

AZUWUR

Oregon National Guard

Oregon scores second highest in nation on Command Logistics Review Team results



By KAY FRISTAD

AZUWUR STAFF

The future is what we have to look forward to now, this is going to happen again in the spring of 2005," Col. Herb Sims, Oregon National Guard chief of staff, said as he congratulated the attendees at the post command logistics review team (CLRT) conference in Salem. "I can't be more excited about an event you all made so successful."

This year's CLRT inspection proved the Oregon Army National Guard was

up to the challenge of correcting past problems in the area of logistics, to the point of excellence.

The overall results of the CLRT inspection this year were impressive. Of the 19 areas inspected, Oregon received a "satisfactory" rating in 17 categories, while only two areas received a "needs improvement" rating and no areas were found to be unsatisfactory.

Oregon has gone from the worst state inspected in 1995 to the second best in the nation, and this accomplishment was achieved during a time of massive deployments.

Oregon is the third-highest state in terms of deployments, deploying more soldiers per capita than any other state except one. The review team felt Oregon could serve as a role model for other states.

Col. Douglas Pritt, USPFO for Oregon, presented the overall results and outlined the lessons learned from this recent inspection:

1. Long range planning is imperative—we need to start today for the next CLRT.

2. This is a team effort— Both brigades and HQ STARC provided many individuals who dedicated themselves

to making sure this inspection would prove Oregon is ready.

3. Leadership – Without good leadership, we cannot achieve our goals in any area.

Pritt outlined the positive outcomes of the successful CLRT inspection: due to our recent superior rating, it will probably be at least four years before the next inspection; we now have a direct exchange for organizational clothing and individual equipment; we now consolidate marksmanship weapons; we learned about ourselves; and we learned about trust and cooperation with others.

"We need to improve in the areas of velocity management; reports of survey; training; and unit level logistics system equipment/training in order to maintain our current status of excellence," Pritt said.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Don Newman thanked everyone for their outstanding efforts. "We can now ensure our soldiers are properly equipped with good serviceable equipment to meet their requirements," Newman said. "I am going to charge you with the responsibility to stay focused and prepared for 2005."

The luck of the Irish follows Oregon Guard members as the marathon team competes in Virginia's Shamrock Sportsfest

By 2nd Lt. KEVIN HYNES

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.—The luck of the Irish was with members of the National Guard marathon team on March 10, as they ran at the Shamrock Sportsfest.

National Guard runners took top places in team awards at the Shamrock Marathon/8K race with the Guard Marathon Team and the Guard Open 8K team walking away carrying the 1st place military titles.

The ocean wind was merely a whisper and the sun shined bright, for a perfect day for the Guard's Open 8K teams, which swept the top places in military team competition.

Although members of several 8K military teams were from different states, the diversity did not cause them to fall short at the finish. Spc. William Raitter of Co. A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, Bend, led the Guard runners with a time of 25:08 and a 16th place overall finish. Raitter's team finished in first place with a team time of 131:25.

The Shamrock races are set up for fitness enthusiasts of all levels with separate races including an Open 8K, a Masters 8K, and a 26.2 mile marathon. Not only did the Guard walk away with first place military team finishes in the Open 8K, they also ran away with first place in the marathon.

The marathon course was designed to be fast moving, with a flat, out-and-back course. Runners traveled through the resort area along the ocean and con-



Contributed photo

Master Sgt. Max White, from 142nd Logistics Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, and a resident of Albany (left), runs the masters team race in Virginia's Shamrock Sportsfest in March.

tinued through Fort Story, the home of one of America's oldest lighthouses.

One of the unique aspects of the Shamrock races are the staggered start times of the three different races, with the Masters 8K opening the day. National Guard runner Lt. Col. Kevin Guinee of Salem, Mass., said he thought this was a more competitive and fair way to set up the competition.

"They split off the masters so it was a race you were only running against other people within your own age bracket versus when you start a normal race, you are racing with everyone of all ages," he said.

The National Guard masters team placed third in the military team competition for the Masters 8K, with a team time of 143:17.

Masters team members included: Master Sgt. Max White, 142nd Logistics Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, Albany; Spc. Luis Diaz, Puerto Rico; Tech. Sgt. Mike Zeigle, Wis.; Master Sgt. Jaime Arizmendi, Puerto Rico; and Chief Warrant Officer Brian Peterson, Calif.

According to Master Sgt. Diane Shottenkirk, National Guard marathon team coordinator, the Guard's goal in any marathon is to win. More importantly, the goal for competing in the Shamrock Sportsfest was to be in the public eye and be able to recruit more runners.

"Normally, we do the military races like the Marine Corps or the Army 10-Miler. However, as we get more involved with recruiting runners, it is more to our advantage to participate in civilian races," Shottenkirk said.

"Opportunities like the Shamrock race help us get the word out that the National Guard does have a marathon team," Shottenkirk continued. "This race is similar to the Army 10-Miler because more runners competed in the shorter 8K. They were a lot more relaxed and really enjoyed it."

Distance learning piloted at MILDEP and RTI

Business classes through Eastern Oregon University are linked from armories to the professor.

By Sgt. JOHN GLOVER

115TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

The Oregon Army National Guard and Eastern Oregon University have teamed up to start a pilot program offering distance learning courses for National Guard soldiers which began January 18.

The first class was Business 321: Principles of Management.

This program could lead to a low-cost bachelor of arts degree in business administration program for Guardsmen.

Eastern Oregon University provides the teachers and educational expertise, while the Oregon Army National Guard provides the distance learning technology and locations.

The first class was held at the Monmouth Regional Training Institute and Oregon Military Department while being taught from the La Grande Armory near Eastern Oregon University, according to Lt. Col. Steven E. Abel, director of information management.

The class used technology which is slowly being integrated into every armory in the state.

There are seven large classrooms, which are located at Camp Rilea; Monmouth Regional Training Institute; and the Salem, Tigard, La Grande, Bend and Ashland Armories.

These large classrooms consist of approximately 12 computer workstations hooked into a high speed network which can be used to view classes or work on individual computer-based training programs.

The classrooms will also be equipped with two-way video and audio teleconferencing equipment and have direct access to the Guard National Network.

These computer classrooms are being set up to partially replace traveling to on-site military courses.

"[The ORANG] could save about a half a million dollars per year by not sending people away to schools for so long. That's why distance learning is being pushed so hard. It's the way of the future," said Abel.

In addition to these large classrooms, every other armory in the state will ultimately be outfitted with a smaller version of the classroom which will consist of a large screen television, microphone and speakers that can be used to video teleconference, according to Abel.

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

A few weeks ago I attended a meeting at Gowen Field, Idaho, to discuss the deployment of portions of the 116th Armor Brigade to Bosnia next February in support of SFOR 11.

In attendance were the 25th Division commander, who will serve as command of an international force, and the adjutants general from Idaho, Montana, Indiana, and South Dakota.

Our 3rd Battalion task force headquarters for one of the maneuver elements will be responsible to enforce the Dayton Peace Accords.

The requirements continue to change

in theater, but all the commanders involved are working hard to develop a plan that will successfully train, mobilize and deploy our soldiers.

There is no doubt our soldiers from Oregon will complete this mission with pride and professionalism. Their exploits will make all of us proud to serve with them.

Recently, a team from National Guard Bureau completed a command logistic review team inspection (CLRT) for the Oregon Army National Guard.

This was an in-depth review which evaluated all of our logistic capabilities. We received outstanding ratings, and

in some areas, Oregon set the standard for the rest of the nation.

Many of you worked hard over the past nine months in an effort to meet these rigorous standards. As a result of your work, our national reputation as a quality organization remains intact.

To everyone who participated in the preparation and the inspection, you have my gratitude and respect. This is a true dedication to excellence.

I had the opportunity to visit the 116th Air Control Squadron in action at Nellis Air Force Base at the end of March. They were there in support of a Red Flag exercise, which represents the finest air combat training in the world. All the unit members performed their tasks in an exceptional manner, and the 116th again proved that it is trained and ready for any contingency.

Annual training is just around the corner for most of our units. The opportunity to train on a collective basis does not occur very often, and we must do everything possible in order to take full advantage of it.

As a reminder, please keep in mind that the safety of our soldiers and airmen must always take precedence. Train hard, but always train smart.



You may notice some budget constraints as we progress through this fiscal year. Each branch of the military is presenting a list of requirements to Congress in order to alleviate some short falls. I believe we can accomplish our stated goals and objectives in Oregon, and we will continue to make adjustments where necessary.

Strength management and personnel readiness remain our top priority. Please work in your unit to do everything possible to attract new members and retain those soldiers and airmen that have made us so great.

Thank you for your service to our state and nation.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

Now that it is spring time, we are all looking forward to annual training period. This promises to be a very busy year for all of the soldiers in the Oregon Guard.

Besides our annual training periods, we have had a very dry year, up to now. This enhances the chance of forest fires. As you all know, we play a major part in the protection of life and limb against forest fires in Oregon. We are also getting some units ready for a six-month deployment overseas.

The STPA board for E7, E8 and E9 was completed on April 8, and the results should be out soon. The boards were redone to comply with the regulations, which changed the way scoring was done. Last year, soldiers were awarded up to 750 administrative points and up to 250 leadership points.

The new regulation awards up to 600 administrative points and up to 400 points for leadership. All STPA boards will be conducted using this formula. This will let the soldiers that have good leadership traits have a chance to move up and get trained.

All soldiers need to remember that it is their responsibility to make sure their records are complete and correct. You get a chance to review them each year, so make sure that you do and that they are correct. You need to ensure that all of your education is listed.

As you know, SGLI has been increased from a maximum of \$200,000 to \$250,000. If you want the increase, there is nothing you have to do; however, if you do not want the increase, you will have to resubmit the paperwork through your unit.

The new headgear will be issued to



the units for wear starting on June 14. All soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard will wear the beret. The only exception is if you are flagged for weight or have not passed an APFT. If you have not passed weight or APFT, you will wear the BDU soft cap. You will also need to learn the words to the Army song. The Army chief of staff has directed that all soldiers stand and sing the Army song whenever it is played.

As always, I want to encourage you to turn in names of potential recruits to the recruiter assigned to your unit. We need good soldiers and there are a lot of benefits for new recruits available now. We are at a manning low, and we need to recruit to keep the strength up. While on the lookout for potential recruits, do not forget to take care of the soldiers in your command. Retention is just as important as recruiting to keep morale high. Please help us keep the Oregon Guard strong.

Command Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

This past month I was able to visit the 116th Air Control Squadron while they were deployed to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

They were there doing their job, controlling aircraft, as part of Red Flag. We had a great visit and I was able to learn more about what they do. It's really great to hear Guard personnel talk with such pride about their jobs.

We had a bonus on that trip; an opportunity to see another Oregon Air Guard member, Tech. Sgt. Kim Long, serving a three-year tour with the Thunderbirds. She gave us a tour of the facilities and introduced us to many of the team members. Long has done an excellent job serving as an ambassador of the Oregon Air Guard.

If you weren't able to attend the 7th annual awards banquet, you missed the best one yet. Over 400 in attendance; good food and a good time; with 75 of our outstanding men and women receiving awards. I would like to thank all of the committee members for making it such a success. Be sure to put the next one on your calendar for 2002.



This month, the Oregon Air National Guard celebrates its 60th anniversary. It's just one more opportunity to tell your neighbors and the people in your community about the Guard. There are still people out there that don't know we exist. Invite someone out and show them around. Let them know and see the outstanding organization you represent.



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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 15th of each month.

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News FOCUS

On the slopes: 115 MPAD practices wartime mission in Vermont

By Master Sgt. JONATHAN CARLISLE
115 MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

The 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment deployed as one of three public affairs units covering the Conseil International Du Sport Militaire (CISM) 2001 World Military Ski Championship in Burlington, Vt., March 5-17, 2001.

CISM is French for International Military Sports Council, whose motto is "friendship through sport."

Eighteen countries participated in this competition. The skiing events included biathlon, giant slalom, cross country, and military patrol race.

During the championships, the members of the 115th helped amass over 3,000 digital pictures, 10 media releases, 100 plus hours of video footage, and produced four issues of a daily French-English newsletter. The soldiers also put together a video of the overall CISM 2001 events for use by Department of Defense news services.

"The pace of our job is always full

speed," Staff Sgt. Brian Suits, 115th MPAD, said. "Without the organization and teamwork that you can only find in the Army, our mission would fail. This kind of total effort doesn't exist in the civilian media."

The video photographers were constantly on the move. Some of the video shots happened so quickly that video photographers had to follow along on skis. Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Hovie skied down the slope taking pictures of athletes during the practice prior to the event. Spc. Bryan Thompson raced by on the snowboard carrying his video recorder.

Fifth Army evaluated the 115th MPAD during this time.

"What the 115th MPAD crew does is awesome," Master Sgt. Alex Bonilla, Fifth Army adviser, said. "I've never seen that type of video coverage before. I saw the footage from the video taken while on skis. They take their jobs seriously and push it to the max."

Spc. Vo Minh McBurney shared his



Master Sgt. Jonathan Carlisle

Sgt. 1st Class Tom Hovie skis while taking video of practicing competitors before the Conseil International Du Sport Militaire ski championships in Burlington, Vt.

1st Lt. Robert Rosser skis a perfect score on the men's patrol race. "I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Oregon," Rosser said. "Thanks Oregon!" Rosser is currently a member of the Vermont National Guard, but has an Oregon National Guard background.



Master Sgt. Jonathan Carlisle

talents as an illustrator, producing a finished CISM 2001 collage.

"It's great to be in a unit where my skills as a free lance artist can be used," McBurney said.

"CISM gave us the chance to practice our wartime mission," Maj. Matt Hennick, 115th commander, said. "We packed up, moved out and set up a public affairs operations center all within 48 hours. We, as a unit, have an absolute need to hit the ground running and go operational within short time constraints. CISM was the first time we've practiced deployment since Bosnia, and it gave us a chance to identify unit strengths and weaknesses."

All events had maximum coverage from the public affairs with some video clips airing on local TV channels.

"It was refreshing to see some of the footage being used on the local TV stations," Hovie said.

"The Oregon MPAD far exceeded my expectations." 1st Lt. Michael Johnson, the Vermont National Guard public

affairs officer, said. "I devised an ambitious plan for this event and the success of the plan depended on the professionalism of the MPADs. I was overwhelmed with the success and professionalism of everyone involved with public affairs for the CISM. The still photography and videography I would equate to commercial quality. Most of the time it's good stuff, not great; this was great!"

"The CISM public affairs office produced the best newsletter I've ever seen," Suba Saty, National Guard Bureau sports, said. "We always try to do a bilingual newsletter but this is the first time it's actually gone to print in French and English."

The mission was a success for the 115th MPAD. They produced top notch products and were able to effectively train in a mission environment. This is another feather in Oregon's cap for the effectiveness of the troops. Vermont will remember Oregon as a professional group who can support other states with a can-do attitude.

Thrift Savings Plan open to service members in October

By JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Service members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987.

Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD's office of military compensation. "It's an optional program."

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002.

In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay.

The maximum amount service members can contribute from basic pay will change. The current limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from 1 percent

to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however, 25 percent of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, service members must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds to choose from. T

he funds run the gamut of safe—the G Fund invests in special government bonds—to riskier investments—the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

TSP will unveil the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Service members will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year. These are November to January and May to July.

"Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay

and you receive, for example, a reenlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time," Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from "pre-tax" dollars.

Service members pay no federal or state income taxes on contributions or earnings until they're withdrawn.

Uniformed services retirees cannot contribute to the TSP.

The TSP is designed to allow active duty members and members of the ready reserve or National Guard to save a part of their military pay for retirement in a plan that offers pre-tax savings, tax-deferred investment earnings, and low administrative and investment expenses.

Therefore, only pay for active service, such as basic pay, incentive pay, special pay and bonuses, can be contributed to the TSP.

Participation in the TSP does not affect your ability to contribute to an IRA.

However, because uniformed service members are covered by the uniformed services retirement plan, the ability to make tax-deductible contributions to an IRA depends on the service member's income and that of the spouse.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the thrift plan's uniformed services page at www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information.

The Army Song: "The Army Goes Rolling Along"

March along, sing our song
with the Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true,
who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name;
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:
First to fight for the right,
and to build the nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along

CHORUS:

Then it's hi, hi, hey!
The Army's on its way
Count off the cadence loud and strong
(two, three)
For wher-e'er we go,
You will always know
that the Army goes rolling along

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,
San Juan hill and Patton's tanks,
And the Army went rolling along.
Minute men from the start,
Always fighting from the heart,
And the Army keeps rolling along.

CHORUS

Men in rags, men who froze,
still that Army met its foes,
And the Army went rolling along.
Faith in God, then we're right,
And we'll fight with all our might,
As the Army keeps rolling along.

Based on "The Caisson Song"
by Brig. Gen. E.L. Gruber
Written and adapted by H.W. Arberg

Oregon soldiers achieve 50 percent graduation rate at EIB qualification

Five soldiers from the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade graduated from the expert infantry badge test in April. Back row, left to right: Staff Sgt. Lee Smith, Sgt. Joe Sult, Staff Sgt. John Ashford. Front row, left to right: Pfc. Shane Ward, Spc. Matt Peeler.



By Staff Sgt. JOHN ASHFORD
CO. B, 2-162 INFANTRY

The Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Separate Infantry Brigade was well represented at the 7th Infantry Division Expert Infantryman Badge Test, which was held at Fort Carson, Colo., April 16-27, 2001.

Of the 10 Oregon Guardsmen that tested for the coveted EIB, five were still remaining on graduation day. The national average, Army-wide, is approximately a 22-percent graduation rate, so having the Guard members achieve a 50 percent qualification rate is definitely something to be proud of.

The EIB test measures the individual infantry soldier's physical fitness and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical infantry skills. It is awarded to any soldier in CMF 11 or CMF 18 (except 18D medic) who demonstrates excellence in the performance of the test.

The purpose of the EIB is to recognize any outstanding infantry soldier who attains a high degree of professional skill, expertise, and excellence; to identify any infantry soldiers who can expertly maintain, operate, and employ his weapons and equipment; and to enhance individual training programs in infantry units by providing a

difficult, yet attainable, goal for which any infantry soldier can strive.

Each candidate must pass 40 tasks that must be done at their respective stations, without receiving either two "no-gos" at the same station or a total of any three "no-gos." If either of these situations occur, the candidate is out of the course. Each task must be done to standard, in sequence and within the limited time given.

The Oregon soldiers trained with active duty soldiers from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, 10th Special Forces Group in addition to other locally-stationed units and some from Fort Hood, Texas.

The EIB HILL stations and all their related equipment were shutdown the weekend between train-up week and test week to allow the cadre and candidates some time off. The Oregon soldiers decided they hadn't come to see the sights, and in true infantryman form they improvised, adapted and overcame this two-day training opportunity obstacle.

Oregon soldiers acquired training aids from the local units who were not using them. Many of these units had been training for several months on the EIB tasks and many of their soldiers were testing for the EIB for the second, third and some even their fourth time. After learning all this, the Oregon soldiers knew it would be an uphill battle to prove themselves, and didn't want to miss out on any possible training.

By the end of test week, the active unit

personnel were leaving the EIB site by squads. Being the only reserve soldiers taking the EIB test, Oregon drew what seemed to be quite a bit of attention from both officer and enlisted, at all levels.

By graduation day, senior leaders could be heard time and time again trying to motivate their soldiers by using the Oregon National Guard as an example of what training, proper motivation and determination can accomplish.

Maj. Gen. Edward Soriano, commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. George Ponder, 7th Infantry Division, both took time to talk one-on-one to express their expectations of the Oregon Guardsmen and that they would be keeping a close watch on Oregon's performance throughout the course.



Expert Infantryman Badge recipients

Co. B, 2-162 Infantry

Staff Sgt. John Ashford
Staff Sgt. Lee Smith
Sgt. Joe Sult
Pfc. Shane Ward

HHC, 2-162 Infantry

Spc. Matt Peeler

Band member earns Army-wide honor



Contributed photo

Oregon's Staff Sgt. Joseph Worley receives an Army Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, commander of the Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson, SC. Worley received the Army bands noncommissioned officer of the year for the National Guard award.

By 1st Sgt. JAN JOHANSEN
234 ARMY BAND

Being named the Army's best at anything is an honor bestowed upon only a select few.

In a ceremony on April 18, 2001 at the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, in Norfolk, Va., the home of military bands, Staff Sgt. Joseph Worley received the Army bands noncommissioned officer of the year for the National Guard.

Worley serves the Oregon National Guard as a tuba and bass player in Oregon's Own 234th Army Band.

Brig. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, commander of the Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson S.C., was on hand to present the award.

Rochelle praised the NCOs—soldiers,

leaders and musicians—for rising above their peers.

"It really doesn't take a whole lot to rise to the occasion of our professional challenges, our professional responsibilities," Rochelle said. "It takes a lot, however, to go over the top and exceed above everyone's expectations, as these fine folks have done. And it takes something more to be a significant part of your community as well."

The award program was instituted to identify and recognize Army band soldiers who best demonstrate those traits, characteristics and values most desired in an Army musician. The award is based not only on a soldier's ability as a musician, but also on their skills as a soldier.

To be nominated, an individual needs to pass an APFT with a minimum score

of 270, including a score on 90 in each event. The soldier is also required to complete a demanding instrumental audition. Nominees were scrutinized additionally on overall score in five areas: personal honors and achievements; overall effectiveness and job accomplishment; judgment and decisions; leadership, organizational and planning skills; and artistic integrity.

"They were looking for an overall musician-soldier, someone that does well in everything," said 1st Sgt. Jan Johansen, 234 Army Band. "Someone that excels in everything."

While a member of the 234 Army Band, Worley has performed on tuba in the dixie band, german band and brass quintet. Worley also performs on the bass guitar in the stage band, jazz combo, blue grass band and rock

State Park rangers train at Kingsley Field



Jennifer Boe

Forest Ranger Steve Memminger tries to convince Curtis Smith (left) and Larry Miller (right) to turn their radio down in a mock camping situation. Jeff Farm looks on and grades the forest rangers in training.

Oregon State Park rangers simulate various situations dealing with the public putting to use the training they've received during the two-week park rangers academy course held at Kingsley Field.

Seventy-six rangers graduated after covering topics such as ethics, criminal law, communications, diversity, media relations, rules and enforcement, and Oregon Parks and Recreation's philosophy. The Oregon State Police provided self-defense tactics training.

The academy was an example of interagency cooperation to help make this training possible with many benefits such as better interaction by the rangers with the public and providing training that enables them to be safe and more effective.

The Pied Piper of priesthood: Guardsman celebrates 35 years in uniform and 15 years of ministry in LaGrande

By DAVE STAVE

LAGRANDE OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Father Hank Albrecht has been in the priesthood for 15 years, 13 of those in La Grande. That might sound like a fairly long tenure for a minister to be in one place.

But for the 58-year-old pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in La Grande and the smaller Catholic churches in Elgin and Union, longevity has been the name of his game.

Albrecht also has spent 35 years in the military, and he has no plans to quit.

As a chaplain in the Oregon National Guard unit in La Grande, Col. Albrecht has been selected to participate in the Army's war college through extension courses.

Successful completion of the college will put him in a position to be promoted to brigadier general. The Army has had only a few chaplains attain that rank.

Albrecht's military career began in the 1960's when he was drafted into the Army. He grew up in Dufur near The Dalles, graduated from high school and attended Eastern Oregon University for two years. He studied automotive engineering for two years at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls before entering the Army.

His five years of active service included attending Officers Candidate School, teaching infantry courses at Fort Benning, Ga., and serving a stint in Vietnam.

When his active duty ended, Albrecht returned to The Dalles, where he operated a cherry orchard and owned Piped aircraft dealership.

"I sold small planes and repaired

them," the priest said.

Albrecht remained in the business for about a decade until deciding to enroll at Mount Angel Seminary in Western Oregon. He was in his late 30s.

Albrecht said all of his life experiences led him to pursue the priesthood.

He entered the seminary in 1981, and was ordained a priest on May 14, 1986. He served as associate at St. Peter's Catholic Church in The Dalles for two years before coming to La Grande.

Father Hank, as he is called, said he he's been pleased to see the way his congregation has become involved in ministry over the years.

"The people have shown ownership in the parish," he said. Many have stepped up to take roles of service.

Judy Loudermilk, who has attended the La Grande church for 41 years and has worked on the restoration committee and finance council, said Albrecht has worked to get people involved.

"His idea is that we need to be able to run the parish when there is not a priest there," Loudermilk said. She attributes Albrecht's longevity in La Grande to his love for people.

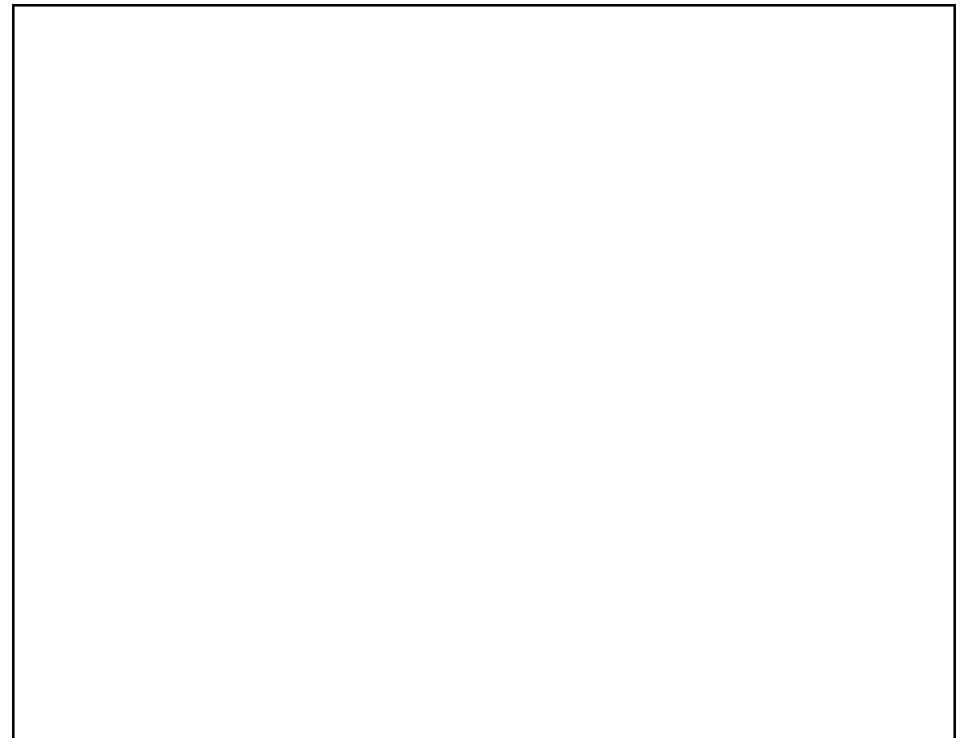
"He really likes people. He likes everyone to feel important. He's done a lot to bring our parish closed together."

Albrecht agrees that he enjoys people, "and not just Catholic people, but people from all faiths and even people who have no faith."

Albrecht said key to his beliefs is that "every single person is important to God and is loved unconditionally by God."

"My best friend is the last person I met," he said.

Joyce Pavlinac, who has served at Our



Lady of the Valley as a minister to the sick and minister of liturgy, said she's admired Albrecht's flexibility in celebrating Mass.

"He's had children's masses, youth masses and Spanish masses, even though he doesn't speak Spanish."

He loves to minister to the children," Pavlinac added. "They follow him out of church. He reminds me of the Pied Piper."

Sitting in his office wearing a Honolulu T-shirt and a blue denim jacket, Albrecht talks freely about his varied interests.

He owned a plane after becoming a

priest, but a few years ago he sold the aircraft and bought a place on the Hawaiian island of Oahu that includes two houses.

He uses one of the houses as a vacation getaway and rents the other.

Albrecht said he continues to enjoy mechanical work. He has three 1966 Chevrolets that he's restoring.

But lately he hasn't had much time for his tools or his classic cars.

"I've been too busy with parish work," he said.

Editor's note: This story was reprinted with permission by the LaGrande Observer, and was first published on Saturday, May 12, 2001.

Oregon marksmen fare well in CNGB shooting championships

Oregon small bore rifle team: Lt. Col. Gregory Browning, Master Sgt. Nelson Shew, Sgt. First Class John Lane, and Sgt. Charles Spiker. The team placed second in the small bore rifle match in Arkansas.



Submitted photo

By Senior Master Sgt. BERNARD DELISLE
ARKANSAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARK. —

Oregon soldiers competed with shooters from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, South Dakota, and Nebraska at the 69th Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) Shooting Championships held March 23-25 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson.

The event, coordinated by personnel from the National Guard marksmanship training unit, drew 108 competitors from 16 states, competing in six shooting disciplines.

1st Lt. Ruston Wonn, a member of the air rifle team from Oklahoma's 137th Airlift Wing won the individual air rifle championship, firing a total score of

1068. He was followed in second place by Maj. Geoffrey Liljenwall, of Oregon's Headquarters STARC, with 1041.

The small bore rifle match "was close, really a tight competition. Nobody walked away with the match. It was pretty much anybody's match right up to the last stage, 'nip and tuck' all the way between the top three teams," Master Sgt. Kenneth Strohm, from Ohio, observed.

Second place was won by the Oregon's Headquarters STARC team of Lt. Col. Gregory Browning, Master Sgt. Nelson Shew, Sgt. 1st Class John Lane, and Sgt. Charles Spiker.

Altogether, the Oregon team finished with an aggregate of 3355.

"We qualified four teams but only had enough shooters to field three of the

teams," Browning said.

"The CNGB matches are open to any soldier or airman in the Guard," Lt. Richard Jones, officer in charge, said. "The potential for this program to expand in the future is unlimited. By using primarily sub-caliber weapons, the program is not only cost-effective, but is also manageable down to the individual soldier level."

Jones pointed out that CNGB is an integral component of the overall marksmanship training program and that the refined habits and extended conditioning of physical shooting skills this 'off-season' program offers, work directly with the national match and combat training programs.

"My intent as the program manager is to add incentive to both individuals and teams to compete in the first phase of the championships," Jones said. "My goal for 2002 is to see our numbers grow to over 2,000 individual competitors and to add sniper as a new discipline," Jones concluded.

The championships involved 108 Army and Air National Guard shooters who had advanced through two qualification postal phases to make it to the national event.

A total of 1,529 shooters began phase one of the CNGB postal matches, with 360 shooters making it to phase two.

From that number, the top five teams in the six shooting disciplines of combat rifle and pistol, smallbore rifle and pistol, and air rifle and pistol were

invited to compete in phase three, which is for the national championship.

Overall, the CNGB drew competitors representing Army and Air National Guard units from Arkansas, Nebraska, New York, Idaho, Texas, Minnesota, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Oregon, Ohio, South Dakota, and Utah.

Oregon sent 12 soldiers, or over 10 percent, of the 108 competitors.

"We hope to get other units involved and send more teams next year," Browning said.

This was the fourth straight year for the CNGB to be held at Camp Robinson, the home of the Guard marksmanship program. Previously, the event had been staged at Bismarck, N.D.

The CNGB competition, one of the premier shooting events in the Army and Air National Guard, began in 1932.

Oregon's competition results are:

Small bore rifle: 2nd place (team)

Lt. Col. Gregory Browning
Master Sgt. Nelson Shew: 6th place
Sgt. 1st Class John Lane: 4th place
Sgt. Charles Spiker: 5th place

Air pistol: 4th place (team)

Maj. Dale Andrus
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Hogankamp
Staff Sgt. Rick Halvorson
Spc. Richard Vincent

Air rifle: 5th place (team)

Maj. Geoffrey Liljenwall: 2nd place
Master Sgt. David Clark
Spc. David Novacek
Staff Sgt. Bonnie Dunn

LEAVING ON



A JET PLANE



Retiree Focus

Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001 introduced in Congress

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) has introduced the Veterans' Opportunities Act of 2001, his first major bill as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

A House Veterans Affairs Committee press release reports that key provisions of the measure include:

(1) an increase in the VA burial and funeral allowance from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for veterans whose deaths are service-connected, and from \$300 to \$500 for veterans with non-service connected disabilities;

(2) an increase in assistance to severely disabled veterans for automobile and adaptive equipment from \$8,000 to 9,000;

(3) an extension to as early as nine months before discharge for VA, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor transition counseling.

The period would be extended to as much as 18 months for those retiring after military careers.

For more information on the activities of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, or to write your representative, visit <http://veterans.house.gov/welcome/webindex.htm>.

New VA hotline for Agent Orange available for Vietnam veterans

Vietnam veterans now have a new national toll-free help line to answer questions about Agent Orange Exposure, health care, and benefits.

PR Newswire reports that the VA expects considerable interest in the new help line at (800) 749-8387 because of a new policy that allows Vietnam veterans with adult-onset (Type II) diabetes to receive disability compensation for ongoing medical problems linked to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides during the war.

VA representatives staff the hotline from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., CST, or you can access a 24-hour automated system at other hours.

The VA has established a specific Agent Orange Web Page in conjunction with the help line that can be accessed at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide>.

Meanwhile, Stars and Stripes reports that Vietnam veterans with Type II diabetes should go ahead and file their claims with the VA now.

Claims may not be processed until the "rulemaking" is done, but filing early helps get an earlier effective date for disability compensation. Once your claim is filed, collect whatever information you have about your service in Vietnam as well as medical information about your diabetes, and submit it to the VA.

Remember, you must submit medical evidence of your current condition before the VA is required to "assist" you.

The VA estimates that approximately 200,000 Vietnam veterans will receive service-connection for their diabetes within the first five years under the new policy.

More information is available at: <http://www.va.gov/pressrel/aodiab.htm> and <http://bob.nap.edu/html/diabetes/>

Retiree appreciation day events held across America

The Army has released the dates of 34 Retiree Appreciation Day events across the country.

Retiree Appreciation Days, also known as RADs, are one- or two-day seminars conducted annually at major Army installations or metropolitan areas to bring retirees, soldiers and their families up-to-date information on America's Army and changes in retirement benefits.

Installation retirement services offices organize RADs, and put together a program of guest speakers and displays covering topics such as health care, retired pay, survivor benefit plan, veterans' benefits, Social Security, military legal aid and retirees as adjunct recruiters. Some RSOs also offer health fairs.

Upcoming RADs are listed below. For more information, contact the RSO sponsoring the event. Installation operators can provide local RSO phone numbers. Installation RSO numbers are also listed on the Army retirement services homepage at www.odcsper.army.mil/retire

April 26	Fort Huachuca, Ariz.
April 28	Fort Jackson, S.C.
May 5	West Point, N.Y.
May 5	Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
May 18	Fort Lewis, Wash.
May 19	Fort Ord, Calif.
June 16	Fort McPherson, Ga.
June 22-24	Fort Carson, Colo.
Aug. 4	Tobyhanna, Pa.
Aug. 11	Vermont
Sept. 7	Fort McCoy, Wis.

Sept. 8	Buffalo, N.Y.
Sept. 8	Redstone Arsenal, Ala.
Sept. 13-15	Fort Sill, Okla.
Sept. 14-15	Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Sept. 15	Heidelberg, Germany
Sept. 21	Fort Myer, Va.
Sept. 21-22	Fort Bragg, N.C.
Sept. 21-22	Fort Snelling Minn.
Sept. 22	Fort Lee, Va.
Sept. 22	Vicenza, Italy
Sept. 22	Carlisle Barracks, Pa.
Sept. 28-29	Fort Meade, Md.
Oct. 13	Houston, Texas
Oct. 19	Fort Riley, Kan.
Oct. 20	Fort Monmouth, N.J.
Oct. 20	Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.
Oct. 26-27	Fort Rucker, Ala.
Oct. 27	Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
Oct. 27	Fort Polk, La.
Oct. 27	Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Nov. 3	Fort Dix, N.J.
Nov. 7	Fort Benning, Ga.

DoD implemented Tricare senior pharmacy program on April 1

The new Tricare senior pharmacy program officially began operation on April 1 for an estimated 1.4 million potentially eligible uniformed services beneficiaries age 65 years and older. The Tricare senior pharmacy program is a comprehensive drug benefit not provided under traditional Medicare.

By law, to use the Tricare retail and mail order benefit, beneficiaries age 65 and over must be eligible for Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B. Exception: Those who turned 65 before April 1, 2001, are eligible for the benefit, even if they are not enrolled in Medicare Part B. For more information on enrollment requirements for Medicare Part B, the toll-free number for Medicare is (800) MEDICARE or (800) 633-4227.

Beneficiaries also must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Beneficiaries who are unsure about their DEERS enrollment status or eligibility for this program may contact the toll-free defense manpower data center support office beneficiary line at (800) 538-9552 for assistance. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pacific.

At the same time, DoD is also simplifying the prescription co-payments for all DoD beneficiaries, reducing the different co-payment possibilities from about 30 to three.

The new Tricare pharmacy benefit offers a straightforward co-payment

structure and the following four dispensing options listed in order of cost/value to the beneficiary:

Military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacy. MTF pharmacies will continue to fill prescriptions written by either military or civilian prescribers for medications listed on the MTF's formulary. There is no co-payment or out-of-pocket expense for prescriptions filled at the MTF.

National mail order pharmacy (NMOP). Prescriptions will be \$3 for up to a 90-day supply of most generic medications, or \$9 for up to a 90-day supply of most non-generic medications.

Retail network pharmacy. Prescriptions will be \$3 for a 30-day supply of most generic medications or \$9 for a 30-day supply of most non-generic medications.

Retail non-network pharmacy. Beneficiaries will pay either \$9 or 20 percent of the total cost, whichever is greater, for a 30-day supply of a medication after they have met the Tricare annual deductible. Both deductibles and co-payments are applied toward the Tricare catastrophic cap.

To use the retail pharmacy benefit beneficiaries should show the pharmacy a current uniformed services identification card. To update an ID card, beneficiaries may call toll-free (877) DOD-MEDS or (877) 363-6337 to locate the closest military ID card issuing activity. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Eastern.

In February and March, Tricare's regional contractors sent a mailing to Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries worldwide. The mailing included a Tricare senior pharmacy program brochure, local pharmacy directories, NMOP brochures and NMOP registration forms. For more information on the Tricare senior pharmacy program, see the military health system/Tricare web site at www.Tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy



Address changes

Retiree Services Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309

- New Retiree Change
 Stop Deceased

Name of retiree _____

Rank of retiree _____

Current address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retired from Army NG Air NG Federal State

Retiree Service Office

Open every
Tuesday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

ATTENTION:

Eastern Oregon retirees

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

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

E-mail:
milretoff@worldnet.att.net

Website:
home.att.net/~milretoff

Retirees needed for new JROTC instructors in next three years

The Department of Defense is seeking military men and women to instruct high school Junior ROTC students.

The American Forces Press Service reports that Pentagon officials say there will be about 1,200 openings over the next three years.

By fiscal 2005, the program will employ about 7,000 instructors. Retired active duty officers and enlisted personnel are eligible to apply. There are no age limits.

Processing time can range from six months to a year, and people may apply while they are still on active duty.

The service secretaries can hire O-4s to O-10s and E-6s to E-9s. Sometimes they take retired E-5s.

Each service has about a seven- to 10-day instructor training program.

Once trained and certified by the service, it is up to school districts to actually hire JROTC instructors. Once hired, instructors continue to receive their military retired pay.

The service branch and school district then split the difference that returns the instructors' pay back to active duty levels.

For more information, go to DoD's transportal web site at www.dodtransportal.org. Click on internet career links and then to specialized job search links, where the four service branches are listed. Or, go to the service web sites and type in "JROTC" as the search word.

Fiscal 2001 NDAA pay raise targets mid-level NCOs

Some mid-level noncommissioned officers will see an increase in their pay in July thanks to a provision in the fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Air Force Print News reports that, unlike last year's July 1 pay table reform where 75 percent of military members saw a raise, this year's reform targets E-5s to E-7s with six to 26 years of service.

The raise rewards promotion over longevity and addresses some of the concerns expressed by the Department of Defense and congressional leaders about retention trends.

For more information on pay increases, or to see a pay chart, visit the DOD military pay and benefits web site at <http://pay2000.dtic.mil/>

Department of Veterans Affairs raises coverage for insurance

Military members leaving the service with government life insurance coverage at a new higher limit now will be able to continue coverage at that level in their civilian lives.

A US Department of Veterans Affairs press release reports that a change in law allows service members to buy up to \$250,000 in government life insurance coverage while in the military, up from the previous limit of \$200,000.

Similarly, when they leave service, they can now have a policy under the Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program at the same higher ceiling, but only if they had that top level while in uniform. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) supervises both VGLI as well as Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program for military members.

This change generally does not affect existing VGLI policyholders because the maximum coverage permitted under VGLI is limited to the amount the service member had under SGLI when he or she separated from active duty or

France seeks surviving WWII Normandy veterans for thank you

France is issuing a "Thank You" certificate to recognize the participation of all American and allied soldiers who took part in the Normandy landing and contributed to the liberation of France during World War II.

The certificate is meant to express the gratitude of the French people to the soldiers who participated in the Normandy landing and liberation of France, on French territory and in French territorial waters and airspace, between June 6, 1944 and May 8, 1945.

The certificate will not be issued posthumously.

The ten Consuls General of France in the United States are issuing the documents on behalf of the French authorities and in coordination with state veterans affairs offices, veterans service organizations, and veterans associations.

For more information on obtaining a "Thank You" certificate, visit the Embassy of France web site at www.ambafrance-us.org

the reserves.

Veterans generally must choose VGLI coverage within 120 days of discharge, although with evidence of good health that signup period may be extended another year. Rules are more liberal for military members who are totally disabled at the time of separation.

The VA provides insurance coverage to approximately 2.7 million veterans, active-duty members, reservists, and Guardsmen. For more information, call (800) 669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov

Alexandria, Va.—Military campers and RVers can now find their way on America's open highways with their fingertips, thanks to a new interactive Army Morale, Welfare, Recreation Outdoor Recreation web site, www.pathsacrossamerica.com.

The web site is the first of several improvements rolling into the Army's recreational vehicle parks and campsites, including a name change.

"We wanted to make our RV park information much more accessible to customers," said Joe Pettoni, Outdoor Recreation program manager at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center. "This website is just a seed that will grow into much more."

The outdoor recreation site was launched in February and lists information about military RV parks and campsites at installations throughout the United States.

"When you call up the site, a map of the United States appears," said Pettoni. "You click on a state, then a map of that state appears. The Army installations are in red and the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard sites are in blue."

Visitors to the site will find information on the location of the RV parks and campsites, directions from the nearest major highway, phone numbers, amenities, the number of pads and

Oregon Department of Revenue needs retirees' address changes

The Oregon Department of Revenue wants to be sure it has the correct addresses for the federal retirees waiting for refunds of Oregon state income taxes paid on federal pension benefits received for tax years 1991 through 1994. The refunds are scheduled to be released after July 1, 2001.

"Federal pensioners who have moved since filing Form 40F need to provide us with updated addresses. We'd like to know about name changes, too," said Ben Gille, the department's federal pension refund project coordinator. "To ensure that we get the close to 65,000 refunds to the correct addresses, we encourage the pensioners to get their changes in the mail by May 18, 2001."

Address changes should be sent to Address Change, Department of Revenue, PO Box 14600, Salem, OR 97309-5049. Correspondence sent to the department should include the proper social security number for identification purposes.

Addresses also may be changed by calling the department toll free at (800) 356-4222 (Oregon only). Outside Oregon the number is (503) 378-4988. Spanish speakers may call (503) 945-8618. For TTY (hearing or speech impaired only), the toll free number within Oregon is (800) 886-7204. In Salem the number is (503) 945-8617. The Spanish and TTY numbers are answered by machine; a representative will return the call.

campsites, and fees. It also lists any cabins, cottages or duplexes available for rent. Future additions to the web site will include a trip computer to determine mileage, local on and off post recreational opportunities, and inter-service Morale, Welfare and Recreation specials for RVers and campers.

"Eventually we plan to add sites in Europe," Pettoni said. "Our ultimate goal is for campers to be able to make reservations online."

As for the name change from "Travel Camp" to RV Park, Pettoni said the Army needs to conform to industry standards and make the name recognizable to customers.

While the name change is cosmetic,

other changes are more substantial, like training, Pettoni said.

"We held the first-ever Department of the Army-level training for 15 RV park managers in February," Pettoni said. The National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds and the National Foundation for RVing and Camping sponsored the week-long training.

"Our goal is to put Army RV park managers together with commercial managers to analyze operations and bring back the industry's best and most modern practices to the Army," said Pettoni.

(Editor's note: Information is from a U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center news release. USACFSC is the HQDA agency responsible for morale, welfare, recreation and family programs including outdoor recreation, sports, performing arts, child and youth services, and the Army Family Action Plan. More information about MWR is at www.armymwr.com)

Civilian and military paramedics combine training



Staff Sgt. John Esch

The 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) recently conducted a mission scenario with the McKenzie Fire and Rescue unit near Eugene. Both organizations had the opportunity to observe each other's equipment, and the 1042nd conducted "Medevac 101" and a live demonstration for the civilian paramedics. The training enhanced everyone's knowledge of the other's capabilities and opened some great communication for mutual training.

News Briefs

Judge Advocate General's Corps launches legal service Web site

WASHINGTON—The US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps has launched a legal services Web site, designed as a portal of legal information for military members and their families.

The site, www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal, creates a "virtual" legal information and resource knowledge center, said officials. It includes information on personal legal assistance, claims, trial defense, and victim/witness information for the Army. It provides preventive law information and helps users find the nearest legal assistance office.

The JAG Corps legal site aims to provide soldiers and spouses with information to make informed decisions on personal legal affairs, maintain legal well-being, readiness, avoid consumer scams, and otherwise minimize "legal" distractions.

The idea, said Maj. Gen. John D. Altenburg Jr., the assistant judge advocate general and JAG Corps' chief information officer, "is to provide soldiers and family members 24 (hour) - 7 (days) desktop access to useful information for their own legal preparedness. It is a great tool for soldiers and spouses to maintain their personal legal affairs."

It is designed to be a doorway to Internet-based legal information and services for those eligible for military legal assistance under Title 10 United States Code, said Altenburg. He explained the site does not offer legal advice, rather, information that site users should consider to prevent legal problems or before consulting an attorney.

Tricare Dental Plan increases readiness for reserve soldiers

ARLINGTON, VA.—Tricare's new dental insurance program will help ensure reservists are ready to deploy when they're called, DoD medical officials said.

"We want to encourage a higher level of dental health and dental readiness than we saw during Desert Storm/Desert Shield," Navy dentist Dr. (Capt.) Lawrence McKinley said.

McKinley is senior consultant for dentistry for the Tricare Management Activity and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

He described reservists' dental readiness as "unfortunately low" during the 1990-91 Gulf War period. Army Reserve Lt. Col. William Martin said roughly 35 to 40 percent of Army reservists activated during the Gulf War needed dental work before they could deploy. Martin is the program manager for reserve affairs for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

"In some cases, individuals needed a week's worth of dental treatment before we could in good conscience deploy that troop overseas to a place that might not have dental care available," McKinley said.

The new Tricare Dental Plan went into effect Feb. 1. It replaces the Tricare Selected Reserve Dental Program and provides reservists and their family members the same dental benefits package that is available to families of active duty service members.

The new program will also help the reserve components meet a 1998 DoD requirement that says they must docu-

ment an annual dental screening for all their service members.

"That has been a real challenge," Martin said. "Up to this point there hasn't been much movement." The services were given three years to meet the screening requirement, but recently were given a three-year extension to February 2004, he said.

Martin said the requirement for yearly screenings poses several problems. "Most reserve components don't have the infrastructure to perform annual dental exams," he said.

Even for those units that have embedded dental assets, spending valuable drill weekends providing routine screenings can degrade their skills. "If they're part of a field unit, their go-to-war mission is to provide emergency care, not screenings," Martin said.

He also noted that the reserves are a geographically diverse force. Only 20 to 25 percent of reserve units are located within a reasonable distance to a DoD medical facility.

Increasing readiness isn't the only reason DoD officials wanted to make the Tricare Dental Plan available to reservists and their families. "The total-force concept is important. We're all one family," McKinley said. "We wanted to make this quality-of-life benefit accessible to the reserve community as well as the active duty community."

For more information on the TRICARE Dental Program, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/beneficiary/supprog.html>.

Korean War Service Medal available to all Korean veterans

The DoD's 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Committee wants veterans to know that the Korean War Service Medal is still available.

Air Force Print News reports that during the Korean War, the United States disallowed the wearing of the medal because of regulations at that time that prevented American service members from wearing a foreign award. Congress changed that regulation in 1954.

The Air Force is the lead agent for distributing the medal.

The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, is processing requests and distributing the medal to all Korean veterans who qualify, regardless of branch of service.

Applicants must furnish a copy of their DoD Form 214 (discharge papers) as proof of eligibility.

People who need to request their military records can download a request form at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprsf180.html>.

Veterans applying for the medal should contact the AFPC by calling (800) 558-1404, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., CST, or contacting the awards and decorations section at (210) 565-2431, (210) 565-2520, or (210) 565-2516.

Information is available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards.

Tricare beneficiaries advised to save receipts for reimbursement

Many new Tricare benefits will be phased in over the next six to twelve months. A Tricare news release reports that among the new programs that will be implemented over time are cover-

Kingsley Field restores KC-97 Stratofreighter



Submitted photo

So far, over 200 man-hours have gone into the restoration of the KC-97 Stratofreighter, pictured above at the Medford airport.

The C-97 was developed by Boeing as a military transport aircraft. When modified for refueling it was designated as a KC-97. This aircraft was built in 1953 and in service until 1977.

When delivered to the Medford Airport, it sat, rusted out and in severe disrepair. Col. (Ret) Nathaniel "Bud" Glickman has overseen the restoration project, enlisting the help of Kingsley's talented back-shop maintenance: Senior Master Sgt. Jimmy Dean; Master Sgt. Ben Patterson; Tech. Sgts. Dave Moore, Todd Johnston, David Chinander, and Scott Riendeau; and Staff Sgts. Jim Childs, Kathy Glazebrook, Mark McDaniel, Doug Underdown, Brian Horne, and Tim Bremser.

Restoration will be finished by May, with the dedication set for June 11. It will be moved on airport property where it can be seen off Biddle Road.

The upper deck of the aircraft will be used as a museum and meeting place for the Rogue Valley community.

Let your voice be heard to your fellow soldiers and airmen

Read any stories on your unit in the *Azuwaur* lately? If not, do you wonder why?

What you read in the *Azuwaur* is directly related to what units send in. The units covered are the ones who report what's happening.

The *Azuwaur* has a small staff, and we can't be all over the state at the same time. There are not enough of us to call each Oregon Army and Air National Guard unit, much less visit each one to see what's happening.

Therefore, we must rely on you to tell us what's going on in your area. We ask for your help.

Each unit has been directed by the adjutant general to appoint a unit public affairs representative (UPAR). This person should be our pipeline to your unit's happenings. But anyone can send information in: all we need is the who, what, where, when, why and how of the story, and a name and number to contact for further information. We can use good photos, too.

We may rewrite, edit, shorten, and combine to fit your information in, but we do try, as a matter of policy, to use everything we receive, even if we must hold it for a later edition.

The *Azuwaur* is an all-Guard newspaper, Army and Air. If you want your unit to have fair representation, speak out and be published.

Call (503) 945-3887 or write *The Azuwaur*, Public Affairs Office, Oregon Military Department, PO Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309.

age for school-required physicals, reimbursements for certain travel expenses for Tricare Prime beneficiaries, and reduction of retiree catastrophic caps.

In the meantime, Tricare Management Activity (TMA) is advising beneficiaries to save receipts, explanations of benefits, and other claims-related information for these covered services and benefits obtained from Oct. 1, 2000, until program implementation so they can later obtain reimbursement from the managed care support contractors in their regions.

TMA will widely publish the date upon which beneficiaries may submit claims with the required receipts, and the managed care support contractors will adjudicate claims for dates of service retroactively to the effective date established by Congress.

Meanwhile, two new Tricare benefits became effective April 1.

Active duty family members enrolled in Tricare Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from civilian providers but will still have to make pharmacy co-payments for the mail order pharmacy program and at network retail stores.

Also, there is a new simplified co-pay structure for prescription drugs provided to eligible uniformed services beneficiaries.

The latest information about Tricare benefits can be obtained through the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil. Beneficiaries may also contact the managed care support contractor in their region, their nearest Tricare service center, or Tricare beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators at a military treatment facility.

Buffalo soldier speaks out about a segregated Army

By JOE BURLAS

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—

Leaving a black comrade to die in an all-white field hospital is the most vivid memory one of the few remaining "buffalo soldiers" has of a segregated Army.

Retired 1st Sgt. "Trooper" John Wright recalled his World War II experiences while serving with the all-black 9th Cavalry Regiment.

He talked to a Pentagon audience during a Black History Month observance, "Conversation with a Buffalo Soldier," on Feb. 23.

Congress authorized the formation of the first six regular Army black regiments—the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 44th Infantry—in 1867.

While serving in the West protecting settlers and railroad workers expanding the frontier, soldiers from these regiments were given the nickname "buffalo soldiers" by Native Americans.

Responding to a question about how segregation in the Army affected him, Wright recalled seeking medical aid for a subordinate who was severely wounded during combat in Italy.

When no one came to assist in get-

ting the wounded soldier out of the jeep at the field hospital, Wright tracked down a doctor and asked him to help.

Wright recalled the doctor rebuffed him, saying, "What am I going to do with a black boy? Can't you see all the white men we have to attend?"

Despite the rebuff, Wright persisted and was eventually allowed to leave his comrade on one side of the hospital—set apart from the white soldiers.

"I never saw my friend again," Wright said. "I still wake up in a sweat at night thinking about what happened. I'll never forget it."

Wright, who retired in 1968 after a 31-year Army career, shared fonder memories of being a buffalo soldier.

Shortly before the start of World War II, Wright was part of a 9th Cavalry training cadre tasked with teaching three black battalions about air defense artillery at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The training was a test because many white people thought black troops could not handle technical tasks.

When a crate of instruction manuals showed up without the white instructors they were supposed to get, the cadre and battalion leaders rolled up their sleeves and taught themselves.

"We practiced this stuff day and night for 13 weeks," he said. "It got so bad

that the girls around Fort Bragg would walk away from us whenever they saw us downtown because they knew all we ever talked about was air defense—even in our off duty time."

The intense training paid off, he said, because the battalions hit every target during the graduation exercise.

"The commanding general was so impressed by what we had done in 13 weeks because it usually took white units two years to get to the same level of training," Wright said.

The buffalo soldier moniker was an oral tradition to pass on how the name was earned.

While black troopers' skin color and woolly hair does resemble that of buffalo, it was because black troopers wore buffalo coats and were respected as worthy opponents that they were given the name buffalo soldiers.

"White troopers got all the new clothing and equipment, and the black troopers got the castoff stuff," Wright said. "The white troopers lived in wooden barracks, while the black troopers lived in tents, even in garrison. To stay warm, black troopers soon learned to kill and skin buffalo when they got the chance in order to make the skin into a coat.

"The buffalo were sacred animals to the Indians," Wright said. "For them to name black troopers buffalo soldiers was the highest honor they could give."

President Harry S. Truman ordered the end of segregation in all the military services in 1947.

Wright, 84 years old, is currently a resident of the Old Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington.

He started giving talks about his buffalo soldier experiences in 1998 as a means to get out into the local community and stay active, he said.

Accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers

- Comprised of former slaves, freedmen and Black Civil War soldiers, the buffalo soldiers were the first African-Americans to serve during peace time.

- The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes in the west.

- Throughout the Indian War era, 20 percent of US Cavalry troopers were Black, and they fought over 177 engagements.

- Buffalo soldiers also participated in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Expedition, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Police Action.

- 180,000 buffalo soldiers wore the Union Army blue. 30,000 served in the Navy, and 200,000 served as workers on labor, engineering, hospital and other support projects. More than 33,000 gave their lives.

- At least 18 Medals of Honor were presented to buffalo soldiers during the Western Campaigns. 23 buffalo soldiers received the award during the Civil War.

Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors touring Northwest in May



The Jazz Ambassadors of the US Army Field Band will be performing its spring tour in Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

As the Army's musical ambassadors, the band travels more than 100 days annually throughout the United States on three major concert tours. During the tours, the field band reaches thousands of citizens who may not have any other contact with the military. From the fan mail received at the Pentagon, the contact the band has with the public is overwhelmingly favorable.

There is no prescribed uniform for invited guests. For afternoon concerts, male band members wear Army blue uniforms with four-in-hand tie; female band members wear dress mess uniforms.

The field band concerts are free and open to military service members, their families, and the public. Tickets for admission are required, however, and are available normally from the civilian sponsor of the event.

Jazz Ambassadors Spring Tour 2001

Oregon, Idaho and Washington dates and locations

May 6 4 p.m. Pocatello, Idaho
Frazier Hall, sponsored by the *Idaho State Journal*. For tickets call (208) 239-3169.

May 7 7 p.m. Twin Falls, Idaho
College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Auditorium, sponsored by the *Times-News*. For tickets call (208) 733-0931 Ext. 205.

May 8 7:30 p.m. Caldwell, Idaho
Jewett Auditorium, sponsored by the *Idaho Statesman*. For tickets call (208) 377-6475.

May 9 7:30 p.m. Boise, Idaho
South Junior High School Auditorium, sponsored by the *Idaho Statesman*. For tickets call (208) 377-6475.

May 11 7:30 p.m. LaGrande, Ore.
Eastern Oregon University Stadium, sponsored by the *Observer*. For tickets call (541) 963-3161.

May 12 7:30 p.m. Pendleton, Ore.
Convention Center, sponsored by the *East Oregonian*. For tickets call (541) 276-2211.

May 13 2 p.m. The Dalles, Ore.
The Dalles High School Auditorium,

sponsored by *The Dalles Chronicle*. For tickets call (541) 506-4606.

May 14 8 p.m. Eugene, Ore.
Silva Theater in the Hult Center, sponsored by the *Register-Guard*. For tickets call (541) 485-1234.

May 15 7:30 p.m. Medford, Ore.
North Medford High School Auditorium, sponsored by the *Medford Mail Tribune*. For tickets call (541) 776-4407.

May 16 7:30 p.m. Corvallis, Ore.
Corvallis High School Auditorium, sponsored by the *Corvallis Gazette Times*. For tickets call (541) 753-2641.

May 17 7 p.m. Vancouver, Wash.
Frontier Middle School Student Center, sponsored by the *Columbian*. For tickets call (360) 694-3391 Ext. 2210.

May 18 7:30 p.m. Astoria, Ore.
Liberty Theater, sponsored by the *Daily Astorian*. For tickets call (503) 325-3211.

May 19 7:30 p.m. Tacoma, Wash.
Memorial Field House, sponsored by the *News Tribune*. For tickets call (253) 274-7344.

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.

Affecting lives for the better

More than 100 underprivileged Portland children got a chance to experience what other children might normally take for granted—basic outdoor activities considered necessary for healthy child development.

A little more than 14 years ago, the Oregon Air National Guard saw the need and joined forces with the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) to give these kids a good, full week of camp—HAP Camp.

During their stay at Camp Rilea, Aug. 19-24, the children—all from Portland public housing tenant families—received a full week of summer camping activities. They swam, fished, rode horses, visited historical sites, explored beaches, tidepools, and spent a night camping out. The week's activities culminated with the great sand castle contest.

The theme of the camp is citizenship, and all activities are designed to further develop tent campers as good citizens.

The campers spent 24 hours a day with their hut-mates (five to seven other children and two adult counselors) and many close bonds of friendship and respect developed during the week.

At the end of the camp, says counselor and HAP director, W.E. Hunter, "tears were evident among the kids and adults alike." Hunter added many of the counselors continue to see the children long after camp is over.

The counselors are National Guard members, HAP employees and volunteers. Cooks for the hungry children were provided by the Air and Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum said the National Guard sees camp as fulfilling part of their obligation to "serve county and community."

Rosenbaum, assistant adjutant general for the Air Guard helped founded the camp program in 1969 and served as its director for all but the last four years.

Altogether, some 1,400 Portland children in the 10-12 age bracket have attended HAP camp since the first one held in 1969. The program has continued annually thereafter.

This article was written by Capt. Dan Burrill and was first published in the October/November 1984 edition of the Azuwur.