 1805



"this morning fair, have every thing put on-board the Canoes and Set out to the place Capt Lewis had viewed... well Situated for our winter quarters"

— Capt. William Clark, Dec. 7, 1805

"Cloudy morning wind from the S.E. sent out the men to hunt."

— Capt. Meriwether Lewis, Dec. 1, 1805



"All our Stores and bedding are again wet by the hard rain of last night."

— Capt. William Clark, Dec. 5, 1805



"my man York, who had Stopped to rate his load and missed his way"

— Capt. William Clark, Dec. 7, 1805

"Returned to the large arm of the bay which we passed this morning. here we expect to meet with the Clat-sop Indians, who have tantalized us with there being much game in their neighborhood... for where there is most game is for us the most eligible winter station.."

— Capt. Meriwether Lewis, Nov. 30, 1805

## Lewis & Clark Bicentennial an opportunity for Native Americans to reflect, remember

Story by Spc. Michael Gann, 115th MPAD

WARRENTON, Ore. — Huddled under a green tarp protecting them from a cold November rain at Fort Stevens Nov. 11, more than 20 warriors representing Native American tribes from across the United States proudly displayed their tribal flags, before marching through the crowd and placing them in front of the stage at the Destination: The Pacific opening ceremony.

The event, which was attended by Native Americans, kicked off a week of activities to commemorate Lewis and Clark's arrival at the Pacific Ocean.

Each of the flag bearers were veterans just as Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were when they led the famed Corps of Discovery journey 200 years earlier.

"When you turn 18 and join the military, you become a Wadash, or veteran," said John Thomas, a Vietnam veteran from Kansas and a representative for more than 5,000 members of the Kickapoo tribe, including the 1,600 Kickapoo in Kansas and Oklahoma, and 1,000 in Texas and Mexico.

"In my tribe you have to show that you are generous and have leadership experience to become a warrior," explained James Parker Shield, vice chairman of the Little Shell Chippewa tribe from Montana.

"By enlisting, you become a warrior, because you are fighting to protect your country and your people's land," Thomas said. "Just in my tribe alone, we have about 96 veterans," Thomas continued.

"We are here to represent our tribes in Astoria, and meet with the Circle of Tribal Advisors (COTA)," said Steve Johnson, the flag bearer for over 3,400 absentee Shawnee based in Oklahoma.

Shield said the event was time to meet

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Charles Tailfeathers, a member of the Warm Springs tribe of Oregon, performs a tribal dance honoring all veteran warriors during the Lewis & Clark bicentennial. Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD.



Rudy Clements of the Circle of Tribal Advisors invited all veterans to participate in a tribal dance during the Lewis & Clark opening ceremony. Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett, 115th MPAD.

"A number of Indians came to visit us at our camp. They wore Robes made of the Skins of swans, Squirrel skins, & some made out of beaver skins also... These Indians are a handsome well looking set of Poeples, and were far the lightest colour'd Natives that we had seen since we have been on our Voyage."

— Joseph Whitehouse, Nov. 1805

## Lewis & Clark re-enactors teach history through role playing



Story by Spc. Nicholas Wood, 115th MPAD

WARRENTON, Ore. — As the Northwest commemorates the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's cross-country trek, a modern-day corps of discovery has made its own journey along the same trail.

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles is a re-enactment group from St. Charles, Mo. who took it upon themselves to revisit the groundbreaking journey of the 1803 Corps of Discovery.

Starting in August 2003 from Monticello in Charlottesville, Va., nearly 250 volunteers of the expedition have been traveling in the pace of the historical journals as they follow in Lewis and Clark's wake.

Members of the expedition are from eight states and are mostly retirees, military service members, and Eagle Scouts. These re-enactors stay with the expedition for as long as time allows, anywhere from two weeks to nearly the entire span of the expedition.

Each re-enactor portrays an original member of the Corps of Discovery, representing every member of the Corps, to include Meriwether Lewis' Newfoundland dog, Seaman.

Bud Clark, who plays the persona of William Clark, is actually his 3rd great grandson. Also, Josh Loftis, the expedition's youngest member, is a direct descendant of John Shannon, one of the original members of the Corps of Discovery.

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Left: The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles re-enactors assemble at Fort Stevens during the Lewis & Clark bicentennial opening ceremony on Nov. 11.

Right: Michael Dotson, a re-enactor for the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles stands with his Newfoundland, Seaman, named after the dog that traveled with Capt. Meriwether Lewis.

Bottom: The Fife & Drum Corps of St. Charles prepares to post the Colors during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial opening ceremony, Nov. 11.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.



## What about the baby?

### Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau's life after Lewis & Clark

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,  
State Public Affairs Office



At two months of age, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau was the youngest explorer to penetrate to the western edge of the continental United States.

Like his iconic mother, Sacagawea, not a lot of information was left behind, and what little historians know about Jean Baptiste comes not from his own hand, but from journal entries left by others.

Sacagawea, the only woman to accompany the 33 members of the Lewis & Clark Expedition's "Corps of Discovery" gave birth to Jean Baptiste on February 11, 1805. Lewis wrote in his journal that although her labor was, "tedious and the pain violent" she had "delivered a fine boy" at about 5 p.m. that day.

Within two months, the group departed Fort Mandan, North Dakota. The father of the child, Toussaint Charbonneau, originally from Montreal, Canada, would serve alongside his Native American wife as invaluable interpreters on the trek to find a westward-waterway to the Pacific Ocean.

Capt. Lewis Clark quickly grew attached to the young boy, nicknaming him "Pomp" or "Pompoy", even going as far to name landmarks along the way after him. East of Billings, Montana, Clark dubbed a tall, flat-topped sandstone formation imprinted with Native American pictographs, "Pompoy's Tower". It is now known today as Pompoy's Pillar. A nearby stream is called Baptiste's Creek.

In August 1806, after completing the mission and during their return to St. Louis, Missouri, Jean Baptiste and his mother and father parted company with the rest of the Lewis & Clark expedition. The parting was not without sorrow on Clark's part. In a letter dated Aug. 20, 1806, Clark wrote;

*"As to your little Son (my boy Pomp), you well know my fondness for him and my anxiety to take and raise him as my own child. I once more tell you if you will bring your son Baptiste to me, I will educate him and treat him as my own child... Wishing you and your family great success & with anxious expectations of seeing my little dancing boy Baptiste, I shall remain your Friend."*

In 1809, the Charbonneaus finally took Clark up on his offer, and brought Jean Baptiste to St. Louis to enroll him in school. Sacagawea left for Fort Manuel, a trading post on the Missouri River in 1811. Jean Baptiste would never see his mother again. He received news of her death in 1812. After his father was erroneously reported dead the following year, Clark signed on as the boy's legal guardian, but never raised him as his own, as he had first intended.

In the years between their parting at Fort Mandan and the boy's arrival in St. Louis, Clark had started a family of his own. He put Jean Baptiste up in a boarding house and enrolled him in a school for half-Native American boys, paying for his tuition, lodging and other necessities. Some historians suggest Clark's wife may not have welcomed the idea of taking a boy with mixed blood into their home.

In 1820, Jean Baptiste left school and became a guide and interpreter at a trading post near the mouth of the Kansas River. Three years later, at the age of 18, he met Prince Duke Paul Wilhelm of Wittenberg, Germany, who was on a scientific expedition in the United States studying plants and animals. After a brief conversation, the pair agreed that Jean Baptiste would accompany his new friend back to Europe.

Historians say that Jean Baptiste's life among German royalty may not have been as idyllic most Oregonians had hoped. Albert Furtwangler, an English Professor and author, wrote in the Winter 2001 Oregon Historical Quarterly;

*"For all their moderate comforts, they [Baptiste and another boy of Mexican origin] depended on the favor of the duke. They were at his command, afraid of his displeasure, surrounded by his realm, and with little prospect of marriage or independence."*

Though Jean Baptiste did not marry, he did father a child. According to German researcher, Monika Firla, baptismal records in Bad Mergentheim lists Anton Fries, with his parents listed as: "Johann Baptist Charbonneau of St. Louis called the American in the service of Duke Paul of this place and Anastasia Katharina Fries, unmarried daughter of the late Georg Fries, a soldier here."

The child died three months later, after which Jean Baptiste returned to the United States.

Fluent in French, German, Spanish and English, Jean Baptiste returned to St. Louis with Duke Paul in December 1829, and the two soon parted company. He was 24 years old and was about to embark on a life vastly different from the one he had lived in Europe.

He started out as a trapper with John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, and would go on to become a guide, interpreter, miner and adventurer in the American West over the next few decades, working with famous mountain men such as James Bridger, Kit Carson, and James Beckwith. Rufus B. Sage, a traveler who met Jean Baptiste in 1842 at a camp along the Platte River, made this observation;

*"The camp was under the direction of a half-breed, named Chabonard, who proved to be a gentleman of superior information... Having visited most of the important places, both in England, France, and Germany, he knew how to turn his experience to good advantage."*

In 1846, Jean Baptiste helped guide the Mormon Battalion from present-day Santa Fe, NM, to San Diego, Calif. Over more than 600 miles, Jean Baptiste traveled well ahead of the group to hunt game and scout trails. After successful completion of this mission, he took office in 1847 as an alcalde and an administrative judicial official at the San Luis Rey Mission. His tenure was short-lived, and he resigned a year later. An official report explained that Jean Baptiste had, "done his duty to the best of his ability, but being a half-breed Indian of the U.S. is regarded by the people as favoring the Indians more than he should, and hence there is much complaint against him."

Leaving Southern California behind, Jean Baptiste traveled north to the Sacramento Valley. Although he never struck it rich during the gold rush of 1849, he stayed in the region for many years, shifting from working at an old mining camp to working as a clerk at the Orleans Hotel in Auburn, Calif. Word soon spread of newly-discovered gold fields in the territory of his childhood — Montana, the home of his mother's birth tribe, the Shoshone.

At 61, Jean Baptiste and two companions headed out to find their fortune. After crossing the Owyee River in Oregon, Jean Baptiste contracted pneumonia. His companions carried him to the Inskip Station in Danner, where he died on May 16, 1866.

"Charbonneau died while still exploring new territories, still prospecting, still on the move, as the last active bachelor-adventurer of the Corps of Discovery," wrote Furtwangler.

"In a sense," he continues, "Jean Baptiste's tombstone in Jordan Valley marks the true end of the Lewis & Clark trail."

Information contained within this article was gathered at [www.NationalGeographic.com](http://www.NationalGeographic.com), [www.PBS.org](http://www.PBS.org), and "In Full View" by Rex Ziak.

## Expedition credits success to National Guard's help

Continued from PAGE 7

Lt. Joseph Bradford, a member of the Oregon National Guard's Education Program, has been traveling with the St. Charles Expedition portraying York, William Clark's slave. Under the guise of Pvt. Jon Potts, Tom Harris first joined the group in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He said the primary goal of the expedition is education.

Along the journey, the group has educated thousands through appearances, speaking engagements and open camps. At each campsite the expedition sets up information tents and educates visitors. They have replicas of the boats, uniforms, accoutrements, weapons and many other items found in the original camp.

Not only is the expedition keeping historical accuracy through the pace of the journey, the representation of Corps members, and replicas of camp items, but the camp setup itself follows the same procedures that Lewis and Clark would have used.

"The expedition runs as the original Corps of Discovery did, under 1803 military regulations... the standing orders of the 1st US Regiment are used," said expedition member Michael Dotson. "Also, we set up our camps according to Baron von Stuben's Drill Manual, 1794."

While following the military traditions of the past, the expedition has been relying on the military's technical skills of the present. Dotson said the National Guard from many states have been assisting in the continuation of the expedition, since Sioux City, Iowa, by providing security, transportation, medical and rescue assistance.

The National Guard from Oregon and Washington has been traveling with the expedition from Lewiston, Id. along the Snake and Columbia Rivers. The Guard has paralleled the expedition along the waterways in motorized life rafts, providing rescues when necessary.

"If they hadn't been there, we would have lost some men," said Dotson.

In Montana, local National Guard units provided transportation for the cottonwood, 30 ft., 3,000 lb. canoes when waterways were impassible.

"I don't think this expedition could have gotten through some places without the National Guard's help," said Dotson.

## Native Americans big part of Lewis & Clark celebration

Continued from PAGE 7

new friends and share in other tribes' culture.

"History is always changing, and this is a good way for everyone to get together and discuss their tribes' history," said Pearl Day Biddle, an elder of the Clatsop Nehalem tribe who is also associated with the Chinook tribe. Biddle is a direct descendent of Chief Caboway of the Clatsop who lived when Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific land.

At the end of the ceremony, Rudy Clements, a COTA member, invited all veterans, Indian and non-Indian, to join together and dance around the crowd to honor everyone throughout history who has fought for America.

Before the music began playing to start the dance, Clements said, "As far as veterans are concerned, the song provides a special opportunity to pay tribute to all Native American men and women warriors who have left their homelands and loved ones to protect the freedom and survival of their people and their culture."

## Lewis & Clark: of great consequence to this country



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

Friends of Fort Stevens re-enactors cover their ears while the Oregon Army National Guard's 2-218th Field Artillery sound off with their 55-mm Howitzers.

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strength, casting a barrage of hail and rain onto the audience, the crowd cheered as the aircraft cut a path across the cloudy sky.

Finally, the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battery, 218th Field Artillery Battalion from Portland, Ore., fired 10 shots from the ramparts of historic Fort Stevens, Ore., as part of a 21-gun salute. The Washington Army National Guard's 2nd Battery, 146th Field Artillery Battalion, from Olympia, Wash., answered their salvo with 10 shots of their own from the Washington side of the Columbia River. The guns were pointed out over the 4-mile wide mouth of the Columbia River, letting loose a volley of loud rapport and gales of smoke. Fort Stevens re-enactors from the Friends of Fort Stevens fired the final round with their black powder cannon, bringing the day-long commemoration to a close.

Unlike the Corps of Discovery, which spent a long winter fighting the rain and wind along the Pacific coast, the visitors at Fort Stevens hurried off to heated buses and automobiles after the two-hour ceremony, though probably with a little more respect for those who came before them.



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, 115th MPAD

A joint-state, joint-force Color Guard stands ready to post the Colors to begin the opening ceremony of the bicentennial.

# Starting Over: Oregon Guardsman restarts military career at age 55

## Personality Profile

Story prepared by Sentinel Staff

Sgt. Mathew Niblack may be the oldest Soldier to re-enlist in the Oregon National Guard.

At age 55, Niblack brings years of valuable military, civilian, and life experience to his unit and mission.

Niblack is currently serving with the 41st Personnel Services Company in Kuwait. The Oregon Sentinel conducted an e-mail interview with Niblack in early November.

### OS: Why did you choose to go back into the military at age 55?

**MN:** When I ETS'd in January 1990, I thought my National Guard days were over. Then, Sept. 11 occurred. I considered re-enlisting, but I had a good job with the Oregon State Employment Division at the time, and had just moved to Salem, so it wasn't a serious thought. But then in 2003, I began reading about some of our National Guard troops going to Iraq. Shortly after this, I contacted a National Guard recruiter.

### OS: What steps did you have to take to get back into the military?

**MN:** I took the ASVAB, though I didn't follow-up with a medical examination from MEPPS until Jan. 2004, when I contacted Sgt. 1st Class Garret. He explained that in order for me to re-enlist, I would need to lose some weight, pass the MEPPS physical and get an age waiver approved from the National Guard Bureau.

I began a weight loss program in March 2004, and by September 2004 I lost 60 pounds by walking three miles per day. I was also able to take the medical examination at MEPPS, which I passed, and my age waiver was sent to NGB. In January 2005, the age waiver was approved — I was back in the National Guard again!

### OS: What did you do after you re-enlisted?

**MN:** After re-enlisting, I began working at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Salem on drill weekends, keeping my full-time position at Workers Compensation. It was a perfect for me.

In April 2005, I talked to some of our National Guard troops who just returned from Iraq, some of whom had injuries. I decided then that I needed to do more. I inquired about deployments and was told that the 41st Personnel Services Company were deploying and that I should contact their unit. I did just that, and on August 6, 2005, I was deployed to Ft. Bliss, Texas with the 41st PSC for training.

### OS: What are some of the challenges you've faced coming back into the military?

**MN:** I'm in pretty good shape so the physical aspects of being in the National Guard has not bothered me except for changing my sleep schedules from night to day, because I work the graveyard shift. Another challenge is sleeping in barracks again and being on the top bunk — it's sure different than my big, soft bed at home! Finally, being away from my family for a year has been tough. My wife and I have been married 34 years, and this is the longest we have ever been separated. Sometimes I yearn to be home with her as she faces some of the difficulties in taking care of the house.

### OS: What is it like being back in the military?

**MN:** I like being in the military. Granted, I'm adjusting to taking orders and carrying a military bearing, but I like the challenge it affords me. Although I am older than the troops I serve with, my age has not been a barrier. I have been able to complete all the tasks assigned to us when we were in combat training at Ft. Bliss.

### OS: What kind of 'life experience' can you offer to your fellow Soldiers?

**MN:** I was a U.S. Navy yeoman from 1968 to 1971, processing service records in the personnel office, so I bring quite a bit of clerical experience to the Oregon Guard. Then I worked as a company clerk

and also processed service records while in the National Guard. Furthermore, my college education has proved beneficial to me here in Kuwait. My work as a vocational consultant has given me a lot of experience preparing reports. Knowing that I am part of a team and know the value of teamwork has helped me greatly in my present job.

### OS: How has your civilian job experience helped you with being an NCO?

**MN:** I gained my supervisory experience while employed with the Oregon State Employment Division and The Salvation Army. This experience has definitely helped me as an NCO and in being a successful leader.

As a Corps Officer with The Salvation Army, I also worked as a pastor. I found that this experience helped me while we were in training at Ft. Bliss because I could give spiritual counseling as well as supervisory guidance. In fact, the Company Commander and the First Sergeant asked me to be the Company Chaplain, which I gladly obliged. I rely on that experience on a day-to-day basis today.

### OS: How important is education and continuing education to our Soldiers?

**MN:** A high school education seems to be the entry point for the Guard, but a formal education is very important, and in my opinion is one of the most important things a person can do for themselves. Having a formal education can determine what kind of work a person will be doing. It also shows leaders that a person has initiative and sets goals in their lives. It will also result in better paying jobs if you chose to get out of the military.

### OS: If you could do it all over again, would you join the National Guard?

**MN:** Yes. Joining the Guard has allowed me to meet new friends and do something for my country. It has also helped my family financially, by receiving money from drill weekends.

Sgt. Mathew Niblack holds an Associates degree from Southwestern Oregon Community College, and a Bachelor degree from Oregon College of Education. He has



Photo courtesy of 41st PSC

Sgt. Mathew Niblack during a quiet moment with the 41st PSC in Kuwait.

worked in workers' compensation and as a vocational consultant. He is prior service in the U.S. Navy, and was a member of the National Guard from 1983 to 1990.

Niblack is attached to Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon, in Salem, and is currently deployed with the 41st PSC, which will be returning to Oregon in late 2006. He volunteers his time with the Salvation Army in Salem and Albany.

Niblack and his wife of 34 years, three grown children and four grandchildren live in the Salem area. He can be reached at mathew.niblack@us.army.mil.

## Changing perception with reality: Profile of a military combat journalist

Story by Betty Kaiser,  
Cottage Grove Sentinel  
Reprinted with permission

Bruns, dressed in fatigues, is a slight young woman with a military bearing. She exudes the confidence that comes of knowing she is doing one of the hardest jobs on earth. At home with both a camera and a rifle, she laughs easily but is deadly serious about her role in the military.

Last year, she shipped out with the 39th Brigade Combat Team (Public Affairs), returning to the states this spring. Her experiences during Operation Iraqi Freedom have molded her into a lean machine that is both wary and trusting.

"My first memories are of the desert in Kuwait. We waited there (at Camp New York) for about two weeks before making the journey to Iraq. During that time, sand storms blew and 50 percent of the time you couldn't see anything in front of you. There was sand everywhere - in your eyebrows, nose, ears and underwear. It was impossible to hide from it.

"Eventually, the sand storms ceased as we moved into Iraq. In the Euphrates and Tigris River areas there are palm trees and green plants. To my surprise, Baghdad is quite green and it even rains there frequently in the winter."

Sgt. Bruns was also surprised at the amount of trash in Baghdad. "There was an absurd level of trash and in some places you literally couldn't see the ground," she said.

Bruns had served in the Haitian conflict and was used to seeing poverty but what she saw in the Middle East was even greater than her previous experience.

"There were kids and adults alike begging for food and water on the way up through Iraq to Baghdad. There, the social environment changed a little. It was a bustling city with cars and newspaper stands but riddled with violence from the insurgency. People were still extremely poor and living in shacks but most went to work and were trying in some way to make money."



Photo courtesy of 39th Brigade Combat Team

Bruns always found time to visit with the locals while on patrol. Here she pauses with two Iraqi children. Bruns spent about a year in Baghdad as part of the 39th Brigade Combat Team's Public Affairs Detachment.

The media reports that she and her fellow soldiers saw on television about their response to incidents in Baghdad were very disheartening.

"We would respond to an incident, work hard to make a difference, see progress and then the television (reports) would make it seem like all was death and destruction. We'd all sit at the table shaking our heads saying, 'That's not how I remember it. I was there and it didn't happen like that.'"

Combat, of course, does have its ugly side. As a newspaper photographer, Bruns was used to photographing automobile accidents and domestic problems. The wounds and circumstances of war are different.

"The most difficult thing I had to do was photograph men dying from gunshot wounds, etc. Those images don't ever leave me. Sometimes in the night, I still hear them

trying to speak through the gurgling blood in their throats. It was difficult. It is still difficult."

As a female soldier serving in a male-dominated culture, Bruns found that the response to a female in uniform was very different than in America.

"Many Iraqi males hold the belief that the American Army brought women over as prostitutes for the enjoyment of American male soldiers. Some would make obscene, sexual gestures at us.

"Other times, the men just wanted to ask questions about my job in the army. Sometimes there would be questions of concern because they didn't want to see us get hurt. And if you weren't married - why weren't you?"

"Sometimes I was swarmed by men and women alike who just wanted to touch me because I was an American woman. One incident became dangerous and created a crowd control issue. I was completely surrounded with people pulling and grabbing at me. I could barely walk. It took several soldiers to get me out. I jumped in the back of the Humvee but the crowd climbed on buildings to try and get a glimpse of me.

"I had never experienced anything like that and thank God, it only happened once. 'Death by mob was not my idea of a valiant way to leave Iraq.

"The young women loved me and I got the impression that they really admired American women. Almost all of them spoke English and asked a million questions such as: 'Do your women really wear the skimpy clothes we see on TV?' They were also quick to tell me what they wanted to do with their lives - doctors, lawyers, teachers, police officers and actors - despite the uphill climb they face."

At one point, early in Bruns' deployment, a \$200,000 reward for the capture of any American female soldier was offered (the male soldiers were only worth \$50,000) by an extremist Shiite cleric. In retribution for the Abu Ghraib scandal, the cleric wanted

to torture the women and cut off their heads, thinking it would be extremely demoralizing to the American public.

Bruns was not demoralized during her time of service. Instead, she chose to be energized by all that she found good. Her list of positive experiences outweighed the negative.

"I loved the kids. They were awesome - so incredibly mischievous and smart. They were full of questions and so were we.

"I also enjoyed the generosity of the Iraqi people. I really hated having to leave their houses after missions. They would bring out tea and desserts and just want to talk about everything. They would talk about the days of Saddam and the peace they hoped God would bring in the future.

"A lot of times we would go to orphanages and schools to drop off clothes, supplies and things sent from home that we thought the kids needed more than us. Inevitably they would want us to autograph something to 'have something to remember.'

"It seemed silly - an autograph - but they would throw pencils, books and personal items at you and beg. They wanted something for their future.

"I always wrote, 'Love is the only way.' But I knew that whatever I wrote, did or said, it wasn't ever going to be enough. How could it be?"

"So was it worth it? Did our work make a positive difference? Yes. More than most will ever know.

"Schools were built. People were able to get jobs. Long-neglected problems under Saddam were addressed: sewage, water plants and garbage services were restored; electricity worked on.

"I saw a whole nation stand on their feet and say 'no' to terrorists and 'yes' to independence in the first legitimate election since 1944. I watched smiles as they held out their ink-stained fingers to the world.

"It was arguably one of the most incredible things I have ever witnessed in my life," said the young woman who captured it all on film and archived it for the whole world to see.



## JFHQ celebrates Diversity Day Nov. 9



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

Matt Hennessee speaks to personnel at the JFHQ Diversity Day celebration on Nov. 9. Hennessee was the keynote speaker at the event, which included ethnic foods, a multimedia presentation on diversity, and a speech by Oregon's Adjutant General, MG Rees.

Story by Kim Lippert, State Public Affairs Office

Oregon National Guard soldiers and staff celebrated Diversity Day with a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem on November 9, 2005. This year's theme, "Transformation through Leadership" focused on the importance of mentoring others.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard addressed the assembly before introducing the Keynote Speaker, Matt Hennessee.

"When it comes to our lives we are here because other people had faith in us," Hennessee said during his speech.

As a church pastor and former Nike employee working on diversity issues, Hennessee has lots of experience mentoring those from various cultural, educational, and family backgrounds.

"You have to decide who you are and not put each other in boxes...we have the ability to be unique because that's what we are in the community, office, home, and work," remarked Hennessee.

Hennessee challenged participants to think of situations in their own life where they may have different preferences than their co-workers or friends. While some love public speaking others prefer one-on-one conversation.

"You may not agree, but respect that their way of thinking is different," said Hennessee.

In a short video presentation, leaders within the Oregon National Guard echoed Hennessee's views on mentorship, often stressing the importance of using your life to benefit and guide others.

"Everyone has gifts — we ought to be working hard to share those gifts with others. Sacrifice your time and talent to help someone else," said Hennessee.

The ceremony concluded with an ethnic food buffet where participants enjoyed a wide variety of food choices representing various cultures. The menu included Asian, European, Hispanic, Mediterranean, Indian, Middle Eastern, and North American food.

## 1249th EN BN receives a 'concrete' donation



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

Oregon Army National Guard 1249th Engineer Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Jason Schwabel, (second from left) accepts a \$1,500 donation from Joanne Swinehart (second from right) of Viesko Quality Concrete in Gervais, Ore. on Nov. 22, 2005.

Swinehart's company matched funds collected from employees for the 1249th Engineer Battalion's Family Readiness Group. First Lt. Robert Earhart (in hard-hat), is employed at Viesko Quality Concrete, and is a member of Charlie Co., 1249th EN BN. Also pictured is Viesko driver Doug Hughes (far left), and Capt. Jeffrey Brown, Charlie Co. Commander (far right).

## News Briefs

### Benefits Inc. can help with family, special needs planning

Oregon National Guard Benefits Inc. through coordinated efforts with the Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, recently aligned itself with a local planning firm specializing in comprehensive lifetime planning for families with special needs children.

The program should be of significant help to families grappling with special needs issues such as understanding government benefits, social security programs, advanced estate planning, and emotional support. Help and assistance will be offered to families dealing with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and traumatic brain injuries, to name a few.

The benefits coordinator emphasized that every parent is concerned about the welfare of their children, especially when their children may not be able to provide that welfare for themselves. This new relationship will help develop comprehensive lifetime, financial, and legal plans; tasks that can seem overwhelming.

Some of the components of the program that will help parents and guardians gain a greater understanding of government benefits:

- Learning techniques to preserve government benefit eligibility for Social Security Income and Medicaid.
- Understanding legal and financial issues in special needs planning, including special needs trusts.
- The Letter of Intent.
- Reviewing legal options when a child with special needs turns age 18 to include guardianship and conservatorship.
- Client self-determination issues.
- Determining how much money is needed to provide lifetime quality care.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about this program, contact the Oregon National Guard Association Executive Director, Col. (Ret.) Roberta Janssen, at 503-584-3030.

### Women's Veteran's Conference offers assistance for Oregon's female Soldiers

If you've recently returned from a deployment, are female, and want to learn more about your veteran benefits as well as connect with other female veterans, you may want to attend the Oregon Women Veterans Conference. The free event will take place on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Ore.

The last conference helped many women veterans obtain thousands of dollars in compensation and additional benefits. Along with speakers and informational workshops participants will also be able to speak with Veteran Service Organization representatives and enjoy music and a free lunch. Women veterans from all eras will be on hand for the event.

Reservations are required. Please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs at 1-800-828-8801 ext. 2384; 2385; or 2389 to register.

### Inspector General assistance available to employees

All Oregon National Guard personnel have the right to request assistance from the Inspector General (IG).

Complaints may include what the employee reasonably believes to be evidence of waste, fraud and abuse, or hazardous or unsafe working conditions.

However, before contacting the inspector general, personnel should first consider whether their concerns could be addressed more quickly and simply by consulting their immediate supervisors.

Civilian Personnel Regulations prescribe procedures for civilian employees to use in submitting complaints that pertain solely

to civilian employment matters, such as reduction-in-force, removals and disciplinary measures. If civilian employees wish to submit this kind of complaint, they should contact the Oregon Military Department Human Resources Office at 503-584-3975 for pertinent information and procedures.

Those persons who are members of a recognized bargaining unit must file complaints through their proper shop steward.

For matters concerning employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin or handicap, employees are encouraged to contact the Oregon Military Department State Equal Employment Manager at 503-584-3841.

If an employee has a complaint other than those concerning civilian employment matters, they are encouraged to contact their local inspector general at 503-584-3920, or toll-free at 1-800-452-7500, ext. 3920.

For more information regarding hazardous working conditions (unsafe or unhealthy), please refer to chapter 3 in AR 385-10.

According to Army Regulation 20-1, paragraph 1-12, the inspector general has a duty to protect the confidentiality of all persons who request assistance from the IG office.

### Space-A Travel a little known military secret

All Active Duty, Reservists/Guardsmen, Retired personnel, and their dependents may travel space-a on military flights under certain conditions. Active Duty personnel must be on leave status. Reservists/Guardsmen may fly, but not their dependents. Retired personnel may fly with their dependents, if they are drawing retirement pay. In most cases, dependents must be accompanied by their qualifying sponsor. An excellent reference site discusses this topic. It is located at: [www.spacea.info/faq.html](http://www.spacea.info/faq.html).

My wife and I just returned from a two-week Space-A trip to the Portuguese Azores and England. We flew on senior tickets (over age 65) on Southwest Airlines to Baltimore/Washington airport. We met another retired couple (USAF West Point grad and his wife) and checked into Curtis Bay U.S. Coast Guard Yard's quarters, located in Baltimore, Maryland for the night.

After an excellent breakfast in the galley, we left the car in the free long-term parking and took a cab to the BWI airport. At the Air Material Command counter we checked in and got our boarding passes for a Patriot Express flight to Lajes AF Base, Azores.

We spent a week in very nice quarters, and toured the island before boarding a flight to RAF Mildenhall in central England, near Cambridge. After picking up our rental car, we drove on the "wrong" side (left lane) to RAF Croughton, where we spent a week in a USAF Temporary Living Facility, where a two-bedroom house goes for \$48 a night. After our exploration of the Oxford area, we again returned to RAF Mildenhall and caught the last Patriot Express flight out of England. Keep in mind that Patriot Express flights are being phased out over the next few years, so it might be a good idea to take advantage of the perk now! Our friends boarded a USAF C-5A to Ramstein AFB, Germany. All agreed that we had a great week.

Undoubtedly, Space-A is one of your well-earned military benefits. If you have any questions, contact Lt. Col. (Ret.) Allan E. Jeska at [jeskaal1@juno.com](mailto:jeskaal1@juno.com).

### Form for property tax exemption available for military members

The form for Oregon National Guard soldiers to fill out in order to take advantage of a property tax exemption on their home is now available. The *Oregon Active Military Service Member's Exemption Claim* can be found on the Department of Revenue website at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DOR/PTD/docs/303-084.pdf>.

As we first reported in the October issue of the Sentinel, soldiers are eligible for an up to \$60,000 property tax exemption on their home. The exemption is first available for the tax year beginning on July 1, 2005. A copy of the regulation will soon be posted on the Oregon Military Department website at [www.mil.state.or.us](http://www.mil.state.or.us).

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The Oregon National Guard Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) has been accepting job offers from employers for the last two months. Know what's missing? **YOU**

## TRICARE Prescription drug coverage revised

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare, including TRICARE beneficiaries. There are several factors beneficiaries need to consider when deciding whether to purchase a Medicare prescription drug plan.

For nearly all TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries, under most circumstances, there is no added value in purchasing Medicare prescription drug coverage if you have TRICARE. The exception to this general rule may be for those with limited incomes and assets who qualify for Medicare's extra help with prescription drug plan costs. These individuals may benefit by applying for the Medicare low-income subsidy and enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Beneficiaries who need an application may request one by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

For more information about the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit, beneficiaries may visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy). For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage, beneficiaries may read the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook, which will be mailed in October 2005. For more help, beneficiaries may visit [www.medicare.gov/](http://www.medicare.gov/) and select "search tools;" call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook has the telephone number); or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

## Soldiers warned against buying knock-off ACUs

Army officials are warning Soldiers against buying imitation Army Combat Uniforms in lieu of waiting for Army-approved ACUs to arrive in stores. AAFES military clothing sales stores are scheduled to get ACUs in April 2006. Unauthorized uniforms typically do not meet the Army's specifications in various ways, such as appearance, usability and durability.

To tell if an ACU is authorized, Soldiers should look for two tags sewn into the uniform. One tag near the collar is printed with the size and the second tag located elsewhere on the uniform gives the government contract number identifying what company made the uniform, and care instructions. Commanders will conduct periodic inspections to ensure that all personnel under their command wear only uniforms and heraldic items produced by certified manufacturers who ensure they meet specifications for design and quality, in accordance with AR 670-01.

## Oregon Soldiers' headgear regulation changes November 1

Effective November 1, 2005, Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers have been authorized to wear the patrol cap (BDU cap) as standard headgear for Class C (BDU/ACU) uniforms within the state of Oregon.

The exception to this policy is when Soldiers are traveling outside the state of Oregon on official military business or are required to wear the Class A or Class B uniforms. In both of these cases, Soldiers will be required to wear the beret.

Those with questions concerning this uniform policy are encouraged to contact Command Sergeant Major Thomas R. Moe at 503-584-3997.

## Oregon Parks discount for military clarified

In our last issue of the Sentinel we told you about a new policy allowing disabled veterans and Active Duty military personnel free admission to Oregon State Parks. As a point of clarification, it is important to note that the fee waiver applies to soldiers serving on any type of Active Duty in the military as long as they have a valid Military ID and an approved leave papers (forms DA-31 or CG2519). This includes Title 10 and Title 32 and Active Guard Reserve soldiers.

The new policy waives camping fees for a maximum of five consecutive days at one park or any 10 days in a calendar month in the park system as a whole. For more information on Oregon State Parks go to [www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org) or call 1-800-551-6949.

## Soldiers, Airmen to help deliver holiday food to needy families

On December 17, volunteers from the Oregon National Guard will assist Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division, along with volunteers from the local community, to deliver holiday food baskets to deserving families and individuals throughout the greater Portland Metro area.

Recipients of the holiday food baskets are nominated by community members and police officers who encounter needy families in the course of their jobs.

Families of National Guard members are also eligible to receive food baskets. Individuals who know of a military family who could benefit from a Holiday Food Basket are encouraged to contact their local Family Support Group coordinator or the Sunshine Division POC listed below.

The baskets include all the makings for a holiday meal — canned vegetables, russet potatoes, boxed stuffing mix, dessert ingredients, and a 5 lb. ham. Items are donated to the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division through their holiday food drive by local companies such as Fred Meyer, Franz Bakery, and others.

Volunteers are asked to meet on Saturday, December 17, at 7:00 a.m. at one of the four locations where the Sunshine Division will be assembling and distributing the food baskets.

If you have any questions, would like to make a donation, or help with food distribution, contact Wayne Kuechler at the Sunshine Division at 503-823-2119, or by e-mail at [wayne@sunshinedivision.org](mailto:wayne@sunshinedivision.org).

## Clatsop County Sheriff uses Centennial as time to practice

For the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, the busy weekend of events commemorating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was a golden opportunity. It was a good time to jointly operate the incident command center involving 23 agencies, including the military, with participants from across state lines.

The command center is a centralized field office for government and private agencies to manage traffic, security and other public safety issues that could have arisen during the "Destination: The Pacific" signature events held in Oregon. The center was operated 24 hours a day through the weekend of the bicentennial celebration.

"We're using this opportunity to train for possible disasters that could affect our area in the future," Sheriff Tom Bergin said.

The conference room usually used for staff meetings was transformed into a NASA-like command center crammed with people, computer equipment and display boards. One screen displayed calls as they were received at the Astoria police station's 9-1-1 dispatch center.

Participants included the 116th Air Control Squadron, based at Camp Rilea, National Guard members from Oregon and Washington State, representatives from the United States Coast Guard Air Station Astoria, ham radio operators, and personnel from ambulance service and local police, fire and emergency response agencies.

"We're using our new emergency operations procedures that we are drafting. We're testing to see how our plan works in a real event," said Gene Strong, the county's Emergency Services manager.

This was just one in a series of regional training emergency exercises the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office has on its agenda. Strong is on the planning team for a tsunami drill next spring that will involve Canada as well as all the Pacific coastal states.

For more information, contact Clatsop County Sheriff, Tom Bergin, or Emergency Services Manager, Gene Strong at 503-325-8635.

## November: Native American month



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

Robert Kentta, Cultural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, stands among Native American artifacts and reproductions during a historical presentation at JFHQ in recognition of Native American Month.

Kentta is responsible for the organization of Siletz traditional ceremonies, principally Nay Dosh, or the "Feather Dance". He is an active weaver and regalia maker of Siletz traditional arts.

The afternoon presentation, attended by about 30 personnel from JFHQ, centered mainly on historical tribal treaty issues, agreements between local tribes and the US government, and reaching the goal of tribal autonomy.

"I want people to go away with the basic facts of history and relate them to the emotions and issues that our people face today," Kentta said. "These are things our people carry to this day."

If you would like to contact Mr. Kentta, he can be reached at [rkentta@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:rkentta@ctsi.nsn.us), or toll free at 1-800-922-1399. The group's website is currently under construction.

## Rees: "I can't thank them enough"

Continued from FRONT PAGE

the Soldiers of the 3-116 on Nov. 2 at Wilson Gymnasium at Fort Lewis, Wash. Soldiers underwent a 5-7 day Demobilization Soldier Readiness Program at Fort Lewis before returning to their home stations. They arrived back in the Northwest on three separate days, Nov. 2, 3 and 5, landing at McChord AFB, Wash.

Maj. Gen. Rees said the returning soldiers are heroes who would not have been able to achieve what they had without the support of their families and communities.

"The country has asked a lot from these soldiers and their families and employers," Rees said. "I can't thank them enough."

Krystal Lyon was six months pregnant when she found out her husband Spc. Paul Lyon, of HHC 3-116, was deploying to Iraq. The Independence couple had recently married, and were enjoying their life as newly-weds.

"It was kind of scary," Krystal said of her husband's deployment. "When I think of war, I think of people dying, and didn't want my husband to die."

Paul and the other soldiers of the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry overcame many hardships while serving their country in war-torn Iraq, including bombs placed on travel routes and extreme heat, but the hardships overcome by their families left behind was no less heroic.

In a separate demobilization ceremony held in Redmond, Ore. on Nov. 13, G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry was greeted by an enthusiastic throng of friends and family.

"We are so thankful that you have returned safely," Rees told the gathering. "Thank you so much for everything that you have done, for your wonderful service to this country."

The Soldiers of G Troop were stationed at Forward Operating Base Gainsmills, near Kirkuk, Iraq, in Kurdish-controlled Northern Iraq. The impoverished area gave many in the unit a new appreciation for their home country.

"They built their houses out of mud and straw," said Master Sgt. Neil Brooks of Redmond, Ore. "To see how much better we live compared to the Third World, it's astounding."

Brooks, who returned home with G Troop on Oct. 29, said, "I thank the people of Oregon. The support was great. It keeps the morale high, and that's tough to do in 130 degree heat."

Brooks also said the unit was never without the supplies they needed, such as toiletries, thanks to the many packages sent from home. He said the unit also appreciated the gifts sent by businesses and the letters written by elementary school children.

"People did a great job of separating the politics of the situation from the soldiers," Brooks continued. "We felt like the people supported us whether they agreed with why we were over there or not."

The Oregon units faced constant enemy attacks, mostly in the form of IEDs, or Improvised Explosive Devices. In spite of their vigilance and efforts, several bombs found their mark, killing one G Troop Soldier on April 8, 2005, and one Soldier from 3-116 on May 22, 2005. Another Soldier from 3-116 died of non-combat related causes on Jan. 31, 2005.

The Oregon Guard still has 180 soldiers in Iraq, with another 40 in Kuwait and 150 in Afghanistan. Nine hundred members of Oregon's 41st Brigade Combat Team are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the summer of 2006.

## ANA mission set to begin in 2006

Continued from FRONT PAGE

egon have been identified for deployment; the 141st Support Battalion from Portland, with about 300 soldiers; the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, a rifle company with about 130 Soldiers from southern Oregon; and the 1st Bn., 162nd Inf., a rifle company of about 130 Soldiers, from Forest Grove.

In addition, several more Soldiers from Tigard will deploy to form the Brigade Headquarters. Airmen and equipment from various units throughout the Oregon Air National Guard will also join the deployment to provide functions such as communications and weather support.

# NASCAR and National Guard: Partnership rooted in patriotism



Staff Sgt. Matthew Zedwick stands in front of the #16 National Guard Ford Taurus on pit row prior to the start of the Checker Auto Parts 500 on Nov. 13 in Phoenix, AZ. National Guard car driver, Greg Biffle was in the lead for most of the race, but finished in second place.

Story and photos by Guy Britnell,  
JFHQ Marketing & Recruiting

Loud. Incredibly loud. Eardrum-splitting loud.

If there is a description which comes to mind from anyone who has had an opportunity to attend a NASCAR event, I think those phrases would be at the top of their list. The sound of 43 750+ horsepower engines flying around a mile track at over 130 mph is truly an awe-inspiring experience.

Recently, a few Oregon Army National Guard members were invited by the National Guard Bureau to experience the spectacle up close and behind the scenes. NGB invited the Oregon Guard members to the Nextel Cup race on November 13, at Phoenix International Raceway in Phoenix, AZ. The event gave the Soldiers a glimpse

into a sport that now ranks number-one in attendance and second in spectatorship — surpassed in numbers only by NFL football.

They also wanted the Guard members to get a chance to see the National Guard-sponsored #16 Ford Taurus, driven by Vancouver, WA native Greg Biffle.

If you've never attended a race in person, you have no idea of the extravaganza that is NASCAR. For many, it's a way of life from mid-February until the season ends late in November.

We arrived at the raceway at 7:00 a.m., six hours before the green flag was to drop. The massive parking lots were already crowded with cars. Some, not wanting to fight the traffic, made a weekend of it by dragging along their motor homes and recreational vehicles.

As we entered the raceway area, we were overwhelmed with the amount of vendors and entertainment outside the track. Think of most major sporting events, its Team "1" versus Team "2". You're either a fan of 1 or 2.

In NASCAR, it's a bit different. It's Team "1" versus Team "2" versus Team "3" versus Team "4" versus — well, you get the picture. There are 43 different teams to cheer for, and believe me, there are enough fans for all 43 of them.

The crowd at the track was as colorful as the cars they were cheering for. For those who say NASCAR is a "Southern Redneck" sport, remember this race was in Phoenix, AZ, and there wasn't room for another person inside the raceway.

Not only has NASCAR become a nationwide phenomenon, it also has become a staple for recruitable-age viewership, with 46.4% of NASCAR fans between the age of 18 and 39. NASCAR is also the only major sport in the last five years to experience fan growth among 12-17 year olds.

This year marks the second year in a row the National Guard has sponsored the #16 car. During the 2004 season, Biffle won the pole position for the sport's "Super Bowl", the Daytona 500. He also won the last race of the season, providing a glimpse of great things to come the following year.

Biffle went on to win six more races in 2005 — more than any other driver during that season. What's more, he was a major factor in NASCAR's

"Chase for the Cup", finishing the season in style by winning the last race of the year and finishing the overall season in second place.

The National Guard received an equivalent of \$93 million in advertising based on the amount of airtime Biffle and the National Guard car received in 2005. Furthermore, Biffle and the National Guard recently signed a three-year extension of their sponsorship and both look forward to an even better 2006 season.

There was something else I felt — well, maybe sensed is a better word. *Patriotism*. I'm not sure if this description finds itself in the "Southern Redneck" roots I referred to earlier in this piece, or in what appears to be America's fastest growing spectator sport.

But whatever the reason for the patriotic undertone I felt amongst these people — be it the throngs of loyal race fans, the dedicated and professional drivers, or the growing national popularity of NASCAR — the National Guard should feel right at home.

We are, after all, amongst friends.



The #16 National Guard car, with Biffle at the wheel, makes its way around the track to a second-place finish.

## Governor honors Retired Oregon General

Story by Kim L. Lippert,  
State Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. — Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski presented Brig. Gen. (ret.) Staryl C. Austin with the Governor's Commendation Award in a special ceremony Oct. 27.

"I believe that those who are elected to public office are well served by understanding the sacrifices that have been made throughout our history by people like General Austin," said Kulongoski.

With his family looking on, Austin proudly accepted the award given to him for his seven decades of state and military service.

"I'm overwhelmed, I certainly never expected anything like this," said Austin.

A veteran of World War II and a Korean War-era fighter pilot, Austin accomplished many things during his 38 year military career.

"Few can claim to have held such a pivotal position during a span of time that saw tremendous growth, change and development of the Oregon National Guard," said Kulongoski.

Austin spent more than six years of active duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps of the U.S. Air Force and 31 years in the Air National Guard. Austin served for 17 years as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard.

"We are very proud to have you as an alum of our organization, you are a great example for all of us," said Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Austin said his father, an airplane mechanic during World War I, helped spur his interest in flying. The pair would often spend free time watching planes at the Salem Airport. At age five, Austin saw a plane crash near his home in Condon.

"Thankfully no one was hurt, but I thought I want to do that — not the crashing part — but I wanted to fly," said Austin.

It's a dream he spent much of his life fulfilling. During World War II, Austin flew as a part of the 373rd Fighter



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski awarded Brig. Gen. (ret.) Staryl C. Austin with the Governor's Commendation Award.

Group's 410th Fighter Squadron. As a P-47 Thunderbolt Pilot, Austin flew 58 combat missions from 1944 to 1945. He commanded a NATO fighter bomber squadron in Germany during the Cold War. In 1953, he joined the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing, serving as the Fighter Group's air officer.

After retiring from the ORANG in 1980, Austin went on to become the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, a position he held until 1984. Austin is now serving his second term in ODVA's Governor's Advisory Committee.

For Austin, an extremely humble man, the Governor's Commendation Award was a welcome surprise.

"I didn't expect it, and I definitely haven't recovered!" said Austin.

At age 85, Austin has more than seven decades of service to his country and Oregon. Now retired, he is still very busy working on behalf of veterans. He and his wife Jacqueline recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Steven and Andrew, and two grandchildren.

## Oregon Guard can receive discounted Rose Garden tickets

The Rose Garden is offering discounted event tickets to all members of the Oregon National Guard, both Army and Air.

The program does not include "regular" Portland Trailblazers tickets (Trailblazer basketball tickets are available to guard members through a separate program), but does include VIP Club Seats, which are located on the 200 level and have a separate entrance, a private lounge, and include a full buffet and non alcoholic beverages.

These seats are typically \$110 - \$125 at the box office or through Ticketmaster. However, these seats are offered to Oregon guard members for \$50 through this special program. The Rose Garden also offers similar discounts for other events held at the venue.

To qualify for the discounts, simply visit <http://GroupSales.RoseQuarter.com>. You will see the event information and your member pricing (group price). You can order any amount of tickets you want and receive the group savings.

To order tickets, click on the link and enter the username: Oregon Army, and password: National Guard. You will receive a group discount and service fees will be waived. There is a \$5 fee for every order, regardless of the number of tickets purchased.

The Rose Garden will not be able to give out seat locations at the time of the order, but says the best possible seats will be given when the order goes through the box office. The Rose Garden also requests that all special seating arrangements are noted at the time of the order. These include wheelchair and aisle seating.

For more information, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley at 503-584-3890, or the Rose Garden Group Sales Department at 503-963-4400.

## Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

(503) 584-3804  
1-800-452-7500, ext. 3804

E-mail:  
Randall.Witt@or.ngb.army.mil

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

OFFICE OF THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON  
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