



Photo courtesy of 1042 Medical Co. (AA)

Sgt. Scott Anderson, a medic with the 1042 Medical Company in Afghanistan, performs magic tricks for wounded Afghan children in a U.S. military hospital. Anderson is a professional magician.

## Wherever Duty Calls

By Norm Maves Jr.

Reprinted courtesy of the Oregonian

The war on terrorism may be a new kind of combat, but for the Oregon National Guard's 1042nd Medical Company, chasing a shadowy enemy around Afghanistan looks like past wars.

Enemy fire. Twenty-four hour work days. Wounded children. A Spartan life in an Army issue field tent. Isolation.

And the uncertainty that if the war spreads, this time to Iraq, the unit might be among the first ones called.

"Our hope is to go home as soon as we're done--not out of fear of Iraq, but simply because we're homesick," Capt. Tom Lingle, a helicopter pilot and one of 40 Oregon Guard troops assigned to Afghanistan, writes in an e-mail. "That's the hope, but we are aware that this is war and anything could happen."

Oregon remembers the 1042nd much differently, Late last spring, its pilots and paramedics launched the spectacular rescue of stranded hikers on windy Mt. Hood.

Now, when the 1042nd's medical crews fly out they are accompanied by two armed helicopters.

They face daily mortar and rocket fire as they retrieve and treat wounded Afghans, often children, who have stepped on mines or unexploded mortar rounds. They stabilize them and get them to a field hospital, from which they go to the bigger military hospital at Bagram Air Base.

The 40 troops assigned to Afghanistan -- mostly medics, pilots and flight crew--operate out of Bagram and make-shift forward operations bases. The 1042nd has 28 other troops split between bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

One other Oregon National Guard battalion, the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry of southern Oregon is on the Sinai Peninsula on a separate United Nations peacekeeping mission until January.

The troops in Afghanistan live in a tent city, row after row of multi-person tents that make up a city of about 5,000. The hospital is a series of tents at the base.

The work is relentless -- the crews fly as many as three or four missions a day.

"It's easy to become complacent and pretend like every day is Groundhog Day -- the same day over and over again," said Maj. Mathew Brady, the commander of the expedition, in a phone interview from Bagram. "But you can't do it. Every day you get rocket fire and mortar fire, so you have to stay on your toes at all times."

The toughest part of the operation, Brady said, is dealing with the children wounded by mines. Crew members estimate 10 million mines are left over from the 1979-88 war with the Soviets. "It's hard," Brady said, "because all of us have kids back home."

The duty has a bitter-sweet benefit, unique training opportunities the medics don't get at home. "For example, they have all seen amputations now," Lingle writes.

Personal time comes whenever the soldiers can grab it. "We're al-

ways on duty, so we have to be ready for a mission at all times," Lingle writes. "There is no day off. The only difference is that when you're on second-up (as opposed to first-up), which takes the next mission, you have a little time to go beyond the immediate work and sleep area.

"We do get to hang out sometimes, (Then) the soldiers do a lot of movie-watching (DVDs), reading and UNO games.

They also help local Afghans. "Some of the people help in the villages," Brady said. "They help with maintenance and the kids. Some help in the hospitals. It makes the days go by more quickly; it gives you less time to think about how lonely you are."

Sgt. Scott Anderson, a flight medic

from the Willamette Valley, is a professional magician. He's played Las Vegas. Now, when he's done helping out in the hospital, he plays Bagram, entertaining the children brought in for treatment.

Common to all the soldiers is how much they miss home -- and not just their families.

"I (miss) green, green, green, green!" Lingle writes, "Also, rain, fresh air, lack of dust, great food, great beer, great coffee..."

"Did I mention green?"

Brady says morale is high, but that's a relative term at the front, where happiness might mean a day without seeing a wounded Afghan kid. The soldiers lean on one another.

"Some people need more help than others," he said. "Kids' birthdays and anniversaries are difficult, so we all have to help each other now and then."

The unit of citizen soldiers was officially activated on May 27 for as long as two years. Back home in Salem, the soldiers' boss says his troops are realistic about what could happen after Sunday --the deadline for Iraq to present a tally of its weapons of mass destruction.

"Things could change for them instantly," says Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, Oregon Adjutant General and the commander of the Oregon Military Department. "They're on a fixed and focused mission now, but sure, they're anxious. They're preparing mentally and physically for change. They realize they could be in the next fray."

How likely is it? If the shooting starts in Iraq, the 1042nd's 68 troops are too critical to the mobility of any plan to be left out, said Ron Tammen of Portland State University.

"You have to have (helicopter medevac units like the 1042nd)," said Tammen, the director of the Hatfield School of Government and a former instructor at the National War College. "The regular units don't want to slow down an operation to take care of the wounded, so you want somebody to pick up the wounded."

"You want them to get the best treatment possible, and in order to do that you have to have the mobility of helicopters."



## Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin The Adjutant General

During this holiday season, I am reminded of the incredible sacrifices and professional excellence of our soldiers and airmen, both here at home and across the operational theaters of the globe. Just over a year ago, over 3,000 families tried to come to closure with the sudden and senseless losses they experienced on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Since then, the Oregon National Guard has participated in Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom, deployed to the Sinai and continued to train hard here at home.

Throughout the last several months, we completed our longest call to active duty to battle wild fires, as we have commemorated Veteran's Day, the 366<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the National Guard, visited soldiers in Sinai, Egypt, airmen in Frankfurt, Germany, and continued to recruit, train, and retain the quality men and women who comprise the best guard struce in the nation, we have had the opportunity to reflect upon what we have and what we are able to enjoy as citizens of the United States. This 226 year experiment in democracy has certainly proven itself to not only be worthwhile as a protector of human rights, but also very

resilient in nature. We, as a nation, have faced serious crises prior to Sept. 11, 2001, and we have always found a way to overcome any obstacle to preserve our way of life. Although the way ahead is not totally clear and is somewhat dangerous, the values we hold as a free people will endure, and we will retain our resolve to defeat those who wish to destroy us.

This challenging time in our nation's history gives us the opportunity to enhance our appreciation of the first responders to any man-made or natural disaster within our cities and counties. Those who serve in the many fire and police agencies are almost always on the firing line first. They have dangerous jobs, and they serve for the benefit of all of us. Without a doubt, the safety of the public resides in the well-trained hands of the men and women who choose to serve in a job where the good of the whole, or the greater good, is their primary mission in life. In addition to these dedicated Americans, our land is blessed with a multitude of volunteer and support organizations, some of which are government based or found in the private sector. They cover such diverse areas

as health services, medical providers, search and rescue organizations, volunteer fire and police personnel, family support groups, religious based efforts, etc. This list could go on forever. We truly have a lot of support when the need arises. This should give all of us something positive to reflect upon, and certainly something for which to be thankful.

As we review the past twelve months, it becomes more evident than ever the important role our National Guard members play in the security of our nation. For 140 years longer than our nation has existed, the National Guard has been there to insure the future for the generations to come. It is the National Guard that has not only protected our interests on foreign soils, but more importantly, maintained the liberties guaranteed us in our Constitution. For that, all of you, who serve so proudly, as well as those who have gone before you, deserve the gratitude of all of us. We also thank the families and employers that render such invaluable support to your chosen profession.

As this year ends, the Oregon National Guard has reached unprecedented levels



of readiness across the board. In addition, our reputation as a quality force during the various deployments continues to grow. We are definitely postured for continued success.

Thank you for all of your dedicated support and your hard work. Be safe over the holidays and keep those soldiers, airmen and their families who are currently answering the nation's call in your thoughts. Have a great New Year.

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

This season, each of us will take the time to count our blessings and give thanks for all we have. Often the first on our list is the family. Families have long provided strength and values to our soldiers, our military and our nation. I had the privilege to visit hundreds of our deployed soldiers in Egypt, I was impressed by the impact family support has on these men and women, but more importantly, how each of them reflected their membership in a much larger family, the Oregon National Guard, citizen-soldiers of the United States.

As our soldiers and airmen marched in the Albany Veteran's Day parade, we awarded a former soldier, Levi Hubert, several awards he earned 57 years ago. This gentleman was in inspiration. He sought no reward for his service and lived with memories of extreme challenge as a Prisoner of War in a Nazi prison camp for almost six decades. Yet once awarded, he recalled, with pride, his service to his nation.

With the involvement of so many Oregon citizen-soldiers/airmen in operations worldwide, I am reminded to appreciate and hold even more dear, the benefits of living and working in a free society with rights afforded each of us due to the loyalty, courage and dedicated servicemen and women like Mr. Hubert and you, the members of the National Guard.

Remember to recognize the vital contributions of our family members; your husband, wife, children, and parents and your fellow guardsmen and women. We know we do not soldier alone. For as we sacrifice and dedicate ourselves to honorable service, our peers and families also sacrifice and make invaluable contributions to the well-being of the National Guard and our great nation.

I appreciate the Oregon Guard members that serve with a level of devotion and selfless



service unequalled in any other profession, many currently deployed around the world defending democracy. You walk point for our nation and uphold freedom's torch as you willingly step forward to defend the American people from all enemies, and uphold the values and principles we hold so dear.

As we move into the holiday season, keep safety in mind, but take time to appreciate life and all those around you. Take care of each other, stay in touch, and remember the support of your family.

## Command Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

A lot has gone on in the past year. As we commemorated the first anniversary of Sept. 11, this past fall, the Air National Guard was involved in almost every theater operation in the world. We have answered the call to the war on terrorism and have activated airmen in almost every air force skill code (AFSC) to get this job done. We mobilized some and sent them in many different directions. Some stayed at their duty stations, and some went to airports.

No matter where our Airmen deployed, the reports back were always "Outstanding Guardsmen and women from Oregon." Of course, we already knew that, but it is very comforting to hear it from commanders and NCOs in the field.

This November we celebrated Veteran's Day in Albany, the largest Veteran's Day parade west of the Mississippi, immediately after that we dedicated a new statue at the 142d Fighter Wing of a pair of Eagles soaring, the fighter pilot and his wing man are images we are very familiar with in the Air Guard, but Laran Ghiglieri's stunning artwork, titled 'Reflections of America, Guardians of Freedom' brings symbolic impact to our Portland Headquarters. Members of our command visited our security forces currently deployed to



Frankfurt, Germany. The reports of our service abroad are superior.

As we celebrate the holidays this season and remind ourselves of the freedoms and liberties we have, remember that those benefits are guaranteed by you and your peers, some of whom are far from home. Keep tabs on each other throughout this season, remember those who came before you and remind yourselves that each day your thoughts and deeds are inspiring the generation that will follow you.

GOD BLESS THE USA



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### Oregon Military Department

State Commander-in-Chief  
Gov. John A. Kitzhaber, MD

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Asst. Adjutant General, Air  
Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham

Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

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

### Publication Staff

Public Affairs Officer  
Maj. Arnold Strong  
Arnold.V.Strong@mil.state.or.us

Editor  
Kay Fristad  
kay.fristad@mil.state.or.us

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

Contributors  
115 MPAD Personnel  
ANG Visual Information Specialists  
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

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

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

## UN battle tank makes its debut in Oregon



Bemrose

**ABOVE:** Tom McCoun and Darren Daniels drive the Jumbo tank around the Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon. **RIGHT:** The Jumbo Tank, a modified Leopard 1 MBT from Germany, is the first of its kind to be used in the US.

By Pvt. NICK WOOD

115TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

The Leopard Mark 1 main battle tank is a staple in over a dozen United Nations countries including Canada and Germany. Around since 1963, the Leopard MBT has been proven both on and off the battlefield.

Refitted and adopting a new name, the Jumbo is now being used to fight fires instead of enemy combatants.

The first of its kind to be used in the United States, it was used against the Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon.

Getting off to a rough start due to a faulty gasket in the cooling system, the tank soon found its way to the fires.

Used last year in Europe, the Jumbo is outfitted with a 5,200-gallon tank in place of the normal turret.

In front of the tank is a water cannon with the capability to shoot water 70 meters at 2,000 gallons per min.

In addition to shooting water the Jumbo can also shoot foam.

The tank was made to cope with many of the problems encountered by vehicles in wildfire fighting.

Often, water tankers cannot reach deep into the needed areas.

The tracked vehicle can get to many of the places lighter vehicles cannot.

"The object is to go wherever a CAT will go to supply water where other vehicles will not go," said Tom McCoun, a Northtree fire captain for the day-shift operator for the Jumbo.

The tanks integrated nuclear, biological and chemical warfare crew protection system allows the Jumbo to fight chemical fires without risking harm to the crew.

The tank chassis' armor also allows the Jumbo to withstand large amounts of heat radiated from the fire.

Combined with the 5,200-gallon tank, the Jumbo can sustain itself in the field



**Stay alert, follow rules of the road, and expect the unexpected while driving**

By Lt. Col. MARYLIN WOODWARD

ONG SAFETY MANAGER

The holidays brings more traffic to the highways, and not all drivers stay alert or drive defensively.

Oregon National Guard personnel were involved in two motor vehicle accidents in June which related to unexpected actions on the part of other drivers.

An Army National Guard GSA Bluebird bus was involved in an accident on I-84 near Boise, Idaho.

Our bus was following a tractor-trailer rig, when it veered suddenly to avoid a slow moving maintenance vehicle at the last minute.

Our bus was unable to stop before impacting the rear of the slow-moving truck.

Several soldiers were injured.

Only one was hospitalized with a compound fracture requiring surgery.

He will recover in a few months.

An off duty Air National Guard officer was involved in a non-duty POV motorcycle accident near Scotts Mills, Ore.

A civilian pick-up truck turned left across the lane of the oncoming Guardsman's motorcycle.

The Guardsman and his wife sustained several injuries, and were hospitalized.

He will be recovering for several months, and his wife is expected to recover soon.

"Drive Smart ~ Drive Safe"



## 1042nd Med Co assists NC citizens



While leaving Ft. Bragg, N.C., on July 17, members of the 1042nd Flight Platoon came upon a motor vehicle collision involving four vehicles.

Upon arrival, crew chiefs Staff Sgt. James Tournay, Sgt. Tony Trentz, Sgt. 1st Class John Esch, and Spc Justin Thomas; and pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Greg Lund provided traffic control and ensured the patient's vehicle was stabilized and the vehicle battery was

disconnected to prevent inadvertent air bag deployment.

Medics Spc. Tony Quesada, Sgt. Jason Johnson, and Sgt. Cody Baldwin started patient care, while medic Sgt. Scott Anderson made the initial call to EMS and provided a patient report.

The members of the 1042nd continued to provide traffic control, and patient care until Cumberland County EMS arrived on scene.

Upon arrival of the fire department and EMS, the Guard medics assisted with patient extrication and loading.

Patient care was then released to the fire department.

For their actions, Brig. Gen. Fox, commander of the 44th MEDCOM, presented these soldiers with the MEDCOM coin for excellence.

In his comments, Fox stressed how fortunate the 18th Airborne Corps, and the entire Ft. Bragg community was to have the 1042nd Medical Company (AA) serving with the active component during Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Securing the fire line



**Sgt. Jean-Pierre Deplois of Troop E, 82nd Cavalry, confirms the authorization of Jimmy Scott of the North Carolina Forestry Service and Gary Simpson of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.**

## Military travelers guaranteed rooms through new program

Beginning about Nov. 1, military travelers will be required to consider government-contracted hotels before others when traveling inside the continental United States.

The new requirement is part of the Federal Premier Lodging Program.

The FPLP is contracting with hotels in key cities where federal employees do business to guarantee a specific number of available rooms at a specific price.

"Under the per diem process, you were not guaranteed a room," said program manager Patrick McConnell. "What FPLP does is get properties to guarantee rooms, especially where we compete with corporate/leisure travel."

Participating hotels must meet certain safety and accessibility requirements, and must have a restaurant nearby.

Travelers who feel the establishment does not meet their mission requirements, find that the FPLP hotel is full, or find a less expensive place to stay may book reservations elsewhere, McConnell said.

The program is expected to cover some 75 cities.

For more information on the FPLP, visit <http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/perdiem/plp/plphp.html>

## DANTES offers job assistance to separating service members

American Forces Press Service reports that separating military members can now get help earning professional certification or licenses related to their military jobs for the civilian world before they leave the service.

Information for separating service members can be found on the DANTES website at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/cert/index.htm>.

The site describes certifications or licenses required to take a job in a wide variety of civilian career fields.

Service members can search based on occupational specialty or service code.

The site describes how well members' training and experience in military jobs prepare them for the tests and what added work members might need to do.

The DANTES site also contains links to information from the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Labor Statistics on what civilian jobs correspond to military specialties.

## Bush Orders smallpox vaccinations

For the first time since 1990, some U.S. service members will be vaccinated against smallpox, a contagious disease that government officials fear would be used as a biological weapon.

President Bush announced Dec. 13, 2002, that he is ordering the military to take the smallpox vaccinations and said he would receive the inoculation along with the troops.

"This particular vaccine does involve a small risk of serious health considerations," Bush said. "As commander in chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am willing to do the same. Therefore, I will receive the vaccine along with our military."

A memo issued Dec. 13, by David S.C. Che, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, outlined the

policy for vaccinating the military in three stages. First to be vaccinated will be Defense Department smallpox response teams and hospital and clinic teams; second "designated forces that constitute certain mission-critical capabilities"; and third other U.S. forces, depending on the circumstances.

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has decided to implement immediately the first stage and part of the second that pertains to missions of U.S. Central Command, according to Chu's memo. The Defense Department may expand the implementation of the plan later.

In addition to the military, the memo said other personnel subject to the Defense Department policy include:

Defense Department civilian workers classified as emergency-essential.

Contractor personnel performing services that are mission-essential.

Other "alert Forces" personnel, as defined in the joint regulation on immunizations and chemoprophylaxis.

Other federal civilian workers designated as members of a smallpox response team.

Each service branch and Defense Department agency has been instructed to develop plans to administer the vaccinations.

The military's plan is similar to the plan for vaccinating civilian emergency personnel, which Bush also announced.

For military members covered under the program, the shots would be mandatory.

After "first-responders," the vaccine will be given to troops in areas where the threat of smallpox is considered highest. Other troops who could be vaccinated are those who would be deployed the furthest forward and difficult to reach for inoculation during a war or troop deployment.

## Tricare covers physical exams required for school enrollment

Under the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, Tricare will cover physical examinations required for school enrollment.

The new benefit applies to all Tricare-eligible beneficiaries ages 5 through 11.

It does not cover sports physicals.

The effective date for the benefit was Oct. 30, 2000.

Tricare regards school physicals as preventive services.

Tricare Prime enrollees will not have co-payments or need referrals or authorizations from their primary care managers unless they go to a non-network provider.

Tricare Standard and Extra beneficiaries do not have to get referrals, but they will have to pay applicable cost shares and deductibles for the school physicals.

Beneficiaries may download claim forms from the Tricare website at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/default.htm> or may contact a local Tricare Service Center.

## Transitional health benefits provided for up to 120 days

Family members of active duty sponsors involuntarily separated from military service under honorable conditions, or family members of Reserve Component members separated after serving on active duty for more than 30 days in support of contingency operations, are eligible to receive transitional health care benefits

## Messecar becomes new 142 MDS commander

Lt. Col. Deborah Messecar replaced Col. Dan O'Hollaren as the commander of the 142nd Medical Squadron (MDS).

A traditional Guardsman, Messecar has been an instructor at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) school of nursing since 1997.

She has a PhD in nursing, as well as an advanced degree in biostatistics and epidemiology.

Her special interests include health-related research at OHSU, where she has included Air Guard members as survey participants in health promotion studies.

Messecar sees her new position as involving "lots of responsibility—and



lots of change—with many of our people approaching retirement."

O'Hollaren moved to the director of support for Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard in Salem.

for 60 or 120 days under the new Department of Defense (DoD) Worldwide Tricare Transitional Health Care Demonstration Project if their sponsor was on active duty Jan. 1, 2002, or later.

The new demonstration project provides medical benefits to certain eligible active duty and Reserve families when their sponsors depart from military service.

Family members of sponsors with fewer than six years of active duty service are eligible for 60 days of transitional health care benefits; those with six years or more are eligible for 120 days.

The transitional health care demonstration benefit is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002, and remains in effect for two years, to allow DoD time to analyze the program and decide whether or not to make transitional health care a permanent Tricare benefit for these family members.

Under the demonstration project family members may use Tricare Standard, the fee-for-service option with deductibles and cost shares; Tricare Extra, the network option with deductibles and negotiated fees; or Tricare Prime, the network option that is least costly for most people.

Sponsors and family members who are enrolled in Tricare Prime will be automatically disenrolled when the sponsor separates from active duty.

To continue using the Tricare Prime benefit during the transitional health care period, sponsors and family members must contact their Tricare regional managed care support contractor, or their local Tricare service center, and re-enroll in Tricare Prime.

There will be no break in Tricare Prime coverage as long as the sponsor and family members re-enroll in Tricare Prime.

Dental benefits are available to former active duty and Reserve Component members, but under this demonstration, family members of former active duty and Reserve Component members are not entitled to dental benefits.

However, Reserve Component members and their family members who are eligible and enrolled in the Tricare Dental Program (TDP) would be eligible for dental benefits under the TDP, which is separate from this demonstration project.

To be eligible for transitional medical and dental benefits, the family member's sponsor must be: (1) a service member involuntarily separated from active duty; (2) a member of the Reserves separated from active duty after serving more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation; (3) a service member separated from active

duty after being involuntarily retained on active duty in support of a contingency operation; or (4) a service member separated from military service who voluntarily remained on active duty for one year or less in support of a contingency operation.

Transitional health care is not an automatic Tricare benefit.

Sponsors must ensure that they and their family members are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Active duty sponsors may verify or update DEERS information for themselves or their family members by contacting or visiting their local military identification (ID) card issuing facility.

To locate the nearest military personnel office or ID card facility, sponsors may search the DEERS web site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/).

Claims for these family members will be processed using normal Tricare claims processing procedures.

Claims for family members with expired eligibility will be denied until eligibility is updated and verified in DEERS.

If a member submits a claim and it is denied because of eligibility, the member should contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at 1-800-538-9552.

Sponsors and family members who have paid for health care expenses out of pocket, may submit a claim form (DD Form 2642) to Tricare with a copy of their itemized bill to receive payment for these services.

Family members who are eligible for care under the demonstration project and who have other health insurance (OHI), must submit all claims to their OHI provider first before submitting them for payment to Tricare.

Claim forms are available on the Tricare web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/claims](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims) or from the local beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator (BCAC), Tricare service center representative, or Tricare managed care support contractor.

Eligible sponsors or family members who require additional information on Tricare may contact the Worldwide Tricare Information Center toll-free at 1-888-DOD-CARE (1-888-363-2273).

Additional information on Tricare medical and dental benefits is available on the Tricare web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or by visiting the Tricare service center or BCAC at the local military treatment facility.

For questions or assistance regarding claims, sponsors and family members may contact the managed care support contractor in their region, the nearest Tricare service center or a BCAC at the nearest military treatment facility.

## News Briefs

### Blood donations needed for Operation Enduring Freedom

Service members have been donating blood in record numbers—and they need to keep it up, said Army Col. Mike Fitzpatrick, director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office.

Fitzpatrick said the main need is for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We're shipping 500 units of blood per week to Afghanistan. We have a continued need," he said. "Operation Enduring Freedom continues, our units are still deployed, so the high level of donation we're seeing needs to continue. We can't afford any decrease."

The Enduring Freedom area in Central Asia has 17 medical units, and the blood program must keep an inventory available in case of casualties.

Blood only has a 42-day shelf life.

The holidays are generally a slow time for blood donations.

The civilian community is hurting, especially in large urban areas.

This summer, Defense Department medical facilities have helped civilian facilities in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, Fitzpatrick said.

"Our main need is to provide blood for Operation Enduring Freedom and our own sites first, and then provide it to the civilians when possible."

Service members who wish to donate blood can go either to one of the 21 Army, Air Force or Navy blood donor centers or a local civilian donor center.

Fitzpatrick said that service members are more apt to donate blood than the civilian community.

"In the civilian sector, about three to five percent of the population donates blood," he said. "At our sites where we have donor centers, it has reached 10 percent. Our donors are well-motivated. I want to thank them for that motivation, and I want to ask them to continue to donate in the future."

There are restrictions to donating blood related to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of "mad cow disease."

Roughly 18 percent of the active duty force cannot donate blood because they've served in Great Britain or Europe between 1980 and 1996.

The Food and Drug Administration is taking a cautious approach to that situation, Fitzpatrick said.

- Service members, their family members, retirees and their families cannot donate blood if they:

- Traveled/resided in the U K from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of three months or more.

- Traveled or resided in Europe from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of six months or more.

- Traveled or resided in Europe from 1980 to the present for a cumulative period of five years or more.

- Received a blood transfusion in the United Kingdom since 1980.

- Received a bovine insulin product produced in the U K since 1980.

The Food and Drug Administration is constantly evaluating the situation.

If the FDA changes the blood donation policy, so will the Armed Services Blood Program.

For more information, a directory of donor facilities, rules, tips and news, visit the Armed Services Blood Program web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo).

# Air Guard barrier crews get down and dirty in the pits at Portland International Airport



Contributed photo

The 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron's pit crew checks the runway barrier prior to an inbound F-15 Eagle landing with an in-flight emergency.

By Master Sgt. GARY HOLTZ

142ND CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON

"Barrier crew, Work Control. We have an IFE with an ETA of 15 minutes possibly taking the East barrier. Do you copy?"

"Barrier crew copies. We're on our way!"

NASCAR 500 its not! These are the real "pits."

At the conversation's end, all fire and rescue vehicles and personnel are heading towards the staging area on the east end of Portland's Runway 28.

It's an F-15 Eagle inbound with an in-flight emergency (IFE).

Perhaps the jet has a hydraulic failure, a landing gear malfunction or an engine fire.

Whatever the emergency, the pilot is looking towards the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron's barrier crew and fire department emergency response personnel to catch him safely on the ground.

The barrier crew will only be needed if the aircraft actually "takes the cable"—a decision made by the pilot.

Once snagged, however, a lot of things start happening.

The aircraft is brought to a controlled stop in the middle of the runway shortly after engaging the barrier.

Fire and rescue personnel move in to put out any fires and to extract the pilot from the plane as quickly as possible, and to shut down the engines if necessary.

After the emergency is assessed and under control the plane is unhooked from the barrier cable and towed away.

Now the barrier crew can get to work.

With assistance from the fire and rescue personnel the crew inspects the barrier cable and the belt for damage.

The cable and belt is then rewound and the system reset for the next emergency.

Piece of cake...for everyone but the barrier crew.

What is "the barrier" anyway?

The barrier is actually called the "BAK-12 Aircraft Arresting System."

It is a rotary friction type energy absorber consisting of two identical units using standard B-52 aircraft wheel brakes.

It is a split system designed for with energy absorber units on each side of the runway and near the ends of the

runway or touchdown area.

There are two installed on the south runway of the Portland International Airport—one each at the east and west ends.

BAK-12 units are air transportable and can be rapidly installed at a forward operating base or permanently installed as they are at Portland.

How does a B-52 aircraft brake stop an F-15?

When the aircraft engages the barrier at 100-plus knots, the lowered tail hook snags the 1.25-inch-diameter cable stretched across the runway, dragging it and the barrier belt (tape) behind it.

As the 1,300-foot belt unwinds off each of the spools the system hydraulics engage to quickly bring the aircraft to a halt.

It's kind of like a giant rubber band or slingshot without the fling back.

The system is designed so that the right amount of braking force is applied evenly and quickly to any fighter aircraft at fairly normal landing speeds.

The belt, or "tape" as the crew calls it, resembles conveyor belt material and is ¼ inch thick, 8-1/2 inches wide and 1,300 feet long.

When not in use the cable is lowered into a trough below the runway surface.

When a pilot declares an IFE and requests the barrier, the civilian air traffic controllers at the

Portland tower activate a switch and

the cable pops up, held three inches above the runway by

rubber stanchions.

After an aircraft takes the arresting barrier, the system must be inspected for damage, rewound, reset and submerged for the next engagement.

The 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron's power production section maintains the arresting barrier system.

Because we use a civilian airport, the barrier crew must work around civilian flight schedules.

We can't shut down the runway anytime we want.

So, at 4:30 a.m. each scheduled flying day, when most of us are still sleeping, the barrier crew is out inspecting system for the day's possible use.

Master Sgt. Robert Murphy, power production supervisor, and his crew check the cable for proper tension, kinks, broken wires and wear.

They check the rubber stanchions for condition and proper spacing and survey the area for debris and obstructions around the cable.

They inspect fluid levels in the accumulator and reservoir, and check the rewind engine oil level.

Then they operate the rewind engine for 10-15 minutes and check the instruments.

They also test the exhaust fan, lights, reel tachometer, and hydraulic telltale gages.

Not only does the crew do daily inspections, they also accomplish in-depth 30-day or 10 arrests; 30-day or 50 arrests; 90-day or 50 arrests; 180-day or 25 arrests; three-month/six-month/24-month/36-

month inspections.

If at any time the system does not meet specifications or damaged items are found the items are replaced.

The safety of our pilots depends on it.

Why do they have to check the exhaust fan and the lights?

The four individual units are setup in concrete "pits" below ground level, so exhaust fans are needed to expel the diesel fumes and lights are needed to see at any time.

The pit roofs are 3,000-pound concrete slabs, which must be removed before the system engine or tapes can be replaced.

The cable costs about \$2,300; the tapes, replaced in sets are approximately \$16,000; and an engine is about \$8,000.

The most recent overall and parts replacement was accomplished in February 2002.

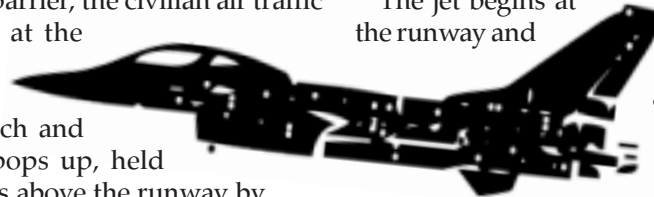
Once the system is replaced and reset, the barrier is tested to make sure it can stop an injured F-15.

The runway is closed to all air traffic.

Sometimes the test is done with a military truck rigged with a tail hook that engages the barrier at 55-plus miles per hour.

Ideally, however, the test is done with an F-15, which gives more accurate results.

The jet begins at the runway and



the end of

engages

the barrier at

about 100

knots (about

115 mph).

Fire and res-

cue vehicles and personnel are also involved with the test, responding just as they would to an actual engagement.

This gives them practice and training for when they may really be needed to rescue a pilot from a burning aircraft.

How does one become a member of the barrier crew?

Interested persons must have an electrical background and attend both power production and barrier engagement tech schools.

Then they must be certified to operate, inspect and reset the system.

Power production personnel are a critical AFSC and are needed in the US Air Force, Air Guard and Reserve.

With the world situation and the Air Force operating out of many locations, the aircraft arresting systems are in great demand.

# 244 CBCS makes history in air expeditionary force support

By Capt. GLENN HORACEK

244 CBCS DETACHMENT COMMANDER

In January 2002, Lt. Col. Peter Harris, the commander of the 244 Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), was informed that the air combat command had rejected the air expeditionary force (AEF) concept of Air National Guardsmen filling voluntary 15-day rotations.

Replacing these short stints would be 120-day rotations.

To meet this tasking, the 244th started the process of mobilizing 29 members to deploy to Southwest Asia.

This was a historic event for the unit because it was the first involuntary mobilization in the squadron's 47-year history.

Immediately, work began in identifying the best-qualified personnel for each of the positions to be filled.

With the combined effort of the full-time technician staff and traditional Guardsmen, a very skilled, professional team was formed that would represent the 244 CBCS and Oregon Air National Guard.

When the announcement was made regarding the positions to be filled, unit members responded enthusiastically in support of the mission.

Though well qualified in their AFSCs, the next task was to identify any special skills required to fill each position and to set up the necessary just-in-time training.

To accomplish this task, the effort of every member of the unit was required and the results were outstanding.

Even those members not scheduled to deploy worked long hours to prepare their teammates for the upcoming mission.

In February, the first group of individuals left for Al Jaber, Kuwait.

Due to security concerns brought about by Sept. 11, the team had a very

early report time to the squadron.

Though tired, the team was excited to be deploying.

With some nervousness and sadness due to leaving families and friends, the team members said their goodbyes.

Many of the 244th members who were not deploying were on hand to wish their departing fellow Guardsmen and women good luck and a safe journey.

All too soon, the deploying members were boarding the plane and heading to Kuwait.

Immediately upon their arrival, they hit the ground running.

Some of the team members were lucky and had a few hours of rest after in-processing.

Afterwards, they were meeting with the people they would be replacing.

Within two weeks, additional members of the 244th were tasked to fill slots at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where a similar operations tempo existed.

Expecting to work on equipment and issues outside their expertise, everyone attacked the various duties and assignments they were given.

Wideband and satellite communications personnel found themselves laying cable and setting up the global broadcasting system on base.

They also set up the cable TV system, enhancing the morale of the troops.

Senior Airman Kelsey was given the



Contributed photo

Twenty-nine members of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia. This was the first involuntary mobili-

ward deployments, additional communicators were needed in the field.

Within 48 hours, four additional squadron members stepped forward to deploy to the desert.

These members were in-country within five days supporting their teammates.

In early June, the team members began returning from Al Jaber, Kuwait and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

Additional members continued to return weekly thereafter.

Due to mission needs, two team members were asked to extend for an additional three weeks at Al Jaber.

task of handling the base post office.

This turned out to be the central post office for all the bases in Kuwait.

He ended up traveling over 1,200 miles and making 180 trips delivering mail throughout the area.

From a morale standpoint, his was the most important job on base.

Other 244th members were tasked to support forward deployed positions in Afghanistan.

They found themselves in true "bare base" environments, supporting the communication needs of combat troops.

On numerous occasions, only two or three man teams filled these tasks.

Reports received from the theater informed us that the Guardsmen were doing yeomen's work and the commanders in these areas were extremely impressed with the abilities of Oregon's airmen.

Due to the need to support these for-

tend for an additional three weeks at Al Jaber.

This was not a unique situation, for the command at Al Jaber was very impressed with the work accomplished by each member of the 244th team and every Guardsman and woman who supported the AEF mission.

The challenges and experiences these Guardsmen and women faced further matured this already professional team.

Information acquired from this deployment will be integrated into the unit's training program to help assure future deployments are as successful.

Any questions or doubts that existed whether or not this team would be successful in support of this mission were quickly put to rest when praise of their accomplishments began pouring in.

There is no doubt that the Guard is an integral part of the total force at home and abroad.

## Meet the Challenge

DIVERSITY is one of the challenges the Oregon National Guard faces in transforming into a fighting team that will remain superior for decades to come. To achieve success in equal opportunity strategic objectives, the Oregon National Guard is:

Expanding specialized cross-cultural training to equip recruiters as ambassadors of education and industry groups.

Establishing and maintaining strong coalition partnerships with community, education and industry groups.

Analyzing studies and data on the scope and effectiveness of mentoring activities.

Improving educational programs, tools and guidelines for mentoring.

Ensuring it has robust and flexible equal opportunity training programs.

Eliminating barriers to a level playing field for accessions early in individual careers.

Refining its message of inclusiveness while capitalizing on successes and communicating Oregon National Guard contributions to society.

Senior leaders are saying . . . "these critical actions are part of the National Guard's commitment to building true diversity and developing a culture that understands equal opportunity is crucial to mission readiness and enables us as guardians of our nation's defense."



## Mentoring = "Growing People"

By Sgt. 1st Class Paula Laswell

HEADQUARTERS STARC (-)

The Diversity Council at Headquarters State Area Command is comprised of soldiers and airmen of many ethnic backgrounds and includes union representatives and guest speakers. The Council cares for our soldiers/airmen and has begun several initiatives to improve our system.

We have subcommittees in the Diversity Council such as Training, Marketing, Mentoring/Development, Retention, Outreach/Recruitment and Benchmarking. The Mentoring Subcommittee is working toward updating the mentoring program for both the Air and Army National Guard. We are continually attempting to find an easier tool for commanders to use for their soldiers and airmen.

Mentoring is a method of climate assessment and conflict resolution. It increases productivity with motivation and a focus in the workplace. Mentoring increases awareness of what is needed to succeed and to develop effective interpersonal and management skills. Mentoring guardsmen increases their understanding of the organization, their diversity, and their mission. This understanding helps us learn about our different cultures and work towards the same goals. Most of all, we can have fun with this program while developing a trust and respect among all Oregon National Guard employees.

**Commanders Role:** The commander should choose someone who is a *potential mentor*. A mentor should be a good communicator, teacher, confident decision-maker and planner, be technically proficient, and professionally ethical.

**Mentor Roles:** The mentor is a counselor, coach, motivator and role model. A *counselor* establishes a trusting and open partnership while stressing confidentiality and respect for the associate. A *coach* provides feedback, focusing on observations. A *motivator* utilizes encouragement, support and incentives to achieve successes. A *role model* exemplifies value, ethics, integrity and professionalism through periodic meetings to get a feel for how the partnership is going and whether or not the process is working effectively.

# God Bless the USA



The firefighters bell rang out a solemn remembrance to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2002. Not unlike the rest of the nation, Oregon saw ceremonies in almost every city throughout the state, remembering and honoring the emergency providers who respond so quickly in times of need.

At the state capitol, a procession of emergency responders from throughout the state included firefighters; 911 dispatchers, wildland firefighters, emergency medical technicians; police; Army and Air National Guard; Sea Cadets; public works personnel and the American Red Cross, took center stage.

Capt. \_\_\_\_\_ began the event with a rendition of God Bless America, and the entire assembly joined in, many with tears in their eyes.

Several thousand Oregonians were on hand and the "Spirit of America" was apparent everywhere. Veterans of every age were there in a solid show of support for the basic freedoms provided by our Constitution. Children comforted parents, friends comforted friends, strangers comforted strangers. The losses of the past year weighed heavily in the hearts and minds of those assembled.

The colors were presented by a special honor guard made up of military and police personnel. Bagpipers from several police agencies came together to play for this event and a group of children from the Tualatin Valley ????????? played the bells as the

The event concluded as two F-15 Falcons from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard provided a two ship flyover to the cheers and applause of Oregonians.

## The power and will of America

By SGT. PATRICK "DIRK" ROUEN  
CHAPLAIN, ASST., 1ST BN, 186 INFANTRY . . .

South Camp. Egypt - On Sept. 11th, soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 186<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Support Battalion, sat silently in the darkness overlooking the Red Sea awaiting the service honoring the victims of 9-11.

The ceremony has perhaps greater significance to them than others. They are battalions that have left behind families, and all that resonates the comfort of home.

Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Cameron steps on stage before his troops. He takes a deep breath and for a moment there is a slight quiver in his voice.

"Surely, it is not coincidence - we are here for a reason. We're here for the Multinational Peacekeeping and Observer mission, but it's obvious to me, we were sent here for something more," said Cameron. "We're here to see 9/11 never happens again - in whatever way we can, whatever is our part."

The Star Spangled Banner began and soldiers came to their feet. At its completion, a resounding "Hooah!" was bellowed from a soldier in the crowd. A symbol of determination, that Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class William Smith concurred with.

"It's my turn," said Smith. It's my time to stand up with my fathers

and mothers before me and take my place alongside them."

Tears from soldiers could be seen falling throughout the crowd but the American soldiers did not mourn alone. Italian soldiers attended in full force, as well as the French and Hungarians, dressed in ceremonial uniform in a show of support.

Hungarian Capt. Lazlo Covacs remembers the shock he felt in Hungry that day, how all the people were in a terrible silence.

Like the Americans, they gathered around the television waiting for the trickle of information.

Now, a year later, he senses the American spirit.

"Sitting in the ceremony, I realized the fantastic power and will of the American soldier," said Covacs. "I hope all you Americans can keep it."

Covacs poses the same difficult question so many others have before him. The question he says, everybody knows the answer to.

"Who gave the international responsibility to the U.S.A, to do it all on there own, to fight terrorism and keep the peace?"

The United States has power he says and with power comes responsibility.

He pauses for a moment  
"It is a great responsibility."



The following is an anonymous letter given to the Chaplain Assistant for the 1st Battalion, 186 Infantry. It was read at the 9-11 ceremony at South Camp.

## To all of those who fight for freedom

One year ago today, a tragedy struck our lives while we slept, got ready for work or got our kids off to school. Many lives were lost, some we knew and some we did not. Most of us cried in anger, disbelief, shock and terror. Today is a day to remember those lost to us and remember why we all stand in the desert: To fight for freedoms we have enjoyed so others may someday enjoy these freedoms we take for granted. I stand here, next to you and wonder what we are doing here. I understand the importance of our presence and often become frustrated, because, like you, I am so very far away from my children

and family. I am here to stand and fight for freedom and security so other children, along with my own, will never have to know the tragedy that took us one year ago. I never want to see the look of fear across the faces of my children again. I want them to be safely tucked in bed with not a care in the world. I don't want them to think that someday their parents will have to leave to fight the bad men and perhaps never come home. So stand with me now, in a moment of silence and reflect on the joys we get to go home to. WE DO get to go home when our work is done, unlike those who lost their lives.

# 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry



By Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns  
1st Battalion, 186th Infantry

Three soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, Oregon National Guard stand waiting anxiously next to a make shift landing pad. They are preparing to leave for a temporary observation post like they have so many other times – but this one is different. It lies deep in the rugged mountainous terrain of the Sinai Peninsula. It is the most remote observation post on the peninsula and can only be reached by helicopter. Here, the soldiers will look for possible treaty violations between Israel and Egypt.

Dust kicks up as the UH-1 Huey helicopter touches down.

After a quick briefing by crew chief Sgt. Marcus Fitzjarrel, the hand signal to board is given.

Cpl. Jim Hubbard, 27, of Medford, Ore., still can't believe he's here. This is his second tour in the Middle East in two years. His military contract was supposed to terminate in April but he extended to come on this mission.

"This is why I joined the military – to do stuff like this, be a part of my country," said Hubbard.

Even so, it isn't easy for him. In fact it's far more difficult than his last deployment in Saudi Arabia. His children were too young to understand back then. His son was barely two and his daughter had yet to begin talking.

"This one is harder (deployment)," said Hubbard. "The kids are older and they have more of an idea." "My son gets on the phone and asks me when I'm coming home – sometimes he'll even try to bribe me saying 'Dad, I bought you a toy truck but you have to come home to get it.'"

Fitzjarrel checks the aircraft and makes sure everything is secure then lets the pilots know they're ready.

Flying a 1,000 feet up, Staff Sgt. Ben Pardee, 26, of Ashland, Ore., looks out from the helicopter. This is his second tour in the Middle East also. His first was in Saudi Arabia guarding a Patriot missile site. Like Hubbard, he was due to leave the military but extended in the Oregon National Guard to go on the Multinational Force and Observers

(MFO) mission that had been handed down in November. It seemed like perfect timing. His girlfriend had just entered the Army and was on her way to Korea.

"She was having a hard time paying for school," said Pardee. "She wasn't really making it and her family didn't have enough money to help her out."

He explains that sometime in the future, after they're both back in the states, they plan to marry.

The helicopter continues its flight over the rugged terrain on the Sinai Peninsula. The air is cooler 1,000 ft up from the mountains than the 100 plus weather on the ground. To the soldiers, it's a welcome reprieve.

Spc. Aaron Orendorff, 20, and the youngest of the three is from Gold Hill, Ore. This is his first deployment. He left behind his wife and a puppy, he said, neither will know him when he returns home.

Reaching its destination, the helicopter lands on a mountaintop overlooking a valley and a long

"36 goats and three water buffalo.", said Pardee.

"They're a wealthy family," responds Hubbard squinting down at the small, moving mass on the road below.

Pardee continues to scan the area for possible military vehicles and aircraft that would violate the MFO treaty between Israel and Egypt. He sees a police vehicle but quickly explains they're allowed.

The three agree things can sometimes be

somewhat uneventful on the peninsula; but they also feel their presence makes a difference and helps to keep the peace between the once tumultuous and now strained relationships of Israel and Egypt.

"These people see that we're here," said Pardee.

"I think they realize war isn't in their best interest anymore," added Hubbard.

A light breeze moves over the mountain and conversation turns to all the packages their families promised they'd send but never did.

"I've seen one package in four months and I received that in Fort Carson," said Pardee. "All these people said 'we'll send you cookies, magazines – all sorts of stuff,' but we haven't seen anything."

They all laugh a little uneasy like, as if to symbolize agreement and then begin contemplating what they hope to get in the mail for Christmas.

"2700 meters." Says Pardee.

He quickly redoes the math aloud and verifies his answer with Hubbard. Hubbard's in agreement.

Looking out over the ravine Hubbard begins to appreciate his life style in the states. He remembers the times he didn't have money and how he had struggled just to get by. None of that seems so bad now.

"You're thinking you got it bad, but then you come out here and see how



they're living in cardboard boxes with their kids," said Hubbard. "Look at all the stuff we have – TV's, VCR's cars, toys."

His reference to home soon reminds him of his brother who's serving on the Red Sea in a Marine expeditionary force and a father, who fearing for the lives of his sons, asked him not extend for the Middle East mission.

"My dad said 'I don't need both of my sons over there,' but I told my him nothings going to happen."

The conversation drifts back to the luxuries of home and the lush, green forests of Oregon. Both Pardee and Hubbard agree there's nothing better than walking through woods and that hunting is more often than not, an excuse to be able to that.

"At home you can walk all over the woods and you don't have to worry about land mines," said Hubbard. "Here they only have a tree every 1,000 meters."

Hubbard then turns to Pardee and Orendorff.

"We're lucky we were brought up they way we were – you realize how lucky we are?"

Pardee looks out over the horizon.

"I don't know if has to do with luck," he says, spitting out a sunflower seed shell. "It's hard work."



winding road. The soldiers get the O.K. and they disembark understanding the only way on or off the mountain is by the bird they are leaving.

They assemble to the front right and the helicopter prepares to leave.

First things first – they establish communications with the rear and let their command know they have reached their destination. Pardee then pulls out a pair of binoculars and examines the area.

"Henry & David's-that's what I want my family to send me for Christmas," says Hubbard with a smile on his face.

"Cheese Logs – four, five, or six of them and some pepperoni," adds Pardee.

The excitement of the moment wears off and the three soldiers once again turn their attention to the job at hand.

Pardee and Hubbard begin calculating distance between the twisting road in the steep gorge and their location on the top of the mountain as Orendorff looks on.



Sgt. Misipat Badge (EIB) that most g



# Entry in South Camp, Egypt

By Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns  
1st Battalion, 186th Infantry

1st Lt. Mark Tobin of the 1st Battalion 186th Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard and Janine Fisher made history Sep., 28th, 2002. They were the first couple ever to be married on the South Camp military base in Sinai, Egypt.

Company A 1st Sgt., Randell Mefford, gave away the bride while Company Commander, Capt. Eric Riley stood up as Tobin's best man.

The process Tobin and Fisher went through to make the marriage legal in the United States was not as blissful as one might think. It began in the United States several months ago.

Tobin and Fisher, both of Ashland, Ore., were engaged to be married but with the tragic events of 9-11, Tobin, was called to active duty, and had to postpone all personal plans.

Fisher was not surprised when her fiancée got the call for activation with the Oregon National Guard.

"It wasn't that big of a shock - we knew."

Tobin's activation took him to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt where he is part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). His job is to observe and report possible treaty violations, set at the 1979 Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt.

Several months passed and Fisher, 26, a full time college student at Southern Oregon University, was having a hard time with school, the house and the absence of Tobin. It was then that Tobin's mother gave Fisher a call.

"She said she'd been thinking and she wanted to do something to make my life easier," said Fisher. "She offered to buy me a ticket to Egypt to see Mark."

With elation, Fisher accepted.

Tobin and Fisher then made the commitment to marry in Egypt.

"It was a built in honeymoon," said Fisher.



After arriving in Cairo, the two set out on their journey for a marriage that would be legal in both Egypt and the United States.

They first went to the U.S embassy and were shuffled a number of times between the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice.

Finally, after many hours, several ministries and translators, Tobin and Fisher received a marriage certificate - translated, authenticated, and approved in Arabic.

"It was a nightmare," said Fisher, "but we were committed to doing it."

Having an "official" marriage completed by the Egyptian government Marriage Corps in Cairo, the two then returned to South Camp.

It was now time for the wedding they had always hoped for, a wedding that included a dress, flowers and friends.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 186th Infantry provided just that - surprising Tobin and Fisher both.

"I'm very humbled-very appreciative, because we had no resources here," said Fisher looking up at Tobin.

Their wedding, in stark contrast to their difficulties in Cairo, looked more like a fairy tale.

At the rehearsal ceremony, Chaplain, Maj. Ron McKay, began the reading.

"Dearly beloved we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the face of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony."

As the Chaplain continued, Fisher, nervously rocked back and forth holding the hand of her groom to be.

It is Tobin's turn to recite his vows. He does so and looking down at her with a boyish smile, he slides a ring on her finger.

Stepping up on her red painted toes, Fisher gave a wink of confirmation.

They have made it and a heavy sigh of nervousness is released.

With the rehearsal behind them, it is only a few hours before the wedding.

Preparations are made and the time arrives for the ceremony.

The bride, emerges in a simple yet elegant wedding dress to a chapel full of military personnel all dressed in their best set of desert camouflage uniforms, donning orange berets.

The music begins and Company A, 1st Sgt. Mefford walks Fisher down the aisle smiling as if he were her father. After all, in some manner he is - Tobin's a soldier in his company and all 1st Sgt.'s look after their soldiers like a father to his children.

Tobin waits nervously at the end of the aisle with his company commander, Eric Riley.

It was a long road to get to this point - a military activation, postponement, airline tickets, embassys, ministrys and Sinai desert that simply could not separate them from their destiny.



1st Lt. Bird salutes battalion commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Cameron upon being awarded the Expert Infantryman award after completing the final 12 mile rucksack march. Many courses have been offered to soldiers in the Sinai and soldiers normally do not have the opportunity to take, such as the EIB and the EFMB.



A guard tower manned by Co. D soldiers stands between two flags, the MFO and Egyptian flag.

## Space A travel is alive and well in the post-Sept. 11 world

Yes, things have gotten tighter since the 9/11 debacle, but the Air Mobility Command still has flights for you.

The missions are operating under tighter security restrictions and you'll need two forms of ID when checking in.

You sign-up as usual, up to 60 days prior, and then pack lighter as you can't have any sharp-edged objects in your carry-on, which is subject to 100 percent inspection.

Last week at McChord, I was told to have ANY sharp item out to be listed, as they allow you to have your checked baggage with you in the terminal until your flight call. Then the sharp items are inserted into your checked baggage at check-in time.

Allow plenty of time for all phases of processing and call frequently to be certain when the plane will lift off. A friend left for a quick Burger King run from the terminal and missed her flight.

I also call the base where the plane is in-bound from to find out its status.

Last week the weekly MEDEVAC flew by me to Minot, ND, and never stopped at McChord or Fairchild!

These things do occur, even when you've planned well.

McChord AFB just received its 38th C-17 Globemaster completing the third squadron of its 62nd Airlift Wing.

That's a lot of transports now to carry us space-a folks all over the world.

A fourth squadron is planned for 2004, making 48 birds in the wing.

Call the recording at (253) 982-7268 to see where McChord has flights for the next three days.

Military Space-A lodging has changed also since 9/11.

It is available and user-friendly, but you best call the front desk to hear the "latest and greatest," as things change rapidly there.

ALWAYS show up and ask for quarters and they are usually available, even if you did not get reservations.

McChord's VAQ's are now \$24.50 a night, with VOQ's being \$26.50.

Washington's Camp Murray billeting has some quarters available for less than \$10.00 a night...call (253) 512-8861 for details.

Now, pack your bags lightly and give space-a travel a try.

## Space-A Travel Handbook / RV Camping Guide updated

*Editor's note-The following article is intended to assist members of the retiree community in getting the most for the leisure dollars.*

*Commercial products and services are mentioned for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a military endorsement.*

Essential information in easily understood terms is how the publisher describes the 13th edition of the Worldwide Space-A Travel Handbook and RV Camping Guide now available for purchase by direct order and at many Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities.

Readers will find detailed information categorized by service, state and country, and everything is alphabetized.

You'll find installations, flights, destinations, lodging availability, the best times to travel, telephone and fax numbers.

Your chances of obtaining flights and lodging are shown using a "star" system.

Miniature base maps showing lodging and dining facilities in relation to air terminals, gates, etc., are especially useful, said the publisher.

Where possible, lodging prices are shown, as is transportation potential to nearby cities.

Camping or recreational vehicle possibilities and prices, as well as information about worldwide military recreation sites are included for the land-based traveler.

Also included are supplemental Space-A Travel updates.

These, as well as e-mail links for remote sign-up, are available on the publisher's web site: spaceatravel.com.

Updates are also made available in printed form for non-computer users.

The bonus updates offer subscribers up-to-date travel information, including changes in schedules and telephone numbers.

Of particular interest are recent, detailed traveler trip accounts, the publisher emphasized.

This edition sells for \$25 plus \$3 S&H (TX residents add \$2.06 tax).

Copies can be ordered on the publisher's secure spaceatravel.com web site, by mail using check or credit card, by mail from SpaceaTravel.com, P.O. Box 55, Hurst, TX 76053-0055, or by toll free telephone at (888) 277-2232.

To save additional money, check your base exchange.

This title is an AAFES standard stock item.

## Civil Air Patrol seeking retirees for homeland security program

As the country steps up its homeland security program, the Civil Air Patrol is doing the same thing and is looking for cadets and senior members to join.

Reflecting back to when the CAP was created a week before Pearl Harbor, Robin Hunt, chief of CAP membership development at CAP headquarters, said the organization has come full-circle as it prepares to play a vital role once again in homeland security through the new initiatives being established.

In the early days, the CAP was assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps.

The contributions of the CAP during WWII include logging more than 500,000 flying hours, sinking two enemy submarines, and saving hundreds of crash victims and are well documented.

Members have excellent air/ground observation and communications assets at their disposal to provide aerial reconnaissance, photography and transportation, disaster and damage assessment, radiological monitoring, and other jobs.

best known for performing emergency services including: disaster relief; search and rescue and counter drug missions, CAP has averaged more than 32,000 flying hours per year of reconnaissance and support to counterdrug missions for the fight against narco-terrorism.

All CAP members participating in counterdrug activities must pass Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs Service background screening.

Civil Air Patrol's assets include a force of more than 61,000 volunteers-36,000 adult members and more than 25,000 cadet members-in more than 1,700 communities across the nation.

CAP also possesses a command and control structure that reaches to the local community and supports the Air Force Rescue and Coordination Center and Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Agency control centers.

The Civil Air Patrol is always in need of individuals to perform missions, mentor young people, and help lead the organization into the future.

Members of the retiree community-retirees or family members-who would like more information on becoming either an adult member or cadet should call 1 (800) FLY 2338 to determine the name and phone number of the squadron in their area.

## TRICARE Handbook Available For Beneficiaries, Providers

The 2002 TRICARE Handbook is now available for distribution to beneficiaries and providers worldwide.

The new handbook highlights all three TRICARE options — Prime, Standard and Extra — and the many health care programs and benefits added since the 1997 edition.

New topics and benefits covered include TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members, TRICARE Plus, Travel Reimbursement, Chiropractic Care, TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, TRICARE Dental Program, Debt Collection Assistance Officer Program, Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator Program and more.

TRICARE officials said the handbook has a fresh new design and color. The cover is white with a vignette representing uniformed services families, ranks and memorabilia on the front and helpful telephone numbers and addresses on the back. It includes improved charts and graphs for cost comparisons, tips and helpful reminders for beneficiaries to consider before seeking care from authorized civilian providers.

The new handbook is being shipped to TRICARE service centers and military treatment facilities in every TRICARE region and is available to sponsors and their family members upon request. An electronic version of the handbook is available for viewing or downloading at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareHandbook/>.

## Retiree office looking for new orientation course instructor

The retiree office is attempting to identify former Oregon National Guard members who would be interested in serving as instructors for new employee orientation course.

Work is part-time, and a wide variety of subjects are taught during the course. If you are interested, contact: RSO@or.ngb.army.mil or call (503) 584-3804 or 1-800-542-7500 ext. 3804.

## Free "Early Brief" available for military via email

Servicemembers who would like to receive a daily email update of current military news can sign up for the Early Brief at Military.com.

The Early Brief is emailed out each weekday morning and contains the latest military news and benefits information.

A free subscription is available to all who are interested.

To subscribe, go to the Early Brief subscription form at [www.military.com/LeadForms/dailynwsletter2?ESRC=mr.nl&actionform=3](http://www.military.com/LeadForms/dailynwsletter2?ESRC=mr.nl&actionform=3)

## Resort rentals available for service members and retirees

Servicemembers and Defense Department civilians are eligible to rent condominiums in certain resorts worldwide as part of a vacation club arrangement between the Army and a civilian corporation.

Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation arranged with Cendant Corp. and Resort Condominiums International, to offer the condos at reduced rates to active and reserve service members and dependents, retirees, and DoD civilians.

The deal offers condominium rentals for \$234 per week at selected resorts.

Normal rates are \$600 to \$1,500 per week in season.

Information is available at [www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals) and clicking on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo. MWR receives \$22 for each reservation.

## TRICARE Adding Safeguards to Protect Patients' Medical Privacy

Stars and Stripes reports that health care records for servicemembers now are becoming privileged information. On April 13, TRICARE, the U.S. military's health insurance program, will implement a new set of safeguards that ensures patients' right to medical privacy. Confidentiality release forms are to arrive soon in TRICARE beneficiaries' mailboxes. The new safeguards are part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, legislation passed in 1996. The privacy initiative establishes patients' rights to obtain copies of their medical records, file a grievance about when unauthorized information might have been released and seek changes to their health care documentation. Insurers and lawyers will be unable to view a patient's records unless that patient grants permission. If a patient's doctor brings in another doctor to consult, however, that patient's records may be shared without his or her knowledge. For more information on TRICARE, see [http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=TRICARE\\_Overview.htm](http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=TRICARE_Overview.htm)

## Address changes

Retiree Services Office  
PO Box 14350  
Salem, Oregon 97309

New Retiree  Change  
 Stop  Deceased

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:RSO@or.ngb.army.mil)

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

# Guardsmen receives Bronze Star for service in Afghanistan



**EDITORS NOTE:** Several months ago we reported a story about an Oregon Army National Guardsman, Sgt. Maj. Rocklyn Shiffer, who had administered CPR and saved the life of a civilian drowning victim. Shiffer then took a Title 10 tour, as the Army National Guard Enlisted Advisor to the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, for Army National Guard operations and training. He soon became the C3 Operations Sgt. Maj., for Task Force MTN in Bagram, Afghanistan.

## Task Force Mountain, Afghanistan.

When a request for aviation assets to go to the Gardez Safehouse to pick up one wounded in action (WIA) and one killed in action (KIA) Uzbekistan Nationals, Master Sgt. Shiffer was there.

He immediately volunteered to assist with the operation. His role was to tend to the wounded and assist with getting them off the UH-60.

At some point during the flight out, Shiffer recalled the crew chief reporting he saw the AH-64 escort aircraft on their right side.

The green signal smoke was quickly located and the UH-60 landed. Shiffer got out and assisted the Special Forces members in loading both the WIA and the KIA into the Blackhawk. The medic asked Shiffer who was the medic and he reported they didn't have one. He gave Shiffer two sheets of paper with the recorded statistical and vital signs he had been monitoring. Also handing him the IV, which the crew chief was able to secure in the ceiling of the craft with a snap link. They departed and headed back for Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan.

On the way back everyone was pretty quiet and Shiffer was both observing the WIA and taking in the view out the right side.

About half way back, as they were flying over what looked like a desert,

the pilot said he had brought his camera. He was able to snap a photograph of the AH-64 from the right side of the aircraft. Shiffer looked from the rear to the front of the aircraft and then observed the pilot in the AH-64 wave good-bye.

After a few seconds, the AH-64 slowed and turned to the right. As it turned, Shiffer immediately thought: "Oh my God, the helicopter is going down pretty low." He lost visual for a second and saw the crew chief watching intensely and leaning out his window. "I then turned and looked out and saw the AH-64 crash, said Shiffer. For the instant I observed it before impact, I thought the pilot was attempting to land it. My feeling from when it first turned right and headed down until I saw it again and saw the crash was that it was in trouble."

Shiffer heard the crew chief report, "Sir, he just crashed". He continued to watch as the pilot immediately banked to the right and headed back. They had just started to fly over a nearby village.

Smoke but no fire was visible at the crash site and there was some movement around the cockpit area. Shiffer wondered why it didn't explode and worried that it could yet happen. The pilot landed about 40 meters off the nose and to the left of the crashed AH-64. As they landed, the crew chief opened the door of the helicopter. Shiffer jumped out and ran to the crash site. He saw one pilot get out from the back pilot position and then saw the other pilot struggling with the seat belt. The AH-64 was on its side and smoke was visible from the rear of the helicopter.

Shiffer helped the pilots out and away from the aircraft. He then spotted rockets on the ground and fuel leaking from the top of the helicopter.

Asking the pilot about any sensitive items Shiffer was told of their M4s and a GPS inside the cockpit. Grabbing all the papers and maps he could find then several M4 magazines and the GPS device, he then saw the barrel of a weapon that was behind something. I it was mangled in and very difficult to remove. Shiffer became extremely anxious and yanked on the weapon until it came free. Noticing more papers and M4 magazines, he stuffed them into his pockets. Checking with the injured pilots, he was told there

should be yet another M4. He turned and ran back to the AH-64 and searched again and then remembered from his police officer days that things fly out on impact, so he began to search around the bird. He located the missing M4 about 20 feet away on the other side of the aircraft. It was lying next to a rocket pod full of rockets or missiles. As he looked up he saw about 60 people running towards the crash from the village. Shiffer ran back to the UH-60 and told the pilots and crew who he was and that they needed to secure the crash site.

Taking one of the M4s from the crash site and about seven magazines, Shiffer and the Door Gunner ran back to the side of the AH-64 closest to the crowd and the village. They took defensive positions on the ground in a gully.

The villagers were running towards them and Shiffer knew they were not going to stop. He got up and threw his

brownout effect would make landing very difficult.

The crew now noticed the villagers no longer feared our warning or circling and began to move towards the crash site. The pilot took the UH-60 out of our circling pattern and into a kind of dive, which was initially away from the crowd, and then he made a left bank. Shiffer looked to his left out the window and could see the ground, which seemed to be fifty feet away

The pilot righted the UH-60 and they could see the people getting out the front and right side windows, running away towards the village. The pilot wagged left and right in the wind and then flew off close to the ground.

"I now believe that was an incredible piece of flying which undoubtedly bought some time for darkness to fall, a lesser exploitation of the crash site and loss of sensitive equipment, said Shiffer. I have flown with many special



right hand out towards them several times yelling stop. "I was truly amazed when they all stopped about 100 yards away," said Shiffer.

Seeing close to 200 more villagers, the UH-60 crew decided to get Shiffer and the door gunner back on board and circle the site from the air to protect the crash site.

They flew in circles, slowly gaining altitude. After about five minutes an English accent saying, "Spartan" came across the radio. The pilot advised that the AH-64 crashed and he gave coordinates to the site. The UH-60 pilot asked for instructions and he was told to remain in site of the crash.

As they waited for the backup aircraft to arrive they became concerned about getting back during light since to the high winds and

operations pilots in many various insertions that seemed very dangerous, but were standard for them. I felt this maneuver was planned, controlled and heroic given the high altitude, high wind, potential enemy threat on the ground and the knowledge that our escort assault ship had just crashed under similar conditions."

It was almost dark when we got back and Shiffer stayed with the KIA on the tarmac after helping get the WIA in one ambulance and the two pilots on the second ambulance.

Master Sgt. Shiffer was awarded the Bronze Star for his participation in the extraction and subsequent rescue of the downed AH-64 pilots.

## Oregon Guardsmen command in Sarajevo



Lt. Col. Steve Forster and Command Sgt. Maj. Len Holmes traveled abroad. Not for pleasure, but to make a difference in soldiers' lives.

Forster and Holmes commanded the Sarajevo Base Support Battalion.

The battalion provided customer-valued logistics and personnel support to all crisis established and NATO billeted US personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Split, Croatia minus MND(N) and also provided support to other local units.

As the primary adviser to the ASG commander and staff, Forster supported 534 soldiers and civilians in ten units. The units included the combined joint special operations task force; the Allied Military Intelligence Battalion; headquarters, SFOR;

and the US Embassy. Forster also coordinated directly with ASG Eagle and other headquarters to ensure uninterrupted logistical support.

Holmes was the senior non-commissioned officer adviser to Forster and the primary NCO adviser in support of international operations throughout the Sarajevo Valley, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia.

Holmes also provided protocol support for visiting dignitaries and US officials.

## National Guard License Plates Available

Oregon Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has special license plates available to members of the Oregon National Guard (Army and Air). To qualify for these plates, at least one registered owner or lessee of the vehicle must be a member of the Oregon Guard. Plates are available for passenger vehicles and motor homes.

To apply, you must obtain an Oregon Military Department Certificate of Eligibility, AGO Form 4309. This form should be available in your unit Orderly Room. Your unit commander or designee must sign it. This form must be submitted to DMV along with an Application for Registration (available from any DMV office, or your unit Orderly Room may have this form as well.) You may apply for the plates at any DMV field office, or through the mail. All National Guard plates are mailed from the DMV Headquarters office in Salem.

The fee to replace your current plates with National Guard plates is \$13.00, if

done in between your registration renewal. If you are replacing the plates at the same time you are renewing the registration, the fee is \$8.00 plus the registration fee.

If you are planning on purchasing a new or used vehicle and wish to obtain National Guard plates for it, you may wish to pick up an AGO Form 4309 from your unit Orderly Room. This form can be given to the dealer to submit to DMV with the rest of your paperwork.

Guard plates may be transferred from one vehicle to another. If a vehicle with Guard plates is sold to an individual who does not qualify for the plates, they must be surrendered to DMV.

If you have questions about National Guard license plates, you may call DMV at the following numbers: Salem, (503) 945-5000, Portland, (503) 299-9999, Bend, (541) 388-6322, Medford, (541) 776-6025, Roseburg, (541) 440-3395, or Eugene, (541) 686-7855.

# Infantry Unit Conducts Live Fire Exercise at Yakima Firing Range



## STORY AND PHOTOS

By CPT MICHAEL WEGNER

COMMANDER, CO. A, 1-162 IN

The 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry from Forest Grove, Ore. conducted a true battalion level combined arms live fire exercise at Yakima Training Center in Wash. during drill weekend in Sept. 2002. It was a windy weekend, but the sun was out and the soldiers were excited to be a part of the finale they had been training for. The live fire was conducted on the multi-purpose range complex (MPRC) which is a sophisticated range that allows multiple events and multiple weapon systems with pop-up and moving targets. This live fire was the successful culmination of seventeen months of preparation for the soldiers and leadership of 1-162 Infantry, all over the period of a MUTA five (Friday night through Sunday) drill weekend. Approximately 260 soldiers from the battalion were involved with just over 200 of those participating on the ranges. According to Lt. Col. Joseph Cramer, the 1-162 IN Battalion

Commander, "This is the most complex training I've ever seen on an IDT weekend."

The Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, also known as a CALFX, exercised all of the battalion's weapons systems at the same time. What made this unique from past live fires was these battalion elements were

integrated together into a synchronized multi-echelon battalion live fire using command and control and a tactical script which tied the actions of one element to the actions of the other elements. The elements involved were the Infantry platoons, battalion 81mm mortars, battalion scouts and the anti-armor Delta company. As the Infantry platoons maneuvered in sector pushing the enemy out, the scouts reacted to the simulated actions of the enemy moving into their sector and called for fire from the battalion mortars. In the script, some of the enemy escaped the mortar rounds and were engaged by the Delta Company elements. As a result, the Delta Company soldiers identified the enemy and fired TOW anti-tank missiles and mark-19 grenade launchers. The events on one range affected events on the other ranges creating a tactical scenario that the battalion command and staff had to track and react to. These ranges were near one another and in some cases, soldiers could hear and watch other elements firing. The infantry platoon

could hear those mortar rounds impacting nearby as a direct result from their success as they maneuvered forward.

The battalion had a long path to prepare for this event which began with each soldier and the individual tasks needed, to be safe and successful. Every soldier had to qualify with his individual weapon or qualify as a crew on the weapon he was assigned to. The team leaders and squad leaders then had to be validated on their knowledge and understanding of the basic movement and safety procedures involved in a live fire. For example, this validation process was something as simple as showing the leadership that

commonly called Battle Drills. This was important since it showed the senior leadership they knew how soldiers were going to be moving and what they were supposed to be doing as leaders. The battalion then performed a team level maneuver live fire exercise at Camp Rilea followed shortly by a squad level maneuver live fire at Ft. Lewis, Wash. Rehearsals are the key to any successful event and these soldiers did many of them. The final step before anyone could fire a live round was having the platoon conduct the exercise with blank rounds under the watchful eyes of senior leadership and safeties to ensure everyone was performing safely and the platoon

leadership had good command and control. All these events, combined with leader training, effective leadership and planning along with a strong emphasis on safety from the battalion commander resulted in



he understood the fire commands and hand and arm signals to command and control the soldiers he was responsible for. They also had to show their understanding and familiarity with the procedures for reacting to contact and conducting movement procedures to go and find the enemy, which are

the most complex, combined arms maneuver live fire exercise that 1-162 Infantry has conducted in the recent past. After the event, Lt. Col. Cramer summarized, "I am extremely proud of the battalion and its ability to execute this event successfully and safely".

## 218th Field Artillery Consolidates for Annual Training

By 1STSGT. HERB HAMERLYNCK  
2ND BATTALION, 218TH FIELD ARTILLERY

The 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery had their Annual Training at Camp Rilea, Ore. this year. It was unlike any annual training its members can remember. First, many soldiers had attended schools or other exercises in lieu of AT, and secondly, 125 plus members were deployed to forest fire duty. In all only 86 soldiers and officers were available to attend this year's annual training. Of that total, only 38 soldiers belonged to the three firing batteries. Instead of three batteries each doing separate training, they combined into one consolidated battery. The command team for the battery consisted of, Capt. Matt Lawson (A Battery) as Commander, 1st Lt. Brian Grossnicklaus (A Btry) as Executive Officer (XO), 2nd Lt. Mike Lee (B Btry) as Fire Direction Officer (FDO), 1st Sgt. Terry Miller (C Btry) First Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Ryan Evans (A Btry) as Chief of Firing Battery, and Staff Sgt. Steve Day (B Btry) as Gunnery Sergeant.

Every section in the consolidated battery had a mix of soldiers from the different batteries. Headquarters Battery and Detachment 1 added to the mix by having their Medics, Fire Support Teams, and Target Acquisition teams train with the Firing battery.

The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Ben Hussey, defined clear goals for a successful annual training period for the unit. He intended for all soldiers in attendance to qualify with their assigned individual weapon, familiarize with the M9 pistol, M240B

machine gun and the M249 SAW and perform all required Common Task Training (CTT) for the training year.

During the first week the units trained up on CTT tasks, and ran the weapons ranges. On Tuesday of the second week, the soldiers competed in the "Camp Rilea Challenge". Where they were required to perform all of the tasks they were trained on the previous week to include the Level One CTT tasks, a six mile land navigation course, the confidence course and culminating with a marksmanship competition. 1st Lt. Miller, 2nd Lt. Mike Lee and 2nd Lt. Patrick Thies planned, resourced and ran the "Camp Rilea Challenge" event. This event required the soldiers to perform as teams through six check points that tested their skills in, land navigation, nuclear biological chemical, first aid, the confidence course, weapon maintenance, salute reports and finally to engage the enemy with individual and crew serve weapons. Each station had evaluators that scored the individual soldiers and also gave each team a score. Interestingly, no team won more than one station. It was a very close competition.

This AT was a classic case of why we train to a set standard and follow unit Stand Operating Procedures. Standards allowed soldiers from five different units to merge into one and accomplish all of the commander's intents in a successful Annual Training.

It is a credit to the professionalism of the unit members that they performed all of the integrated training without any serious injuries or accidents.

## DID YOU KNOW you can purchase life insurance through payroll deduction THAT YOU CAN take with you if/when you leave the NATIONAL GUARD?

**State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI)** is provided to enhance

Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Specific program benefits include:

- Benefit payment within 24 hours up to \$10,000, with remaining benefits within ten days.
- Spouse and dependent coverage
- No WAR, suicide, or aviation exclusions
- No cost 20% automatic increase after one year off of base plan.
- Accelerated death benefit (50% of coverage) in event of terminal illness
- As part of this program, all ONG members have \$1,000 free coverage automatically.
- SSLI can be taken with you upon departure from the National Guard and benefits and premiums remain the same to age 60.
- A **Supplemental SSLI coverage** can be added to the basic program to provide:
  - \$50,000 to \$250,000 coverage
  - Premiums better than SGLI to age 50
  - Member and/or spouse additional coverage of \$100,000 for \$7.50
  - Requires basic SSLI coverage
  - Some limitations may apply

In 1998, The Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations created an umbrella organization, Oregon National Guard Benefits INC., to help to identify and provide benefits for all ONG Soldiers/Airmen and association members. The following describes the program available to you.

### Payroll Deducted Group Benefits for Members of the National Guard STATE SPONSORED LIFE INSURANCE

Unit SSLI Benefit Briefings are being provided throughout the year. Check to find out when the briefings are being made to your unit. Questions and/or interest in the program should be directed to the benefits coordinator.

LTC (Ret) Mike Fielding  
SSLI Benefits Coordinator  
PO Box 4262  
Salem, OR 97302  
Cell 503-510-4739  
1-800-810-7754(SSLI)

# Air Guard team leaves Kuwait base better than they found it

By Maj. Donna Priamore . . . . .  
Oregon Air National Guard

During the months following September 11<sup>th</sup>, many Americans felt helpless and frustrated because they wanted to join in the fight against terrorism but didn't know what to do or how to contribute. For one drill status member of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG), the idea of what to do was an easy one.

TSgt. James H. Merhaut, a record communications maintenance technician in the Oregon Air Guard's 244<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), took military leave from his engineering job at the Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Ore., to volunteer for a 105-day active duty tour in Kuwait.

"There's nobody (referring to Osama Bin Laden) in this world who is going to change my way of living for me or my family," explained Merhaut. "If, by doing my military job, someone is put in the ground that threatens our freedom, it's OK with me."

In Feb. 2002, Merhaut and approximately 30 members from the 244 CBCS flew to Kuwait to begin their three-month Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation in support of Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.

When the Oregon-based combat communications crew arrived in the theater of operations, they went to work maintaining tactical and commercial communications systems for phones, radios, and computer networks; providing a source of reliable power to their equipment; and keeping their vehicles operational.

It wasn't long before the 244 CBCS crew faced their first challenge, a challenge related to the Predator's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mission that has become an integral part of military operations in Southwest Asia.

The problem? Military officials stationed at an undisclosed location in Kuwait did not have the system capability to monitor video images obtained by the Predator, a void that posed serious operational limitations for pilots and commanders in the area. Although satellite receivers were already in-place to *download* Predator video (which was then data linked to a satellite for use by senior military officials in the U.S.), the equipment and wiring systems necessary to *view* the video were not.

Without quick access to the Predator's output, personnel did not have instant information related to enemy troop movements, newly identified enemy targets, terrain considerations, etc. They were also unable to quickly assess bomb damage created by their own air strikes in the Southwest Asia region.

"Several attempts had been made by active duty units to acquire the necessary authorization and equipment to allow for monitoring of the Predator video streams," explained Merhaut, "but unfortunately their efforts failed."

Knowing the Predator's video would provide very meaningful and timely battle damage data to key military officials in Kuwait, Col. David Nichols, the on-site wing commander, tasked Merhaut and other 244th CBCS members with resolving, once and for all, the video monitoring issue.



Merhaut, who was assigned to night shift, quickly rose to the challenge and began formulating ideas on how to make it happen.

Taking advantage of the different time zones during his midnight watch, Merhaut placed scores of phone calls to military officials at MacDill AFB, Fla. (home of Central Command (CentCom) headquarters) and to system design engineers at Hanscom AFB, Mass. He quickly identified key decision makers and approval authorities within the command structure, learned the necessary step-by-step administrative processes to follow, and started gathering technical data.

Obtaining approval from CentCom headquarters was the first order of business so Merhaut immediately coordinated with intelligence authorities to draft a letter justifying the need for (and seeking approval of) the video monitoring system. The letter was then sent directly to senior level officials at CentCom. Several days later, and after many follow-up calls were made by Merhaut, the long anticipated news finally arrived.

Approval was granted.

Up until this time, Merhaut—who had been communicating via phone with design engineers since the project began—spent numerous days digesting technical data and asking design-related questions of the Hanscom-based experts on the east coast.

"The engineers sent me the White Paper (tech data) on the equipment and I read through all of it," said Merhaut. "Being in the high-tech field, it's something I'm required to do a lot."

With approval authority now granted, the procurement phase was quickly put into motion. SMSgt. Bob Kehler, the satellite communications (SAT-COM) NCOIC for the 244 CBCS, had already conducted the supply research and administrative legwork for the purchase of the system so that, if and when approval was granted, he would be ready.

Kehler immediately went to work arranging a money transfer to Hanscom AFB, ordering the equipment, and coordinating the shipment to Kuwait. Amazingly (and within one week of receiving project approval by CentCom) the tools and equipment the 244 CBCS crew needed for the monitoring system arrived in country via Fed Ex.

Merhaut worked for three consecutive days to assemble, install, and connect the parts and equipment

that had been custom tailored by Hanscom-based engineers to integrate with the existing satellite receiver system at the Kuwait-based military installation.

Anxious to test out the new monitoring system, Merhaut turned it on.

The moment he and others had been waiting for had finally arrived. Access to the Predator's output had been achieved and streams of video filled the monitor screen.

"The video of the airplane pictures was beautiful," recalled Merhaut. "I called everyone over to look at it!"

Knowing the monitoring system was now operational at the output to the satellite receiver (also referred to as the "breakout box"), 244 CBCS SAT-COM

experts TSgts. Don Lemons, John Schmuhl, Howard Thompson, and Odis Bell quickly went to work on the second phase of the installation project. They routed the video signal from the breakout box to key functional areas within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) so key personnel could have access to the photos 24-hours a day.

"Our collective experience as a team helped," commented Merhaut. "The project entailed a little bit of everything...knowledge of approval processes, parts acquisition procedures, transmission theory, analog and digital concepts, programming, and system-level concepts."

Today, halfway across the world, the data images collected by the Predator in Southwest Asia are downloaded and monitored by military intelligence and command personnel at the EOC. This data, in turn, is used on a regular basis to make key operational decisions related to the war against terrorism.

According to Merhaut, when the 244 CBCS team members volunteered for this assignment in Kuwait, they had no idea they'd be making such a worthwhile contribution to the global fight against terrorism.

"When we first arrived here, Col. Nichols told us to make sure we left this base a better place than we found it," smiled Merhaut, "I think we accomplished that."



*Best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season and all through the New Year.*

*Alexander H. Burgin  
Major General  
The Adjutant General*



By Maj. Ken Barker  
and Tech. Sgt. Kirk Clear

Setting up secure tactical communications is normally a walk in the park for Oregon Air National Guard tech. Sgts. Bruce Anderson and John Schmuhl. That is except when the air base is in desolate Afghanistan, where even simple tasks can be fraught with unwanted adventure.

Take laying cable in the ground, for example. Both said they found bones from the Soviet-Afghan war every time they dug a hole or a trench. Such was life at Bagram Air Base in March, where a one-wet mission can take a month. But, if not for the skills and ingenuity of Anderson and Schmuhl, communications might have taken much longer to establish.

The two are from the 224th Combat Communications Squadron. They were with the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at another deployed location in March when the 74th and its A-10 Thunderbolt II's were sent to Bagram to provide close air support. Anderson and Schmuhl were responsible for networking phones and ground radio at the departing base. They were hand picked to set up communications for A-10's at Bagram but had no real picture of conditions there.

However, the adventure began before they even set foot in Afghanistan. Since their departing base couldn't support further forward deployment, especially communications support, Anderson and Schmuhl were forced to quickly improvise.

"We had to beg, borrow and steal the networking and tactical phone equipment from other locations," said Schmuhl, the ground radion technician. "We had to take one radion from another locations, scrounge the antennas, and repair another." They expected the original set-up would take just three to five days, but the mission lasted a month when delays and requests piled up.

Their first week included non-communications work, such as leveling ground, building wooded platforms for tents and setting up tents. Communications equipment then arrived six days late since pallets onboard a transport plane were unloaded at a stopover point to make room for higher-priority equipment. Additional requests for radios, computer drops and phone lines for several other locations then added to the workload. Once communications equipment arrived, however, they filled initial requests within 48 hours.

Anderson and Schmuhl mapped out a detailed communications plan for the compound and used every bit of the equipment they brought with them. Other communications personnel from the 74th now maintain the equipment on a two-week rotational basis. Two-thirds of the communications unit includes Air Guardsmen from Calif., Ill., Neb., New Mex., Ore., Penn., S. Carolina, Utah and Wash.

## Miss America visits the 142nd

By 1st Lt. Misti Oyler  
142nd FW Public Affairs Officer

Katie Harman and her chaperon Joanne Silver came out to the base to tour and visit personnel on May 17. She spoke to military members in Operations where she was presented with a signed lithograph. She then went out to the flight line to visit with Security Forces and watch the F-15s in afterburner takeoff.

First Lt. Jason Baldy, who for a short time was entrusted with the famous crown, said, "

Without watchful eyes that crown full of diamonds could of made a nice dent in my mortgage! Really though it was nice to see her professionalism and enthusiasm for the 142nd Fighter Wing and her appreciation for the members of the Oregon Air National Guard."



Katie Harman 2002 Miss America is interviewed after an F-15 cockpit overview from 1st Lt Tim Ebner.

When interviewed by local media she shared her appreciation and admiration of what the military does and the sacrifices they make. Harman thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and wants to add her visit to her film of yearlong highlights during her final walk.

Miss Harman recently became engaged to Cpt. Tim Ebner of the Oregon Air National Guard.



Although difficult to talk these guys into taking a photo with Miss Harman they stepped up and did their part...and yes that's "Claw" smiling.

## SPOTLIGHT



### Airman propels herself to the top

By Staff Sgt. Amy Elker

142nd FW Public Affairs Office



### Rebecca Boyd

She has only been in the Air Guard for two short years and yet she is already soaring above her peers. Airman 1st Class Rebecca Boyd was selected as distinguished graduate for her outstanding achievement at Propulsion 3-Level School at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, from Jan. to May 3.

In order to be selected as top graduate, one must have a minimum of a 95 percent average and be recommended by an instructor for the award. Not only did Boyd meet the minimum qualifications, she also exceeded them by receiving a 100 percent average! When asked about receiving the honor, Boyd said, "I would like to point out that I had a very good instructor at tech school. His name is Tech. Sgt. Robert Oakes, and I have to thank him for my success. He motivated me to do as well as I did and he cared about all of the students in his class. He went far above and beyond the call."

Boyd, who has worked as a jet engine mechanic for the 142nd Maintenance Squadron since joining the Air Guard, said she finds her job very rewarding.

"The most rewarding thing (about my job) is seeing all of the work that is put into the engine come together in the end," Boyd said. "I really enjoy my work and the people there, and want to stay with them as long as possible."

"I am working with very experienced people and I learn a lot working with them," she continued. "I am also very excited about traveling on our deployments."

Of course Boyd's unit is very pleased as well to have someone as hard working and dedicated as she. Boyd just recently completed a 30-day active duty assignment with her unit and is currently working completing her annual training.

Outside of the military, Boyd is currently unemployed. However, she plans to attend college in the fall and major in some form of engineering. When asked what she likes to do outside of the military, she said, "I do a lot of reading; especially science fiction. I am also a bit of an amateur astronomer and I enjoy flying."

## Extreme Machines visits PANG



"Extreme Machines" director Toby MacDonald, cameraman Patrick Langan, and soundman Lawrie Rose interview Lt. Col. Mike Bieniewicz about the mission of the 142nd FW and the F-15 Eagle jet fighter.

The film crew from Pioneer Productions, based in London, England, spent three days in Portland last month filming Redhawk pilots and ground crews for an episode featuring jet fighters from around the world.

Portland's F-15s will be shown along with the MiG-29, SU-30, F-117, F-22, and the Eurofighter.

The program will be aired on the Learning Channel later this year.

The potential worldwide exposure enables Oregon to tell the Guard story and show how the mission is performed in Oregon's own "extreme machine."

# Awards and Decorations

## Legion of Merit

COL Mark A. Clink HQ STARC (-)  
 CW5 Bruce Collins HHC (-) 141 SPT BN  
 COL Lynn Ashcroft HQSTARC  
 COL James Noteboom HQSTARC  
 LTC Michael Gilsdorf 3/HQSTARC

## Army Commendation Medal

SGT Harry Mallory B/2-162 IN  
 SGT Russell McCarthy C/141 Spt  
 SGT Joel Mesman D/1-186 IN  
 SGT John Meyer HHC/1-186 IN  
 SGT Donald Mikeska A/1249 EN  
 SGT Steven Mueller G/82 Cav  
 SGT Frank Rademacher D/1-186 IN  
 SGT Jeffrey Shinn HHC/41 SIB  
 SGT Keith Spaulding A/2-218 FA  
 SPC Jeffrey Berg HHC/2-162 IN  
 SPC Timothy Gorman A/2-162 IN  
 SPC Steven Hilger G/82 Cav  
 SPC Anthony Johnson HHC/41 SIB  
 SPC Steven Kreins HHC/41 SIB  
 SPC Shawn Lyon A/1-186 IN  
 SPC Michelle Means 1/B/52 EN  
 SPC James Pentecost D/1-162 IN  
 SPC Eric Powell B/1-186 IN  
 SPC Donald Stevens D/1-186 IN  
 SPC Ronald Willis HHC/1-186 IN  
 SPC James Yandell B/1-186 IN  
 CPL Arthus Fyock A/2-218 FA  
 CPL Edward Lewis 1/A/1249 EN  
 CPL Matthew Mintz HHSB/2-218 FA  
 PFC Jonathan Ruel G/82 Cav  
 TSgt Andrew S. Foland ORANG  
 Gary Baldwin ORANG  
 CMS Dayle A. McLain ORANG  
 MAJ Phillip Appleton 82 RTOC  
 MAJ Duane Cartwright C 141 Spt  
 MAJ David Greenwood 641 Med  
 MAJ Mik Kim 82 RTOC  
 MAJ Martin Mote HHC 141 Spt  
 MAJ Jason Schwabel HHC 1249 EN  
 CPT James Charters 741 CSB  
 CPT James Chase HHC 141 Spt

## Army Meritorious Service Medal

1SG Terry Adlard HQ 249 Regt  
 CW4 John Arana HHD/641 MedCPT  
 SFC Arthur Arroya Jr. HQ STARC (-)  
 Bruce Alzner 1/HHC/3-116 Cav  
 SGT Linda Ballard HQSTARC  
 MAJ Casimiro Barruga 82 Bde  
 SFC Clyde Bell HHSB/2-218 FA  
 SFC Steven Berry HQ 2-162 IN  
 SFC Gregory Bogard HQ STARC (-)  
 COL Donald Bond HHC/141 Spt  
 CW4 Barry Brown 1042 Med  
 CPT Patricia Bush HHC 741 CSB  
 CSM Teddy Campbell HQ 249 Regt  
 LTC Rendell Chilton HQ 41 PROV  
 LTC Steven Dickenson HQ STARC (-)  
 MSG Kenneth Eaton HQ STARC (-)  
 SGT John Garlets HHC/2-162 IN  
 SSG Adam Grigg HQ STARC (-)  
 MSG Timothy Grove HHC 3-116 CAV  
 MAJ Russell Guppy 3670 Maint  
 LTC James Hanson Jr SEL SRV  
 MAJ Merle Harvey Jr. HQ 249 Regt  
 LTC Beverly Herard HQ STARC (-)  
 LTC Benjamin Hussey Jr HHSB (-) 2-218  
 CPT Stanley Hutchison 82 RTOC  
 MSG Timothy Johnson HQ STARC (-)  
 LTC Bryan Kiebler HHC 3-116 Cav  
 MAJ Derek Lemieux HQ 41 PROV  
 LTC James Lyman HQ 249 Regt RTI  
 COL Scott H. McCrae HQ 82 Bde  
 SSG Gary McKenzie Det 1 A-141 SPT  
 MAJ Martin Mote HHC (-) 141 Spt  
 1LT John Neibert CO C 1-162 IN  
 MSG Felix Parini HQ STARC (-)  
 MAJ Mark Parrish HHC (-) 1-162 IN  
 SSG David Pickett A-249 Avn  
 LTC Mark Rathburn HQ STARC (-)  
 SC Paul Russell HHC 3-116 CAV  
 1SG Gerald Schleining Jr. A/2-218 FA  
 SSG Roger Seipert Det 1 HHC 2-162 IN  
 MSG Tari Shane HQ STARC (-)  
 LTC John Sneed HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Nicholas Swanson HQ 2-162 IN  
 COL Larry Studer HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Dawn Taylor HQ STARC (-)  
 1SG James H. Teska HQ STARC (-)  
 SSG Robert Tinti D/1-186 IN  
 SFC Lewis Wilson HHC 3-116 CAV

CW4 Anthony Wisniewski HQSTARC  
 1SG Jeffery Young HHSB/2-218 FA  
 LTC Hank Adams HHC/41 SIB  
 CPT Terry Barber B/141 Spt  
 CPT Darren Hoschouser C/1-186 IN  
 CPT Ross Kihs HHC/1-162 IN  
 CPT William Prendergast D/1-186 IN  
 CPT Douglas Thomas A/2-218 FA  
 CPT Michael Wegner C/1-162 IN  
 CW2 James Halloran HHC/1249 EN  
 1SG Herbert Hamerlynck B/2-218 FA  
 1SG Scott Schrader HHC/1-162 IN  
 1SG Paul Shipley B/141 Spt  
 1SG Jeffrey Yamanaka D/2-162 IN  
 MSG Brunk Conley HHC/1-162 IN  
 MSG Charles Hanger D/1-186 IN  
 SFC Robert Coleman Posthumous  
 SFC Stacy Heathcock E/2-162 IN  
 SFC James Richards HHC/2-162 IN  
 SFC Darron Shaw C/1-186 IN  
 SSG Michael Stillion E/2-162 IN  
 SPC Terry Barber HHC/141 Spt

## Army Achievement Medal

COL Mark Olson HHD/641 Med  
 MAJ Todd Farmer HHD/641 Med  
 CPT William Allen HHC/1249 EN  
 CPT Daniel Miner HHD/82 Cav  
 1LT Russell Harms 1/HHC/3-116  
 Cav1LT Greg Wicklund 1-162 IN  
 2LT Jeremy Haley 1-162 IN  
 2LT Rodney Lesina HHC/2-162 IN  
 1SG David Ward 1249 EN  
 SFC Terry Cochran G/82 Cav  
 SFC Brian Colwell A/141 Spt  
 SFC Christopher Dorsey 1249 EN  
 SFC Barry Hesketh HHD/641 Med  
 SFC James Martichuski HQSTARC  
 SFC John Ringlbauer C/3-116 Cav  
 SFC Richard Schuch E/82 Cav  
 SFC Ernest Stockton G/82 Cav  
 SFC Thomas Thomas 1/A/141 Spt  
 SFC Roderick Tucker G/82 Cav  
 SSG Shane Bonney G/82 Cav  
 SSG Alfred Crow A/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Stanley Getz 1/249 RTI  
 SSG Kevin Jolly C/1249 EN  
 SSG Darrin Knutson E/82 Cav  
 SSG Stephen Lusch G/82 Cav  
 SSG Russell McGraw C/1249 EN  
 SSG John Mitchell 1/HHC/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Harry Morrison 1249 EN  
 SSG Travis Powell 1042 Med  
 SSG Wayne Symons G/82 Cav  
 SSG Jeffrey Wilcox G/82 Cav  
 SSG Mark Williams G/82 Cav  
 SGT Steven Anderson 1249 EN  
 SGT Eric Boardman HHC/2-162 IN  
 SGT Burley Boykin G/82 Cav  
 SGT Dugald Campbell D/2-162 IN  
 SGT Jarred Cole B/52 EN  
 SGT John Cox G/82 Cav  
 SGT Tony Cox 1249 EN  
 SGT Travis Deathridge G/82 Cav  
 SGT Fred Fah 1-162 IN  
 SGT William Faulkner B/52 EN  
 SGT Timothy Ferguson B/1249 EN  
 SGT Peter Fritsch 1249 EN  
 SGT Robert Gardner 1-162 IN  
 SGT Benjamin Harvey G/82 Cav  
 SGT Dwight Hilton C/52 EN  
 SGT Eric Hutley G/82 Cav  
 SGT Samual Kennedy HHC/1249 EN  
 SGT Gary Love HHC/141 Spt  
 SGT Scott Lutz G/82 Cav  
 SGT Harry Mallory B/2-162 IN  
 SGT Raquel Moody A/1249 EN  
 SGT Raymond Paterson 1042 Med  
 SGT Richard Pentecost 1-162 IN  
 SGT David Richardson HHC/41 SIB  
 SGT Brian Williams E/82 Cav  
 SGT Anthony Winston HHC/2-162 IN  
 SGT Donald Zufelt G/82 Cav  
 SPC Bruce Atkins G/82 Cav  
 SPC Jeffrey Berg HHC/2-162 IN  
 SPC Kenneth Bowman E/82 Cav  
 SPC Matt Branstetter E/82 Cav  
 SPC James Brose F/82 Cav  
 SPC Wesley Christensen HHC/3-116 Cav  
 SPC Tremaine Clayton HHD/641 Med  
 SPC Dustin Coffman 1249 EN  
 SPC Robert Cox G/82 Cav  
 SPC Jess Dyer G/82 Cav  
 SPC Daniel Grist E/82 Cav  
 SPC Mike Hawkins G/82 Cav  
 SPC Steven Hilger G/82 Cav  
 SPC Frank Hostler 1249 EN

SPC Patrick Hughes E/82 Cav  
 SPC Stephanie Linderman 1249 EN  
 SPC Hugh Ly E/82 Cav  
 SPC Raymond Meyer E/82 Cav  
 SPC Bruce Newcomb 1-162 IN  
 SPC Jason Parker 1-162 IN  
 SPC Jarrel Rysavy 1/A/1249 EN  
 SPC Donald Scott B/3-116 Cav  
 SPC Justin Shelton B/3-116 Cav  
 SPC Zachary Thompson HHD/82 Cav  
 SPC Sonny Vickroy A/2-162 IN  
 SPC Steven Walton HHC/2-162 IN  
 SPC William West B/3-116 Cav  
 CPL Barry Bibler G/82 Cav  
 CPL Matthew Brown C/3-116 Cav  
 CPL Nathan Brusche 1249 EN  
 CPL Terry Delorme HHC/41 SIB  
 CPL Jessie Farrow B/1249 EN  
 CPL Cornelius Lucero G/82 Cav  
 CPL Jay Wilcox G/82 Cav  
 PFC Crystal Adams 1249 EN  
 PFC Russell Briggs HHC/3-116 Cav  
 PFC Carl Brogli 1-162 IN  
 PFC Aaron Brown B/1249 EN  
 PFC Ian Doty G/82 Cav  
 PFC Justin Eyerly E/82 Cav  
 PFC Seth Fillmore 1249 EN  
 PFC Walter Gaya A/2-162 IN  
 PFC Jared Jackson HHC/1-162 IN  
 PFC Josiah Jurich 1249 EN  
 PFC Robert LaFollette 1249 EN  
 PFC Randy Maidens G/82 Cav  
 PFC Jonathan Ruel G/82 Cav  
 PFC Jason Smith HHC/41 SIB  
 PFC William Stout 1042 Med  
 PFC Kyle Trimble HHC/2-162 IN  
 PV2 Michael Hesse 1249 EN  
 PV2 Graham Hill E/82 Cav  
 PV2 Richard Jackson 1-162 IN  
 PV2 Auchterlonie Jacob 1249 EN  
 SGT David Flores USMC  
 FS3 Gary Coleman USCG  
 FS2 Phillip Templin USCG  
 FS1 Charles Tilden USCG

## Oregon Distinguished Service Medal

LTGen Russell Davis NGB  
 COL Earl Johnson Posthumous

## Oregon Exceptional Service Medal

COL Bruce Boevers NGB  
 LTC Mark Rathburn HQSTARC  
 MAJ Russell Guppy 3670 Maint  
 CW4 Anthony Wisniewski HQSTARC  
 SGM Enrique Trevino 5th Army  
 CIV Kimberly Bennett OMD  
 CIV Shirley Davis NGB Family Program  
 CIV Ted Thomas MacLaren youth facility

## Oregon Commendation Medal

CPT Lori Baldwin 1/HHC/41 SIB  
 CPT Chester Cary HHC/2-162 IN  
 CPT Matthew Magana B/2-162 IN  
 1LT Tannis Mittelbach 1/A/141 Spt  
 1LT Jeramy Wahrmond A/2-162 IN  
 SFC James Gresham 162 EN  
 SFC Michael Reiley HHC/41 SIB  
 SFC Walter White B/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Julius McCraine B/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Tim Morford 1/C/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Angel Smith HHC/41 SIB  
 SSG Ronald Wycaver B/3-116 Cav  
 SPC Raymon Bronson 1/HHC/2-162 IN  
 SPC Robert Moline-Lueck HHC/141 Spt  
 SPC Sean Sherlock A/2-162 IN  
 SPC Bradley Wyatt A/2-162 IN  
 SPC William West B/3-116 Cav  
 MAJ Kathleen E. Coffey HQ STARC (-)  
 1LT Steven A. Campbell 1/249 RTI  
 CW3 Gary L. Clark Co A 249 Avn  
 MSG William F. Boyd HQ STARC (-)  
 MSG Robert N. Cox HQ STARC (-)  
 MSG Robert D. Droke HQ STARC (-)  
 MSG Eric J. Johnson HQ 249 Regt  
 MSG Dana R. Rappe HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Christian T. Allen HQ 249 Regt  
 SFC Douglas D. Anderson HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Mark A. Browning HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Michael A. Bruno HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Ronald D. Calhoun HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Daniel R. Couzens Co B 3-116 Cav  
 SFC Bruce A. Garrett HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Edwin A. Giles HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Peter F. Gray HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Joel C. Haag  
 SFC Everett D. Horvath DET 3 HQ STARC  
 SFC Eugene Martin II HG STARC (-)  
 SFC Brian O'Kelley HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Michael D. Price HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC James Richards HQ 249 RGT  
 SFC Mark J. Tessmer HHC(-) 2-162  
 SFC Craig J. Snitker HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Michael J. Storm HQ STARC (-)  
 SFC Wm Vollmer CO B 3-116 CAV

SFC James E. Way Det 1 HQ STARC  
 SFC Michael Wentworth HQ STARC (-)  
 SSG Brenda K. Harris 3 HA STARC  
 SSG Jack O. Husse HQ STARC (-)  
 SSG Michael G. Reed CO B 3-116 CAV  
 SSG Eli L. Smith CO B 3-116 CAV  
 SGT Linda K. Ballard HQ STARC (-)  
 SGT Gregory Bynum HQ 249 REGT  
 SGT Nicole F. Johnson HQ STARC (-)  
 SGT James A. Lindseth HQ STARC (-)  
 SGT Jacob Overby HQ 249 REGT  
 SGT Patricia Philpo DET 1 HQ STARC  
 SPC Bret A. Force HQ STARC (-)  
 SPC Bradley J. Wyatt 41 PSC  
 CPL Gifford Allaire CO A 2-162 IN  
 SSgt Gary Brooks CO A (-) 3-116  
 Ssgt. Todd Soli ORANG  
 TSgt. Bruce Anderson ORANG  
 SRA Mathew B. Janssen ORANG  
 MSgt Laurie Beltsn ORANG  
 MSgt Mark R. Davis ORANG  
 SSgt Gary A. Brooks ORANG  
 SSgt Todd W. Soli ORANG  
 TSgt Bruce C. Anderson ORANG  
 PFC Russell Clark ORANG  
 CIV Robertson Cope CO B 1249 EN  
 CIV Julie Neibert HHC 41 SIB  
 CIV Cori Olson FAM PROG  
 CIV Tammy Platts FAM PROG  
 CIV Teresa Schleining FAM PROG  
 CIV Richard Zaik FAM PROG  
 CPT Peter Derouin 1/E/168 Avn  
 CPT William Edwards HHC/2-162 IN  
 CPT Scott Farish 82 RTOC  
 CPT Michael Olson A/1249 EN  
 CPT Lori Paltridge HHC/41 SIB  
 CPT Paul Pfeiffer HHD/82 Cav  
 CPT Kevin Sheehy B/3-116 Cav  
 CPT Steven Schmidt A/2-218 FA  
 CPT Kimberly York HHC/141 Spt  
 1LT Mathew Brady 82 RTOC  
 1LT Jennifer Bryan 82 RTOC  
 1LT Teruo Chinen G/82 Cav  
 2LT Ryan Helm C/1-186 IN  
 2LT Rodney Lesina B/2-162 IN  
 2LT Jacqueline Reynolds B/2-162 IN  
 CW5 Peter Davis 641 Med  
 CW2 James Halloran HHC/1249 EN  
 CW2 Edwin Puderbaugh B/141 Spt  
 MSG Ken Leyson 82 RTOC  
 SFC Neil Brooks G/82 Cav  
 SFC Robert Hanks 82 RTOC  
 SFC Everett Horvath HHC/41 SIB  
 SFC Jacob Iverson B/1249 EN  
 SFC Kenneth Leyson HHC/41 SIB  
 SFC Alan Scheel HHC/41 SIB  
 SFC Thomas Thomas 1/A/141 Spt  
 SSG John Ashford B/2-162 IN  
 SSG Burley Boykin G/82 Cav  
 SSG Wayne Chastain A/3-116 Cav  
 SSG William Evans HQ STARC  
 SSG Dee Georgeson HHC/141 Spt  
 SSG Daniel Hicks D/2-162 IN  
 SSG George Johnson D/1-162 IN  
 SSG Brett Mattson B/1249 EN  
 SSG Don Miller HHC/41 SIB  
 SSG Jon Mitchell 1/HHC/3-116 Cav  
 SSG Brian Mortensen 1/249 RTI  
 SSG Donald Olson C/2-218 FA  
 SSG Cecil Owens 1249 EN  
 SSG Travis Powell 1042 Med  
 SSG Donald Toler A/1-186 IN  
 SSG Ronald Triller 82 RTOC  
 SSG Marion Tuttle 82 RTOC  
 SGT John Ashford B/2-162 IN  
 SGT Christopher Bowman HHC/41 SIB  
 SGT Dugald Campbell D/2-162 IN  
 SGT Dominic Caputo 1/HHC/1-162 IN  
 SGT Mark Ditzel B/2-162 IN  
 SGT Scott Doran 1042 Med  
 SGT Ryan Evans A/2-218 FA  
 SGT Elizabeth Hall 3/HQSTARC  
 SGT Daniel Hicks D/2-162 IN  
 SGT Eric Hutley G/82 Cav  
 SGT Frank Klug B/1-186 IN  
 SGT Jerry Longhofer 162 EN

# Awards and Decorations

## Air Force Commendation Medal

SMSgt Robert Kehler 244 CBCS  
 MSgt Michael Buck 244 CBCS  
 MSgt Laurel Nielsen 244 CBCS  
 MSgt David Steffl 244 CBCS  
 MSgt Daniel Whalen 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Bruce Anderston 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Christopher Busse 244 CBCS  
 TSgt David Fambro 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Mark Heron 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Donald Lemons 244 CBCS  
 TSgt John Schnuhl 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Darryl Smith 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Howard Thompson 244 CBCS  
 SSgt Eric Everhart 244 CBCS  
 SrA Thomas Elliott 142 SFS  
 SrA Grant Roper 142 SFS  
 A1C Joshua Paddock 142 SFS  
 MSgt Randy L. Bray 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Robby D. Phillips 244 CBCS  
 MSgt John Fortney 272 CCS  
 TSgt Zachary Cole 142 CES  
 SSgt Jarret Pieske 142 SFS  
 SSgt Richard Snyder 142 MXS  
 TSgt Brian Rother 142 LS  
 TSgt Brian Parr 142 SFS  
 MSgt Deborah Huber 142 LSF  
 TSgt Christopher Roper 142 SFS  
 TSgt. Rocco Pepe III 142 SFS

## Air Force Meritorious Service Medal

1 t Col Henry Johnson 142 SG  
 MSgt Elizabeth C. Bailey 142 SG  
 MSgt Jerry R. Nichols 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Michelle M. Kelly 272 CBCS

## Air Force Achievement Medal

CMSgt George Austin 244 CBCS  
 SSgt. Linda Colburn 142 LSF  
 Sr.A Noah Cole 142 CS  
 SSgt. Larry Av, 142 LS  
 TSgt. Jerry White 142 SFS  
 CMSgt Michael Kretchmer 142 SFS  
 CMSgt Dayle McLain 142 MDS  
 MSgt Neil Arthurs 244 CBCS  
 MSgt Dale Corzine 142 SFS  
 MSgt Leslie Kleinkopf 142 SFS  
 MSgt Dennis Rose 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Bruce Anderson 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Odis Bell 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Timothy Lear 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Eric Kosko 142 SFS  
 TSgt John Lund 142 SFS  
 TSgt Brian Roth 142 SFS  
 TSgt Laura Sutherland 142 LS  
 TSgt Ronald Weston 244 CBCS  
 TSgt Teresa Whalen 244 CBCS  
 SSgt Shaun Brown 244 CBCS  
 SSgt Douglas Byerley 244 CBCS  
 SSgt Christopher Friend 142 SFS  
 SSgt Robert Grigsby 142 SFS  
 SSgt Jason Hunt 142 SFS  
 SSgt Lance Mosley 142 SFS  
 SSgt Luke Peters 142 SFS  
 SSgt Anthony Seim 142 SFS  
 SSgt James Sewell 244 CBCS  
 SSgt Todd Soli 244 CBCS  
 SrA Jay Boatright 142 LS  
 SrA Andrew Bomber 244 CBCS  
 SrA Matthew Brewer 142 SFS  
 SrA Cory Gorman 244 CBCS  
 SrA Grant Grady 142 SFS  
 SrA Christopher Hoefner 244 CBCS  
 SrA Kristina Jones 124 SFS  
 SrA David Kelsey 142 SFS  
 SrA Timothy Lanz 272 CBCS  
 SrA John Pangeliman 142 SFS  
 SrA Truc Tran 142 SFS  
 A1C Matthew Simmons 244 CBCS  
 Capt Robert Baugh 244 CBCS  
 MSgt John Matzka 244 CBCS

SMSgt Randall Walker 244 CBCS  
 MSgt Bruce Davidson 242 CBCS  
 MSgt Robert Glenn 272 CCS  
 MSgt Jeffrey Ley 272 CCS  
 MSgt John Shirron 272 CCS  
 TSgt Edward Abel 272 CCS  
 TSgt Karl Martin 272 CCS  
 SSgt Robert Algar 272 CCS  
 SSgt William Dewey 272 CCS  
 SrA Lindsay Nagy 272 CCS

## Oregon State Defense Force Reorganized

Due to the recent reorganization of the Oregon State Defense Force, we are looking for retired Oregon National Guard enlisted personnel and a few officers. If you are interested in serving in this fine organization, please send a one page resume to:

CSM (Ret.) Lynn Knauss at:  
 Oregon State Defense Force  
 10101 SE Clackamas Road  
 Clackamas, Oregon 97015

E-mail:  
 Lynn.Knauss@or.ngb.army.mil  
 Telephone (503) 557-5458

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## OYCP Prepares for January 2003 Class

The Oregon National Guard will continue to operate the Youth Challenge Program in Bend, Ore. The next class will begin on January 14, 2003. Continuation of the highly successful alternative high school for "at-risk" Oregon teenagers is the result of 60 percent continued funding by the federal government through the National Guard Bureau. The balance of state required funding will be from legislative approved school funds known as ADM. The funding model will require the elimination of 13 full time positions and a reduced number of student cadets to absorb nearly 30 percent in funding cuts. Col. Mike Caldwell, Program Administrator emphasized that the quality of service, structural and national guard values will continue although with fewer students.

The program is seeking National Guard personnel to assist with the first two weeks of the January 2002 class to serve as "drill instructors" during the mandatory "pre-challenge" phase. Interested guard personnel should contact Rick DeMars at 541-317-9623 ext. 221 if they would like to participate and assist during this intensive quasi-military indoctrination period.

While testing for their expert field medical badge, Spec. Tony Standifer covers a patient while taking simulated fire. Standifer went on to successfully complete the course and attain his badge.

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# AZUWUR

Fall 2002

Oregon National Guard

Photo By Sgt. Resukhnae Bruns,  
 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry