

# AZUWUR

Oregon National Guard

## Firehawk crew helps fight urban wildfire



Azuwur file photo

The Firehawk dumps a load of water during a demonstration.

PORTLAND—Soldiers in the 1042nd Medical Company were preparing for routine night training when the call came in. A wildfire was raging in north Portland, threatening nearly 100 homes and the University of Portland.

Six soldiers, a UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter, and the UH-60L Firehawk

deployed to north Portland to assist in fighting the worst urban wildfire in the city's history.

The fire started just before 6 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2001, next to railroad tracks following the east bank of the Willamette River. Investigators suspect sparks from a passing train ignited the dry brush along the tracks.

With the dry weather conditions in the Northwest this summer, and helped along by 20 mph winds, the blaze raced up the hillside from the river toward houses perched on a bluff above Swan Island.

The blaze quickly became a five-alarm fire, with every available Portland fire fighter on the bluff. The firemen were joined in backyards by the houses' resi-

dents, who were armed with garden hoses, buckets and water pitchers. Swimming pools and ponds were transformed from recreation to weapons.

The two Blackhawks were joined in

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## 173rd Fighter Wing deploys to Poland for real-world training



1st Lt. Misti Oyler

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Oregon Air National Guard commander, foster friendships with the 1st Squadron in Poland, in hopes that Oregon airmen will be able to train with them again. The generals invited the Polish Air Force to participate in Sentry Eagle at Kingsley Field in August.

By 1st Lt. MISTI OYLER

173RD FIGHTER WING

Kingsley Field personnel returned from Warsaw, Poland, in early June, having completed an historic training deployment with the Polish Air Force.

The primary purpose for the deployment was to expose Kingsley's instructor pilots to real-world adversary dis-

similar air combat training (DACT) with the Polish Air Force against the MiG-29 Fulcrum. It was also an opportunity to expose Kingsley personnel to an actual deployment and to train the Polish Air Force on NATO and US air-to-air tactics.

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## Stand Down 2001 provides hope and helping hand to lost veterans

By Spc. BARBARA ISAACS

115TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Veteran service organizations; civic organizations; businesses; individual volunteers; and the National Guard, the Navy, and the Marine Corps Reserves participated in Stand Down 2001.

The drug- and alcohol-free event, hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs in Eugene and Salem on May 5, offered a bevy of free services and assistance to veterans.

Traditionally, service members have always welcomed the term "stand down" as a time to rest and recuperate in an area well away from the action of the front lines. Applied to the outreach initiative, it is an effort to impact and positively change the lives of homeless veterans and veterans in need of a helping hand.

The brutality of war reaches beyond the battlefield. It has affected the lives of many veterans who lived through it, and left many of them on the fringe of society living in the streets without food, shelter, or hope. Stand Downs across the country are important, because they entice some of those lost veterans to be found. It provides an opportunity to see what is available to them. This can be the first step in changing a veteran's situation. The

program became a nationwide initiative beginning in 1998 with its inception in San Diego, and has since been a success at drawing in more and more veterans in need of assistance.

Veterans are entitled to certain benefits as a result of their time in service. Entitlements are among one of the ways appreciation and recognition is shown to those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Some of the services provided to the veterans are registration and assessment, medical services, legal services, veteran benefits counseling, mental health and social services, employment services, and education benefits. Donated food, clothing, and other valuable living commodities were also free to veterans. The National Guard showed its commitment to the community and the state by donating materials and manpower to the operation.

"It's good to see that there is community interest here," Bill Bennet, a Vietnam veteran, noted. "It's a lot different than when I came home in 1969 from Vietnam."

Stand Down 2001 was more than just services and benefits. This year, fun was

■ Please turn to Stand Down Page 5

## 225 soldiers and airmen compete in TAG Marksmanship Competition

By Sgt. AMY ELKER

115TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Approximately 225 representatives from Air and Army Guard units across the state of Oregon demonstrated their marksmanship skills at the 18th annual Adjutant General's Marksmanship Competition, held March 25-26 at Camp Rilea.

The shooters competed in team and individual pistol, rifle, and machine gun matches. Even cold, blustery days filled with torrential coastal rain could not dampen the flame of competition amongst these experienced and novice shooters.

"Any time I get a chance to do competitive shooting, I go. It's fun and I get to be with a lot of guys who have been in my former platoons or companies. It's a great time to get together for camaraderie," Capt. Levi Lee, HQ STARC, said. "I also really like the competitive aspect and discipline that comes with shooting. You have to control your body, your mind and the rifle you are holding in order to get a decent score. Some people may even consider it to be a martial art." Lee competed in the rifle competition and has shot competitively most of his life; however, prior experience is not a

prerequisite to participate in the event.

"I love competition like this," first-time rifle competitor, Pvt. Tyler Lucas, Co. A, 2-162 Infantry, said. "I've met a lot of guys from all over the state; even some from the Air Guard. You just come out to have a good time. Besides, I love doing anything I can for the Army." Lucas enlisted in the Army Guard in August 2000.

The team machine gun match involves the assembly, disassembly and function check of the M-60 machine gun. All this must be done within the 15-minute time limit—while blindfolded. In addition, competitors must complete a grueling two-mile run while wearing Kevlar helmets, web gear and 45 pounds of additional gear including the gun, tripod, spare barrel, tools and 160 rounds of ammunition. Each team had 32 minutes to complete the run, set up the gun, and fire at the target with as much precision as possible.

Despite all that is involved, Sgt. Lee Larson, Co. D, 2-162 Infantry, and winner of the individual and team machine gun competition, explained that in addition to not needing experience in order to compete in the match, a competitor also does not need

■ Please turn to Marksman Page 5

## Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

The annual training period for all of our units is rapidly coming to a close.

I have had the opportunity to visit many of you in the field, and I have been very impressed with what you have been able to accomplish.

Every time you get together and train collectively as a unit, the results are exceptional. Not only are you training to standard under harsh and realistic conditions, you are maintaining a high level of individual morale as displayed by the soldiers and airmen with whom I have had direct contact.

I commend all Guard members for that accomplishment. We want to keep everyone interested in the continued support of your assigned team.

We need your expertise if we are to provide our state and nation the professional service that they expect from the Oregon Guard. I urge all of you to stay involved.

If you have concerns or recommendations for improvement, please let us know.

As I write this, the Emergency Operations Center at the Military Department

in Salem has been activated in response to the serious wild fire threat throughout Oregon.

I know you have spent numerous hours training to perfect your federal mission requirements this summer, but now it's our time to shine for the citizens of our great state.

Our success depends on your involvement in the front lines.

As we train and deploy teams to the various hot spots, I ask you to stay focused on the valuable service that you are providing.

If necessary, we will work with employers and school officials in order to facilitate your service on state active duty. This is truly an emergency, and the Guard will make a positive contribution.

On a different note, the Army Guard is preparing to deploy the 241st Military Intelligence Company to Bosnia. They will serve with the 29th Division (a National Guard division) as part of SFOR 10. They have trained hard, and they are ready. They will be six months

in theater serving to preserve the peace in the American sector. I know your thoughts and prayers will be with them.

Soon, the Army Guard will be donning the black beret as a symbol of transformation to service in the 21st century. Command Sgt. Maj.

Newman has been working on an appropriate ceremony to signify the change. Take pride in your new headgear. Take pride in your appearance at all times. Each of you, Army and Air, is a walking advertisement for service in Oregon's greatest organization.



Strength figures are on the rise currently. This is a trend that I would like to see continue. Personnel readiness is our priority and will continue to be so. We need everyone's help if we are to reach our goals. As we improve our readiness posture, exciting opportunities will come our way.

I will end this by thanking each of you for your service. It is truly important, and there are numerous public officials that value your contribution to peace, prosperity, and security.

As we train and deploy teams to the various hot spots, I ask you to stay focused on the valuable service that you are providing."

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin  
The adjutant general

### ATTENTION:

All current and former members of the Oregon National Guard

You are invited to attend the 13th annual Military Ball  
Oct. 20, 2001

Portland Air National Guard Base Hangar One

No-host Cocktail at 6:30 p.m.  
Dancing begins at 7:30 p.m.

E-5 and below, civilians, retirees: \$15  
E-6 and above: \$17  
At the door: \$20

Dress:  
Formal/Mess Dress/Dress Blues

For hotel accommodations:  
La Quinta Inn and Suites  
11207 NE Holman St.  
Portland, Ore.  
(503) 382-3820

1 person room: \$45  
2 person room: \$56  
1 person suite: \$56  
2 person suite: \$63

Shuttle to and from Military Ball  
Make reservations by Oct. 1, 2001

For more information:  
Sgt. Laura Holmes (503) 472-6361

## Command Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Since my last article, I've had the privilege to visit with many of the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard during their UTAs and also while deployed.

The visit with the 173rd Fighter Wing was most rewarding.

They were in Poland flying training with MiG 29s flown by very proud and devoted Polish airmen. This was not just a training mission for the 173rd pilots, but also an interaction mission of two countries and its people.

The men and women of the 173rd were great ambassadors for Oregon while in Poland.

I had more to say about that trip, but I have decided to change gears and say a few words about what has happened in the past 24 hours.

Yesterday, Sept. 11, 2001, the attack on America will change many things on how we do business in the Oregon Air Guard.

I visited Portland at the 142nd Fighter Wing. The wing was doing what they have trained to do.

They were preparing aircraft to be used to protect our borders.

This was not an exercise or inspection, it was the real thing.

There was no grumbling about "why do we have to do this?"

There was no one concerned about how long they would be working, but rather a true team of professional men and women preparing to go to war when called.

As I write this, we have two F-15 Eagles in the air protecting the Northwest skies.

Guardsmen are calling, asking when they should come to work; they want to help.

I will not speculate on who did this; it will be known.

I won't speculate how long it will take to resolve; we will do it.

I do know that both the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings are on alert and ready.

It is hard to believe that an attack on America's soil has happened, but we can be proud of who we are and that we are



a part of the best military in the world.

Our leaders, both state and federal, are the best and will lead us through this difficult time.

My prayers are with each family and friends of the victims of this attack, and with each member of the Oregon National Guard. God bless America.

Find the Oregon Guard on the web:

[www.oregonguard.com](http://www.oregonguard.com)  
[www.mil.state.or.us](http://www.mil.state.or.us)

[www.orport.ang.af.mil](http://www.orport.ang.af.mil)  
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### Oregon Military Department

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

### Publication Staff

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

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

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

**Video**  
Sgt. 1st Class Tom Hovie  
tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil

**Contributors**  
ANG Visual Information Specialists  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain **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.





# Carpe Flamma 2001

## 82nd and 41st Brigade soldiers recertify for wildfire duty



Colleen Breeden

Soldiers from the 1249th Engineer Battalion practice deploying aluminum fire shelters at the Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth. After completing the eight-hour recertification course, the soldiers traveled to the Monument Complex to assist with mop up duties.

By COLLEEN BREEDEN

AZUWUR STAFF

"It's not a cakewalk," George Jamieson, a Northwest fire training coordinator from Pendleton, Ore., said. "It's the difference between being able to do it properly and saying hello to your maker."

With over 255,000 acres on fire in Oregon, over 500 Oregon National Guard soldiers and airmen have answered Gov. John A. Kitzhaber's call.

Over 300 Guardsmen and women received an eight-hour fire fighter II refresher course, and then prepared for deployment to fire lines.

The Oregon Department of Forestry sponsored five refresher classes throughout the state for the Guard soldiers.

The atmosphere in the Oregon Military Academy training room was charged with excitement, as the soldiers worked towards recertification as fire

fighter IIs.

"I feel wonderful. Excited," 1st Lt. Blues Buckholz, platoon leader for B Co., 1249th Engineer Battalion. "That's why I'm in the National Guard, to serve my state."

With the recent deaths at the Thirty-mile fire in Washington State, emphasis in the training class was on safety.

"Fight the fire aggressively, but put safety first," Jamieson said. "Tools are replaceable; you're not."

At the end of the classroom session, the soldiers went outside to practice deploying portable fire shelters.

Thirty "baked potatoes" littered the lawn outside of the OMA as the soldiers paired up for the deployment drill. The foil tents, which resemble baked potatoes when a firefighter is taking cover, are built to withstand burnovers.

The aluminum outer layer of the shelter reflects 95 percent of the radiant heat of the fire, but the temperature inside the shelter still rises to 150

degrees. Keeping the nose to the ground allows for cooler and cleaner air to breathe and keeps the airway safe, while leather gloves, helmets and the Nomex shirt and pants protect the body. The goal of each soldier was to unfold and hide under the shelter in 25 seconds or less—the standard safe window for survival on the fire line if shelter deployment is necessary.

Over 130 people have been killed by wildfires since 1990; 39 by burnovers. According to "Wildland Fire Fatalities in the United States 1990 to 1998," by the US Forest Service,

fatalities from burnovers have occurred each year except 1992, ranging from a high of 17 in 1994 to a low of one in 1997. The lack of personal safety equipment, such as the aluminum shelters, was a direct factor in many of the 39 fatalities. In numerous incidents, firefighters succumbing to burnovers did not have

a fire shelter, or their shelter was not reachable. Other fatalities occurred when the firefighters attempted to outrun the fire instead of taking cover, or they did not remain inside the safety of the shelters long enough.

Once training was completed, the soldiers were recertified and deployed to the Monument Complex and the Quartz Fire.

"It's some

bustin' work," Spc. Shayne Hines, HHC, 1249th Engineer Battalion, said.

"It's something I have to do," Spc. Mike Nasset, B Co., 1249th Engineer Battalion, added. "It's part of the reason I joined the National Guard. To serve my state."

Soldiers across the state also trained at the Bend armory, Eugene armory, Medford armory and McMinnville armory. The initial call-up brought soldiers from 1-82 Cavalry, 1249th Engineers, 1-162 Infantry, 2-162 Infantry, 1-186 Infantry, and 2-218 Field Artillery to state active duty to provide

mop up assistance at the fires, freeing up more experienced firefighters to tackle the fire and work toward containment.

*It's something I have to do. It's part of the reason I joined the National Guard. To serve my state."*

Spc Mike Nasset  
B Co., 1249th Engineer Battal-



Spc. Brady Fox, HHC, 1249th Engineer Battalion, practices deploying the emergency fire shelter.

Colleen Breeden

## Quartz fire contained with help from 41st Brigade soldiers

By Spc. BARBARA ISAACS

IIS MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Oregon National Guard troops joined the Quartz fire fighting teams in Southwest Oregon this August.

Two days after Governor John Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency, Guard units were activated from Ashland, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Medford, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Mc Minnville and Portland.

All together, 303 soldiers deployed to help defeat the fire that burned 6,178 acres of private land, BLM acreage, and national forest five miles from the California border, outside the little town of Ruch.

The Quartz fire ignited during the night of August 8 by a lightning strike.

Due to poor visibility, fire fighters were unable to safely get into the area before rapid fire spread occurred.

The fire spread east, threatening the Ashland Watershed, bringing with it

the threat of potentially disastrous pollution to the drinking water.

Nine long days later, National Guard troops arrived to relieve weary fire fighters at the northernmost section of the fire.

"We put a lot of people together on some very short notice" said Lt. Col. Dan Cameron. "Because of the short notice, all the troops had been previously trained and about half of them actually fought fires last year as well."

Troops received between six and 48 hours notification of activation.



Spc. Barbara Isaacs

Spc. Jeff Berg, HHC/2-162 Infantry from Cottage Grove, and Spc. Stan Gray, C/2-162 Infantry from Eugene, dig out a smoldering stump during mopup at the Quartz fire.

hour shifts, concentrating their efforts on mop-up.

Soldiers extinguished the remaining hot spots in the burnt-over area to continue containment, freeing type I fire fighters for battling the front edge of the fire, located to the south.

From that point, they packed their bags, attended a one-day refresher course on fire suppression, and traveled to the fire camp at Cantrell Buckley State Park.

On August 18, soldiers began working rolling 12-

To date this year, there have been 12 fires in Oregon.

Drought and lack of available water presents an increased problem to limited fire fighting personnel.

"We were happy to see the National Guard show up, with as thinly spread right now as the forestry department is," said Lance Arctander. He and his wife were evacuated from their campsite near the vicinity of the fire.

Four days after the Guard's arrival, fire containment was 100 percent. Total cost is estimated to be nearly \$9,000,000.

Greg Gilpin, incident commander, initially projected the fire to burn 22,000 acres. He attributes containment at the much lesser acreage in large part to the excellent cooperation of all agencies involved.

"I would be happy to fight fires with the National Guard anytime," Gilpin said to the troops the night of their departure.

He also thanked soldiers for their contribution and prided them for their superior work ethic.



## Oregon soldiers place first and second in Nebraska, but Indiana wins their third National Guard marathon team

By 1st Lt. RICK BREITENFELDT  
NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

LINCOLN, NEB.—Oregon is a state known for its runners.

This year, members of the Oregon National Guard who traveled to Lincoln, Neb., to compete in the 18th annual National Guard Marathon Trials on May 6, weren't about to let anyone forget it.

Finishing first and second, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt and Spc. Bill Raitter, both members of Company A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, in Bend, Ore., blew away the field, finishing nearly five minutes ahead of the next closest Guard finisher from New York.

"This was a great race because I got to run with Bill," said Vandervlugt, who finished this year's 26.2 mile course in 2 hours, 34 minutes, 14 seconds—just 36 seconds ahead of Raitter.

Vandervlugt, a readiness sergeant with the Oregon National Guard, wasn't disappointed with his time, but added that it wasn't his best performance.

"You get into the race and you get to a certain point where you realize that it's not a race for time anymore. It's a race for position and that's it," said Vandervlugt.

Oregon running legend Alberto Salazar, who set one world and six US records during his running career and qualified for the US Olympic teams in 1980 and 1984, came to Lincoln to present a runner's clinic to the Guard participants in the days leading up to the race. He offered runners tips for success that they could use on the course.

Vandervlugt and Raitter, who train to-

gether nearly every day, took some of his advice, saying they took turns sharing the lead against the brisk Nebraska wind and the whole time they were running, they kept each other motivated.

"I didn't know which one of us was going to get it, but I'm just glad it was one of us," said Vandervlugt, who has run the Lincoln race nine times.

"The whole thing I kept thinking about was the Guard team championship," said Vandervlugt.

Oregon, which has never won the team competition, was again pushed to the side by a well balanced and experienced Indiana National Guard team.

Although Indiana didn't have any finishers in the top five, their depth proved too much for the competition and their combined time of 8:15:18 was two minutes faster than their Oregon counterparts. Indiana runners Trent Sinnett, Curt Carey and Whitney Miller helped the Hoosier team, which claimed the team title in 1998 and 1999, move back into the top spot after being upset last year by Puerto Rico.

According to Master Sgt. Dianne Shottenkirk, marathon coordinator, 55 of the top finishers in this year's marathon trials will go on to represent the National Guard as members of the All-Guard Marathon team. The team promotes physical fitness in the Guard and supports recruiting events around the country.

They will run in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., the US Navy Blue Angels Marathon in Pensacola, Fla., and the Air Force Marathon in Dayton, Ohio.

## IRT program receives preservation award for Fremont Power House resto-



Colleen Breedon

**The Fremont Power House during restoration by the Innovative Readiness Training program. Soldiers working to preserve and restore the historic structure are part of the 3670th Maintenance Company, Clackamas, and the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Salem.**

SALEM—The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual National Historic Preservation Week Awards.

The awards recognize success in preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, and interpreting Oregon's architectural and cultural heritage during the preceding year.

This year's winners include Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Batty, the Oregon Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training Program, the 3670th Maintenance Company, the 1249th Engineer

Battalion, and US Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, for the restoration of the Fremont Power House and Foreman's Cottage in the Fremont Power House Historic District, Grant County.

In communities across the United States, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character.

By preserving historic places we celebrate achievements and remember the contributions made by dedicated individuals.

## Citizen-soldiers impact lives of many in the community

July 16, 2001

Dear Maj. Gen. Burgin,

I am writing to express my excitement and appreciation for the experience my students were given at the Camp Adair facility.

I have been employed for the past seven years working as a therapist with emotionally abused and behaviorally challenged students who are in public school in Lincoln County. This summer I am volunteering with a program through the city of Toledo police department targeting these same "at risk" youth.

Through Lt. Col. David Enyeart, who is a police officer on staff with the Toledo police department, we were given the opportunity to take a dozen middle school boys and girls to the Ropes Challenge Course. In my personal and professional view, this was one of the best activities these kids have ever experienced.

What I saw on that day was a group of soldiers who really believed in their message and lived it for these kids. The kids were given a realistic structure and list of expectations that they followed to the letter. With an abundance of encouragement and enthu-

siasm the students were given challenging tasks to accomplish as a team as well as individual accomplishments.

One of the kids summarized it best by saying she attempted things she would never have tried except for the positive encouragement of the soldiers, and subsequently, her peers. She expressed that the experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and that no one in her life had ever showed her they cared enough to get her to try anything new before.

If there is anything I can do to assist in developing and publicizing this program you are developing, do not hesitate to contact me. This was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had with students, and has increased my bonds with these particular kids 100-fold. What a positive impact.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to more such experiences with these kids and others in the future.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen M. Davis, MS  
Child Development Specialist  
South Beach, Oregon

## Kingsley's 270th ATC deploys for fourth visit to Slovakia

By 1st Lt. MISTI OYLER

173RD FIGHTER WING

The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron visited Kuchyna Air Force Base in Bratislava, Slovakia, for the fourth time. Six members from the Kingsley Field-based unit deployed to Slovakia, in the heart of central Europe, for 40 days beginning at the end of May.

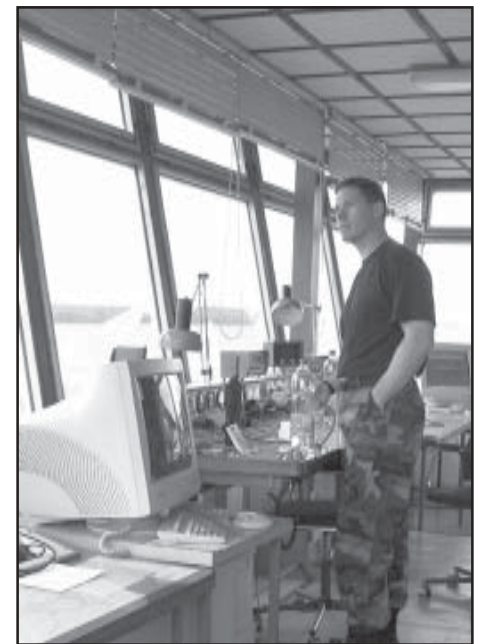
Central Europe was in turmoil in the early 1990s. The Velvet Revolution resulted in a civil divorce of Slovakia and the Czech Republic in 1993. Since that time, Slovakia has been making preparations and hoping for a NATO invitation, possibly in 2002. Having economic stability and a security infrastructure are the first steps. Next is training with NATO units to learn combined operations and procedures.

The 270th was invited by the Slovakian Air Force because of the professionalism and success at setting up and coordinating air traffic control operations for US Air Force deployment exercises.

"We provide a continuity for a new unit coming in and act as a liaison," Maj. Mike Labounty, 270th ATC commander, said. For this trip, the 355th Fighter Squadron, "Triple Nickel," an F-16 unit out of Aviano Air Base, Italy, arrived.

Once the new unit is on station, the 270th takes control of the airport working directly with the Slovaks.

"The weapons training exercises keep you on your toes, with bomb runs only five kilometers from the tower and making sure you deconflict with a four ship ready for takeoff at the end of the runway," Labounty said. "Their mission radar is very slow and doesn't show an accurate picture of where aircraft are flying."



1st Lt. Misti Oyler

**Master Sgt. Bob Fort, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, works in the air traffic control tower at Kuchyna Air Force Base in Bratislava, Slovakia.**

He further went on to explain how the 270th ended up in Slovakia. Indiana and Slovakia are partners in the State Partnership for Peace program. To help prepare the country for NATO membership, Indiana sent business leaders and helped facilitate dialogue. Because Indiana's air traffic control squadron was relocated to Michigan, Oregon's 270th ATC was invited to work with the Slovaks.

The town of Bratislava is quaint with old Gothic style buildings and cobblestone streets. The castle of Bratislava looms above the city, making for a perfect day hike up through narrow streets. The dollar goes along way on the local economy with English becoming more common as a second language.



# Marksman: "I can't wait to come back next year and do it again."

■ **Continued from Page ONE**

any special training to prepare. "I only run twice a year," Larson said. "Once at the PT test and once at the M-60 competition."

Larson's partner in the team M-60 match, Pfc. Lonnie Harrison II, Co D, 2-162 Infantry, didn't know anything about the M-60 before he signed on as Larson's partner. "We got paired up by fate," Larson said. Larson's original partner cancelled, and at the last minute Harrison joined his team.

"It's the hardest 32 minutes of your life, but after it's over, it's the greatest feeling,"

Harrison said. "I can't wait to come back next year and do it again."

Larson had some words of encouragement for first-time competitors. "Don't get discouraged if you lose," he said.

"When I first started in 1983, I

consistently shot last place. It took me years to get any good at it. Take what you learn here, apply it, come back next year, recruit some new people and keep having at it, because eventually you'll do well." Larson has only missed one year of shooting since he started competing in the TAG matches 18 years ago, and that was due to a deployment.

Master Sgt. Nelson Shew, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the small arms readiness section, also had some words of encouragement for first time competitors and to those who may be hesitant to sign up. "I started where they (first time competitors) did," Shew said. "I was in awe at the first match I ever went to. There were so many people there. In two years I got on the national team and I've been on it for 30 years, since 1969. That's longer than any other Guardsman in the United States." Unfortunately, this will be Shew's last year on the national team before he retires.

Retirement forced out another long time competitor, Master Sgt. Charles Spiker, former chief of the small arms readiness section. Spiker has been very instrumental in having successful competitions in the state and in teaching

many soldiers how to become better shooters, according to Lt. Col. Gregory Browning, state marksmanship coordinator.

As a special honor to Spiker for his contributions to the marksmanship program over the years, a trophy for the first place recipient of the individual novice pistol award now bears his name. "It is a real honor to have a trophy with my name on it. I hadn't really expected that," Spiker said. "It's been kind of difficult this year not participating in the event." Browning expressed sadness in losing such a high-caliber soldier to retirement.

"Fortunately," Browning said, "we stole his son to take his place!"

To top off the weekend, Brig. Gen. Terry Barker was on hand to present the awards to the competitors.

"It's an honor for me to be able to recognize all the outstanding Army and Air

Guardsman that are here today," Barker said. "Of all the core values—loyalty, professionalism, and pride—I would like to add one more to that list today—dedication. Every one of you is what I consider a truly dedicated soldier."

First place in the individual pistol match were: Sgt. 1st Class Loren Sturm (overall winner); Staff Sgt. Curtis Palmerton (open category); Capt. James Samuel Jr. (novice); Co. D, 1-162 Infantry (unit); and 114 Fighter Squadron/173 Fighter Wing (pistol challenge).

Top rifle honors went to: Spc. Daren Pfaender (overall); Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Deatherage (open); Staff Sgt. Darren Jones (novice); 173 Fighter Wing (unit); and 3670 Maintenance Company (rifle challenge).

Machine gun winners were: Sgt. Lee Larson (overall); Pfc. Lonnie Harrison II (novice); and Harrison and Larson, Co. D 2-162 Infantry (team).

In addition, the 173 FW received the McTaggart Cup for the most competitors (14 personnel).

The top scoring shooters will be invited to represent the Oregon Guard at the nation-wide Winston P. Wilson match in Arkansas this October.

.....  
*I was in awe at the first match I ever went to. There were so many people there. In two years I got on the national team, and I've been on it for 30 years, since 1969.*

.....  
 Master Sgt. Nelson Shew  
 Small Arms Readiness Section NCOIC  
 .....

## Tearing it up in Klamath Falls



Contributed photo

**Engineers from the Oregon Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program work on the future Klamath County Youth Sports Complex. By the end of the project, engineers from Salem and Coos Bay will have moved over 70,000 cubic yards of soil.**

By 1st Lt. MISTI OYLER

173RD FIGHTER WING

KLAMATH FALLS—The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program was in full swing. Eight members of the Oregon National Guard detachments in Coos Bay and Salem have been doing the initial ground breaking of the Klamath County Youth Sports Complex.

Engineers are able to maintain and hone their skills while at the same time benefiting the local community.

The support of local businesses like Pape Bros, who supplied most of the heavy equipment like graders and water tankers, has been phenomenal.

Dave Steen, the powerhouse behind this ambitious undertaking, has praised the Guardsmen for their work ethic and expertise.

"They've been putting in 10- to 12-hour days and are very conscientious in maintaining the loaner equipment," Steen said. "They're moving about 70,000 yard of dirt. Their work alone, along with the equipment on loan, saves us (the sports complex committee) a quarter of a million dollars."

The Guard is literally at the ground level of a five-year project, which will be completed by grants and other volunteer work. The complex encompasses 160 acres.

When completed, the complex will have seven baseball and softball fields, soccer fields, little league fields, playgrounds, cross country exercise trails, tennis courts, and a 100,000 square foot aquatic/sports complex building.

Participating engineers from the IRT program are Officer Candidate Eric Martz, Sgt. Stacy Heathcock, Sgt. Craig Beyeler, Sgt. Michael Jaramillo, Spc. Christopher Berti, Spc. Michael Kinnaird, Spc. William Yeager, and Pvt. Evan Bowker.

## 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.*

### Roseburg unit swaps with British infantry

ASHLAND—A Company, 3rd Battalion, 51st Highlanders, British Territorial Army, will have 150 men training with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry at Camp Roberts this summer.

Representing Great Britain's Reserve Forces, these men are coming to the United States under a military exchange program designed to ensure closer working relationships between allied military organizations.

Trading places with the Highlanders is Company C, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry from Roseburg, Ore.

Although the A Company Reserve Training Center or Armory is located near Glasgow and Edinburgh at Stirling, Scotland, Company C will travel to Cinque Ports, England, where they will be attached to 3rd Battalion, 51st Highlanders for two weeks of

annual training.

In April, Maj. J.N. Kennedy, commanding officer of A Company, Maj. J. D. C. Campbell-Baldwin, training major for the 3rd Battalion, and Capt. R.C. Price, battalion quartermaster, visited Oregon and California to confer with 41st Brigade and 186th officials and training personnel at Ford Ord.

Meanwhile, Lt. Jerry Corzine, commanding officer of Company C, 186th Infantry, and 1st Sgt. Gary Neville flew to Great Britain to confer with British military officials concerning the training planned for Company C.

*This article was first published in the April/May 1983 edition of the Azuwur.*

## Stand Down: Homeless vets not used to positive attention

■ **Continued from Page ONE**

a major focus and the event was also a "fun" day for veterans and their family members.

"Fun is something that our homeless vets get little of," Norma Price, the coordinator of Eugene's Stand Down, said. "They're not used to having positive attention paid to them."

This positive focus was one of the reasons attending veterans took part in a "roll call" to announce to those present who they are, what branch of military they served in, and any campaigns they participated in.

To help make the event more memorable, veterans and volunteers also received live entertainment from top-notch bands.

Price said Stand Down 2001 was a success and the planning for Stand Down 2002 is already in the works.

The event is a great way for her and others to tell troubled vets that there is a way out of their situation; there is help available and society really does care about them.



## Railhead load up team excels in shipping equipment for AT



Submitted photo

The 41st Separate Infantry Brigade's railhead team ensured that brigade equipment arrived at Fort Carson, Colo., on time and safely for Task Force Colorado, the brigade's annual training exercises. Railroad inspectors were impressed with the team's professionalism of the soldiers.

FORT CARSON, COLO.—Before you can pack up and go to another summer annual training adventure, someone has to get your equipment and vehicles there. This was the job of Capt. Cary Miller, task force project manager and his crack team of railhead-trained soldiers.

The teams represented several units, including MP/HHC 41 Brigade, Det 1/

Albany and Camp Withycombe.

Most of the soldiers loading the various types of vehicles onto the rail cars have attended the special three-day course on railcar loading, conducted in February this year in Albany, and were glad to be practicing those skills again.

Fort Carson, Colo., was this year's annual training site for these units.

Code named Task Force Colorado, AT

HHC 41 Brigade, D/1-162 Infantry, D/2-162 Infantry, E/82 Cavalry, 141 Support Battalion and HQ STARC.

Medical support was provided at the rail sites from Co. C, 141 Support Battalion and 2-162 Infantry.

Vehicles and equipment from all of these units were loaded on rail cars at two rail sites,

was a great training experience for all soldiers and leaders involved.

Miller and his project team sought to provide the very best training available and worked hard to eliminate any training distractors.

He believes thorough planning best takes care of soldiers and success of AT periods will ultimately have a positive impact on the retention of soldiers.

Rail operations concluded successfully after initial delays.

Ninety-seven pieces of equipment were loaded onto 21 rail cars. Equipment was chained down, wired and then inspected by railroad inspectors.

Rail company inspectors had little to say as the equipment was tied down properly.

Advon personnel have been dispatched to down load the vehicles and equipment at Fort Carson.

All vehicles and equipment were staged at the tent city complex (TCC), where troops conducted intermediate staging base (ISB) operations.

Maintenance support for both rail operations was provided by contact teams dispatched to the two sites.

A special note of thanks goes out to Staff Sgt. Seon Snedeker, C/141 Support Battalion, who provided maintenance support to numerous vehicles.

## Task Force Colorado a realistic training mission

By Sgt. WENDY GREEN

41ST SEPARATE INFANTRY BRIGADE

Task Force Colorado, under the command of Lt. Col. Rock Chilton, was in full swing by the third week of June.

The task force, consisting of 258 soldiers from HHC, 41 Brigade; E/82 Cavalry; D/1-162 Infantry; D/2-162 Infantry; and 141 Support Battalion made this first element of the 7th Infantry Division's enhanced brigades to conduct their annual training on Fort Carson.

Training was as close to a real deployment as possible.

"The diversity of the troops, transportation to an out-of-state area by airlift is what made this a great, and realistic, training mission," Chilton said.

The battles were force on force, as there was no OPFOR. "Everything was contained within the task force," Chilton said. "I had no scripted plan for what happened out there."

Chilton determines the success of a mission by the following criteria: "If the soldiers are trained to standard they feel they have earned their pay, and if they have fun then we have done what we came to do."

## Hawaii National Guard visits Portland during Northwest training

By Maj. KEITH TAMASHIRO

1-487 FIELD ARTILLERY, HAWAII NATIONAL

The 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery, 29th Separate Infantry Brigade, from Hawaii, deployed to Fort Lewis, Wash., to conduct its annual training during the last two weeks of June.

An advance team was sent to Portland to coordinate the borrowing of equipment from the 2-218 Field Artillery. The borrowed equipment included howitzers, vehicles, communications, and the array of section-level components

needed in order for the battalion to effectively shoot, move and communicate. The main body arrived into Gray Army Airfield at Fort Lewis and spent one night at Camp Murray before falling in on the equipment the next day. From there, it was straight to the field for eight days of training.

The training consisted of the battalion conducting howitzer live-fire exercises, battery movements into new position areas, exercising command and control of operations and logistics, and ensuring the safety of all personnel. The battalion fired over 1,300 rounds of

artillery and was able to effectively mass fires onto targets.

The training at Fort Lewis was a huge success because it enabled the battalion to train in new locations, unfamiliar to what the battalion is used to in Hawaii. The soldiers got to witness the beauty of nature at Fort Lewis, and even experience the cold nights.

After the training was completed, the battalion conducted a military convoy to Portland, where the equipment was cleaned, serviced, and returned to the 2-218 FA. The soldiers were housed at the 141 Support Battalion headquarters

and given the opportunity to sightsee in Portland for two days. The battalion returned to Hawaii on June 28.

Overall, the battalion deployed with 230 soldiers, plus six attachments who provided the ammunition support. The last time the battalion traveled to Fort Lewis was in 1987.

For many soldiers, this was the first time they visited the states of Washington and Oregon. This experience is truly a memorable and enjoyable one. Having an opportunity to travel and see new things is one benefit of joining the National Guard.

## Fire: Guard helicopters dump 18,860 gallons of water on hot spots

Continued from Page ONE

the firefighting effort by a private helicopter, 27 fire engines, nine ladder trucks, six brush units, and three fire boats.

"This was an intense fire," Neil Heesacker, a Portland Fire Bureau spokesman, said. "Our main concern was stopping the fire from getting into the homes. There were 100 homes we had to protect, and it just kept coming."

Oregon's Firehawk is the first UH-60L Blackhawk variant, made by Sikorsky. It's belly tank can hold 1,000 gallons of water, and fills to capacity via a snorkel in one minute. The Firehawk can also deliver 15 firefighters to a blaze.

During the firefighting efforts, the Firehawk made 10 trips to the Willamette River for a total of 9,500 gallons of water dumped on hot spots. The Blackhawk, armed with a 780-gallon

waterbucket, rained 9,360 gallons of riverwater onto the blaze site in 12 trips.

"The accuracy (of the Firehawk) is better than the bucket, because the bucket tends to swing a bit," Staff Sgt. Kevin Hoggard, part of the Firehawk crew, said.

However, both helicopters were able to accomplish their mission successfully.

Crew members for the Firehawk were Capt. Mark Ulvin, CW5 Marco Frye and Hoggard. The Blackhawk's crew was comprised of CW5 Peter Davis, CW4 Mike Cataldo and CW2 Earl Poole.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of soldiers, firefighters and citizens, the fire was contained the same night, but some crews stayed on the scene to control hot spots.

## Christensen receives chief's chevrons



Maj. Mike Allegre

Denise Christensen has been promoted to the top enlisted rank in the US Air Force and Air Guard: chief master sergeant. Christensen received her new chevrons from Brig Gen. James Cunningham, commander, Oregon Air National Guard, and her daughter, Deborah Schneider, on May 6. Christensen works full-time in the human resources office in the Oregon Military Department serving as Air AGR manager. She has served in the Air Guard for 23 years and is assigned to the ORANG's state headquarters.



# Engineers complete two missions during annual training

By Staff Sgt. JOHN DRISCOLL  
1/A/1249TH ENGINEER BATTALION

Combat readiness and improving the quality of life for Central Oregon were the goals of the 1249th Engineer Battalion during annual training in June.

The engineers began the two weeks with a field exercise, conducted on the high desert at Camp Biak, that honed the battalion's combat skills.

The objective of the field exercise was defense—to prevent an aggressor from advancing. The 1249th soldiers accomplished their mission by placing minefields. Training was provided in counter mobility, mobility and survivability. The mission of combat engineers is to provide and breach defenses, support other combat arms branches, and provide mobility and counter mobility support.

"This was a great exercise that displayed the versatility of combat engineers," Maj. Alaine Encabo, 1249th Engineer Battalion executive officer, said. "The second phase of the exercise, host nation support, provided local communities with quality construction projects that will serve them for years to come. This is a vital link between the entire community and the citizen-soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard."

Following the field exercise, the companies of

the 1249th continued their training by accomplishing numerous projects that improved the quality of life for Central Oregon residents, and contributed to the health of the Deschutes National Forest. The projects the engineers completed were ones that might not have been undertaken as soon, if at all, had the soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard not been there.

.....  
"This was a great exercise that displayed the versatility of combat engineers."  
.....

Maj. Alaine Encabo  
1249th Engineer Battalion  
executive officer

Headquarters company, Salem, provided support for all of the projects, as well as providing combat engineer demolition training and moving hundreds of tons of rock for the Sisters Ranger

District. The rock they moved improved a road, which made a forest lookout tower more accessible.

Co. A, Bend, cleared and grubbed a 10-acre site in the Deschutes National Forest that will provide the Forest Service with the aggregate it needs for road



Maj. Kevin Dial

A soldier from Co. A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, puts the finishing touches on a new vault toilet at the Benham Falls trail head in the Deschutes National Forest. The engineers completed projects in the forest for annual training.

improvements. Co. A's soldiers also constructed a 12-by-20-foot vault toilet at the Benham Falls trail head and built a structure to house the Forest Service's fire fighting equipment.

The soldiers of Co. B, Dallas, cleared and grubbed the Sisters High School ball park and parking lot. They also constructed a sidewalk at Sisters High School and expanded a pond and built cabins for Sisters High School's retreat. Before returning to their home station, Co. B's soldiers constructed a four-bay fire truck shed for the Sisters Ranger District

and a pole barn for the city of Sisters.

The soldiers of Co. C, Warrenton, cleared and grubbed a four-acre site in the Sisters National Forest that will provide the Forest Service with aggregate for road improvements. Co. C's soldiers also constructed a vault toilet and demolished a stairway of an unsafe fire lookout at the top of Black Butte.

All the projects were completed in less than 10 days.

Capt. Mel Nuestro, 1249th Engineer Battalion personnel officer, summarized the battalion's experiences during annual training.

"This year's annual training at Camp Biak and in the forests of Central Oregon validated the war-fighting capability of the battalion," Nuestro said. "It benefited both the local communities and the citizen-soldiers of the 1249th Engineer Battalion."



Staff Sgt. John Driscoll

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Pankey performs a communications check in a 113 Armored Personnel Carrier during the combat readiness field exercise phase of the 1249th Engineer Battalion's annual training at Camp Biak in Central Oregon.

## Poland: "We went there to become better prepared."

Continued from Page ONE

Kingsley took six F-15 Eagles, flying a total of 54 sorties—primarily basic fighter maneuvers (BFM) and air combat maneuvers (ACM)—to Minsk-Mazowiecki Airbase, 30 miles east of Warsaw. Both aircrew and maintenance worked side by side in combined operations. The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron worked in the air traffic control tower and the 173rd FW shadow control at the radar site in Warsaw. As liaisons, they worked an over-the-shoulder arrangement to answer questions and ensure clear communications between Polish controllers and our pilots.

Poland is one the most active NATO members at this time. This is the first time the US Air Force and Air National Guard has visited Minsk-Mazowiecki Airbase, which is the lead wing for the Polish integration into NATO. The 183rd FW, an Air National Guard F-16 unit out of Springfield, Ill., conducted operations in Powdiz in 1997.

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, the adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Oregon Air National Guard commander, visited the training. Both were extremely impressed by the type of training that occurred and the opportunity Oregon Guard members

had. "We went there to become better prepared to deal with the combat air tactics of Eastern Block pilots flying the MiG 29 fighter," Cunningham said. "The Guard is now being recognized as a vanguard in efforts to liaison with former Soviet Block countries. Our time there generated a tremendous amount of high-level attention from other countries to US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). These two Oregon units have perhaps done more for international military relations in that region in recent years than any active duty component could have done."

Cunningham stressed that remaining relevant to America's military mission will serve all Oregon Guard members well, as the Pentagon's leadership continues to call upon Guard units to serve along side their active duty counterparts worldwide.

"We will remain relevant and effective with our exposure in these areas of the world," he said. "We're truly working outside of our box, and our relevancy in these endeavors is showing."

Lt. Col. Tom Schiess, 114th Squadron commander and operations officer for the deployment, agreed.

"The exercise was better than anti-

ipated, a terrific success," Schiess said. "We came out of this deployment with an insight of the capabilities of the MiG-29 aircraft and they came away with increased combat capability. The acceptance and hospitality extended to our members was generous and warm. Their enthusiasm and willingness to learn new things made it an all around great experience."

The average flight hours of Polish pilots was about 800 hours, with less than half of that in the MiG-29. The average flight time of Oregon pilots is about 2,000 hours. Sixteen Oregon pilots and 114 maintenance and support personnel joined 20 Polish pilots and over 100 Polish maintenance personnel for the exercise. All pilots from the 173rd FW received a MiG-29 familiarization flight.

Maj. John Morawiec, the deployment commander, spearheaded the operation, which ended up being a two year project. Morawiec is a Polish-American who was born near Krakow, Poland, and lived there until the age of 11. His family moved to Illinois, where he went on to graduate from the USAF Academy in 1984. He speaks fluent Polish and was invaluable as a liaison.

**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*



# News Briefs

## House approves increase in veteran education benefits

On Tuesday, June 19, 2001, the US House of Representatives unanimously endorsed one of the biggest increases ever for a program that has helped millions of veterans get a college education since the end of World War II.

Some lawmakers said the boost, to cost \$9 billion during 10 years, still was too small to keep pace with rising higher-education costs.

According to the legislation, passed 416-0, education and training benefits available to a veteran with three years' service would increase from the current \$650 a month to \$1,100.

For veterans with two years of service

or reservists who have served four years, the maximum benefit would go from \$528 to \$894 during three years. The bill still needs Senate consideration.

## Tricare For Life frequently asked questions

**When will Tricare For Life (TFL) become a reality?**

The Tricare For Life provisions will take effect Oct. 1, 2001.

**Who is eligible for TFL?**

TFL will cover Medicare-eligible uniformed service retirees entitled to retired pay and their spouses, qualifying dependents, and survivors, regardless of age, who are enrolled in Medicare Part B.

**Is there an enrollment fee or premium for TFL?**

No. But eligibility requires enrollment in Medicare Part B, which has a (2001) premium of \$50 a month.

**What will TFL do for me as a Medicare-eligible?**

TFL will pay all Medicare copayments and annual deductibles and will pay at least 75 percent of allowable charges for Tricare-covered benefits after Medicare benefits are exhausted.

**Does TFL provide a pharmacy benefit?**

Yes. Medicare-eligibles are eligible for Tricare Senior Pharmacy (TSRx) coverage, unless they have pharmacy coverage under another insurance.

**What if my doctor doesn't take Tricare?**

If your doctor sees Medicare patients,

TFL will pay the doctor automatically after the Medicare claim is filed, without additional paperwork in most cases.

**What if I have other insurance?**

TFL will be third payer to Medicare and your other insurance, covering copayments and deductibles (but not premiums or enrollment fees) you pay under the other insurance. You can't use TSRx mail-order or retail pharmacy services until your other insurance's drug benefits are exhausted, except for drugs not covered under the other insurance.

**Will I still need my Medicare-supplemental insurance after Oct. 1, 2001?**

No. In most cases, paying that expense after you have free TFL will seem a waste of money.

**Should I cancel my other insurance now?**

DO NOT do that before Oct. 1, 2001, when TFL takes effect. You may want to contact your insurer in advance for information on canceling your other insurance as of Oct. 1, 2001.

**Will TFL deny payment if I have other health insurance besides Medicare?**

Usually, yes. You will receive a form showing what TFL would have paid, absent other insurance. It will include an appeal form you can resubmit to TFL if you canceled your other insurance before the doctor visit. You can file a separate Tricare claim for copayments and deductibles you pay under your other insurance.

**How do I get answers to other questions?**

Call (888) 363-5433 for TFL, and (877) 363-6337 for TSRx.

*Editor's note: FAQs reprinted with permission by The Retired Officer's Association (TROA).*

## Army MWR offers updated outdoor recreation web site

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](http://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 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](http://www.armymwr.com)*

## 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, incen-

tives 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 reenlist-

ment 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](http://www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html) for more information.

## Let your voice be heard to your fellow soldiers and airmen

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

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

The *Azuwur* 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 *Azuwur* 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 Azuwur*, Public Affairs Office, Oregon Military Department, PO Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309.



# Oregon soldiers re-enlist at USS Arizona memorial



Capt. Robert Fraser

The USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Fifteen Oregon soldiers re-enlisted at the memorial during annual training.

By Capt. ROBERT FRASER

2-218 FIELD ARTILLERY

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII—Sixty years after reaching its final resting place, the battleship USS Arizona is still the sight of military functions.

During annual training, 15 soldiers

from the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade task force "Red Leg" Operation Pacific Warrior, participated in a moving re-enlistment ceremony aboard the USS Arizona memorial.

While training at Schofield Barracks, soldiers from 2-218 Field Artillery, 141 Support Battalion, and 2-161 Infantry

visited the memorial for the event.

The event was a first for soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard, and the first mass swearing in at the memorial.

The memorial, which straddles the sunken hull of the USS Arizona, commemorates the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The memorial was dedicated in 1962, and became a National Park Service area in 1980.

The ceremony began with breakfast at the Pearl Harbor Naval Base mess hall VIP room and concluded with a flag folding ceremony.

Each soldier received a folded United States flag, which was flown over the memorial, as well as a re-enlistment certificate provided by the Navy.

The flags were provided by Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, retention NCO for the 2-218th FA.

Capt. Tim Smart, officer in charge of the ceremony and a former Navy submariner, also coordinated a guided tour for the soldiers aboard the fast attack submarine, the USS Louisville.

Staff Sgt. Don Olson of C Battery, whose re-enlistment is slotted for Dec. 7, 2001, noted that the flag ceremony took place at the exact time of day as the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Spc. Richard Townsend watched as a flag was raised and lowered in honor of his uncle, who served on the Arizona at the time of the attack, which will be cased and later presented to his aunt.

"This was truly a memorable event and a highlight of my career and the careers of the soldiers that reenlisted," Lt. Col. Benjamin Hussey, commander

of 2-218 Field Artillery, said. "It was a very emotional event. The looks in the soldiers' eyes were a mixture of tears and joy. To extend on such a sacred place, where over 1,000 servicemembers lost their lives defending freedom, was an experience none of us will



Capt. Robert Fraser

A flag ceremony concluded the re-enlistment festivities at the USS Arizona memorial. Each soldier who re-enlisted received a flag flown over the memorial.

forget."

The following Oregon soldiers re-enlisted on the USS Arizona memorial:

- Cpl. Edward Arneson
- Pvt. Christopher Chatlovsky
- Spc. Jonathan Cyphers
- Sgt. Kurt Holm
- Spc. Allen Kerchal
- Sgt. Fred Lofti
- Cpl. Matthew Mintz
- Spc. Shawn Obryan
- Staff Sgt. Donald Olson
- Sgt. Jeffery Pieper
- Spc. Ronald Reed
- Sgt. 1st Class Derek Steinmetz
- Spc. Rosita Sutton
- Spc. Richard Townsend
- Staff Sgt. Stephen Wing
- Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Bell

## Chief Master Sgt. Mike Brown retires

### after over 30 years of service



Maj. Mike Allegre

Gabrielle Brown, wife of retiring Chief Master Sgt. Mike Brown (right) is honored during her husband's retirement ceremony on May 6. Mrs. Brown is being presented a certificate of appreciation from the Oregon Air National Guard's commander, Brig. Gen. James Cunningham.

SALEM—When Mike Brown entered the US Air Force in 1968, he was flown to basic military training in San Antonio, Texas, by Maj. Gen. Gordon Doolittle, then the commander of the Oregon Air National Guard. On May 6, Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Brown retired after more than 33 years of service to the ORANG.

After beginning his military service as a radio relay equipment repairman for the 142nd Mobile Communications Squadron, and later a maintenance control supervisor with the former 153rd Tactical Air Control Center Squadron, Brown concluded his service assigned to ORANG state headquarters and served as one of the first command chief master sergeants in Oregon. In his remarks to the more than 50 friends and family attending his retirement ceremony in Salem, Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard said he appreciated Brown's vision in helping to shape the enlisted force in Oregon.

"Chief Brown's commitments and contributions to his community and the men and woman in the Oregon Air Guard have touched many. I personally thank your parents; Mr. and Mrs. Brown, you validate the greatest

generation by giving us a man like your son," Cunningham said. "Our organization is made up of superior people—everyday people doing their job—who are a cut above the average person." That describes Chief Brown.

"Thanks also to Mike's family. You don't hear that enough. We're thankful you've allowed him to serve and help shape the Oregon Air Guard," the general added.

Before his closing remarks, Brown presented flowers to his mother and both of his daughters, he hugged his 92 year-old father, who served in World War II, and thanked them all.

"I'll miss my Guard family," he said, "but, I'd do it again for another 30 years. I am proud to have served."

Brown was active in many military enlisted groups and associations. He coached youth sports in Portland for many years and served 25 years as a summer volunteer at the Oregon Guard's annual Camp Rosenbaum youth camp working with underprivileged and at-risk children.

At the ceremony, Brown was awarded both the US Air Force Meritorious Service Medal and the National Guard's Distinguished Service Medal.

## Ballfields to wetlands keep engineers busy in North Bend



Spc. Tami Cole

NORTH BEND—Ballfields and wetlands became neighbors along the shores of Pony Creek in North Bend this spring as soldiers from the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program dug into 1.4 acres of grassy field.

Soldiers began the project at the end of February, and completed the wetlands at the end of June.

While moving 9,500 cubic yards of soil, the engineers improved the drainage of a soccer field at North Bend High School. During the winter months, the soccer field floods and becomes unusable. Part of the school's plan to correct the problem was to use the material removed from the wetlands area to increase the elevation of the ball field.

Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Heathcock, Spc. Chris Berti, Spc. Michael Kinnard, Pfc. Eric Martz, and Pfc. Evan Bowker improved their skills on excavation, leadership, logistics, maintenance and equipment operations.



# Retiree Focus

## Health, insurance coverage expanded for surviving dependents

A House committee on veterans affairs press release reports that the House of Representatives passed a "family-friendly" benefits bill expanding health and insurance coverage for surviving dependents of veterans and service members.

The bill (amended H.R. 801) is now on its way to the White House for the President's signature. It would:

(1) Expand health coverage under the Civilian Health and Medical Program-Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) for survivors of veterans who died from a service-connected disability. Under this measure, CHAMPVA beneficiaries who are Medicare-eligible would receive coverage similar to "TRICARE for Life" improvements Congress gave to Department of Defense beneficiaries last year;

(2) Expand the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program to include spouses and children. Spousal coverage could not exceed \$100,000 and child coverage could not exceed \$10,000. Upon termination of SGLI, the spouse's policy could be converted to a private life insurance policy;

(3) Make the effective date of increased maximum SGLI coverage from \$200,000 to \$250,000 retroactive to October 1, 2000, to provide increased benefits to survivors of service members who died in recent training accidents or acts of terrorism while on duty; and

(4) Require the VA to make eligible dependents aware of VA services through the media and other outreach efforts.

## Rules published for VA diabetes-Agent Orange benefits

Vietnam veterans with type-2 diabetes have come closer to receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with the formal publication to the Federal Register last week of the rules that will allow the VA to provide benefits to those veterans.

A Department of Veterans Affairs press release reports that veterans affected by the new rules will receive a priority for VA health care, and, depending upon the severity of their illnesses, disability compensation that ranges from \$101 to \$2,107 a month.

Publication of the new rules follow a report in November by the National Academy of Sciences' prestigious Insti-

tute of Medicine (IOM) that found "limited/suggestive" evidence of a link between adult-onset, or type-2, diabetes, and Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam.

The VA estimates that about nine percent of the 2.3 million Vietnam veterans still alive have type-2 diabetes.

Cost of the new benefit during the next five years is projected to be \$3.3 billion, with about 220,000 veterans receiving benefits.

The number of diseases recognized by VA as associated with Agent Orange has steadily increased since the early 1990s.

The following conditions are now considered service-connected for veterans who served in Vietnam: chloracne (a skin disorder); porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disorder); acute or subacute peripheral neuropathy (a nerve disorder); and certain cancers, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer and respiratory cancers (including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus).

More information on medical care and compensation for veterans is available at VA regional medical centers and offices or on the agency's web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

## Hearing aid program offered through Department of Defense

The retiree-at-cost hearing aid program (RACHAP) provides retired service members the opportunity to purchase hearing aids at government cost.

The hearing aids are purchased directly from the manufacturer at substantial savings, often as much as 300 percent, over the cost for the same hearing aids sold and fitted in the civilian community. Unfortunately, the RACHAP is not available to family members.

Retirees are encouraged to call and inquire as to availability of the RACHAP at the nearest military treatment facility (MTF).

If the RACHAP is available, the retiree will be instructed on how to obtain an appointment in the audiology clinic.

At the appointment, a complete diagnostic evaluation will be performed by the MTF audiologist, along with any necessary medical referrals.

If it's determined that the retiree may benefit from the use of amplification,

the audiologist will recommend a specific hearing aid and prescription, along with the total cost.

At most MTFs, the retiree will be asked to provide payment at the time the hearing aid is ordered. Upon receipt, the retiree will be scheduled for a hearing aid fitting appointment.

The nearest MTF that participates in RACHAP is Madigan Army Medical Center, and can be reached at (253) 968-1110.

*Note: This program is strictly voluntary on the part of the MTF. Please check with the appropriate MTF before driving there anticipating this service.*

## Tricare publishes new toll-free telephone numbers for support

The Tricare email news list reports that Tricare has new toll-free telephone numbers. The telephone numbers below are staffed by experts who can help beneficiaries find out about Tricare, Tricare for Life, the Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program and Tricare Prime Remote for active duty and their family members. The telephone numbers are:

Tricare General Info and Senior Pharmacy Program 1-877-DoD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337)

Tricare For Life program 1-888-DoD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433)

Tricare Prime Remote for active duty and their family members program 1-888-DoD-CARE (1-888-363-2273)

Hearing or speech-impaired beneficiaries may call TTY/TDD 1-877-535-6778. The hours of operation are: Monday through Friday 0800-2300, Saturday 0900-2000 and Sunday 1000-1730 (closed on holidays).

## Local Space-A flights available for service members and retirees

One of the great benefits that we as Guardsmen or Reservists have is our ability to fly on military aircraft when they have extra seat capacity. These are not just aircraft that fly into McChord Air Force Base, Travis Air Force Base, or other huge military air bases. Yes, they do fly into your local airports and you can ride on them easily.

All the services have military planes and charters that can be ridden Space-A. Also, there are many aircraft belonging to the Department of Defense's Operational Support Airlift (OSA) that fly from most state capitals and military bases.

Oregon's state flight detachment is lead by CW5 Ken Hiigel, and operates out of McNary Field in Salem.

They fly wherever the missions require. Yes, the sky's their limit.

These folks have excellent can-do attitudes and if you want to go where they are going, just call them at (503) 945-3385.

You do need to show up an hour early with your current green, red, or blue ID card; be in neat civilian attire; have little luggage; and have your completed DD form 1853 if you are in a current Reserve/Guard status.

You are in the last category (CAT VI) for boarding, but if there's a seat, you get to go. Sorry, no dependents on these flights.

Where, when, and how many seats are available is listed on the Internet at [https://jalisweb.transcom.mil/josac/fi\\_flight\\_info.html](https://jalisweb.transcom.mil/josac/fi_flight_info.html)

## GI dog tags found in Viet Nam; surviving family members sought

A recent "Today Show" broadcasted a story about two men who went to Hanoi on a business trip.

The men encountered a guy selling old GI dog tags from US servicemen who were killed during the Viet Nam War. The men were disgusted by the thought of this man profiting from the sale of these tags.

Upon returning to the states, they decided to go back to Viet Nam and purchase all the dog tags, paying 19 cents per tag. They brought home several hundred tags. The plan is to return the tags to surviving family members, when they can find them.

The process has already begun, with one set being turned over to a grieving mom on July 4th, (coincidentally, it was also her birthday!)

These two men have set up a website, [www.founddogtags.com](http://www.founddogtags.com) listing the names of all those whose tags they purchased. If you lost friends, family, or know of someone who lost a loved one in Viet Nam, check out this website.

If you recognize a name, there's an e-mail address to contact these two men and to help in their efforts to return the dogtag to it's rightful survivor.

## Tricare Senior Pharmacy program open to beneficiaries over 65

The Tricare Senior Pharmacy program is open to uniformed services beneficiaries ages 65 and over.

However, you must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and the new benefits may require you to be enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Beneficiaries who were 65 before April 1, 2001, do not have to enroll in Medicare Part B. Those who turned 65 on or after April 1, 2001, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits.

The Department of Defense encourages everyone to carefully consider enrollment in Medicare Part B so they will have comprehensive health care and will be eligible to take advantage of other Tricare health benefits that will begin Oct. 1, 2001.

For any other questions about this program, you may access the Tricare management activity web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) or call the toll-free help line at (877) DOD-MEDS (363-6337).

## 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



# Awards and Decorations

## Green sees stars at promotion ceremony



Master Sgt Donna DiGiacinto

Thanking his family, mentors, and other general officers, Wayne A. Green was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on April 28. Green is the Oregon Air National Guard's chief of staff.

A ROTC graduate, Green was commissioned in the USAir Force in April 1969.

He was later commissioned in the ORANG upon his release from active duty and assigned as the chief of communications for the 153rd Tactical Control Squadron at Portland Air Base. In March 1979, he was reassigned to the 116th TCS and held several positions: communications operations officer, maintenance control officer, and chief of maintenance.

He later became commander of the 142nd Communications Flight in 1984, a position he held until reassigned in

1988 as the chief of operations for the 244th Combat Communications Squadron in Portland. He later took command of the 244th in June 1990.

Green was then reassigned to headquarters, ORANG, in September 1996, where he has served as the director of personnel. He became the ORANG's chief of staff in July 2000.

"General Cunningham and I make a great team and work together well," Green said at his promotion ceremony. "We have the same values and want only the best for the Guard members we serve."

As a civilian, Green is employed as a regional real estate and site development manager for Hallmark Cards. Green's family includes Kathy, his wife of 32 years, two daughters; Kristy Rasmor and Julie Earl, and two grandchildren.

## Engineer's sergeant major hands over command



Oscar Quijano

The 1249th Engineer Battalion guidon is passed from Command Sgt. Maj. William Van Natta to Maj. Bill Schutz during the battalion's first "change of command sergeant major" in Salem.

The ceremony honored the outgoing and retiring Van Natta while welcoming the new command sergeant major, Terry Clinton.

The event marked the ongoing tradition celebrating the NCO as the backbone of the Army. Army regulations do not dictate a change of command sergeant major, but Schutz, the battalion commander, developed the ceremony to honor the NCOs whose performance has made the 1249th a leading unit in Oregon.

Van Natta retired from the Oregon National Guard with 33 years of service.

## Kingsley Field receives volunteer award for service to the community



Contributed photo

KLAMATH FALLS—Col. RC Brown, on behalf of the 173rd Fighter Wing, accepts the public service volunteer award from Klamath County Commissioner John Elliott at the eighth annual Klamath County Volunteer of the Year Awards and Recognition Event.

The event recognized individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the community through volunteering.

Several divisions for volunteers in youth, adult, senior, education, volunteer coordination, business, public service, and Klamath Volunteer of the Year awards were awarded.

Kingsley Field was awarded the pub-

lic service volunteer award for the countless hours Kingsley members have given to the community.

The services Kingsley personnel provided to the community include Citizens for Safe Schools; a partnership with Klamath County schools to mentor children in the juvenile detention center; the BOOST mentoring program; hosting the Oregon schools conference; and the Klamath Airshow 2000, to name just a few.

Brown thanked the businesses that selflessly let their Guardsmen and women work for him, pointing out that it's hard to accept an award for doing your job—serving the community.



Contributed photo

**Distance runner Sp. Michael Dudley, Co. A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, paces himself during a recent marathon.**

## Oregon's Dudley among the top US distance runners

Sp. Michael Dudley, Co. A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, has been selected as one of the top distance runners in the country.

He will represent Team USA at the IAAF World Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The men's marathon race will kick off the championships on August 3, 2001, with the lead runners crossing the finish line during the opening ceremonies.

Dudley has a marathon personal best of 2:14:37, which he set in 1999 when he placed second in the California International Marathon. In February of this year, he won the Las Vegas International marathon.

To put this all in perspective,

what Dudley is doing is running 26.2 miles at an average of 5:08 per mile.

Dudley is a talented runner, but he does not feel as though he is gifted. He was only an average runner in high school; he was lapped by other runners in the district meet. What sets him apart from other runners was his work ethic and dedication.

He averages over 100 miles a week all year long, with some weeks as high as 135 miles. There are a lot of winter days when most people don't even want to be out driving because the weather is so bad. Dudley does not let inclement weather curb his devotion to running at least once a day.



# Awards and Decorations

## Watson rewarded for life-saving heroics

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, the adjutant general, awards the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal to Sgt. Jesse R. Watson for his heroic life saving efforts.

On June 14, 2001, while playing softball with the LaGrande city league, Watson acted with heroism and exemplified himself as a leader in a time of crisis and emergency as he came to the aid of a fellow Army soldier and subsequently saved his life.

Watson, Sgt. David Lund, and civilians were playing softball when Lund collapsed. After Lund was up to bat and ran the bases, he collapsed and began showing signs of having a seizure.

Watson began asking Lund's friends if had a history of seizures or epilepsy. In an effort to further investigate his medical history, Watson contacted Lund's father, while someone else called 911.

Watson did not hesitate in using first aid skills he learned in the Marine Corps, Army, and at the Red Cross.



Maj. Kevin Dial

Watson and an unknown civilian administered CPR to Lund the day before the soldiers were to report for annual training with the 3-116 Cavalry at Gowen Field, Idaho.

Lund was life flighted to a Boise, Idaho, hospital. He is alive today because of Watson's actions and demonstration of decisive leadership under pressure.

**Air Force Commendation Medal**  
 Lt. Col Gary Takis 272 CBCS  
 Maj Vicki Smith 272 CBCS  
 MSG Consuelo Christianson 272 CBCS  
 CMS Dorick Beaudoin 272 CBCS  
 SRA Christine Longfield 272 CBCS

**Air Force Meritorious Service Medal**  
 MSG Bob Neland 272 CBCS  
 SMS Randy Walker 272 CBCS

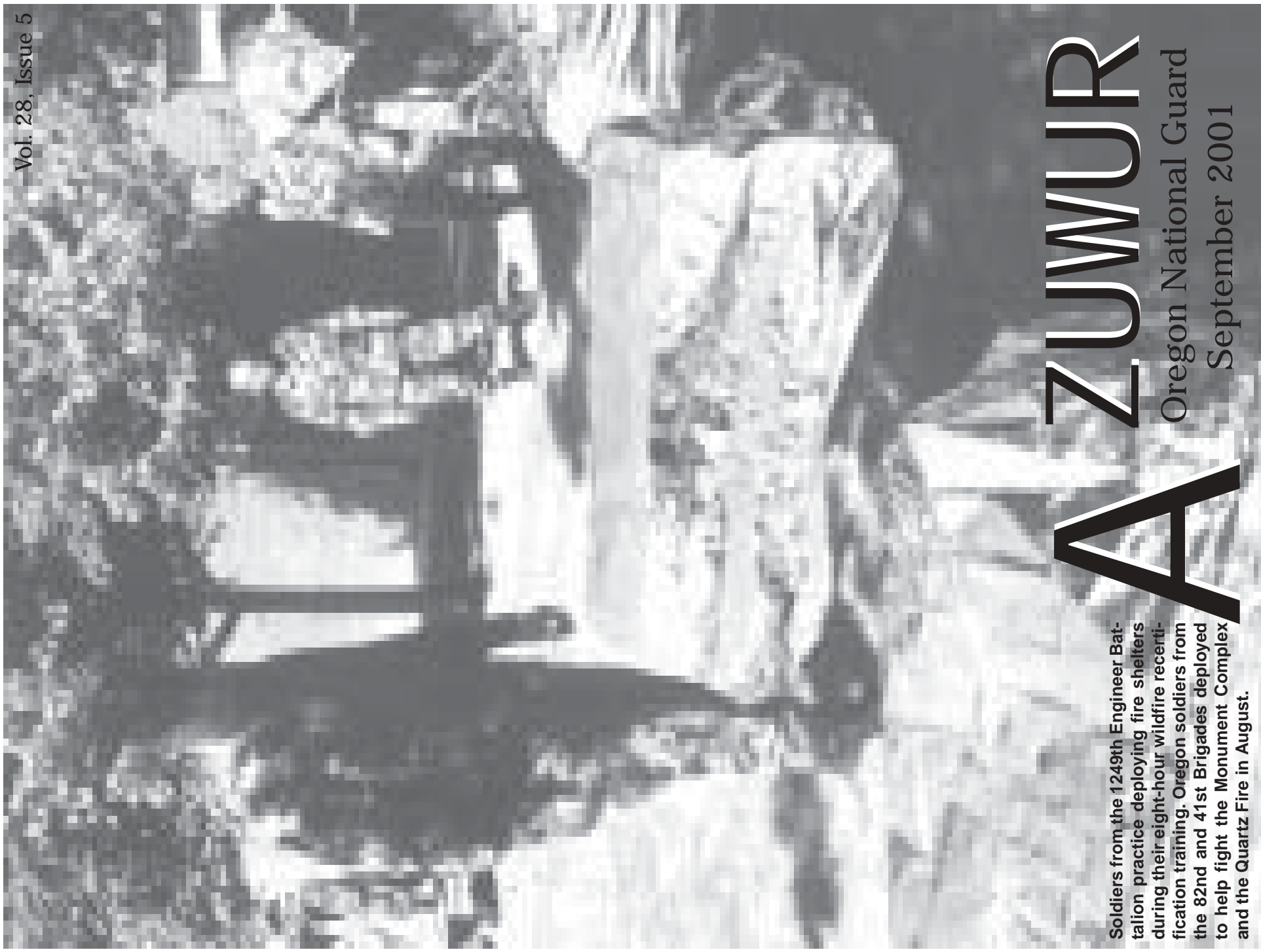
**Air Force Achievement Medal**  
 SSG Isidro Valenzuela 272 CBCS  
 MSG Rob Glenn 272 CBCS  
 SRA Sheryl Newell 272 CBCS  
 SRA Christine Longfield 272 CBCS  
 SRA Jake Edge 272 CBCS  
 SRA Angela Fruscella 272 CBCS

**Oregon Meritorious Service Medal**  
 MSG John Shiron 272 CBCS  
 Maj Vicki Smith 272 CBCS  
 MSG Mark Johanson 272 CBCS  
 SMS Randy Walker 272 CBCS

**Oregon Commendation Certificate**  
 SRA John Holly 272 CBCS  
 SSG Jack Preston 272 CBCS  
 SSG Carey PRice 272 CBCS  
 TSG Shawn Kerkes 272 CBCS  
 SSG Tom Kimball 272 CBCS  
 SSG Angela Hall 272 CBCS  
 MSG Kortney Mershon 272 CBCS  
 SSG Mike Brown 272 CBCS  
 MSG Bruce Davidson 272 CBCS  
 SSG Joe Knight 272 CBCS  
 TSG Jake Chow 272 CBCS  
 MR Dan Caldwell 142 FW  
 TSG Walter Albushie 272 CBCS  
 SSG Tom Esau 272 CBCS

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Soldiers from the 1249th Engineer Battalion practice deploying fire shelters during their eight-hour wildfire certification training. Oregon soldiers from the 82nd and 41st Brigades deployed to help fight the Monument Complex and the Quartz Fire in August.

# AZUJWUR

Oregon National Guard  
 September 2001