

# A ZUWUR

Oregon National Guard

## Oregon Guardsman brings home Olympic bronze

By COLLEEN BREEDEN  
AZUWUR STAFF

The Olympic dream. A fantasy for most Americans, but reality for one Oregon Army National Guardsman.

"It's a surreal experience the day you make the team because you're thinking about so many different things," Spc. Dan Steele, Oregon Army National Guardsman and bronze Olympian, said. "You're thinking about the road you took to get here and everything that you dream about and then you start thinking about the games right away."

Steele, a member of HHC, 2-162 Infantry, joined the Oregon Guard in February 1997. His twin brother, Darrin, enlisted into the Illinois National Guard in 1987, and planted the citizen-soldier seed. Dan joined the Guard and the bobsled team at the same time. He had

moved to Oregon to pursue track and field full time.

Steele was recruited for bobsled from the track and field finals. He participates in the four-man bobsled, and is the team's brakeman.

Steele, 32, competed in the 1998 Winter Games at Nagano, Japan, and replaced Shimer's previous brakeman, who suffered a back injury, about three weeks before the Olympic trials that were held in late December.

Steele's Olympics goal was to win a medal.



Team Shimer, after the Olympic trials. L-R: Spc. Mike Kohn, Spc. Dan Steele, driver Brian Shimer, and Spc. Doug Sharp.



Submitted photo

"I don't want to look back and think I missed something to give," Steele said. "A medal is a good way to go out and retire. As long as we give our all, I'll be satisfied."

Steele has no intentions of continuing with bobsled, but "I don't know what opportunities will present themselves," he said.

In 2001, Steele was the assistant track and field coach at the University of Oregon. His position at the U of O is one step closer to his career goal: to be a head track and field coach for a major university.

"I love the Eugene community, and the way it embraces its athletes. It's a great setting to be an athlete and coach,"

■ Please turn to Olympian Page 12

### Spotlight on Steele



**Height:** 6-2  
**Weight:** 220  
**Birthdate:** March 20, 1969  
**Birthplace:** Moline, Ill.

**Hometown:** Rock Island, Ill.  
**School:** Eastern Illinois University  
**Olympics:** Member of the 1998 Olympic team in Nagano, Japan

Placed fifth in decathlon in 2000 US Olympic track and field trials  
**Sports history:** Took eighth in IAAF World Championships in decathlon in 1999

1999 Pan-Am Games silver medalist in decathlon  
Placed third in the 1999 US National Championships  
Ranked third in the US in decathlon in 1999

Holds USA sibling point record in decathlon with twin brother, Darrin

Ranked fifth in US and 25th in world in decathlon in 1995  
1992 NCAA-I champion in 400m hurdles

Two-time NCAA-I all-American  
Nine-time Mid-Continent Conference champion

2001 assistant track and field coach at University of Oregon  
2001 inductee to Eastern Illinois University hall of fame

2002 Olympics four-man bronze medalist with driver Brian Shimer  
Qualified for the 2002 Olympic team, finishing first in four-man bobsled at trials

<b>A bobsled training day</b>	<b>2 p.m.</b> Prepare bobsled for sliding	Discuss techniques, positive and negative runs, etc.
<b>7 a.m.</b> Wake up, eat breakfast, get mentally ready for the day	<b>4 p.m.</b> Two hour sliding session on the track	<b>10 p.m.</b> Go to bed
<b>10 a.m.</b> Hit the weight room and lift for 90 minutes	<b>7 p.m.</b> Head home, eat dinner	Sneak away when you can to take care of personal errands, like haircuts
<b>noon</b> Lunch	Watch daily training film	

## Oregon Olympics volunteers help keep Utah safe

Maj. Jason Schwabel passes the Task Force Oregon guidon to Sgt. Maj. Raymond Barryman upon the return of the Oregon Army National Guard volunteers.



Colleen Breedon

Volunteers from the Oregon National Guard deployed to Utah in support of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Approximately 130 soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard were deployed to Camp Williams, Utah, and returned to Oregon on Feb. 28, 2002.

Maj. Jason Schwabel was the Task Force Oregon commander.

The soldiers provided three primary security services: vehicle screening; personnel and bag searches; and perimeter security. Their area of concern was "E" Center at the Peaks Ice Arena, Utah Olympic Oval, which will house the ice hockey and figure skating competitions.

Volunteers for this mission were soldiers from the Regional Training Institute in Monmouth, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry headquartered in LaGrande; the 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Salem; Headquarters STARC from Salem; the 82nd Rear Operation Cell from Lake Oswego; the 82nd Cavalry headquartered in Bend; the 141 Support Battalion from Portland; the 102 Civil Support Team from Salem; the 641st Medical Battalion of Salem; the 741 Corps Support Battalion from

Clackamas; the 1249th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Salem; and the 234th Army Band of Portland.

Their Air Guard counterparts, from the 272nd and 244th Combat Communications Squadrons, provided radio communications support as part of a security effort to improve communications during the two-week event.

The airmen filled four key command and control positions at the joint operations center at the Utah National Guard headquarters. They provided communications support and were responsible for operating tactical satellite radio equipment, and programming and monitoring land mobile radios.

Oregon was one of 22 states that deployed National Guard members to the Salt Lake City region in support of a national security effort to ensure spectators, athletes, and employees at the games are as safe and secure as possible. The Guard members worked alongside Navy, Marines, Army, and Air Force personnel at the JOC.

Approximately 5,000 active duty and Guard personnel from across the nation provided support during the Olympics.

# Command Focus

## Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

The current campaign to suppress terrorism throughout the world continues to affect the operational tempo of all our forces.

The recent ground action in Afghanistan is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Our national command authority is posturing our armed forces to respond to a wide range of contingencies.

At the same time, the office of homeland security is developing plans and procedures designed to improve the security of all our nation's citizens where they work and live.

These are challenging times, and it will take a team effort to prevail over those who wish us harm.

The men and women who serve the Oregon National Guard are making a significant contribution to the maintenance of a peaceful environment.

Recently, our 241st Military Intelligence Company returned from a very successful rotation in Bosnia.

Since Sept. 11, the Oregon Air Guard has mobilized over 400 members in support of Operation Noble Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing, the 116th Air Control Squadron, the 270th Air Control Squadron, and numerous volunteers from other units.

We are preparing 529 Army Guard soldiers to deploy as a task force with the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry to the Sinai for a six-month peace enforcement rotation.

We just received an alert notification to prepare 20-30 members and three blackhawk helicopters from the 1042nd Air Ambulance Company for a one-year mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

While all of this has unfolded, we deployed and redeployed 141 soldiers for security missions at the Winter Olympics in Utah, and 75 members of the Guard have maintained security at Oregon's airports.

All the feedback I have received with respect to the professionalism and capability of the men and women serving in these missions has been very complimentary and commendable.

That is purely attributable to the quality of all of you who comprise the Oregon National Guard.

Yes, our contribution has made a difference.

You may have read that the state of Oregon is facing a significant budget deficit for our current biennium.

As of this writing, the legislative special sessions have not resolved the crisis.

Whatever the outcome, the Oregon Military Department will feel the negative effects of a reduced budget.

We will face it together and find a way of maintaining the highest quality of service to the state and the nation.

These are certainly turbulent times, which produce numerous inconve-



niences and distracters.

When you feel the pressure, take a little time to celebrate the many successes you have enjoyed over the past few years.

We are recognized as one of the best organizations in the nation, and we have a right to feel good about that.

Keep striving for excellence, and maintain a strong pride in the quality force within which you serve.

## State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

The events of Sept. 11 have generated a number of additional taskings for the Oregon Army National Guard.

I can say without hesitation that no matter what the tasking—airport security, SRPs for deploying units, etc.—I am very proud of the soldiers in our organization that have taken the initiative and demonstrated the courage to make our world a little safer to live in.

Jamie Walters, author of "Six Practices to Help You Take Initiative and Demonstrate Courage," shows how to maintain courage.

Fostering courage and taking the initiative require ongoing nurturing and practice, ensuring that you're prepared to act when needed.

And yet, it's the dedication to these practices and refinement techniques that can foil even the most ardent of learners.

Rather than be overwhelmed by the demands of "the great task," remember Lao Tzu's wise advice: "The journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step."

To give you food for thought (and practice), here are some approaches to help maintain courage in the workplace or just about anywhere else.

### Reflect

Reflection is a practice used all over the world to gain clarity about what's

most important about a particular topic or what message one can glean from an experience.

In the context of initiative and courage in the workplace, allow time to visualize and ponder what these traits look like when performed well, their benefits, and why it's important to take initiative and be courageous.

### Hone skillful communication

Communicating well is a life-long practice.

When acting courageously, it's a must if to impart ideas clearly and in a manner that others will receive well.

Seek out mentors, models and reading materials for ongoing growth in this area.

On the flip side, ask colleagues for feedback after you've taken initiative or acted courageously.

### Know yourself and gain insight into others

Sometimes the fear that holds us back from taking initiative is due to an interpersonal or group dynamic.

Learn about different personality types, how they interact, and healthy approaches to making the most of every interaction to confront and diminish fears associated with taking initiative with a specific personality type or in a group where authenticity or initia-



tive was stifled in the past.

### Recognize your role and opportunities to enhance your contribution

Examine what gifts truly add to the group and its goals, making it easier to amplify what's working well.

Taking responsibility for your mindset and situation can be a motivation-booster that increases your courage.

Set aside time to reflect or brainstorm with others about ways to enhance contributions to the group using existing gifts or by refining skills.

### Vision

Without a vision for yourself, your group or organization, how do you know what you'll stand up for, comment on or contribute to when an opportunity to be courageous arises?

A vision helps you know where and why you'd "bet the farm."

Create a vision as it relates to work.

After developing one, track accomplishments, identify new ways to achieve it, and determine ways that increased initiative.

The same goes for a group or organizational vision.

### Identify instances of courage, then use them as a guide

Identify at least four personal examples of acting courageously or taking initiative.

What was the environment like? Who was present?

What was the "cause" or purpose that was supported?

What behavior clues can be detected?

Use this information to determine courage, then translate that to the workplace.

Identify others who inspire with their courage.

Incorporate these "courage success stories" into work, and use these stories as reminders for courageousness.

**A** zuwur  
Oregon National Guard

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Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain **Azuwur** readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 1st of each month.

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## Kinsley honored by University of Oregon



Education Alumni Association annually honors outstanding individuals and organizations from around the state.

On March 20, Chief Ronald Kinsley was honored by the alumni association for being a significant advocate and coordinator for the Three Course Challenge, a cross-country track event hosted each September by students at Seaside High School.

For more than 13 years, Kinsley has helped with the housing of the students at Camp Rilea, setting up the course, and coordinating the logistics needed at Rilea to support the event.

The Three Course Challenge is a premier running event which draws more than 1,000 participants from high schools across the nation.

The awards program was held at the McMenamens Grand Lodge in Forest Grove.

Dozens of Oregonians make significant contributions to education every day in their own communities—gifts of time or service that often go unrecognized because they take place behind the scenes.

The University of Oregon College of

## New intranet site provides agency-wide information to all employees

It's new.

It's easy to use.

It's information you need.

It's all in one place.

It's coming to a desktop near you.

The Oregon National Guard is developing a new web site to combine state, Army and Air information in one place.

According to Kim Bennett, webmaster for the new design, the site will provide units, headquarters, and state employees with a customizable intranet resource.

It will offer up-to-date information, consistent design, search capabilities, and a document library.

The library will be home for applications and forms, which will reduce paperwork.

Each office and armory will have its own page, where staff can upload train-

ing schedules and other information to share with the rest of the agency.

The page will become the default web site on agency computer systems.

The information provided on the desktop will be customizable, and state employees and Guard members will be able to search for information such as job functions and traditional-soldier issues.

Each unit will be assigned a point of contact for page design. Points of contact will be determined and published soon.

Training on the features and use of the new site will also be provided.

The web designers are also working on providing traditional soldiers with access from their home computers.

"The site should be up within the next couple of months," Bennett said.

## ESGR award presented to Guard employer



Lt. Col. Bill Schutz, battalion commander for the 1249th Engineer Battalion, presents a "My Boss is a Patriot" award to Randy Hill, owner of Randy Hill Trucking, Inc., in Albany.

Hill's Guard employee, Spc. James Taylor, HHC/1249th Engineers, nominated his boss for the ESGR award.

Taylor recommended Hill for the

award because:

"With my job as an interstate truck driver, (Hill) has gone out of his way to get me home for drills, either by working me locally, (giving me) short runs, or bringing me empty up to 500 miles."

If your boss is a patriot, ask your unit commander for a nomination form.

## Doolittle Raiders and Pendleton Air Museum stage memorial air show and big band ball

The Pendleton Air Museum and the Oregon National Guard invite you to the Doolittle Raiders Memorial Airshow and "Bombs Away!" big band ball on May 4th at the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, Pendleton.

The airshow on Saturday, May 4, 2002, from noon until 4 p.m., will present dozens of Warbirds, including a commemorative B-25, static displays and flybys of classic and modern military aircraft, civilian aerial performers, a mass paratroop by the US Army Rangers, World War II reenactors, and ground exhibits of vehicles and equipment.

The museum foundation is asking a \$5 donation to help defray the costs of the inaugural show.

Some of the highlights will include about 30 WWII and vintage warbirds from the Cascade Warbirds EAA squadron.

Featured will be Jim Morgan's B-25 medium bomber from Salem, Ore., similar to the aircraft used by the Doolittle Raiders. Crash Williams will also feature his Avenger, and numerous other antique aircraft will attend the show for flying and static demonstration.

The Frazier Blues Aerobatic team will provide aerobatic demonstrations.

Helicopters currently being used in the Afganistan conflict will be on display, including a Chinook heavy lift, Blackhawk assault, and Apache attack types.

Panzer Grenadiers and paratroopers will invade Pendleton in the form of WWII reenactors from the Northwest Historical Association portraying Allied flyers, paratroopers and German panzer Grenadiers. They will bring Jeeps and light armored vehicles to the event.

Other displays will include an M1 Abrams tank, an M3 Bradley armored fighting vehicle, and vintage military equipment owned by the historical association reenactors.

From 7 p.m. to midnight, the "Bombs Away!" big band ball will be held in the National Guard hangar.

A 20-piece swing band and two singers will provide live music.

Attendees are encouraged to wear 1940s uniforms and civilian attire, or contemporary semi-formal dress.

The evening will feature exhibits of period artifacts and decorations, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, door prizes, political and military dignitaries, color guard, and a salute to WWII veterans.

The scheduled guest of honor is Jacob DeShazer, 89, a Doolittle Raider who survived 40 months in Japan but returned as an evangelist. DeShazer is from Salem.

The 60th Doolittle reunion will be held in Columbia, S.C., on April 20, 2002, for the remaining Raiders.

Tickets for the ball are \$25 (\$20 tax-deductible) at Pendleton and Northeast Oregon outlets or by phone. Please contact the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce at (541) 276-7411.

## Why diversity? To value uniqueness

By Tech. Sgt. BRENDA HARRIS

142ND FIGHTER WING

What is diversity? Isn't it really just equal opportunity?

Diversity is different from equal opportunity because the latter is a law that counts heads, while the former is a program that looks at the ways people differ.

Diversity means valuing people's uniqueness rather than simply "counting heads."

Ways to practice diversity may be to have a social hour for all members who ski. Or all members that hike. Or all members that do needlepoint, or have a dog, or have a cat, or have kids, own a classic car, or are currently going to school. Do you see the point?

It's about the differences and similarities we all bring to the table to support a common goal—accomplishing our mission in the National Guard.

With the National Guard Bureau proclaiming 2002 as the "Year of Diversity," you will be hearing more and more about the subject. Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, the adjutant general, has formed a diversity council to meet the needs of National Guard members throughout the state.

The council's mission is to incorporate diversity into a strategic plan to establish and accomplish specific goals.

There will be numerous special events and educational programs this year focusing on diversity and what it means to the success of our organization. More information will be forthcoming.

Visit the Oregon Guard on the web:

www.mil.state.or.us  
www.ort.org.af.mil

www.oregonguard.com  
www.oklamang.af.mil

142 FW participates in aviation museum dedication



The Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville held a flag dedication ceremony on Feb. 9 to honor the tireless efforts of the volunteers who work to support the museum. In attendance were the many volunteers and their families, civic leaders, and members from the 142 Fighter Wing.

Maj. Gen. Alex Burgin was the keynote speaker. The 142 FW base honor guard and 234th Army Band provided additional support.

Senior Master Sgt. Rocky Cowart and Master Sgt. Greg Gardner presented a framed photo of the aircraft and pilot certifying that a massive 30- by 50-foot flag was flown during an Operation Noble Eagle combat air patrol mission on Jan. 31, 2002.

The Evergreen Aviation Museum and Education Institute is dedicated to the life and memory of Capt. Michael King Smith, a former F-15 pilot and Redhawk.

In addition to the massive wooden Spruce Goose, the museum houses over 40 vintage aircraft.

The Spruce Goose is the world's largest aircraft flown only once by Howard Hughes on Nov. 2, 1947.

A dream is a wish your heart makes: 142 FW Make-a-Wish coin drive hits home for NCO

Chris Hartzell, brother to Tech. Sgt. Lisa Scott, had his dream fulfilled by the Make-a-Wish foundation of Oregon. Hartzell's dream of meeting basketball great Michael Jordan became a reality thanks to the assistance of the 142 Maintenance Squadron's coin drive.



By MONA SPENST JORDAN  
142ND FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tech. Sgt. Lisa Scott has one wish: to make her brother's wish come true.

Scott, a technical sergeant in the 142nd Maintenance Squadron, is working with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon to collect donations to benefit Oregon children facing life-threatening illnesses. Her own brother, Chris Hartzell, whose life-long dream of meeting basketball great Michael Jordan, will be fulfilled this month.

Hartzell, 18, received a liver transplant two years ago. Healthy at birth, Hartzell contracted an infection, which led to the deterioration of his liver. Not expected to live past age three, Hartzell's fighting spirit eventually made him a prime candidate for a liver transplant, Scott said. The operation was deemed a success, however, his health is still touch and go.

"Chris has always been such a little fighter," Scott said. "Throughout his life the doctors have marveled at his will to live when all odds were against it. I'm so proud of him, and I am in awe of his strength and courage."

Scott said it's taken a year and a half to make Hartzell's wish come true.

"Michael Jordan is a hard person to

link up with!" she said.

Now, with the link made, Hartzell's got the ball. He left March 2 for Washington, D.C., where he dined with Michael Jordan and then sat courtside at a Washington Wizards basketball game. But it's still not a free throw for the young man from Bend.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the charitable donations of the community," Scott said. "Make-A-Wish has only met 50 percent of their projected costs this year. It's really a great program and I would like to see other children get their wishes, too."

Scott worked on the annual coin drive, "Make a Million for Make-A-Wish," which was extended through March 15 specifically because her brother's wish was fulfilled.

"When I first mentioned it, the people here in maintenance emptied their pockets for this cause," Scott said. "It's so great! I'm so appreciative and overwhelmed at the generosity of my co-workers."

Make-A-Wish will use any money collected above what's needed for Hartzell's trip to grant magical moments for other area children. For more information on the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Oregon, Inc., visit [www.orwish.org](http://www.orwish.org).

13th annual

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May 18, 2002

Evergreen Aviation Museum  
McMinnville, Ore.

Tickets

- \$20 E-5 and below, and guests
- \$25 All others
- \$30 At the door

Packages

- Gold Package \$300
- ♥ Lodging for two at a McMinnville hotel
  - ♥ Wine country tasting tour, including a vineyard lunch 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - ♥ Room champagne
  - ♥ Limousine service to and from the ball
  - ♥ Ball tickets
  - ♥ Sunday morning breakfast

- Silver Package \$250
- ♥ Lodging for two at the McMinnville Red Lion
  - ♥ Hair styling and manicure
  - ♥ Hospitality room at the Red Lion
  - ♥ Limousine service to and from the ball
  - ♥ Ball tickets

- Bronze Package \$200
- ♥ Lodging for two at the McMinnville Best Western
  - ♥ Room champagne
  - ♥ Corsage
  - ♥ Limousine service to and from the ball
  - ♥ Ball tickets

For more information:

- Tracy Ann Gill (503) 584-3991
- Kelly Wright (503) 584-3615
- Debbie Cimmer (503) 335-4492
- Jeanne Saxton (503) 335-4227

Make checks payable to ORNGERF-Military ball

13th annual

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Table Reservations

Cost: \$10 per table

Unit name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tables (10 people per table): \_\_\_\_\_

Point of contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

R SVP and money due  
NL T Friday, April 26, 2002

Please route through interoffice mail  
or postage mail to:

Tracy Ann Gill  
Office of the Adjutant General  
P.O. Box 14350  
Salem, OR 97309.

Call (503) 584-3991 with questions.

# Supply sergeant leaves bootprints in the sand



Contributed photo

**Tech Sgt. Brian Roth enjoys a leisurly camel ride while on tour in Saudi Arabia. The supply sergeant supported AEF 10 in Southwest Asia in November.**

By MONA SPENST JORDAN  
142ND FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Boot prints in the Saudi sands are not the only mark Tech. Sgt. Brian Roth made during his tour in Southwest Asia. His finesse in the field of supply is in hot demand.

Roth left late November for a 90-day tour supporting AEF 10. While there, he earned respect and admiration for

his professionalism and dedication to duty and has been nominated for the "Supplier of AEF 10" award.

As a civilian, Roth works for the Veteran's Hospital. As a traditional Guardsman, he is a customer service representative in the 142nd Operations Support Branch (Base Supply). Scheduled to return sometime in March, the letter below precludes his return to native soil.

"These are the things we love to hear," said 142nd Fighter Wing commander, Col. Garry Dean. "It's members like Brian Roth who prove again and again that, bar none, the 142nd Fighter Wing is the best F-15 unit in the Air Force."

Feb. 18, 2002

I'd like to take this opportunity to let you know how much I appreciate you sending a real professional like Brian to serve in my unit during AEF-10.

Brian has done us an outstanding job. He's the assistant NCOIC of retail sales and has been integral in dealing with our local Saudi vendors to procure all types of supply items for the base. His attitude is always positive, his demeanor always upbeat, and his dedication unparalleled. We put many young airmen in this section and he's been a wonderful leader and mentor to them as well.

We have had wonderful results from our ANG and AFRESERVE personnel but Brian is as good as they come. I thank you so much for sending him to us and I hope you have the opportunity to justly reward him for the great things he's done for us.

Sincerely,  
Kelly D. Burns, Lt. Col.  
USAF Commander  
363 Exp Supply Squadron  
Prince Sultan AB, KSA

## News Briefs

### 142nd Logistics Squadron presented with Outstanding Unit of the Year award

The selection for the Oregon Outstanding Unit of the Year award has been made. The overall qualifications of the unit submissions for this award were excellent. Sincere appreciation goes to the commanders who pursued this avenue for recognizing their enlisted personnel and unit accomplishments.

Congratulations to the 142nd Logistics Squadron on their selection as the Oregon outstanding unit of the year.

Information will follow in April or May regarding submitting packages for the Air Force Outstanding Unit of the Year award.

Formal presentation of this award will be at the annual recognition/reunion banquet scheduled for March 30, 2002. This banquet will also honor year 2001 retirees, outstanding airmen of the year, first sergeant of the year and Maj. Gen. Chester E. McCarty winners.

### Medal approved for support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom

The Army has given approval early this month for soldiers who are actively involved in operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle approval to wear certain insignia and medal devices.

Any reserve component soldier who is involuntarily mobilized in support of operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom is eligible to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, according to the Total Army Personnel Command.

Volunteers are also eligible for the award, officials said, but their orders should cite that duty is in support of the war-on-terror operations.

Also the sleeve insignia for former wartime service and overseas service bars have been approved for wear by soldiers who have been assigned to units that have participated in ground operations during Operation Enduring Freedom, according to PERSCOM.

In the next revision to the Army Regulation 670-1 it will state that soldiers have to meet the following criteria to wear the sleeve unit insignia:

The soldier must have been assigned to a unit that has actively participated in or been in direct support of ground combat operations against hostile forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, in which they were exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly.

Also the soldier must be deployed within the central command operations and fall under the command of the commander in chief, CENTCOM, in order qualify to wear sleeve unit insignia.

## March Celebrating women's history month

"Women Sustaining the American Spirit," this year's theme for National Women's History Month, was chosen following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America, said Navy Undersecretary Susan M. Livingstone.

The theme recognizes the profound role and impact of women in creating and sustaining the nation, Livingstone told a packed theater March 14 at Arlington National Cemetery's

Women in Military Service for America Memorial.

DoD's National Women's History Month observance marked the first by a federal agency at the memorial.

The theme, Livingstone said, "focuses our thoughts on the strength and courage of women. Not only throughout the history of our country, but also to this very moment. And to this very day, where American women once again fight and make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom — now in a global war against terrorism."

If anyone had difficulty in defining the American spirit before Sept. 11, "it became crystal clear to the entire world on that defining day only a brief six months ago," she said.

"The depth of our shared love of country and our fellow citizens; the depth of our resolve to defend our

democratic values; the strength of character, courage, bravery and heroism of Americans everywhere; the numerous acts of civility, selfless service and generosity that are at the very heart of our country—that is the American spirit the world understood on Sept. 11," she said.

"As women of America's Defense Department, it's particularly fitting today that we remember and celebrate our own," she said emphatically.

The more than 200,000 women who serve on active military duty comprise nearly 15 percent of the active force.

Another 212,000 women serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

More than 245,000 women work as defense civilian employees.

More than 615,000 women today are military spouses, Livingstone noted.

"From the early days of this country to Operation Enduring Freedom, and all of the years in between, women in America's defense—both uniformed and civilian—have made a difference wherever they've served," she said. She recounted the long history of valor, service and sacrifice by women and then centered on more recent times.

"In the 1960s and '70s, more than 265,000 military and civilian women served during the Vietnam War. Each of them again a volunteer, and 67 of them lost their life in service to this nation," Livingstone said.

Nearly 40,000 women were deployed during Operation Desert Storm, she said, with 13 dying in the line of duty

and two becoming POWs.

"We're reminded of the bravery of American women in Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Kosovo and Bosnia, and those aboard the USS Cole when terrorists struck in October 2000," Livingstone said. "We are reminded of our courageous forces in Afghanistan, more than 10 percent of whom are women. We are reminded of Marine Sgt. Jeannette Winters, who became the first woman in the U.S. military to die in Operation Enduring Freedom."

She said the patriotism, bravery and determination of the women who went to work at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, also must not go unnoticed.

"Of the 125 Pentagon workers who died that day, 47 were women," she noted. Seven of the women were active duty military members, and the other were civilians.

"They died because of how they lived, working in service to this nation," Livingstone said. "But Sept. 11 was not only about the loss of our sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. It was also about the loss of our brothers, sons, fathers and grandfathers."

"So I ask you now to pledge to never forget," she said. "To never forget the sacrifice and courage of those we lost and their families. To never forget and never lose the renewed depth of American spirit we have felt since Sept. 11. And to never forget that our nation requires and deserves our resolve, our fortitude and our patriotism."

## Spotlight

**Name:** Pfc. Stephanie Gehrls  
**Age:** 21  
**Hometown:** Salem, Ore.  
**Unit:** A(-) 141 Support Battalion  
**MOS and job title:** 88M (truck driver)  
**Length of service:** 2 years

**Civilian occupation:** Front-end assistant at Costco  
**Family:** Mom, Linn; dad, John; sister, Megan (9)  
**Goals for the next year:** Going back to school at Linn Benton Community College, and hopefully qualifying for a different MOS.  
**Favorite deployment:** Working

security at the Military Department after the events of Sept. 11.  
**Most memorable military experience:** When I was outside the Military Department, I got my finger stuck in my pocket, and I couldn't even salute the officer passing by.  
**Personal heroes:** Besides my parents, I'd have to say my company com-

mander, Capt. Shenelle.  
He's always motivated and he never complains.  
He knows what he wants and he always has a plan.  
With a leader like that, you can't lose.  
That's a hero to me.

# y REWIND T

## y IRT PROGRAM q



During the 2001 training year, the Innovative Readiness Training program (IRT) completed 25 community projects.

Each year, the Oregon Army National Guard carefully selects community projects that provide valid training to enhance mission capabilities; add value to communities; support non-profit organizations; enhance public awareness of the National Guard; and do not compete with private enterprises.

The IRT program not only provides individual and collec-

tive soldier skills, but also adds value to communities' infrastructure and causes economic boosts to small communities.

### 2001 project highlights

Heritage Park, Salem—Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees had a vision for a park that would provide educational information on the heritage of the Army National Guard.

During this project, IRT soldiers demolished the old Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center, excavating the 3.5-acre site. The park will include a bronze volunteer statue, which will be approximately 9 1/2 feet tall, and a sunrise made of red, yellow, and blue brick and concrete.

Blue Mountain Community College, LaGrande—Due to the absence of equal sport activities for females, BMCC sought the help of the IRT program to tear out an old track and build a soccer field in its place. In addition, IRT soldiers put in a new road entrance and an extra parking area.

Oregon Dunes Restoration Project, Reedsport—The Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, and the IRT program began a 10-year restoration of approximately 640 acres of Siuslaw National Forest land at the Oregon Dunes Overlook in 1998.

The summer of 2001 marked the third year of the restoration partnership.

To achieve the goal of restoring the natural dunes habitat, the IRT soldiers attempt to eliminate the European beachgrass that was planted to stabilize the sand in the early 1900s.

As the foreign beachgrass grew, it choked out native plants and animals, causing the development of high foredunes and halting the natural dune process of moving sand inland.

## y 234 B

The Oregon Army National Guard's 234th Army Band completed a demanding concert schedule in 2001, performing at various locations.

Their schedule included a performance at the Oregon National Guard military ball; the Albany Veterans Day parade; massing of the colors in Portland; the Rose Festival Starlight Parade; a 4th of July celebration concert in Lake Oswego; the Milwaukie "Festival Daze" parade; and a special performance at the Oregon State Fair in honor of veterans and members of the armed forces.

Annually, the band performs a series of free concerts. This year's concert in the park schedule included Port Orford; Brookings; Silverton; Bend; Red



## y 2 16

The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry began and ended the year participating in three challenging annual training exercises and participated in numerous community service events.

The battalion hit the ground running with Co. B, Camp Rilea; and the battalion staff participating in the 41st Infantry Center.

In Germany, Co. B augmented the opposing forces during the warfighter exercise by deploying to Bosnia. The warfighter exercise gave the decision-making process with the brigade headquarters.

Co. D, Newport, deployed to Fort Carson, Colo., as part of the Noble Eagle exercise. Co. D included rail and air movement of equipment and personnel, and was the only unit to register 100 percent target kills.

The rest of the battalion participated in Noble Eagle

The battalion's personnel participated in the Noble Eagle exercise at Camp Rilea and training exercises. Cos. A and C completed their training and the battalion staff ran a tactical exercise. Co. B rotated to Fort Lewis.

The battalion deployed personnel to the Hash training and medical exercise. The battalion staff provided medical support during several weeks of fighting at Camp Rilea.

The battalion ended the year providing airport security due to the 9/11 attacks. The battalion participated in initial security operations and then provided security at various ports.

## y c 270 ATCS q

The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS) continued to provide air traffic services at the Klamath Falls airport throughout 2001.

The 90-member team is responsible for a fixed-facility mission involving the manning and operation of the Kingsley tower and radar approach control, both of which function seven days a week, 16 hours a day.

The unit is required to be mission-ready for combat

duty on an as-needed basis and has the ability to provide all-weather traffic operations from a bare base or stand alone configuration.

One of only 10 Air National Guard units with this capability, the 270th ATCS members are skilled at setting up and operating from a tactical air traffic control tower and are equipped with radar approach control and navigational systems.

The implementation of Operation Noble Eagle following the attacks on America in September resulted in numerous taskings for the 270 ATCS.

For several weeks, four members ran the Kingsley Field air traffic control tower 24 hours a day and played a critical safety role in de-conflicting air traffic between civilian and potential emergency military air operations.

The 270 ATCS members worked closely with airport personnel and the Federal Aviation Administration on aviation security measures and overall safety of air operations.

The 270 ATCS also deployed 22 air traffic controllers and support personnel to several classified locations within the United States in response to homeland air defense needs.

These military members will continue to support Operation Noble Eagle as long as necessary.



# 2001



## AND



...e concerts throughout the state. ...uded Dallas; Newport; Albany; ...lmond; Portland; and Hillsboro.

## 2 INF

...l the training year as the state's largest task force. The ...ning rotations, fought fires, provided airport security, ...ts.

...Corvallis, deploying the the Germany combat training ...Brigade warfighter exercise.

... (OPFOR) to create a more realistic train-up for units ...e battalion staff an opportunity to utilize the military ...s and other brigade units.

... part of a brigade task force in June. This rotation in- ...nnel. The unit completed crew gunnery through table ...get kills in the TOW live-fire exercise.

...t, an air assault mission out of Corvallis and Coos Bay.

...nnel and equipment were inserted into ...nsitioned to a challenging field exer- ...nducted platoon operations, while the ...actical operations center. Cos. A and C ...s, Wash., for squad life-fire exercises. ...oyed 60 fire fighters and support per- ...Rock fires. They went through initial ...l screening in Eugene, then spent sev- ...fires in southern Oregon, at Quartz

...d the training year with the call-up for ...to the events of Sept. 11. The battalion ...l training at the Portland Airport and ...ity to the Eugene and Coos Bay Air-



## y 272 CBCS

The 272nd Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) has an authorized strength of 119 personnel who maintain and operate communications equip- ment for a wide range of information services to sup- port local, state, and national objectives. The 272 CBCS has numerous taskings, to include a 45-per- son initial communications element to support US Air Force/European potential war time needs. This element includes a personnel and equipment pack- age, and is used to provide full-spectrum/full-ser- vice voice, messaging, and data services for the es- tablishment of critical command and control com- munication pathways at deployed locations.

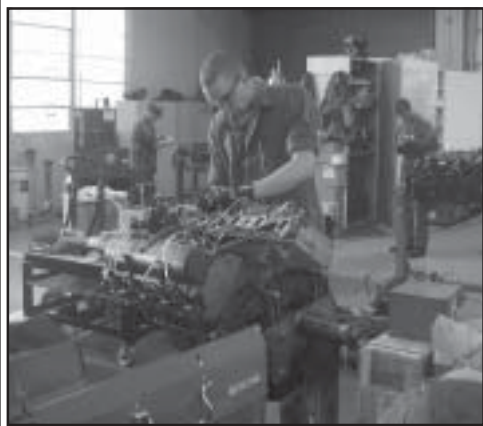
The 272 CBCS possesses two complete equipment systems to support its European-based mission-task- ing. Since the unit's inventory includes older infor- mation technology standards, members worked hard over the past year to modernize the existing network technology, resulting in a unit that is ready, relevant and responsive to today's information age. Modernization efforts will continue to take place into the future as the 272 CBCS prepares for receipt of new theatre-deployable communications equipment in an effort to more effectively support aerospace expeditionary force taskings.

In addition to unit efforts related to deployments, training, and equipment upgrades throughout the year, the 272 CBCS was tasked in September to pro- vide key communications support following the terrorist attacks on America and the subsequent initiation of Operation Noble Eagle. Numerous unit members provided high frequency single sideband radio support, which yielded participation in the national federal shares multi-agency federal command and control net, the national and regional mars networks, and the Oregon and Washington emergency management networks. Establish- ment of these critical radio networks ensured connectivity between the Oregon Air National Guard and numerous command headquarters and resulted in timely information exchanges.

The unit continues to support Operation Noble Eagle with command/ control systems and other radio support and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.



## y 741 CSB



Training year 2001 saw the 741st Corps Support Battalion deploy members of Det. 4, 1241 Ordnance Company to the Balkans, where they provided calibration support to Task Forces Eagle and Falcon.

Several months later, the detachment deployed to Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to train on and sign for millions of dollars worth of sophisticated calibration equipment. The detachment will re- turn to Redstone three times over the next five years to ensure they are trained on the latest equipment and methods.

The 741st CSB deployed to Oro Grande, N.M., in support of Operation Roving Sands, an air defense exercise involving sol- diers from multiple services and nations. The unit provided lo- gistics, transportation, field services support, and base cluster command and control to numerous combat and combat service support units.

The 741st CSB also deployed soldiers to Gowen Field, Idaho, to conduct a post-mobilization mission. Soldiers provided direct support maintenance to the 116th Armored Brigade of the Idaho Army National Guard.

The 3670th Maintenance Company conducted home station annual training, and provided extensive general support maintenance to equipment belonging to Oregon units. During this time, the unit also provided maintenance support to the 1249th Engineer Battalion at construction sites in central Oregon.

Throughout training year 2001, the 3670th provided skilled soldiers to assist in the renovation of the Fremont Power House, a national historic site in northeastern Oregon.

## Air Force remains committed to AEF rotation schedules

The combination of America's war on terrorism and steady state commitments worldwide has put increased strain on the Air Force's aerospace expeditionary forces. However, except for a few stressed career fields, officials at the Pentagon say normal rotations should be back soon.

"Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper is committed to the AEF construct—a three-month deployment with a 12-month period at home," said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kohler, director of operational plans, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.

"Given the war on terrorism, we had to go through a momentary blip in our rotation schedule," he said. "However, it looks like we're going to be on time in bringing home about 90 percent of the people who are currently deployed. We will rotate the forces deployed for operations Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch so that those who deployed first will be allowed to rotate home first to the maximum extent possible."

There are some exceptions, Kohler said. While Air Force leaders are working hard to come up with a solution, a very small number of career fields may not be able to rotate as scheduled, he said.

"We know that there are some stressed career fields, such as security forces, combat communications and firefighters, that might have to stay a little longer," Kohler said. "But that's not to say that absolutely everyone in those career fields will be staying longer."

The deployment picture will start to come into focus by the middle of February when the Air Force begins scheduling for the rotation in March, he said.

The tremendous performance of the AEF in Operation Enduring Freedom is what caused the stress on certain career fields in the first place, Kohler said.

"The Air Force is sort of a victim of its own success," Kohler said. "The reason we are stressed is simple—we do such a great job. We went out and set up these bases and started generating sorties as soon as we were asked. I think the results speak for themselves in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. The (US) Central Command commander in chief could not have done what he did without the superb work of all the airmen who went out and set it up."

To ease the problems the Air Force has in stressed career fields under current requirements, about 10 percent of the people will stay deployed a little longer—some up to 135 days; others, up to 179 days, Kohler said. To cover the overlap, the second part of the solution will be to reach into the next AEF and bring replacement unit type codes forward about 45 days. Any reduction in current requirements may get the AEF cycle on track a little bit quicker, he said.

Another way to relieve some of the burden on deployed people is to find additional airmen who normally do not deploy and place them in an AEF library.

"This crisis has caused us to look a little bit deeper," Kohler said. "We'd like to be able to find people who we haven't originally had in an AEF library

who can deploy but normally don't deploy. For example, air education and training command has instructors who have special skill sets, and the AETC leadership has said that there may be periods in the year when they can rotate. This is just one example and we're looking at all options."

Other fixes for stressed career fields are going to take some time and may only be resolved with increased manpower. Although the Air Force has asked for an end-strength increase of about 22,000 with 7,000 requested for this year, because of training requirements, this is more of a long-term solution, Kohler said.

"This is an extraordinary time for the Air Force and our country," Jumper recently told commanders. "The nation is grateful for the sacrifices our airmen continue to make in meeting our commitments to fight the war on terrorism and defend the American homeland. The secretary and I are proud of the job you are doing and we are personally committed to maintaining the AEF rotation schedule to the greatest possible extent."

## PANG February blood drive considered highly successful

Despite recent restrictions placed on blood donors who have spent six months or more cumulative time in Great Britain and/or most of Europe,

# Health promotion program implemented in ORARNG

By Lt. Col. RICK DANIELS

OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Physical fitness is a vital component of the armed forces of the United States.

The primary mission of mobilization depends heavily on the soldier's fitness level.

Consequently, the Department of Army developed the HOOAH4-HEALTH program which has been in place for several years.

This program is designed for soldiers to have common methods for soldiers to implement individualized fitness goals.

However, the HOOAH4HEALTH program was not implemented in the reserve component until the medical teaching team of HQ-STARC, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Rick Daniels and support of Col. Douglas Eliason applied for funding from the HPPI monies.

The funding was awarded to Oregon Health & Sciences University where Daniels works in his civilian role as a Ph.D. prepared nurse educator.

The prevalence of overweight conditions and poor fitness is clearly identified for members of the National Guard.

Studies have shown that in contrast to the active duty population, National Guard members do not have the fiscal resources and access to qualified personnel for performing and designing interventions to support more positive healthy lifestyles.

Only meeting one weekend a month does not lend itself well to continuity and follow-up of wellness programs for individual soldiers.

Current practices in the National Guard does little to support members in their efforts to lose weight, improve their aerobic conditioning, or ceasing their smoking/tobacco behaviors.

Implementing this health promotion program is one means of improving the healthy lifestyles of National Guard members and consequently increasing

Red Cross officials are pleased with the numbers garnered during the Feb. 25 bloodmobile visit to the Portland Air Base.

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Steinmann, 142nd Fighter Wing public health superintendent, said the goal for the first blood drive of 2002 was 45 units.

There were 45 presenters, with six deferrals, resulting in 39 actual donations.

The date for the next Portland Air Base blood drive was not available at press time; however, it will be scheduled for sometime late spring.

For more information, call Steinmann at (503) 335-4762.

## SSCRA available for Guard members called to active duty

Reservists and National Guard members who have been called to active duty are reminded that they are covered under the Soliders' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA).

Some of the SSCRA's basic relief provisions are in the areas of lease termination, rent and eviction protection, life and medical insurance coverage, and installment contracts and mortgage foreclosures.

In addition, active duty servicemembers who have incurred loans or debt prior to entering service will not be obligated to pay an interest rate in excess of 6 percent.

If you are on active duty and are currently paying more than a 6 percent interest rate on a debt you incurred prior to activation, you should notify your lender that you are on active duty.

*Please note that members of the National Guard called to active duty are only covered under SSCRA if the orders are issued under authority of Title 10 U.S.C.*

## Golf tournament scheduled to benefit Portland-area charity

Mark your calendars for the 2002 "Wings of Angels" 5th annual golf tournament and charity event on Aug. 30, at the Gresham Golf Course, in Gresham, Ore.

The event is open to all Department of Defense employees (state, federal and retired), family members and guests.

Proceeds go to the Dougy Center, an organization in Portland that helps children cope with the traumatic loss of parents and siblings.

The tournament format is a four-person scramble—you pick your foursome; we pick your team with a blind draw.

The price is \$65 a person, which includes golf, cart, banquet, prizes and more.

The deadline for registration is Aug. 1, 2002.

For more information contact Senior Master Sgt. Debbie Cimmer at (503) 335-4492; or Lt. Col. Bill Nielsen, (503) 335-4197.

their propensity for mobilization.

This health promotion program is an intervention driven health promotion project that is in its second year.

This program initially involved one Oregon Army National Guard unit for the first year of implementation.

Currently, the fitness program is in its second year and is being implemented in four sites across the state of Oregon: Bend, Eugene, Monmouth and Roseburg.

Volunteer participants were assessed initially for baseline information—HRA, biometric measurements such as pulse and blood pressure, AFPT, height, weight—gathered by nurse officers which provides an objective measurement of their health status.

Health promotion goals were established with the assistance of the nurse officer and the nurse officers in face-to-face meetings and via telecommunication methods on a regular basis to assist the soldier in their adherence to a health promotion program.

The use of a website, digital camcorder, and health promotion newsletters were incorporated into this project.

In addition, each soldier was assigned a peer partner for the purpose of providing support to one another in a prescribed manner.

The soldiers definitely benefited by having a program of health promotion defined for them, and the outcome was a more healthy lifestyle.

A convenience sample was chosen from a population of Oregon Army National Guardsmen.

A total of 49 volunteer soldiers agreed to participate in this fitness program.

Ten soldiers were placed in the control group and 44 soldiers were in the intervention group.

The control group was assessed by their scores on the HRA and body measurements, but then they did not par-

ticipate in any of the activities of the HOOAH4HEALTH program.

The intervention group had the same baseline data assessed, but began participation in the fitness program.

Overall, the intervention group approached statistical significance across all parameters as compared with the control group.

For example, the soldiers participating in the fitness program had the following results: 65 percent had an overall decrease of blood pressure readings, 78 percent lost weight during the fitness program with an average weight loss of seven pounds, 11 percent lost more than 15 pounds during the program, 66 percent decreased their body taping measurements, and 73 percent increased their AFPT scores.

As a result of this program, two soldiers out of 10 quit smoking and to date are still not smoking.

This has tremendous financial implications, as well as the obvious health benefits to these soldiers.

This is perhaps the most significant accomplishment of this first year of the program.

Overall, this program resulted in increased fitness for soldiers across all ages, including adherence to exercise, better nutrition, and even cessation of smoking.

Currently, the second year of this program is in place in four ORANG sites.

The true value of the program will be in assessing whether or not the soldiers achieve levels of fitness that become part of their daily lives.

In the future, it would be a great vision to imagine all of the ORANG participating in an ongoing fitness program.

This type of program could become a model for the entire National Guard, and the ORANG could be a leader of that movement.



# Retiree Focus

## Tricare beneficiaries may have travel costs reimbursed

Tricare Prime beneficiaries referred more than 100 miles from their primary care manager for specialty care may be eligible to have their actual travel expenses reimbursed by Tricare.

Under provisions of the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), travel reimbursement is retroactive to Oct. 30, 2000, for Prime enrollees who are referred more than 100 miles from their primary care manager's office for medically necessary specialty care.

To qualify for reimbursement, beneficiaries must have travel orders for past referred specialty care prepared by a Tricare representative at the military treatment facility (MTF) where enrolled, or from a regional lead agent representative, if their primary care manager (PCM) is a civilian provider.

The MTF or regional lead agent representative is responsible for ensuring that a valid referral exists before issuing travel orders.

To file a travel reimbursement claim, beneficiaries should submit the appropriate original receipt(s) (keeping copies for themselves), a completed reimbursement form, and the original copy of their orders issued by the MTF or lead agent.

Beneficiaries may receive reimbursement after completing and submitting these items.

The new Prime enrollee travel entitlement does not apply to travel expenses incurred by active duty uniformed services members, active duty family members residing with their sponsors overseas, or to travel costs of beneficiaries referred under DoD specialized treatment programs, which are reimbursed by other travel entitlements; nor does it apply to transportation expenses resulting from emergency care covered under the basic Tricare Standard benefit.

Tricare Prime beneficiaries seeking reimbursement for travel expenses incurred for obtaining referred specialty care may contact their local MTF or lead agent beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator (BCAC) for assistance.

Telephone numbers and addresses for BCACs are available on the Tricare web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/)

[beneficiary/BCACDirectory.htm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/beneficiary/BCACDirectory.htm)

The 2002 NDAA, signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 28, 2001, authorizes travel orders and reimbursement for one non-medical attendant, under certain conditions.

Tricare Prime enrollees who travel with a non-medical attendant should save travel and lodging receipts for themselves and the non-medical attendant.

The new non-medical attendant travel benefit will be implemented in the next several weeks and will be retroactive to Dec. 28, 2001.

Specific details of the non-medical attendant travel benefit will be available soon at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)

## Find a local Tricare service center via Internet or phone

**QUESTION:** How can I find the location of the nearest Tricare service center?

**ANSWER:** You may contact your local directory assistance operator, call the nearest military hospital/clinic or get Tricare service center related information online at [www.tricare.osd.mil/tricareservicecenters/default.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricareservicecenters/default.cfm)

Listed below are Tricare service center telephone numbers for each region.

As applicable, you may call the number listed to obtain information about Tricare and/or your health care benefits.

**REGION 1, Tricare Northeast:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and the northeast corner of West Virginia CALL: 1-888-999-5195

**REGION 2, Tricare Mid-Atlantic:** North Carolina and most of Virginia CALL: 1-800-931-9501

**REGION 3, Tricare Southeast:** South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (excluding panhandle) CALL: 1-800-444-5445

**REGION 4, Tricare Gulf South:** Florida panhandle, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Eastern third of Louisiana CALL: 1-800-444-5445

**REGION 5, Tricare Heartland:** Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana,

Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia excluding the Northeast corner, and the St Louis area in Missouri. CALL: 1-800-941-4501

**REGION 6, Tricare Southwest:** Oklahoma, Arkansas, western two thirds of Louisiana, Texas (excluding southwest corner). CALL: 1-800-406-2832

**REGION 7/8, Tricare Central:** New Mexico, Arizona (excluding Yuma), Nevada and southwest corner of Texas including El Paso, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho excluding northern Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri (excluding the St Louis area) CALL: 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378)

**REGION 9, Tricare Southern California:** Southern California and Yuma, Arizona CALL: 1-800-242-6788

**REGION 10, Tricare Golden Gate:** Northern California CALL: 1-800-242-6788

**REGION 11, Tricare Northeast:** Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho CALL: 1-800-404-2042

**REGION 12, Hawaii and Alaska** CALL: 1-800-242-6788

**REGION 13, Tricare Pacific:** Western Pacific and Far East CALL: 1-888-777-8343

**REGION 14, Europe:** Europe, Africa, Middle East, Azores, and Iceland CALL: 1-888-777-8343

**REGION 15, Tricare Latin America and Canada:** Canada, Mexico, Central America, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, West Indies, Panama, Caribbean basin CALL: 1-888-777-8343

## Bill would reduce Reserves' retired pay age from 60 to 55

A bill (HR-3831) has been introduced by Representative Jim Saxton, (R-NJ) that would reduce the age at which a reserve component member may begin receiving retirement pay from 60 to 55.

If enacted into law, the bill will take effect on the first day of the first month after the date of the enactment and would apply to retired pay payable for that month and subsequent months.

## Long term care insurance arriving; enroll early until May

Servicemembers and civilian federal workers will be eligible to apply for the

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program as early as March.

Those eligible include active duty, selected Reserve, civilian employees, and retirees, as well as qualified family members.

Early enrollment is available March 25 to May 15, but the actual open season runs from July 1 through December 31.

Early enrollees will pay premiums based on their age when the application is received.

If they apply during the open season, they will pay premiums based on their age on July 1, 2002.

"Unless you are informed on the benefits and circumstances of long-term care and coverage, you should probably wait for the educational campaign that will start this spring and make a decision during the open season," said an official.

For more information call (800) 582-3337 or visit the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program website at <http://opm.gov/insure/ltc/>

## Tricare outreach to identify eligibles and pay claims

Tricare for Life (TFL) claims initially denied by Tricare for some individuals recorded as being ineligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Records System (DEERS) will be paid, but a deadline has been established for individuals to verify eligibility.

TFL, a new health benefit extended by the Department of Defense to approximately 1.5 million beneficiaries aged 65 and over, provides pharmacy benefits and Tricare coverage secondary to Medicare.

More than 3.1 million health care claims have been paid since the program started in October 2001.

Tricare officials point out that payments for some health care claims, however, was initially denied for the reason described above.

In many cases, these denials were based on persons who have "expired eligibility" in DEERS, meaning that their eligibility has not been re-verified in the last four years as required by DoD policy.

DoD recently announced that Tricare claims will be paid for a limited time for TFL beneficiaries with "expired eligibility" in DEERS.

Claims filed beginning Oct. 1, 2001 but denied due to "expired eligibility" will be automatically reprocessed.

Neither beneficiaries nor providers will be required to resubmit the denied claims.

Beneficiaries are required, however, to ensure their eligibility is updated in DEERS by Aug. 1, 2002.

After Aug. 1, 2002, claims received for beneficiaries with expired eligibility will be denied until the eligibility information is updated.

To learn how to update or re-verify eligibility for those persons 65 and older, beneficiaries who have received an explanation of benefits (EOB) stating that they need to get a new military ID card should call (800) 361-2620.

For more information on TFL, interested persons can visit the Tricare web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil), or call the Tricare information center, toll-free, at (877) 363-5433.

## Address changes

Retiree Services Office  
PO Box 14350  
Salem, Oregon 97309

- New Retiree       Change  
 Stop                 Deceased

Name of retiree \_\_\_\_\_

Rank of retiree \_\_\_\_\_

Current address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from    Army NG    Air NG    Federal    State

## Retiree Service Office

Open every  
Tuesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(503) 584-3804 or  
(800) 452-7500 ext. 3804

E-mail:  
RSO@or.ngb.army.mil

Mail inquiries to:  
Retiree Service Office  
PO Box 14350  
Salem, Oregon 97309

# www.huh?: FirstGov opens redesigned digital portal

WASHINGTON—The federal government's redesigned Web portal FirstGov, <http://firstgov.gov>, provides countless links that Internet surfers might find useful.

FirstGov now is faster and more accurate than the pilot version in connecting visitors with the transactions, services and information they want, according to site managers in announcing the redesigned site's Feb. 27 launch.

Access is easy.

The site is named FirstGov, but the web address is a noncase-sensitive "firstgov.gov."

You don't even need to type "www." unless it's too old a habit or you're using an old browser.

Military members might find the

search engine on the left side of FirstGov's home page particularly helpful. It can call up any state's official Internet site.

Service members and their families can find information on state taxes and motor vehicle registration requirements.

Many states offer veterans benefits that are in addition to the federal government's.

Education and burial benefits, state government veterans' employment preferences and job training assistance are other possible state web topics.

On FirstGov's home page under the heading "online services for citizens" is a link titled "change your address."

Service members moving from one

duty station to another can change their address with the U.S. Postal Service via an online form for \$1 or they can print the appropriate forms free and mail or take them to their local post office.

The Postal Service site links to numerous other government and private services available to get settled in a new location.

Links to government services, for instance, include emergency numbers, schools, senior citizens programs, the Better Business Bureau and local Departments of Motor Vehicles. Links to civilian services include telephone and utility companies and Internet service providers.

Other FirstGov site links provide fed-

eral forms and regulations, directories for federal agencies, military personnel locator information, and even links to copies of the US Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

Click on the home page "laws & regulations" link and then the "statistics gateway (FedStats)" link. You'll gain access to an alphabetical listing of all the statistics kept by various government agencies. You can also find links to pages designed for children that several government agencies maintain.

If all else fails and you can't find what you're looking for, the FirstGov main page includes a search engine that reaches out to all federal and state government Internet sites.

## Looking Back

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

# Aircrew jumps to safety in Mohawk crash

MADRAS—Two Oregon Army National Guard fixed wing Mohawk reconnaissance aircraft collided over central Oregon on Jan. 26, crashed and burned. Pilots and crew ejected and parachuted to safety. Only one of the four, crew chief Staff Sgt. Philo Pheigh, 41, sustained injury.

At approximately 11 a.m. Friday, the two Grumman OV-1 Mohawks left from Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), McNary Field, Salem, on a routine mission to photograph ice blockages in central Oregon rivers and lakes. They were to return by 3 p.m.

Capt. Steve Hammons, 35, with Pheigh, piloted an OV-1 D model aircraft, new to the unit this summer. Capt. Steve Elder, 36, commanded a C model with Spc. 5 Gabriel Lara, 26, on board as crew.

The aircraft were flying in formation above a layer of broken clouds when they collided.

Hammons described the crash-rescue sequence.

"Once I determined the control input and corrections were not solving the problem and the plane was damaged to the point where it would no longer fly. I made the decision to eject. My thoughts were with the guy in the right seat—to get him out of there. My command was, 'get out,' and I swung my right hand over to hit him in the chest, a signal for him to eject. He had heard my command and had pulled the lower handle. I saw his seat rise and he went through the canopy."

When the canopy broke, an extremely loud blast of air rushed in, causing maps and debris to fly all over.

Hammons stayed with his plane a short time longer, attempting to maneuver the plane into a flying attitude. When the nose fell into a diving spin, he pulled the lower handle and ejected. He remembers "feeling bad" about having to leave his aircraft.

"From the way I went through the canopy, I must have blacked out for a few seconds," he said. "I felt myself falling, and then I felt a good solid jerk. This is part of the ejection sequence where the seat leaves your body. When I felt

the jerk, my eyes opened and shortly after I heard a big 'whoosh'—the parachute opened and took air and the harness around my body tightened up. I saw my feet come swinging down past the horizon."

After his body quit swinging, said Hammons, he looked around for Pheigh and saw him three to four hundred feet above him.

"I waved to him and he waved back, and I knew he was alive."

Hammons saw the burning planes below, crashed about a three-quarter mile apart. The accident occurred approximately ten miles northeast of Madras, near Highway 97.

Although the ground was "coming up fast," during his decent, Hammons, an experienced jumper, took note of his surroundings, looking for navigation landmarks. On the ground he watched Pheigh land and set out to find him.

"It was hard walking; the snow was frozen and I'd go right through it. The terrain was rough and sloping," he said. Pheigh had a sore back, probably from falling backwards on impact, he said, but was otherwise in good condition.

They gathered Pheigh's survival kit and backtracked to Hammons' landing spot to pick up his survival gear before setting out to locate Elder and Lara.

At the time of the collision, Elder's plane was badly damaged. He signaled Lara to get out while the aircraft was still upright. When it went into a roll, Elder was forced to eject—upside down, shooting straight at the ground.

"I had never jumped before," he said, "and I had reservations about ejecting upside down. But in about two seconds you have a chute, so you can't go very far."

Elder had been first on the ground, leaving his plane 3-4,000 feet below the others. He watched the other three float down, got out his survival radio, and set out to find the others.

Lara, as he descended, saw only two other chutes, but not Elder's, since Elder had jumped so far below and behind him. When he hit the ground, Lara ran over to the crashed aircraft nearby, looking for Elder in the wreckage. Not

until the group met on the ground did he realize Elder was alive, even though the two had been communicating by radio. Lara believed the voice over the set was Hammons'.

Within 30-45 minutes the four had found each other. They decided to stay where they were and began calling over the survival radios' emergency frequency. An Air Force C-141 jet overhead, enroute to McChord AFB, responded.

"We told the pilot what had happened and how many survived, and he started normal radio procedures to get emergency aid," said Hammons.

A small white civilian airplane flew toward the crash site in a zig-zag pattern. It approached the site and began circling. The survivors spread their parachutes with the orange, brown and green panels showing in the snow and settled down to wait. A Mohawk soon arrived overhead.

In about 20-30 minutes, the Oregon National Guard rescue helicopter with Maj. Tom Podrybau, Maj. Herb Sims, and Sgt. Mike Murphy aboard came directly to the group. The chopper crew was in contact with the Mohawk, which guided them to the site. The survivors were also in contact with the rescue crew by radio.

The Guard helicopter had left the AASF minutes after the crash call was received at 11:52 a.m. The survivors were rescued and in the Redmond hospital by 1:30 p.m.

The four were checked, released and arrived in Salem at approximately 4:45 p.m., where Pheigh was transported to the Salem Hospital for back injury treatment.

Pheigh was released from the hospital the following Monday and returned to work Feb. 13.

"This is something you train for, but you hope it never happens," said Hammons. "It's a terrible feeling, the loss of an aircraft. But we were very fortunate to get out."

Hammons is back in the air "with no reservations at all."

"I feel as comfortable in the air as I do on the ground," he said.

Elder, too, is back flying, and feels safer in a plane than in a car. Lara's flying again, and Pheigh soon will be.

It's a tough way to prove it, but now I know everything works right. If you want to fly, you have to be a flier," he said.

Steve Hammons has logged more time in a Mohawk than any other pilot in the world, according to Col. Gayle Goyins, AASF commander.

"The Mohawk is probably the best airplane in the Army system," Hammons said. "If everything goes wrong, we do have the capability to get out, whereas the helicopter crew doesn't. In the Mohawk you're sitting on your security pack."

The English-made Martin-Baker seats are fully automatic once activated. After ejection, the survival pack in the seat cushion remains attached to the jumper, but drops down from the body about 20 feet on straps, to avoid the jumper's landing on it. The pack contains items such as a survival radio, sleeping bag, basic medical supplies, a saw, and a rainsuit.

According to a Martin-Baker representative, this is the first successful ejection of the new seats—although other failures have not necessarily been the fault of the seats. An important factor, according to pilots, is pulling the handle early enough to allow the ejection sequence to function.

A team from Fort Rucker, Ala., and a collateral board of local officers investigated the accident the following week. A report is to be released soon.

Hammons is a flight instructor and Pheigh a technical observer with the Guard, both full-time technicians. Elder, a Eugene resident, owns his own construction company and Lara is a student. Hammons, Pheigh, and Lara are Salem residents.

The accident mars the AASF's perfect accident-free record since 1964. The Mohawk unit was named the top reserve component unit in the nation in 1976.

This article was written by Staff Sgt. E. Maureen Gruchalla, and was first published in the March 1979 edition of the Azuwur.

# This month In military history

## The Revolutionary War 1775-1783

### The American Revolution begins April 19, 1775

At about 5 a.m., 700 British troops, on a mission to capture Patriot leaders and seize a Patriot arsenal, march into Lexington to find 77 armed minutemen under Capt. John Parker waiting for them on the town's common green.

British Maj. John Pitcairn ordered the outnumbered patriots to disperse, and after a moment's hesitation the Americans began to drift off the green.

Suddenly, the "shot heard around the world" was fired from an undetermined gun, and a cloud of musket smoke soon covered the green.

When the brief Battle of Lexington ended, eight Americans lay dead or dying, and 10 others were wounded.

Only one British soldier was injured, but the American Revolution had begun.

By 1775, tensions between the American colonies and the British government approached the breaking point, especially in Massachusetts, where patriot leaders formed a shadow revolutionary government and trained militias to prepare for armed conflict with the British troops in Boston.

In the spring of 1775, Gen. Thomas Gage, the British governor of Massachusetts, received instructions from England to seize all stores of weapons and gunpowder accessible to the American insurgents.

On April 18, he ordered British troops to march against the patriot arsenal at Concord and capture patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock, known to be hiding at Lexington.

The Boston patriots had been preparing for such a military action by the British for some time, and upon learning of the British plan, patriots Paul Revere and William Dawes were ordered to set out to rouse the militiamen and warn Adams and Hancock.

When the British troops arrived at Lexington, Adams, Hancock, and Revere had already fled to Philadelphia, and a group of militiamen were waiting.

The patriots were routed within minutes, but warfare had begun, leading to calls to arms across the Massachusetts countryside.

When the British troops reached Concord at about 7 a.m., they found themselves encircled by hundreds of patriots.

They managed to destroy the supplies the Americans had collected, but were soon advanced against by a gang of minutemen, who inflicted numerous casualties.

Lt. Col. Frances Smith, the overall commander of the British force, ordered his men to return to Boston without directly engaging the Americans.

As the British retraced their 16-mile journey, their lines were constantly beset by patriot marksmen firing at them Indian-style from behind trees, rocks, and stone walls.

At Lexington, Capt. Parker's militia had its revenge, killing several British soldiers as the Red Coats hastily marched through his town.

By the time the British finally reached Boston, nearly 300 British soldiers had been killed, wounded, or were missing in action.

The patriots suffered fewer than 100 casualties.

The battles of Lexington and Concord were the first battles of the American Revolution, a conflict that would escalate from a colonial uprising into a world war that, seven years later, would give birth to the independent United States of America.

## The Civil War 1861-1865

### CSS *Virginia* terrorizes Union navy March 8, 1862

The Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* wrecks havoc on a Yankee squadron off Hampton Roads, Va.

The *Virginia* was originally the USS *Merrimack*, a 40-gun frigate launched in 1855.

The *Merrimack* served in the Caribbean

and was the flagship of the Pacific fleet in the late 1850s.

In early 1860, the ship was de-commissioned for extensive repairs at the Gosport Navy Yard in Norfolk, Va.

It was still there when the war began in April 1861, and Union sailors sank the ship as the yard was evacuated.

Six weeks later, a salvage company raised the ship and the Confederates began rebuilding it.

The project required \$172,000 to build an ironclad upon the *Merrimack's* hull.

A new gun deck was added and an iron canopy was draped over the entire vessel.

The most challenging part of the construction was finding the iron plating.

Richmond's Tredegar Iron Works finally produced it, but the plant had to alter its operations to roll more than 300 tons of scrap iron for the two-inch thick plating.

The *Virginia* was launched on Feb. 17, 1862.

On March 9, it steamed from Norfolk toward Union ships guarding the mouth of the James River at Hampton Roads.

Rumors of the ironclad had circulated for several days among the Yankee sailors, and now they saw the creation first hand.

They soon wished they hadn't. The *Virginia* attacked the USS *Cumberland*, firing several shots into her before ramming the federal ship and sinking it.

The other Union ships fired back, but the shots were, in the words of one observer, "having no more effect than peas from a pop-gun."

Ninety-eight shots hit the *Virginia*, but none did significant damage.

The *Virginia* then attacked the USS *Congress*, which exploded when fires caused by the Confederate barrage reached the powder magazine.

The *Virginia* next ran the USS *Minnesota* aground before calling it a day.

It had been the worst day in US naval history and it signaled the end of the wooden ship era.

But help was on its way—the next day, the *Virginia* fought the most famous naval duel in history with the USS *Monitor*, a Union ironclad that was able to fight the Confederate ship to a draw.

## World War I 1914-1918

### First US air combat mission begins March 19, 1916

Eight Curtiss "Jenny" planes of the First Aero Squadron take off from Columbus, N.M., in the first combat air mission in US history.

The First Aero Squadron, organized in 1914 after the outbreak of World War I, was on a support mission for the 7,000 US troops who invaded Mexico to capture Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.

On March 9, 1916, Villa, who opposed American support for Mexican President Venustiano Carranza, led a band of several hundred guerrillas across the border on a raid of Columbus, killing 17 Americans.

On March 15, under orders from President Woodrow Wilson, US Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing launched a punitive expedition into Mexico to capture Villa.

Four days later, the First Aero Squadron was sent into Mexico to scout and relay messages for Gen. Pershing.

Despite numerous mechanical and navigational problems, the American flyers flew hundreds of missions for Pershing and gained important experience that would later be used by the pilots over the battlefields of Europe.

## World War II 1941-1945

### US troops land on Okinawa April 1, 1945

On this day in 1945, after suffering the loss of 116 planes and damage to three aircraft carriers, 50,000 US combat troops of the 10th Army, under the command of Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner Jr., land on the southwest coast

of Japanese island of Okinawa, 350 miles south of Kyushu, the southern main island of Japan.

Determined to seize Okinawa as a base of operations for the Army ground and air forces for a later assault on mainland Japan, more than 1,300 ships converged on the island, putting ashore 50,000 combat troops.

The Americans quickly seized two airfields and advanced inland.

They battled nearly 120,000 Japanese army, militia, and labor troops under the command of Lt. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima.

The Japanese surprised the American forces with a change in strategy, drawing them into the mainland rather than confronting them at the water's edge.

While Americans landed without loss of men, they would suffer more than 50,000 casualties, including more than 12,000 deaths, as the Japanese staged a desperate defense of the island, a defense that included waves of kamikaze air attacks.

Eventually, these suicide raids proved counterproductive, as the Japanese finally ran out of planes and resolve, with some 4,000 finally surrendering.

Japanese casualties numbered some 117,000.

Buckner, son of a Civil War general, was among the casualties, killed by enemy fire three days before the Japanese surrender.

Japanese Gen. Ushijima committed ritual suicide upon defeat of his forces.

## The Korean War 1950-1953

### Reds continue claim of US germ warfare March 14-20, 1952

The Defense Department announces that US casualties as of March 13 are 106,671 with 18,567 dead.

At Panmunjom, both delegations begin the week by referring the prisoner exchange issue to a subcommittee to work out a settlement.

Despite the negative comment of UN Secretary General Trygve Lie on March 13 that he was "less optimistic" of a peace settlement in Korea, some progress is made in the talks.

By March 20 the question of which ports neutral inspection teams will be stationed during the truce is agreed upon.

In the south, teams will be at the seaports of Pusan, Inchon, Kunsan and Kangnung and at the Taegu airport.

In the north inspectors will be posted at the Sinanju airport and Sinuiju, Manpojin, Chongjin and Hungnam seaports.

The teams will attempt to keep each side from importing more men and materiel monthly during the truce than agreed upon in the talks.

Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett gives the report on department operations from July-December 1951.

He also makes the pledge that the United States will not pay "the price of appeasement" for peace in Korea.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson tells a Senate subcommittee on March 18 he believes there will eventually be peace in Korea.

North Korea has refused permission for the International Red Cross to investigate the cause of the plagues in the country, as Acheson requested last week.

That doesn't keep Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Jacob A. Malik at the United Nations in New York from continuing the charge on March 14 that the United States uses germ warfare in Korea.

He says the United States is using germ warfare for "mass killing of civilian population" in the north. Malik urges the UN Disarmament Committee to immediately ban germ warfare.

The US delegate to the United Nations replies the same day that the charges are "false, unwarranted and uncorroborated."

He says on March 15 that the United States will not let the Russians "get away with these dishonest absurd and monstrous charges."

Then on March 19, he challenges Malik

to let the IRC investigate the claims, which the Reds are refusing to do.

On March 19, Malik agrees to the inspection but first demands the commission condemn the United States for "wide" use of germ warfare.

But he rejects a plan by the majority of commission members to institute global arms control verified by UN inspectors, as part of the condemnation.

On March 17 Soviet news agencies report that "certain Western jurists"—individuals from Australia, England, Brazil, Belgium, France, Italy and Poland—had confirmed American use of germ warfare in Korea.

A US spokesman said March 19 that UN medical teams are vaccinating South Koreans against cholera, typhus, smallpox and other diseases rampant in the north.

## The Vietnam War 1964-1975

### US withdraws from Vietnam March 29, 1973

Two months after the signing of the Vietnam peace agreement, the last US combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining American prisoners of the war held in North Vietnam.

America's direct eight-year intervention in the Vietnam War was at an end. In Saigon, some 7,000 US DoD civilian employees remained to aid South Vietnam.

In January 1973, representatives of the United States, North and South Vietnam, and the Vietcong signed a peace agreement in Paris, ending the direct US military involvement in the Vietnam War. Its key provisions included a cease-fire throughout Vietnam, the withdrawal of US forces, the release of prisoners of war, and the reunification of North and South Vietnam through peaceful means.

The South Vietnamese government was to remain until new elections were held, and North Vietnamese forces in the south were not to advance further nor be reinforced.

In reality, however, the agreement was little more than a face-saving gesture by the US government. Even before the last American troops departed on March 29, the communists violated the cease-fire, and by early 1974 full-scale war had resumed.

## The Cold War 1945-1990

### The Bay of Pigs invasion begins April 17, 1961

The Bay of Pigs invasion begins when a CIA-financed and trained group of Cuban refugees lands in Cuba and attempts to topple the government of Fidel Castro.

Fidel Castro had been a concern to US policymakers since he seized power in Cuba with a revolution in January 1959.

Castro's attacks on US companies and interests in Cuba, his anti-American rhetoric, and Cuba's movement toward a closer relationship with the Soviet Union led US officials to conclude that he was a threat to US interests in the western hemisphere.

In March 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the CIA to train and arm a force of Cuban exiles for an armed attack on Cuba.

John F. Kennedy inherited this program when he became president in 1961.

Though many of his military advisers indicated that an assault on Cuba by lightly-armed exiles had little chance for success, Kennedy gave the go-ahead for the attack.

Around 1,200 exiles, armed with American weapons and using American landing craft, waded ashore at the Bay of Pigs.

The hope was that the exile force would serve as a rallying point for the Cuban citizenry, who would rise up and overthrow Castro's government.

The plan immediately fell apart—the landing force met with unexpectedly rapid counterattacks from Castro's military, the tiny Cuban air force sank most of the exiles' supply ships, the United States refrained from providing air support, and the expected uprising never happened.

# Awards and Decorations

## Olympian: All five Army bobsledders bring home Olympic medals and memories

### Continued from Page ONE

Steele said.

Steele is employed through the Olympic job opportunities program, and is a Home Depot-sponsored athlete.

Steele is one of several fellow US Olympic bobsled teammates that benefited from the Army's World Class Athlete Program, which is based at Fort Carson, Colo.

Other members of the program include twin brother Darrin, Garrett Hines, Mike Kohn and Doug Sharp.

Utah Army Guard soldier and Portland native Jill Bakken, another Army world class athlete, set the stage earlier in the games by driving her two-woman sled to a gold medal in the first Olympic bobsled event for women.

Overall, the five Army component sol-

diers made up nearly half of the US bobsled team's 13 men and women competitors, and all five took home medals following the closing ceremony.

Steele has many heroes that helped mold him into the athlete and person he is today.

Bruce Jenner, a 1976 Olympian, is the most well-known of Steele's heroes.

The lesser known, but more inspirational, are people who overcome difficulties in their lives.

"I admire and have respect for paraOlympians," Steele said. "I am sticking around Utah (after the closing ceremony) to watch the paraOlympics."

After success in the Olympic trials, driver Shimer commented: "Morale is up; now we can look forward...to bring home a medal."

And they did.

### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt Ross Johnson  
TSgt Gary Stromer

272 CCS  
272 CCS

### Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA Angela Woods

HQORANG

### ANG Employer of the Year

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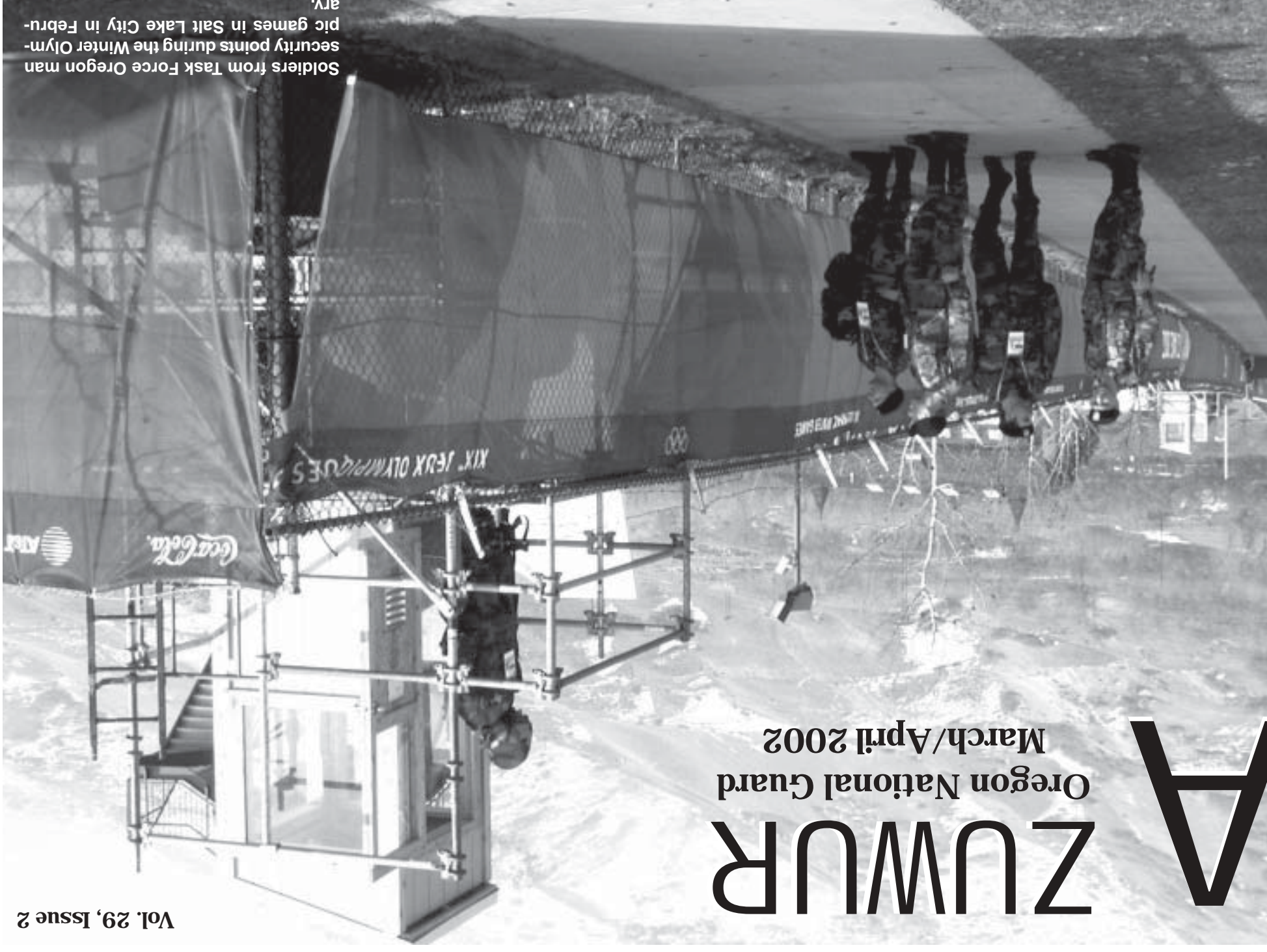
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# ZUMUR

## Oregon National Guard

### March/April 2002



Soldiers from Task Force Oregon man security points during the Winter Olympic games in Salt Lake City in February.