

THE  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# Oregon Sentinel

OF THE  
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Vol.3....Issue No. 4

June/July 2005

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### Don't look down!



Maj. Mark Chappelle, Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Oregon, watches as an cadet rappels from the 35-foot tower the Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore. See story on PAGE 9.

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### Ode to Mother Earth



Students at Shaver Elementary learn the merits of recycling and stewardship of the environment during Earth Day festivities held at the North Portland school April 22. See story on PAGE 11.

### OR Guard running team takes top honors

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### Plus...

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... and a whole lot more!

## Oregon Air Guard hit hard by BRAC recommendations

*Hundreds turn out in downtown Portland for town hall meeting supporting the ORANG*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Todd Enlund, 142nd FW Multimedia

An F-15 Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, takes off from the Portland International Airport on a training mission. The Oregon unit is tasked with homeland defense and air security for the entire Pacific Northwest region.

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

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — State officials delivered testimony to the President's Base Realignment and Closure Commission in Portland June 17, in an effort to influence decisions being made on the BRAC recommendations from the Department of Defense.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, and Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley all opposed the DoD BRAC recommendation, citing concerns over homeland security, the impact on the economy and employment, and the actual projected savings cited in the BRAC recommendation.

In his testimony, Kulongoski said the combined capabilities of the 142nd FW and the 939th ARW are critical to security in the region.

"Stripping the Pacific Northwest of this vital defense capability will leave Oregon and the rest of the Pacific Northwest dangerously vulnerable to air-based threats," Kulongoski told the commission. "We simply won't have the tools we need

See **Base realignment** PAGE 12

## It's good to be home!

*1186 MP Co. arrives home after one year deployment in GTMO*

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shuman, of Mt. Angel, Ore., fields questions by a throng of reporters at Portland International Airport, April 29. Shuman was the unit's acting First Sergeant while deployed to GTMO.

Far Right: Sgt. Leofuldo Tablanza holds his son Nathaniel, 9 mos., during the unit's homecoming ceremony April 29. Sgt. Tablanza was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a year, but was able to come home on leave for Nathaniel's birth in September, 2004. See full story on PAGE 13.

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



Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock (l.) speaks to the gathering at the Forest Grove Armory after receiving his Purple Heart, while Wilhelmine "Willie" Aufmkolk (r.) looks on. Photo by Rhetta Braddock.

## Angels living among us

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock, a 24 year old Cavalry Scout with the Oregon Army National Guard was awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Forest Grove Armory April 24.

His original unit of assignment was the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry in Forest Grove. Braddock was joined by members of his initial unit for the ceremony.

Braddock was serving with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry near Kirkuk, Iraq and was injured on by an anti-tank mine while conducting mounted patrols.

"The morning I was injured we were checking a road to make sure it was clear for a convoy coming through the next day," Braddock said.

"I remember smoke and stuff flying at me and my truck commander yelling, 'Is everyone all right?' My gunner yelled down that he was all

See **Braddock** PAGE 12



# Letters From The Front



## Soldiers from 3-116 BCT inducted into NCO Corps while deployed in Iraq



Photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 116th BCT

Sgt. Robert Powers signs the NCO Creed while Command Sergeants Major Joseph Brooks of the 3-116 AR, and Charles Whittier, of the 145th Support Battalion, look on.

**By Sgt. 1st Class Wayne W. Chastain,**  
3rd Battalion, 116th Brigade

**FOB WARRIOR, Kirkuk, Iraq** — The Non-Commissioned Officers of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion of the 116th Brigade Combat Team held their second annual NCO Induction Ceremony on May 20 at Warrior Gym on Forward Operating Base Warrior near Kirkuk, Iraq. This year, eight new sergeants were inducted into the company's NCO Corps.

The ceremony consisted of only the NCOs of the company and various higher ranking NCOs from other battalions, with a few Air Force personnel who are co-located at FOB Warrior.

Command Sergeants Major Joseph Brooks of the 3-116 AR, and Charles Whittier, of the 145th Support Battalion were the featured guest speakers.

"Promotion to the NCO Corps is the most important promotion any of you will get while in military service," Brooks said. "It is proper that you be recognized through ceremony."

Brooks also discussed the new responsibilities that come with being promoted to the NCO Corps and reiterated how important it is that NCOs meet and help enforce standards to help their soldiers accomplish their mission.

"It is a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of both the lives of your soldiers and the mission that must be accomplished," he said.

Whittier emphasized the importance of always being prepared for the unexpected, challenging the new NCOs to prepare themselves for their new roles.

After the NCO creed was read, the inductees were presented by their sponsors for their swearing in. Brooks and Whittier then performed the ceremonial "wetting of the stripes," by pouring water over the new sergeant's stripes on their uniforms.

The ceremony concluded with presentation of coins to the new sergeants by both Brooks and Whittier, and congratulations offered by every member of Alpha Company's NCO Corps.

The NCOs inducted during the ceremony were: Sgt. Richard Rourke (38), of Payette, Idaho; Sgt. James Flood (24), of Merrick, NY; Sgt. Johan Bage (23), of The Dalles, Ore.; Sgt. Chadwick Getman (22), of New Plymouth, Idaho; Sgt. William Childs (25), of Molalla, Ore.; Sgt. Robert Powers (43), of Caldwell, Idaho; Sgt. Gilbert Tweedy (43), of Caldwell, Idaho; and Sgt. Brian Polley (28), of Baker City, Ore.

## Softball helps take off the edge for deployed soldiers

**Story and photo by Cpt. Monte Hibbert,**  
116th BCT Public Affairs Officer

**FOB WARRIOR, Iraq** — Soldiers of 116th Brigade Combat Team are finding that playing the soft version of America's favorite pastime is a great way to help get through their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Soldiers as the game provides a break from the stress of the combat zone, helps to build stronger team relationships and is good ex-

ercise. Such was the case May 28 when the Task Force 3-116 Armor Maintenance team took on the "Charlie Med" Team from the 145th Support Battalion as part of the KBR Memorial Weekend Softball Tournament.

"It breaks the monotony of your everyday workday," said Staff Sgt. Rich Stover, a supply sergeant for C Company, 145th Support Battalion, and de-facto coach of his team. "Plus it's a good way to get out and get a little exercise."

And Stover was proud to point out the co-ed nature of his team and that everyone is encouraged to participate.

"We've got gals that play on our team and we try to let everyone play," he said.

Stover said that KBR, the contractor that organizes activities for soldiers on FOB Warrior, has organized several softball tournaments and that approximately 20 teams play regularly. Most teams are organized by military units or sections, he said.

"This is our fourth tournament," said Stover, referring to the Memorial Weekend match-ups. "We've taken second place twice."

While the "Charlie Med" team has been together for several months, other teams are just getting started.

"We've only been together for about a week," said Sgt. Ryan Creswell, a TF 3-116 Armor maintenance sergeant, who organized the TF 3-116 Maintenance team. "We discovered it at the gym."



Members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 3-116 Armor maintenance softball team warm up before going to the pitchers mound during a Memorial Day weekend game at Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq.

At the end of the game, the "Charlie Med" team came out ahead of the TF 3-116 Armor maintenance team 11-4. Nevertheless, the result of the game didn't seem to discourage Creswell or his teammates.

"I think this raises morale in a huge way," Creswell said after the game. "It gives us something to look forward to."

Both teams encouraged anyone interested in getting involved of forming a team to go to the Warrior gym desk and sign up.

"They're trying to get a league together for June," Stover said.

Made up of component units from the states of North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Utah, New Jersey and Maryland, the 116th BCT is one of several Army National Guard units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

## 116th BCT Medics train Iraqis in life-saving skills

**Story by Cpt. Monte Hibbert,**  
116th BCT Public Affairs Officer

**FOB WARRIOR, Iraq** — Medics from the 116th Brigade Combat Team's Task Force 3-116 Armor and local Iraqi doctors recently trained Iraqi Army soldiers life-saving battlefield skills during a Combat Life Saver (CLS) course taught at the Iraqi Army's K1 installation near Kirkuk, Iraq.

The class was part of the ongoing coalition force efforts to train Iraqi security forces (ISF) to be prepared in all ways to provide security in Iraq. Army National Guard medics Sgt. John Kreider, TF 3-116 Armor's medical training non-commissioned officer,

and Sgt. James Billington, both stationed at Forward Operating Base Warrior in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, conducted the medical training of the Iraqi Army soldiers at the Iraqi base.

"Earlier this year the 3-116th medical section was tasked with training a group of Iraqi Army soldiers to be combat life savers," said Kreider. "The job of the combat life saver is to be first on the scene and begin treatment of wounded soldiers until the arrival of medical personnel."

When medical personnel do arrive, combat life savers are often asked to assist medics if the number of patients and severity of wounds are too great for on scene medical personnel, explained Kreider.

"If medical assets are not available, initial treatment and evacuation of injured soldiers may rest solely on combat life savers," Kreider said.

Aside from doctoring wounded or injured soldiers, U.S. Army medics are often required to train non-medical soldiers to be combat life savers. To become a combat life saver in the U.S. Army, soldiers must complete 48 hours of training, pass several practical exams and a written exam. The entire process generally takes soldiers five to six days.

The training of soldiers to be combat life savers is nothing out of the ordinary for a U.S. Army medic. However, the mission of training Iraqi Army soldiers to be combat life savers is a considerably longer and more complicated process that was uncharted territory for the TF 3-116 Armor medical section.

"Due to numerous predicted complications such as, scheduling conflicts between U.S. and Iraqi forces, Iraqi soldiers with various levels of education and the obvious language barrier, the course was scheduled to run until mid May," said Kreider. "Rather than training 8 to 10 hours a day for 5 to 6 days in a row, this unique class is in session for three hours a day, three days a week in efforts to accommodate U.S. and Iraqi Army tactical and combat missions."

Col. Laurence Plumb, TF 3-116 Armor surgeon, oversaw the Iraqi Army CLS training. Plumb coordinated with Iraqi Army officers to initiate a training program to certify selected Iraqi Army infantrymen as combat life savers. The brief planning phase for the training program began around March 6.

Kreider developed a training schedule that encompassed the U.S. Army combat life saver curriculum, but was tailored to fit the Iraqi Army. The class began March 13.

According to Kreider, "Bob," their interpreter, helped them succeed in conquering the language barrier. Also, two local Iraqi doctors assisted in translating technical medical terminology for the Iraqi soldiers.

"The doctors played an essential role in ensuring the medical knowledge was accurately conveyed to the Iraqi soldiers," said Kreider. "We have formed a strong bond with both the doctors and Iraqi soldiers, paving a solid foundation for additional medical training as they move on to become fully trained medics."

The 116th BCT took over responsibility for combat operations in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces in February. Besides providing medical assistance, the unit is accomplishing a four-fold mission that includes developing Iraqi security forces, supporting Iraq's elected leaders, helping jump-start economic development and assisting Iraqis with communications.

Made up of component units from the states of North Dakota, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Utah, New Jersey and Maryland, the 116th BCT is one of several Army National Guard units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.



Photo by Capt. Elijah Preston, 3-116 Armor Public Affairs

Graduates of a combat life saver course taught by Task Force 3-116 Armor medics pose on their graduation day after several weeks of training earlier this year at an Iraqi installation.

## Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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## The Oregon Sentinel

The *Oregon Sentinel* is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309, (503) 584-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the *Oregon Sentinel* are not necessarily those of the departments of the Army and Air Force. The *Oregon Sentinel* is distributed free to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation: 12,500. The *Oregon Sentinel* is also distributed electronically via the Internet at <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml>.

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

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

The *Oregon Sentinel* utilizes Times New Roman and Arial fonts, and is designed using Adobe InDesign CS. Graphics are produced using Adobe Illustrator and Adobe PhotoShop. All design and layout are accomplished on a Macintosh G5 computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.

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## Command Message

Throughout our nation's history, the National Guard has gone through numerous activation cycles in support of national defense. The Spanish American War, Mexican Border Campaign, WWI, WWII, the Korean War and now in Iraq and Afghanistan. At some point in time, these conflicts will also end.

Two units, one Army and one Air have ongoing homeland defense missions — the 102nd Civil Support Team and the 142nd Fighter Wing. These units conduct daily real-time missions that protect not only the state of Oregon but are also integrated into national homeland defense operations.

Currently, the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC) is reviewing the Department of Defense's recommendations, and will send its recommendations to Congress,

and ultimately to the President later this summer. One of their proposals is to eliminate the 142nd Fighter wing and reduce the number of F-15's from 15 to a detachment of two.

On June 17, Senators Ron Wyden and Greg Smith, Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley, Governor Ted Kulongoski, Col. Brad Applegate, Wing Commander for the 142nd Fighter Wing and I, testified before the BRAC committee in Portland, asking for the committee's support in not deactivating the 142nd FW. The reasons not to dismantle the unit are many — first and foremost the protection of the Pacific Northwest from potential airborne threats. The units support our long-standing and historical mission of the National Guard; protection of our homeland.

The National Guard has a very long and proud history of service to our state and nation. I would like to thank the members of the 142nd Fighter Wing and the 102nd Civil Support Team for the work they do on a daily basis, and for how they represent the Oregon National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr.  
Acting Adjutant General, State of Oregon



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith asked his colleague, Chief Master Sgt. Ted Webb, Structural Manager for the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron, to write the column for this issue of the Oregon Sentinel.

Chief Webb chose to write about the memorial currently under consideration by the City Council of Gresham.

In March, 2004 the City Council of Gresham established a task force to create a living memorial to those individuals who have served their country in a branch of the military as well as those individuals who have served or are serving in law enforcement and the fire department. This memorial is to honor both the living and those who have passed away. And while the memorial will be built in Gresham — it's for everyone.

The task force wants to let these dedicated individuals (and their families) know that they care, and show them how much they appreciate what it is they all do — and have done — for all of us in the state and nation. And to those brave souls who have made the ultimate sacrifice; the task force wants everyone to know that we as a nation share the loss, and remember their sacrifice in a special place of honor.

The memorial will be established at the corner of Powell Valley Boulevard and Roberts Street adjacent to historic downtown Gresham. The memorial will consist of seven columns, representing each branch of the military and the police and fire departments. There will also be seven flagpoles that will bear the flag of each organization. In the center of the memorial will be two flagpoles — one carrying the American flag and the other, the Oregon State Flag. Inscribed bricks will be placed throughout



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

the memorial honoring citizens' sacrifices.

The Gresham Heroes Memorial Task Force is made up of group of volunteers from groups such as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gresham Police and Fire Departments and several others. It is a completely volunteer effort and the memorial is being created only through donated funds (the task force's collective goal is \$150,000). The majority of these funds will be raised by the sale of the inscribed bricks. The target date for completion of the memorial is Sept. 2005.

The task force looks forward to welcoming you to join them in building this memorial. If you are interested in volunteering your time, or making a contribution, contact Chief Master Sgt. Ted Webb, at 503-335-4468.

The job of the Non-Commissioned Officer is to train soldiers and enforce standards. To do that, NCOs must be proficient in many tasks, sometimes tasks that are not written in doctrine, or ones that no one thought were important to train for, or were too hard to learn.

I asked a couple of Non-Commissioned Officers who returned from overseas deployments to write down some of the important things they learned during their duty in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Ken Jackola, of the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, served the majority of his time in theater as a Platoon Leader, after his PL was wounded and medically evacuated.

Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Jacques, also of the 2-162 IN BN, was wounded in action by a roadside bomb, and was returned stateside.

Both NCOs compiled a list of observations about what it takes to accomplish the mission and bring their soldiers home.

*After patrolling in Iraq, there are basic points we have learned through our experiences. If followed they will enhance your survival rate. We utilized these basic principals on every mission we performed from air assaults to motorized operations to find, close with, and kill the enemy:*

1. All soldiers need to be Combat Life-saver Certified.
2. Tough realistic rehearsals, updated to current enemy Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTP's) and MEDIVAC.
3. Use your eight Troop Leading Procedures and the five Principals of Patrolling.
4. Ensure all soldiers are proficient on M2, .50-cal., M240B, M249, M14, M4, M9, M203, Mossberg 500 and have a working



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

*knowledge of Soviet Block weapons.*

5. Whether on patrol or off, always exercise Common Sense and Security.
6. All soldiers should be driver certified.
7. Familiarize all soldiers with Aviation Operations.
8. Enforce individual soldier discipline and responsibility.
9. Things will get chaotic from time to time — Be flexible!
10. Know the locals, their language and customs.
11. Every soldier needs a big knife, preferably a "Randall".

What Jackola and Jacques are saying boils down to one statement. Discipline, flexibility and the basic tasks of 'move, shoot and communicate' are the foundations of your Soldiers' success.

### The view from over here

As we move through what may be an historic era for the Oregon National Guard, we here in JFHQ Public Affairs thought it was worth mentioning that the **Oregon Sentinel** has passed through a few important milestones of its own.

The National Guard Bureau recently bestowed several awards on the **Oregon Sentinel** in a national competition between all National Guard publications. Several staff members in JFHQ Public Affairs were awarded with "significant contributor" awards, and the **Oregon Sentinel** won a second place award for "graphic design in a military publication" for 2003. Considering the number of publications generated by individual National Guard units throughout the country, this is quite a significant achievement for our organization.

You may have noticed a few minor changes to the overall look and feel of the **Oregon Sentinel** over the past few issues. We have instituted an index "In This Issue" on the front page, which helps readers locate stories pertinent to their particular interests. Another change is an expanded coverage of feature stories and news briefs — content you said was important to you. This newsletter is, after all, *your* paper, and we take your ideas very seriously.

A new automated feature is being offered on the online PDF version of the **Oregon Sentinel**. If you click on a web address in the text of the PDF document, your browser will automatically open with that web site. Similarly, if you click on someone's e-mail address, your e-mail editor should open automatically with the address already in the "To" block.

Finally, the **Oregon Sentinel** is celebrating its second anniversary. A lot has happened since the redesign of the Oregon National Guard's official newsletter, which many of you knew previously as the AZUWUR. Our goal to build a tier-one publication, which can compete side-by-side with other newspapers, both in content and in overall design has been realized.

As with many of the Oregon National Guard's endeavors, the **Oregon Sentinel** is an evolution — a work in progress, which is continually improved upon by a team of individuals committed to excellence. It has been stated before, but it begs reiteration here — *you* are an integral part of this team. To this end, I encourage you to submit your story ideas and feedback via e-mail to [sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us](mailto:sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us).

Help us make the **Oregon Sentinel** what it has become in the past two years — one of the best National Guard publications in the country.

Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,  
Managing Editor, Oregon Sentinel

### From the editor

Readers,

This will be the final column I write as the editor of **The Oregon Sentinel**, the newspaper that Tech Sgt. Nick Choy and I created three years ago to better inform you of the incredible work being accomplished every day by the soldiers, airmen, veterans and civilians of the Oregon National Guard. By the time this issue arrives, I will have left the active force and returned to the private sector.

The Oregon National Guard has again suffered loss in the combat deaths of both Sgt. John Ogburn III and Staff Sgt. Kevin Davis. These brave cavalymen served as part of 3rd Battalion, 116th cavalry in Northern Iraq. Their service is an example of the Oregon National Guard's commitment to the cause of freedom and our dedication to a Free Iraq.

Since our last issue, we have seen the return of the 1186th Military Police Company from the rigors of the "D" Block at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We have witnessed the presentation of the Purple Heart to Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock. We have also seen the potential impact on the Guard in the recent recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) report. The full story regarding this potential threat to our organization appears as one of the cover stories in this issue. I encourage you to register your opinions with your civic leaders and political representatives during the public feedback period.

Finally, we dedicated the Global War on Terror Memorial in Heritage Park on the one-year anniversary of Oregon's most significant single-day combat loss since World War II. On June 4, 2004, Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. Justin Eyerly and Spec. Justin Linden gave their lives while running to the aid of fellow soldiers. They are amongst the fallen soldiers honored on the memorial.

It has been my honor to work with you in delivering the news about our extraordinary citizen soldiers, citizen airmen and the exceptional civilians that make us run so well. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and to contribute to our amazing organization.

"Volunteers!"

Maj. Arnold V. Strong,  
Editor-in-Chief, Oregon Sentinel



# ORANG hosts annual America Youth Day at Portland Air Base

*Despite inclement weather, hundreds of Oregonians, Washingtonians turn out for the event*



Story Prepared by  
Air Scoop Staff

Photos by Senior Airman  
Trish Lewis,  
142nd Multimedia

Under cloudy skies, excited children shouted as they ran across the flight line during the 142nd Fighter Wing's 16th annual Young American Day held on June 11.

Several organizations from across the Portland area gathered to view military and civilian planes, police vehicles, and to meet military and law enforcement personnel. The Portland Police Canine Unit put on a demonstration showing how their police dog sniffs out drugs hidden in suitcases.



Upper Left: William Weeks, 10, from Vancouver, Wash., tries a pilot's helmet on for size. Left: Naval cadets ranging from ages 11-17 from the U.S. Sea Cadet Corps from Salem, Ore., join Boy Scout Troop, Pack 593 from Milwaukie in front of an F-15 Eagle. Lower Left: Collin Haithck, 10, of Portland, practices safely escaping from a burning building under the supervision of Portland Air Base firefighter, Staff Sgt. Jason McClellan. Bottom Left: (l. to r.), Nate Moulton, Madison Morrow, and Alyssa Moulton, all from Beaverton, meet F-15 pilots, Maj. Hwang Jeffery (l.) and Maj. Paul Fitzgerald (r.). Above: David Ricksgers, 7, learns about the inner workings of the cockpit on the Air Force F-15 Fighter from Oregon Air National Guard pilot, Capt. Andy Poorman. Ricksgers' is with Boy Scout Troop, Pack 568 from Canby, Ore.



Also on hand were personnel from the Portland Air Base's Fire Department, with fire trucks and a miniature mock up of a house where children were able to work their way through the structure much like firefighters do when rescuing people in a burning house.

But the highlight of the day was the takeoffs and landings of the Fighter Wing's F-15 Eagles. As the jets made their way down the taxiway and readied for takeoff, the children and their parents pressed against the 'red rope' at the edge of the flight line to watch.

Senior Master Sgt. Vern Loftis, air operations superintendent for the 142nd Operations Group, coordinated aircraft moving around the flight line.

"When we began (Young American Day), we started out with two airplanes and 100 scouts," Loftis said. "Now we have approximately 30 exhibits, including 12 planes, and we expect between 3,000 and 4,000 people to attend."

Of the several groups in attendance that day were the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Housing Authority of Portland, local 4-H clubs, the Civil Air Patrol as well as baseball teams, home-schooled children and other children's organizations.

Young America Day is an open house at the Portland Air Base designed especially for area youth groups to visit and learn more about Oregon's Air National Guard. Every year, local police and fire units join personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing, giving kids a chance to visit and learn from a full spectrum of men and women who have chosen careers in uniformed public service.



## PANG firefighters get new home



Photos by Senior Airman Trish Lewis

The newly-built 142 Fighter Wing fire station is located on the corner of O'Conner and Hampshire roads at the Portland Air National Guard Base in north Portland.

Story by Senior Airman Jacquelyn Jeys,  
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — With the smell of fresh paint and new furniture, the Portland Air National Guard's Fire Department sparkles in its youth.

"This station is going to be much more functional for the department than the old one," said TSgt. Paul Looney, assistant fire chief with the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department. "We have better readiness and mission capabilities with this modern facility and we are excited to put this place to use."

The 142nd CES's newly-built fire station opened in early June, 2005.

One of the few buildings at PANG that is earthquake-resistant, the new facility includes a range of amenities to make the firefighters feel right at home. They include a spacious kitchen with three refrigerators for each of the three shifts, eight private bedrooms, spacious offices, a nonporous decontamination room, and state-of-the-art fire engine exhaust removal systems.

The 142nd FW did not have to fund its construction, even though the fire station is an Air National Guard facility. When the 939th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) brought in the KC-135 mission, regulations required they have more hangar space to accommodate their larger planes, bumping out the old fire station. As result of this expansion, the 939th ARW built a new facility to satisfy the 142 FW's critical fire fighting mission.

"The process to create this station has been long, but well worth it. Everyone in our department is just itching to move in," said Looney.

The Fire Department has one full-time fire chief, Senior Master Sgt. Allen Roush, 19 full-time state employees, and 27 military members in the department, including two female firefighters. Their mission affects civil aviation — the PANG fire department supports mishaps on the civilian airstrip and nearby civilian roads.

The station has the standard fireman's pole. Used mainly in emergency situations, it also provides an endless source of recre-



Tech. Sgt. Paul Looney, of the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron's Fire Department tries out the new fireman's pole.

**THE SENTINEL WANTS YOU!**  
We want your stories  
We want your pictures

Submit them to:  
The Oregon Sentinel  
c/o: Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy: [nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us](mailto:nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us)

Stories must be submitted in Microsoft Word files, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPG files, and must have an accompanying caption (also in MS Word) explaining what is happening in the picture, as well as the rank, full name, and unit of the person(s) depicted. Submissions for *Letters to the Editor* and *Letters From The Front* are preferred.



# Two Oregon National Guard soldiers die in separate incidents in Iraq

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

The Iraq war claimed two more Oregon Army National Guard soldiers in as many months.

Staff Sgt. Kevin W. Davis, 41, of Lebanon, Ore. was killed April 8 by a roadside bomb in Hawija, Iraq, about 140 miles north of Baghdad. Davis, a 14-year member of the Oregon Army National Guard, who was deployed with G Troop, 82nd Cavalry, was riding in a Humvee when an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated near the vehicle. He was airlifted to a field hospital in Kirkuk, where he succumbed to cardiac arrest while being resuscitated.

Then on May 22, Sgt. John Ogburn III, who was attached to the Oregon National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry (Armor), was killed in a vehicle accident.

Ogburn, 46, a 16-year member of the Oregon National Guard, was from Ontario, Ore. He was in the gunner's turret of a Humvee when the vehicle suddenly swerved to avoid a civilian vehicle that had crossed into its path. Ogburn sustained fatal injuries when the vehicle flipped onto its roof.

## Kevin W. Davis

About 1,000 people attended Davis' memorial service, held at the First Assembly

of God church in Lebanon. Outside in the parking lot, Davis' dark green Chevrolet Suburban was decorated with ribbons and signs which read, "Daddy We Love U," and "We Will Miss U."

Governor Ted Kulongoski told Davis' family that "it was a day of broken hearts." But, he added, "I want to tell you that Kevin Davis is an American hero whose spirit is as near to you today as the day he last held you in his arms."

Family and acquaintances described Davis as a dedicated family man who served his community and his country with devotion. A reserve police officer with the Lebanon Police Department, Davis tried to improve the lives of troubled children. According to Lebanon Police Chief Mike Healey, Davis had plans of becoming a full-time police officer when he returned from Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Jessie Scharder, Davis' roommate in Iraq, said Davis touched everyone he came in contact with, including the Iraqi children he befriended.

"He was an example of what a noncommissioned officer should be," Scharder said. "His nature was to take care of people. After we returned from a mission he always had something for us to eat."

In Iraq, Davis was helping to build a school. Every photo he e-mailed home from Iraq, said Healey, showed "Kevin bringing smiles to the children in Iraq."

Davis' stepdaughter, Laurynn, 11, told the gathering that when she first met Davis, "it was love at first sight."

"When my mom married him, I was one of the happiest people I could ever be," she said. "Every night he sang to me, 'You are my Sunshine,' and I would fall asleep."

Standing next to



Photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 116th CAV

Staff Sgt. John B. Ogburn on patrol in Iraq.

her was her mother, Robbin Ann Davis of Lebanon. The Davis' have two other children, Andrew, 13, and Makena, 4.

At the graveside service held shortly after the church ceremony, Governor Kulongoski presented the Oregon state flag to Robbin Ann, and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, presented her with the American flag.

## John B. Ogburn III

A memorial service for Ogburn was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Ore. on June 3. The governors of both Oregon and Idaho, as well as the two states' adjutant generals were in attendance, along with about 800 people.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Governor of Oregon, said Ogburn never took the easy way out.

"It's hard to imagine how the people of one state and the governor of a state could possibly ask more from a citizen," Kulongoski said during the gathering, as Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of Idaho, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., Acting Adjutant General of Oregon, and Maj. Gen. Larry LaFrenz, Adjutant General of the state of Idaho, and other dignitaries listened.

Ogburn was one of about 20 Snake River prison staff members deployed to the middle

east, according to Amber Campbell, spokesperson for the prison.

Ogburn's body was flown back to the Northwest the week before, according to Rev. Ralph Lawrence, a Methodist minister. When passengers aboard the flight were told there would be a slight delay after landing at Boise Airport while Ogburn's casket was unloaded, a 7-year old boy on his way to a fiddler's contest took out his violin and played "Amazing Grace."

"I'm sure there wasn't a dry eye on that plane," Lawrence said.

"He was more of a father figure to us," said Sgt. Jim Carroll, himself an elder statesman of the platoon. "He'd worry more about us than about himself."

Known as "Oggy" to other members of his platoon, it wasn't unusual for him to bring back a bit of extra carry-out food from the dining hall for anyone who might want some. When someone borrowed Oggy's broom, then forgot to put it to use, he'd end up sweeping their room before taking it back to his.

"John was like a saint," said Staff Sgt. Armando Estillore. "He liked to help people any way he could."

Ogburn, who was born in Fruitland, Idaho, left behind two sisters, Marilyn Ogburn and Kathy Blackmon, both of Ontario, Ore.



Photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 116th CAV

Staff Sgt. Kevin W. Davis with the Iraqi children he loved so much.

## Golfing For The Guard raises over \$15K for Global War on Terror Memorial

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

The first annual "Golfing for the Guard" tournament was held at the Tukwila Golf Course in Woodburn, Ore., on May 27 to raise funds for the Global War on Terror memorial.

The event raised \$15,500 for the memorial for Oregonians who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001. The memorial will be located in Heritage Park, adjacent to the Joint Forces Headquarters building in Salem, Ore.

The event was coordinated by Shellie Grammar and Suzanne Glenn of KXL Radio, along with several corporate sponsors, and volunteers from KXL and the Oregon National Guard helping out on the course and at the clubhouse.

Radio personality Lars Larsen and State Representative Jeff Kropf conducted a live radio broadcast from the clubhouse throughout the tournament.

Thirty-one teams made up of local businessmen, citizens, veterans and guardsmen enjoyed a day of golfing under picture-perfect skies.

Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn, one of the representatives from the Oregon Army National Guard, received golfing instruction from every member of his team.

"All right now Colonel, we need you to focus on the mission," his team captain told him. "I always wanted to tell a Colonel what to do, this is great," he said.

With the wide range of golfing techniques employed by the teams and varied skill level of the players, many "Kodak Moments" were documented during the tournament.

Corporate sponsors included A Cut Above Exteriors, The Oregon Golf Association, Columbia Helicopters, and Miles Chevrolet, who offered a brand new Chevrolet Malibu to anyone who could sink a hole-in-one at the 17th hole, but no one was able to do it. Portland Spirit, another sponsor, gave away 35 Willamette dinner cruises.

An awards presentation, luncheon and an auction followed the tournament. Proceeds from the auction also went to the Global War on Terror memorial fund. Sovereign Construction of Portland, Ore. was the highest bidder during the auction.

See related story on this page.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office  
Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt, Commander of the 41st Brigade, takes a big swing on the 4th hole during the first annual "Golfing for the Guard" tournament May 27.

## Memorial dedicated at Heritage Park in Salem



Photo by Spec. April Dustin, 115th MPAD

State Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe (left foreground) and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., Acting Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard (right foreground), salute as the dedication order is read for the Fallen Heroes Memorial, June 4.

Story by Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

Families, friends, and supporters gathered at Heritage Park in Salem, Ore. on June 4 for the dedication of the Global War on Terror memorial.

Located adjacent to the Joint Forces Headquarters building on Airport Road, the park is dedicated to the sacrifice and memory of all those who have served in Oregon's military. The GWOT memorial is dedicated to those Oregonians who lost their lives in support of the Global War on Terror, since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Families of the deceased soldiers were presented with the book "A Father's Grief" published by Heartworks, a quilt from the Mid Valley Quilt of Salem, Ore., a charcoal drawing of their loved one created by artist Vicki Paulson, a plaque with an etching of the proposed rendition of the memorial marker, and a special plaque presented by the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

An artist's rendition of the memorial was available for viewing with an anticipated unveiling date of Fall, 2005.



# Let's Dance

## Oregon National Guard's Military Ball celebrates its Sweet-Sixteen

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

Photos by Katherine Huit & Kayla Cole, Evergreen Aviation Museum

**A**irplanes of various sizes and colors are moved to and fro. Miles of audio cable is strung. Volunteers set up large tables while others coordinate decorations and table centerpieces.

In just a few short hours, the Evergreen Aviation Museum was transformed into a swanky ballroom full of Oregon National Guard personnel dressed in their mess-dress finest, dancing the night away under the wings of famed aviator and industrial magnate Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" — the largest wooden airplane in the world.

**"The military aircraft tie into the ball rather nicely."**

— Capt. Bryan Libel

On Saturday, April 30, the Oregon National Guard held the 16th Annual Military Ball at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore. More than 700 attendees and guests enjoyed a night of dancing and socializing under the wings of some of the most famous airplanes in the world, including Hughes' mammoth winged creation.

And if Howard Hughes were still alive today, what would he say about all this?

"He would have had a fabulous time at the ball," said Lynda Wiegman, special events coordinator for Evergreen Aviation Museum. "With all the airplanes at the museum, and all the beautiful women in attendance at the event, he would have definitely enjoyed himself."

This year's theme, "Let's Have a Ball," featured the painting "La Danse au Moulin-Rouge" (The Dance at Moulin-Rouge), by famous 19th century French painter, Henri de Toulouse-Latrec. The work was prominently displayed on ball posters, wine labels, and invitations, and dictated the ball's decorations, which featured a top-hat and black-tie design.

Approximately 40 cases of red and white wine were purchased at a discount from Eden Valley Vineyards in Medford, Ore. Bottles included a specially-designed label commemorating the event.

This year, attendees and their guests were offered wine-tour and hotel packages in conjunction with the ball. Forty couples enjoyed a night's stay at a local hotel, tours

of three wineries, wine-tasting, and lunch at the Dundee Bistro, along with access to the hospitality suite, and a continental breakfast at the hotel the morning after the ball.

Assistant Judge Advocate, Capt. Bryan Libel, who works in the JFHQ JAG Office, purchased a "Gold Package," which included a hotel stay, wine tour, luncheon, and the hospitality suite. Libel said he and his wife, Heidi Klein, enjoyed some of the best wine Yamhill Valley has to offer, in addition to getting to know fellow soldiers and airmen.

"Heidi and I had a great time with the others who went on the wine tour," he said. "I really enjoyed the social aspect the packages had to offer."

Libel also enjoyed the combination of the hotel room as part of the package.

"I liked the idea of not having to drive to and from the Military Ball," he said. "And we didn't have to worry about looking for a hotel room."

Tickets for the event went on sale for \$30 a piece in early March, and sold out by April 18. Only 700 tickets are made available because of space limitations in the museum, making it the most attended state military ball in the country.

Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Oregon National Guard's Fallen Heroes Memorial and the Oregon National Guard's Emergency Relief Fund. Other fund raisers such as the silent auction, raised money for the National Guard Association. Proceeds from the wine sales also went to the Emergency Relief Fund.

Other donations included seven "lap" quilts created by the Mid-Willamette Valley Quilt Guild, and hand-made jewelry



One piece of jewelry Dial is known for is the Defenders of Freedom bracelet, also known as the "Soldier's Bracelet." Typically purchased by family members, the bracelet can include the soldier's name, and serves as a reminder to those who see it (and wear it) of the sacrifices made by Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen.

"It serves as an ice-breaker when they're out in public," Dial said.

According to event organizers, the ball has come a long way from being held on the drill floor of the Salem Armory. Not too long ago, the event was held at the Embassy Suites near Washington Square Mall, and though it was a good venue, it lacked the space for more attendees, and the panache of a stylized formal occasion.

"It [the ball] has become an event where people want to go," said Tracy Ann Gill, Executive Assistant for the Adjutant General, and chairperson for the military ball planning committee. "We sell out quickly, and folks look forward to attending every year."

According to Gill, each year has gotten better due to attendees feedback and comments. For example, last year, many guests complained about unusually long lines at the buffet tables. Another concern was conflicting traffic flow and congestion caused by the layout of the dance floor. This year, these and several other issues were remedied by additional beverage tables — each having three serving stations — and overall improvements in the balls' layout to ease traffic patterns.

As the chairperson of the ball planning committee, Gill oversees an undertaking that would make Gen. George Patton proud. She speaks to a number of local businesses about donations to the venue, and discounts which are extended to those who purchase wine-tour/hotel packages. She works closely with the 234th Army Band — who provides the evening's entertainment — coordinates with the companies that provide the catering and bartenders/servers, oversees the donation of items for the silent auction, and helps oversee the set-up of the tables and chairs the afternoon before the event. But all this begins by working closely with staff members at the museum.

"Working with the Oregon National Guard was very enjoyable," said Wiegman. "They were very focused, professional, and well-organized."

According to Wiegman, the museum affords the kind of space needed for a large function like the Military Ball, not to mention a lot of eye candy.

"The museum is a great venue because of the aircraft and other military items on display," Wiegman said.

Wiegman oversees relocation of the aircraft in order to accommodate the Military Ball. Once the space has been cleared, coordination and setup of the tables and chairs, auction booths, the band, and all the audio equipment falls to Chief Master Sgt. John Rasmussen.

"We set up 75 tables and 750 chairs in about two hours, not to mention all the tables for the bar, food, silent auction, and wine sales," Rasmussen said.

"It has to be very well organized because that's a lot of work to do in a short amount of time," he said.

Rasmussen, who also chairs the Military Ball Committee, is the quality assurance supervisor for the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Maintenance Group. He has overseen the Air Guard's involvement in setting up the Military Ball for the past few years, and although the setup of the ball has been orchestrated primarily by Air Guard personnel, this year there were more than a few soldiers moving tables around and helping to set up.

"We took on this responsibility of setting up the ball three years ago," Rasmussen said. "It was our biggest contribution aside from being on the committee. This year was the first year that the Oregon Army Guard has come out to help us with the setup."

There are changes on the horizon for future Oregon military balls. One big change will be an increase in ticket prices to help off-set rising costs and an expanded food menu. Another big change is a plan to appoint a successor to Gill, who has chaired the planning committee for over four years.

"I am proud to help make the annual ball a memorable event," Gill said. "Without the help of all the volunteers, the rest of the committee, and the donors, this function wouldn't be possible."

Another idea which has been tossed around is moving the location of the military ball to a hotel or even the new Salem Convention Center.

Rasmussen disagreed.

"When you can sell out an event and still have demand for more, then obviously you have a great venue," He said.

"[The museum] offers the opportunity to roam, and not just enjoy the ball, but to learn about military history at the same time," Rasmussen added.

Libel concurs with Rasmussen.

"I think moving the military ball to another location would make it too generic," Libel said. "The current venue has a lot of character and a military connection. The military aircraft tie into the ball rather nicely. We would lose a lot by hosting the ball in a hotel ballroom."

If you are interested in helping to plan next year's Military Ball, please contact Tracy Ann Gill at 503-584-3991, or via e-mail at TracyAnn.Gill@or.ngb.army.mil.

The planning committee is looking for feedback on the recent military ball. Please send your comments to Tracy Ann Gill at the e-mail address listed above. She will also be sending out an e-mail to military members to solicit comments and feedback in the near future.



Maj. Alaine Encabo and his wife, Lisa, pause to take in some of the libations at the Oregon National Guard's 16th annual Military Ball, held April 30th at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore.



A Joint-Force Color Guard passes under the nose of a DC-3 during opening ceremonies at the 16th annual Military Ball.



# Thunderbolt Pilots celebrate what could possibly be their last reunion

By Gloria Clark,  
Northwest Senior News,  
Photos Courtesy of NWSN

**SALEM, Ore.** — It's all about the airplane and has been all about the airplane since "the" air war, which needs no further identification to those of a certain age.

The first flight of the P-47 Thunderbolt was in early 1941. The P-47 was destined to become a reliable fighter for the hundreds of pilots who flew one in World War II. The P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Association had its first reunion in May 1963 and will hold its first reunion this year from May 5 to 8 at the South Center Doubletree Suites Hotel in Seattle 60 years after the end of WWII.

"This is the final reunion because we're all getting old, and we thought the anniversary was a good time to stop," says Staryl C. Austin, Jr. national vice-president of the association. "We've had them nationally and internationally, and I've gone to most of them, and I'll be at the final one, our 43rd



Lt. Staryl Austin, Jr. in Belgium in 1944.



An artist's rendering of 1st Lt. Staryl Austin's Republic P47D-30-RA "Thunderbolt", from the 410th Fighter Squadron of the 373rd Fighter Group, based in Belgium during World War II.

reunion," says the 84-year-old veteran.

"I flew 58 missions based out of Belgium, Holland, and eventually Germany, and all of my missions were in support of our ground forces," recalls the man who retains his military posture. "No dogfighting for us, that was higher. We were normally below 10,000 feet on our missions. We were strafing anything that moved, trucks or trains, whatever was trying to get supplies to German troops. Many times we would wait until someone on the ground told us the target, a factory for instance, that they wanted us to hit and we went after it."

Austin was very close to the front during the Battle of the Bulge, and was there for the crossing of the Rhine River which he says was almost as big an operation as D-Day. "The Germans considered the Rhine a natural barrier and did not want us to cross it which accounted for their more than usual ferocity in trying to stop us from succeeding."

The pilot has to think about his closest call. "It was 88mm flak from the Germans that went up close to the nose of my plane, but I'd always planned on coming home to get married so I wasn't worried. Those who worried about getting shot down in many cases did get shot down because they became too cautious. Your attitude helped

you get through."

The P-47 was of no small assistance. "It was the best airplane we could possibly have for ourselves," declares Austin. "It could be hit by ground fire and still fly home. Some other planes in WWII couldn't do that. I enjoyed flying it except I didn't like getting shot at, and we got shot at every time we went on a mission. We expected it, but it was never mundane. You just kept your mind on what you were doing, because if you thought of getting shot down or killed or taken prisoner, you were in even more danger."

The Salem resident and graduate of Salem High School counts himself fortunate. "Both pilots I was close to in the war survived, and I see them regularly." The P-47, a propeller aircraft, gets the credit rather than the pilot who, nonetheless, must have used his abilities to guide it from the time it took off until it landed again back on base.

Austin went into the Army Air Corps on Sept. 23, 1942, and started out training with four different airplanes. On Oct. 1, 1943, he was made a 2nd Lt. and served as an instructor of P-47s before being sent overseas. He had tried to get in cadet training when he joined up but didn't qualify at first so he began with glider pilot training.

"I always wanted to fly, and when Pearl

Harbor was attacked, I knew I'd be going to in service," remembers Austin. "I have no regrets about what I did during the war, not a one. After the war I went to Spartan School of Aeronautics in the Reserves, and later became one of the charter members of the post-war Oklahoma Air National Guard. I was recalled for the Korean War and flew an F-84 jet in that war. And they sent a bunch of us to France, through NATO, at the very beginning of the cold war."

When he went to work for the Oregon Air National Guard, he stayed there until he was 60 years old. Then it was the Department of Veterans Affairs for four years as director. "I'm still on the Advisory Committee with them," reports the Brigadier General, USAF, Retired. He ticks off the catalog of positions that constitute his lifelong commitment to the service of his country. He also mentions, with a hint of pride in his voice, that both his father and his father-in-law were WWI veterans.

"We expect about 200 members plus wives and guests at the reunion in May," says Austin. Presumably the P-47 will be the focal point of conversation interspersed with comments connected with "the" war, but always returning to the plane, which was a huge gas guzzler, but got the survivors back home safely. The losses will be acknowledged, yet those who got through will probably credit the plane rather than themselves; the P-47 they think of as reliable, though its weight and excessive fuel usage made it unfit for peacetime flying.

"There are still about 1,300 members of the Association with attrition over the years due to the deaths of many others," says Austin. "We've had guys 80 years old send us money for a life membership when they found out about us," he laughs.

For more information on future meetings, or to join the P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots' Association, call Staryl Austin at 503-363-2508, or visit their web site at: [www.p47pilots.com](http://www.p47pilots.com).

## Drinking and driving: Deadly combination, lifetime of regret for many

By Staff Sgt. Pat McCormick,  
HHD Joint Force HQ - Missouri  
Reprinted from IMPAX Magazine

The following article is an excerpt from an article in the Mar/Apr 05 IMPAX magazine. You are encouraged to read it in its entirety from IMPAX, or you may download the story from the web site, <https://cra.army.mil/>, then click the 'media/pubs' link.

If your Fourth of July celebrations involve automobile travel, please remember to have a designated driver. For late night activities or long trips, ensure you receive adequate rest before driving.

For more information and statistics on alcohol-related traffic fatalities, visit the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) web site at: [www.madd.org/home/](http://www.madd.org/home/)

\*NOTE: The names of individuals in the following story have been changed.

I met Tom\* in a most unusual way. I was a corrections officer, and he was an inmate. I was fairly new ... been there less than a year. Tom had already served 15 years and had 30 more to go. He could possibly be out in another 10 years.

I was processing newly-arrived inmates, sorting through their belongings and confiscating contraband. Tom was an orderly in the receiving hall and helped out with the (tasks). He was as nondescript as any other inmate there. His "grays" were a little better pressed and he didn't smell as bad as the new arrivals but, other than that, he was no different.

Tom and I got to talking one day while waiting for the bus to arrive. Usually, the guards don't ask an offender why he is prison. Tom sat there with his eyes straight ahead, a stub of a cigarette hanging from his mouth. He spoke in a clear, even voice. "I've been here just over 15 years — 15 YEARS and I can't even see the light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "I'm a killer... never would have thought I'd ever wear that label, but in here it isn't a big deal."

I asked him if it was gang related, a rob-



Photo courtesy of [www.car-accidents.com/pages/car\\_accident\\_photo.html](http://www.car-accidents.com/pages/car_accident_photo.html)

According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) website, of the 512 traffic fatalities in Oregon in 2003, there were 207 alcohol-related deaths on the state's highways — an increase of 15-percent over 2002's total. Aside from the obvious human toll, the cost to Oregon taxpayers is staggering, according to MADD. Each alcohol-related death in Oregon costs the state's taxpayers \$3.6 million per death, in monetary and quality of life costs.

very gone bad, or whatever. He didn't have that coldness, that matter-of-fact attitude that the really mean ones have. He was just an average guy who probably wouldn't end up on top in a fight. He said, "No, nothing like that. I was an investment counselor. Another six months and I would have been senior accounts manager, making more than \$250,000 with incentives."

He continued, "I'd been busting my butt all week ... and had just wrapped up an account that might have shaved two months off my time for the manager position. I was worn-out, feeling tense and needed to unwind, so I stopped at this watering hole. I probably had three or four shots, along with some beers, before I started to loosen up."

As he spoke, I noticed his head start to droop. He was now staring at the floor, rubbing his hands together.

"I stayed at the bar until almost everyone was gone," he continued. "You know, the break between when the daytimers leave and

the night owls come in. I knew I would be home late, so I'd told my wife and kids to go on to her folk's house and I'd come up in the morning. I never made it," he said. "I figured I'd stop and grab a six pack, go home and watch TV, then I was going to crash so I could be up early and get on the road. I made it to the grocery store, bought the beer, popped a top and headed home. I was about five miles from home, and thinking I was in total control. I'd done this a thousand times, so it was no problem. I rounded a curve and maybe got a little over the line — into the oncoming lane, when these headlights were right in my eyes. I don't know how the car got there without me seeing it, and I don't remember much after the crash."

His tone then changed. "They say I was doing over 70 mph when we hit — but I don't know. I couldn't even tell you what kind of car it was. The next day I awoke in a hospital with a fractured clavicle — I had my seat belt on. Lucky me." he said

sarcastically.

"The police were there questioning me about the open beer in the car and how much I had drank prior to that beer. All I wanted them to do was to notify my wife and tell her I'd been in an accident and I was alright..." he trailed off.

"The cops looked back and forth at each other and asked me if I saw the car I'd hit, and I said 'No.' They then told me there was a woman and two children ages six and eight in the car, which was a brand-new, dark-blue Honda Accord. They said they needed to read me my rights before asking any further questions. As I was listening to the words 'You have the right to remain silent,' I thought, 'dark-blue Honda? — that's the same kind of car my wife drives... two kids? — OH, NO! It can't be!'"

"The police informed me they couldn't call my wife because she'd been the driver in the other car and was dead, as were the two children. I had wiped out my entire family and never even realized what was happening. They'd gotten a late start and stopped for snacks for the road." Tom said.

"I don't even remember my trial — or much about anything after that," Tom continued. "The fact that I'd gotten a few other DUI's in the past gave the judge all he needed to throw the book at me. I told everyone I was sorry — so terribly sorry, but it was too late for sorry."

I felt empathy for the guy and at the same time I felt sad for his poor family, which he'd wiped out because of his stupidity. He will have to live with what he did for the rest of his life. When he walks out of prison, he'll have nothing waiting for him except the memories... He'll relive that night over and over in his mind, but the outcome can never change.

This is a true story and the inmate is serving his time. His family's lives were ended and his own shattered that night all because he chose to drink and drive. Tom thought he was in total control of his faculties.

To his family he was a low-flying, speeding missile traveling in the wrong lane. He was their husband, father, protector — but in the end, their killer.

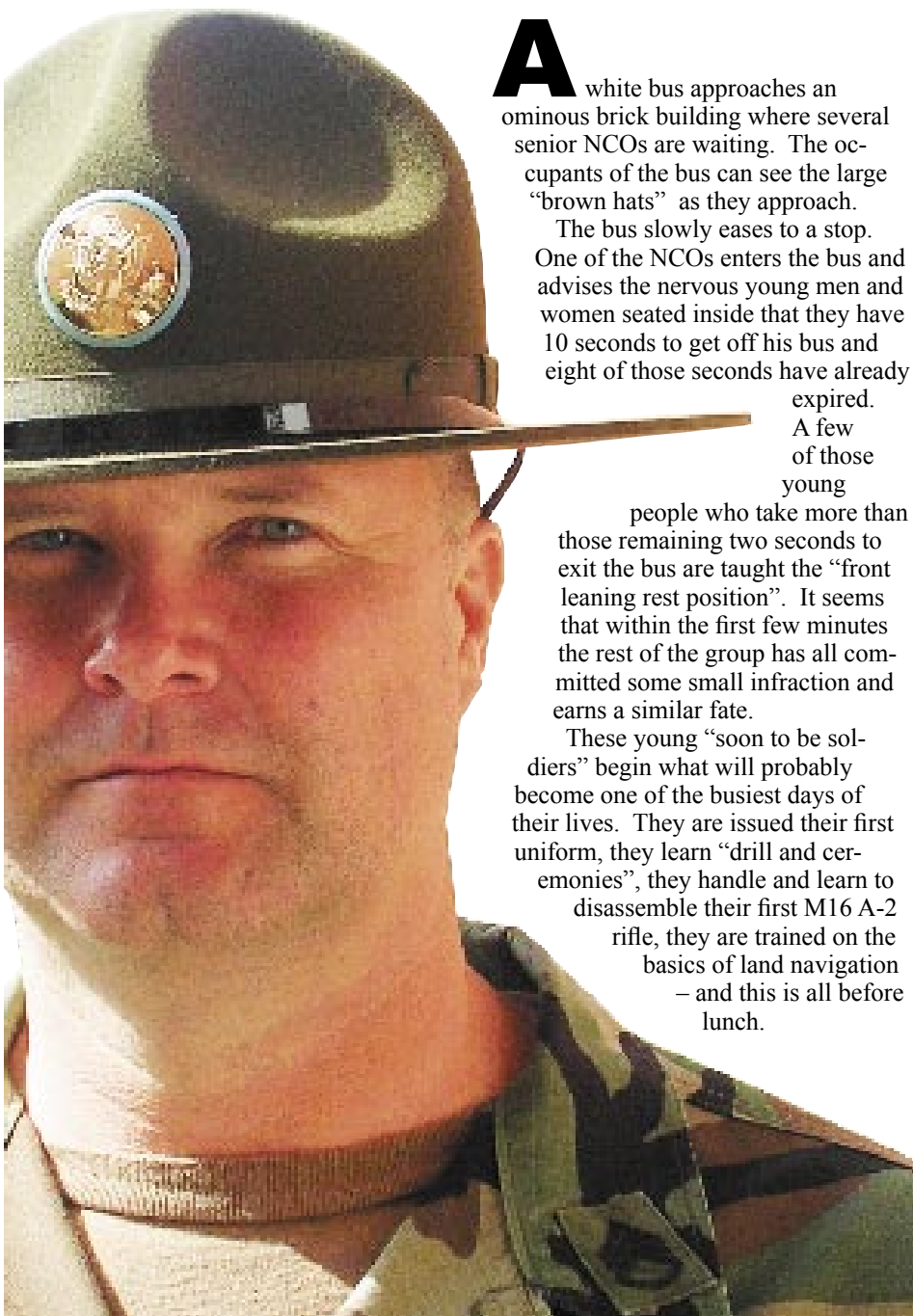




the  
**BASICS** of  
**TRAINING**

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley,  
State Marketing NCO

**Recruit Sustainment Program helps soldiers 'train' before training**



You may thank this man later. Staff Sgt. Les Cox and the other "brown hats" prepare would-be Oregon Army National Guard recruits for the rigors they'll face in Army basic training with intensive pre-training through the Recruit Sustainment Program.

If you think we are talking about the first day of United States Army Basic Training – you would be almost right. Welcome to the Oregon Army National Guard's "Recruit Sustainment Program" or "Basic Training Head Start" as it is referred to by some of the program's participants. As of June 2004, all new soldiers who enlist in the Oregon Army National Guard are exposed to this training to help them prepare for United States Army Basic Training. "There are two main objectives of the Recruit Sustainment Program," says Maj. Phillip Appleton, Oregon RSP Commander.



RSP Soldiers arrive for what promises to be another busy training day, while several "green-phase" soldiers (background) are introduced to the "front-leaning" rest position, as an RSP drill sergeant looks on.

**A** white bus approaches an ominous brick building where several senior NCOs are waiting. The occupants of the bus can see the large "brown hats" as they approach. The bus slowly eases to a stop. One of the NCOs enters the bus and advises the nervous young men and women seated inside that they have 10 seconds to get off his bus and eight of those seconds have already expired. A few of those young people who take more than those remaining two seconds to exit the bus are taught the "front leaning rest position". It seems that within the first few minutes the rest of the group has all committed some small infraction and earns a similar fate. These young "soon to be soldiers" begin what will probably become one of the busiest days of their lives. They are issued their first uniform, they learn "drill and ceremonies", they handle and learn to disassemble their first M16 A-2 rifle, they are trained on the basics of land navigation – and this is all before lunch.

**W**e try to reduce 'Training Pipeline Losses' to below 12-percent, and have more than 92-percent go on to basic training. Our job is to motivate our warriors to both go on to training and to succeed at training."

Prior to the RSP, the Oregon Guard faced a critical issue referred to as "training pipeline losses". A significant number of Oregon's new soldiers who raised their right hand and swore to defend the constitution did not complete the initial entry process to become fully trained soldiers and assets to their unit. Some were in waiting for training for so long that they forgot why they joined — eventually losing interest in the military.

Others did not have the focus to stay in physical shape and either failed the weight, or physical fitness standards. Other soldiers went on to basic training, but were unsuccessful in meeting the challenges placed before them once there. According to Appleton, Oregon's RSP was designed to address all these issues.

The Recruit Sustainment Program is conducted in three locations throughout Oregon — La Grande, Medford and at the program's headquarters on the campus of Western Oregon University in Monmouth. The RSP training cycle is divided into four distinct phases; red, white, blue and green phase.

The Red Phase is a new soldier's first experience with the Army National Guard. It begins the first time a new soldier steps off the bus and comes face to face with their first drill sergeant. This phase includes initial processing, uniform issue and initial training to include drill and ceremonies, the M-16 rifle, and other rudimentary military training. The Red Phase lasts one drill weekend and always counts as a new recruit's first drill. The instructors in the program have one platoon of red phase warriors every drill weekend.

The bulk of the soldiers assigned to the RSP are in their white phase. After their initial red phase drill until their departure for basic combat training RSP warriors participate in a six-month rotational training cycle. Each drill is different. During the June drill, the principal focus was land navigation at Camp Adair. Under the tutelage of Staff Sgt. 1st Class David Pitman, Monmouth training NCOIC, and his instructors, white phase soldiers learned how to plot points on a map, establish their pace count, and to find these points on the ground. Other white phase training includes the "ropes course", squad-level infantry tactics and weapons training.

The Blue Phase is only one day of one of the drill weekends, but is one of the most important parts of the program. This phase is held on the Sunday of a new soldier's final drill before he or she leaves for their initial entry training. The day is dedicated to identifying problems while there is still time to do something about them. Legal and physical fitness statuses are verified, and both promotion eligibility and dependent information is reviewed and adjusted as necessary. According to Appleton, if this phase is handled correctly, no administrative problems should surface while the recruit is at the basic training station.

Soldiers who are in the Green Phase are those individuals who have completed basic combat training but have not completed advanced individual training and earned a military occupational specialty. These soldiers are almost exclusively those who have selected the "alternate training program" where basic training is completed one summer and "Advanced Individual Training" is completed the following year.

Green Phase soldiers attend some white phase training, serving as squad leaders and student trainers. They are also provided with some special professional development opportunities such as drivers training and combat lifesaver's training.

Following their successful completion of initial entry training, newly qualified soldiers return to the Recruit Sustainment Program for one final drill. The RSP staff has accepted the responsibility of making sure that a new soldier's processing is complete before the final hand-off to the gaining unit. Bonuses are processed, pay is verified and records are completed and mailed directly to the gaining unit.

"I was way ahead of my regular army counterparts," said Private 1st Class Bonnie Kosky, who was completing her final processing during the June drill. After having just completed her initial entry training at Ft. Jackson, SC, and Ft. Lee, Va., Kosky said the RSP was beneficial in preparing her for Basic Training.

According to Maj. Appleton there has been some resistance to this program from units who would like to have their soldiers on site as soon as they join the National Guard. The program has been mandated by the National Guard Bureau, and has been proven to be worthwhile to soldiers and the units to which they deploy.

"We encourage leadership from all levels to visit our program on zero notice," Appleton said. "We want commanders to know what is going on at the RSP and we want their input."

For more information, or to schedule a tour of an RSP facility near you, contact Maj. Phillip Appleton at [phillip.appleton@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:phillip.appleton@or.ngb.army.mil).



Private 1st Class Bonnie Kosky returns to the Recruit Sustainment Program after completing Army Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, S.C. on May 19. The program administrators helped make sure her personnel records were updated prior to her being assigned to her National Guard unit in Oregon.



**Soldiers and airmen come face to face with their own limitations and personal drive at the annual Air Assault Course held at the Rilea Training Site**

# Making the Grade

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

Photos by  
Spec. Janelle Henderson,  
115th MPAD

Drops of rain streamed down the soldier's face as he looked down to see his fate; a long rope dangling from the 60-foot tower, daring him to test his faith. He heard what he thought to be thunder from the rain, but then realized it was the sound of his own heart beating rapidly in his chest, sped up by the rush of adrenaline. He took a deep breath and looked at his instructor with intense concentration in his eyes.

**"D**on't be scared... trust your equipment," said the instructor. "Now look over your shoulder, extend your brake-arm, and bound away from my tower."

He looked over his shoulder at the ground, extended his arm away from his back, and pushed off the tower with his legs. The rope slid through his gloved hand and he felt the familiar knot in the pit of his stomach as he glided down the rope.

This 'rush' is what attracted many soldiers and airmen from all over the country to the second annual National Guard Air Assault Course at Rilea Training Site April 7-17.

Instructors from the Warrior Training Center, Mobile Training Team from Fort Benning, Ga., returned to Oregon to teach students the basics of aircraft familiarization, sling-load operations, and rappelling techniques.

Before the students could test their mental and physical limits on the rappel tower, they had to earn their way into the course by completing the first day of training, known as "Zero Day".



An Air Assault student marshals an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 "Blackhawk" into position to sling-load a vehicle.

This year, the "Zero Day" obstacle course lasted more than five hours as nearly 340 students were challenged to negotiate nine obstacles while enduring the added stress of arduous physical training between each station, screaming instructors, and inclement weather. The obstacle course was then followed by a timed two-mile run.

"This tests the physical ability of the students," said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McIlvenna, Air Assault Chief Instructor. "I need to quickly find out who is going to have the upper body strength and stamina to conduct numerous rappels and lift the loads when doing sling-load operations."

Sgt. Major Thomas G. Siter, Senior Infantry Proponent and Commandant for the Warrior Training Center said Zero Day is usually the biggest casualty-producer for course drops. Nearly 100 students were disqualified from the obstacle course

*"This course is not for the meek, you've got to be ready for tough challenges when you come here."*

— Spec. Brian Tarvin, E-Troop, 82nd CAV, Air Assault Student



Top: Soldiers and Airmen stand in formation awaiting orders from Air Assault instructors. Above: Tech. Sgt. Cody Pemberton, (l.) of the 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron in Klamath Falls, Ore., and Sgt. Jeffrey Rustrum of Bravo Co., 2-162 IN BN, (r.) endure pain and suffering dispensed by Air Assault trainers during Phase-I training. Right sequence: An Air Assault student takes a leap of faith from a 40-foot rappel tower, lowering himself to the ground head-first in a 30-second controlled free-fall.

at Rilea.

McIlvenna said the best thing units can do to prepare their soldiers is to take them to a certified confidence course prior to attending the school and run them through the obstacles several times. He said physical stamina is an important aspect of successfully completing the course.

Air Assault student, Spec. Brian Tarvin from E Troop, 82nd Cavalry, agreed that students should show up to the course ready to work hard.

"Don't come here if you're faint of heart," said Tarvin. "This course is not for the meek, you've got to be ready for tough challenges when you come here."

Those students who passed the trials of Zero Day were not completely off the hook. They still had to endure ten days of grueling physical demands, mental stress, and Oregon's infamous coastal rains.

"The weather has made it a little bit more challenging," said Air Assault student, Sgt. 1st Class Paul E. Pratt, from the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command in Maine. "You've got that extra element to deal with of being wet and cold, but it's survivable."

The mental alertness of the students was tested during Phase One where students learned aircraft orientation and Phase Two where students memorized the configurations for six different sling-loads.

"Students have to learn a vast amount of knowledge and are tested on it immediately," said McIlvenna.

The students had to pass these tests to move on to each phase, but the road to the Air Assault badge doesn't necessarily end for a student if they didn't pass a phase.

Siter said students who fail a phase of the training have the opportunity to finish the course by re-entering the phase they didn't complete at any accredited Air Assault Course within six months.

"I think it's a great feature that the school offers a second chance to pick up where you left off," said Pratt, who was a Phase Two insert during the course at Rilea.

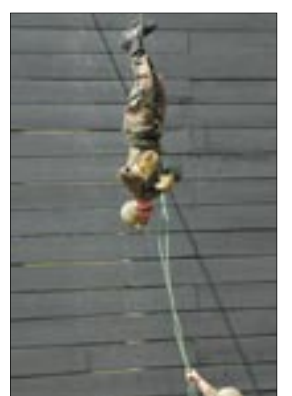
One of the most challenging aspects of the course for students was completing a fully combat-loaded, 12-mile foot march along the beach in three hours. The march was the last task that students completed in order to graduate. This year, 76 soldiers and two airmen persevered through the wind, rain, and sand to cross the finish line before the clock ran-out.

"Despite the cold rain, wind and sore bodies, you maintained the never-quit, tenacious attitude that got you through the completion of the mission," said Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn, Deputy Director of Operations for the Oregon National Guard, during the graduation ceremony. "This tenacity is what you need to carry with you, along with your Air Assault Badge."

The Warrior Training Center will return to Oregon in April 2006 to give another group of students the chance to earn the Air Assault badge.



The long road home. Air Assault students march in formation as dusk falls over the Rilea Training Site.





Fight or flight?  
 Every cell in the soldier's body says he should not do this.  
 "You can do it," the instructor tells him.  
 Days of intense training, practice, and the self-confidence he needs to accomplish this task come to a head at this moment.  
 Looking back over his shoulder, he studies the distance to the ground.  
 Forty feet.  
 A fall from this height means broken bones — possibly even death.  
 Placing all his trust in his training, the ropes holding his body suspended in mid-air, and his instructors, the student takes a deep breath, and steps off the platform.  
 He decides to fight.

Story by  
 Spec. April Dustin  
 and  
 Spec. Janelle Henderson,  
 115th MPAD

# Mastering the Ropes

*In the Rappel Master Course, students learn more about themselves than they bargain for*

tion portion of the training, where each knot is inspected prior to anyone rappelling off the tower. Instructors ensured that hip-rappel seats were properly tied before the long ride down the rope. Students had to memorize a sequence, which helped them quickly identify any possible deficiencies in the equipment.

"A Rappel Master's job is to make sure there are no deficiencies in [the rappeller's] gear," said Sgt. 1st Class William Paul, 183rd instructor. "They have to know what they're looking for, so sequence is everything."

Rappel Master student Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Conaway, of the Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Ga., said RMPI was the hardest part of the course for him to master.

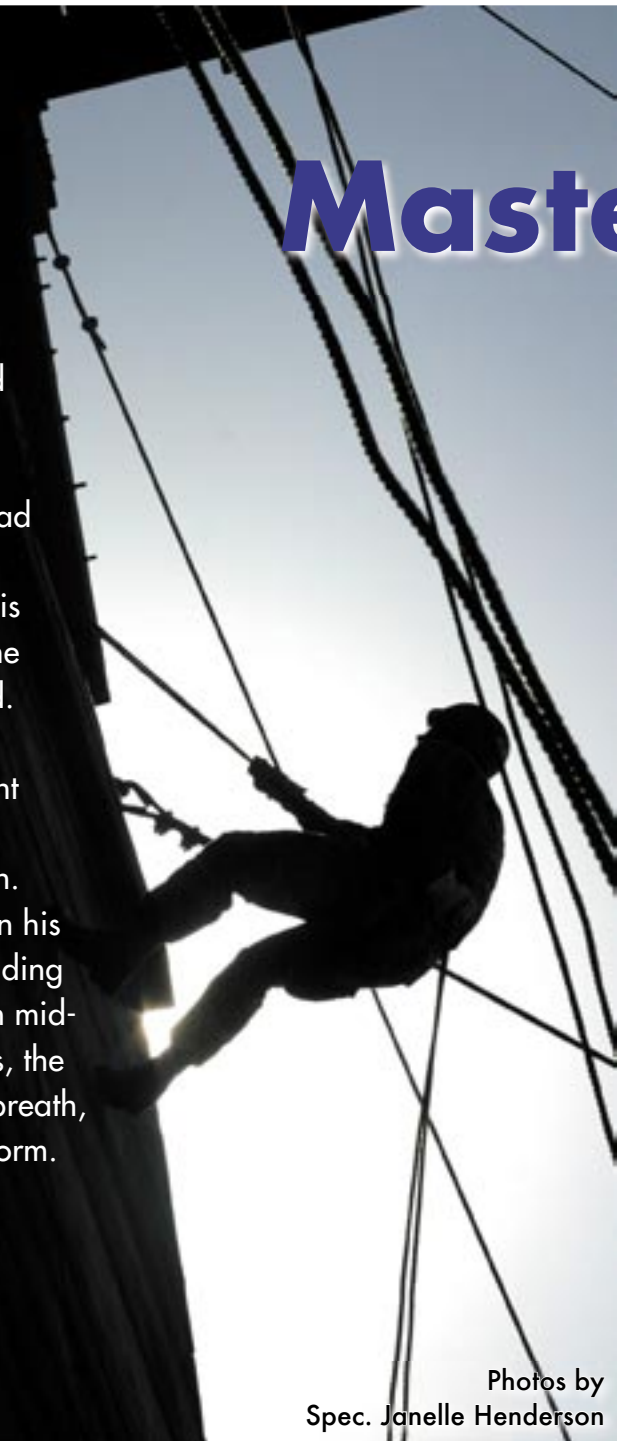
"It takes a lot of attention to detail, a lot of sequences to remember, and specific patterns to follow," Conaway said.

"This is not a physical course, it's a very mental course," said Paul. "You can mentally quit, so the most challenging part is staying focused."

Students also had to pay close attention to detail when learning how to prepare, inspect,

their own rappelling techniques, including the "Australian Rappel," which involves the students having to lower themselves head first from the tower.

According to Rappel Master student Corporal James A. Seets, of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion 186th Infantry, the training was important because it gave him the knowledge to better train soldiers in his unit on rappelling.



Photos by  
 Spec. Janelle Henderson

Left: A Rappel Master Course student lowers himself from the 75-foot rappel tower at the Rilea Training Site during Rappel Master Training April 18-22.

Right: An Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 "Blackhawk" serves as a rappel platform for students during the final phase of Rappel Master training.

Photos by Spec. Janelle Henderson



**T**he Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., recently hosted the National Guard Bureau's newest Rappel Master Course Mobile Training Team.

Oregon Army and Air National Guard students who recently graduated from Air Assault training at Rilea attended the course April 18-22 to become qualified as Rappel Masters.

"This training is important to the National Guard because the Guard is embedded in the community, so you've got a lot of hometown rappelling with youth groups, ROTC, and local law enforcement," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Connoly, Chief Instructor for the 183rd Regional Training Institute at Ft. Pickett, Va.

"So the opportunity to rappel people works for recruiting and retention efforts, as well as motivation for soldiers in the unit."

The 183rd traveled to Oregon on the heels of the Air Assault School to instruct students in every aspect of rappel operations including tying and identifying knots, inspecting personnel and equipment for rappelling, tower and aircraft rigging, and aircraft command and control.

*"A Rappel Master is someone whose primary responsibility is the overall safety of tower and aircraft rappelling operations."*

— Sgt. 1st Class Larry Connoly, Chief Instructor, 183rd RTI



Lower left: Staff Sgt. Jason Kasner of the Warrior Training Center in Ft. Benning, Ga., shows Pvt. 1st Class Schneider of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division how to do the 'Australian Rappel' on the ground before he tackles the real thing on the tower.

Above: Cpl. Gates (standing in the helicopter's doorway) tells a rappeller to keep their eyes on him during the Aircraft Command and Control final exam of the Rappel Master Course at Rilea Training site.

Lower right: Senior Airman Casey Ray, of the Portland Air Base Fire Dept., bounds away from the tower in a maneuver known as the 'Australian Rappel' during the Rappel Master Course at Rilea Training Site.

"A Rappel Master is someone whose primary responsibility is the overall safety of tower and aircraft rappelling operations," said Connoly.

The students were first instructed on how to properly tie different knots that can be used for making hip-rappel seats and rigging towers and aircraft.

"A Rappel Master needs to visually know these knots in no time flat, so he knows that the rappeller and the anchor ropes are secure," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Tomkinson.

Students also learned how to inspect knots during the Rappel Master Personnel Inspec-

and rig towers and aircraft for rappelling. Students learned about proper rope positioning, primary and secondary anchor points, and recovery systems for tower rappelling.

Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Webster, 183rd instructor, said although the tower and aircraft rigging are equally important, there is a high demand for National Guardsmen who can rig towers because access to aircraft is limited. He said by having soldiers qualified to send people off towers, it allows units to do more adventure training.

During the tower rigging portion of their training, students practiced sending rappellers down the tower. They also practiced

Once a tower or aircraft is rigged, Rappel Masters must know the proper way for rappellers to hook-up to the ropes. The students were tested by inspecting two rappellers and identifying deficiencies in their hook-ups.

To prepare for their final exam, students learned hand and arm signals for guiding rappellers through an aircraft rappel.

"We use hand and arm signals because it's very noisy in the aircraft, so you can't really use verbal communication to tell the rappeller what to do," said Staff Sgt. Todd Payne, 183rd instructor.

To qualify as a Rappel Master, students learn command and control of an aircraft during rappelling operations. This phase incorporated everything that the students learned throughout the course including, inspecting equipment, rigging, and guiding rappellers out of the door. For their final exam, students were given the opportunity to take charge a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during rappelling operations.





# The Oregon National Guard hosts its third annual Earth Day celebration



It all  
**Starts**  
with the  
**Children**

Story by  
Spec. Mary J. Jacobsen, 115th MPAD

Photos by  
Jeffrey L. Miller

**T**he thump, thump, thump and high pitched whir of an Army Blackhawk helicopter beat down on the grassy playground of Shaver Elementary School.

The place was brimming with delighted and inquisitive elementary school children and their teachers. Volunteers from many points in the state descended on the school by helicopter, vans, "Humvees", and various other military vehicles.

The three army vehicles parked on the grassy field were as unique and varied as the civilian and military volunteers who would soon give the children a fun-filled day of environmental stewardship, lessons and games.

The Oregon Army National Guard selected the small northeast Portland elementary school to hold its third annual Earth Day event, held on April 22. It is the official Earth Day celebration observed in communities around the world.

**"I am going to recycle all the trash I pick up at the park and fill the recycle bin with paper."**

**— Annabel Chal, 2nd Grader, Shaver Elementary**

Like the Oregon Guard, Shaver Elementary School strives for excellence through environmental stewardship, according to school administrators, and the two organizations came together to create a learning environment for the children.

Interactive displays in the school gymnasium helped educate and inform important concepts about Earth Day.

The booths at the event included a simulated oil spill in the ocean, specifically designed so the kids could contain, recover and dispose of the oil in miniature version.



Nicole Quijano (r.) explains the various layers of a landfill to two Shaver Elementary students during Earth Day observances.

Water world — a real-life science lab — allowed each child a chance to test water samples for any contaminants.

The brain-teaser trivia game tested the students' knowledge of environmental facts. If participants answered correctly, they were given a chance to spin the wheel for prizes.

One of the popular exhibits was the candy landfill. Volunteers explained the different layers of a landfill using candy, cookies, pudding and whipped cream, which were layered in each participant's cup and resulted in a creation the kids then got to eat.

The Lung-O-Nator display, used a pair of real pig lungs to illustrate the effects of cigarette smoking on healthy lungs. Using a foot pump, visitors could inflate a "healthy" lung, and a "diseased" one. Visible lesions on the diseased lung elicited varied audible responses from the kids. One was overheard saying, "Gross, I'm not going to smoke!"

Andrew Robinson, a fourth grade teacher at Shaver explained that the curriculum revolved around Earth Day all week.

"I had my students keep a journal all this week and log things that they noticed in their everyday travels, around school, and at home." He said.

"They noted someone taking a car when

they could have walked, rode a bike or taken a bus. They also made an entry if they found a room with lights on but no one in it, or a faucet dripping, that sort of thing."

"They [students] took the notes they made in the journal and turned that information into an essay about what we can all do to improve the environment and protect the earth," Robinson said. "So, we will be reading those aloud a little later in class."

Earlier in the week, the students decorated the halls with Earth Day awareness posters and messages. Teachers prepared lessons centering around environmental stewardship, and informed the children about the upcoming day of activities with the National Guard.

Carefully coordinated interactive display booths were designed to get the children involved with all of their senses.

"They get to touch, see, hear, feel, smell and taste — and that is the most lasting and powerful way for anyone to learn," said retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald E. Elliott, Environmental Program Manager for the Oregon Army National Guard.

"This day will not be forgotten anytime soon, and that's really the point of all this excitement and activity," Elliot continued. "We want the kids and volunteers alike to remember the messages for days and years to come, and hope that this event will make a difference in our environment."

1st Lt. Oscar Quijano, a volunteer from JFHQ was in charge of litter and recycling detail and making it fun for the kindergarten, first and second graders. Quijano conducted the recycle relays on the grassy field behind



Third- and fourth-grade students listen intently as 1st Lt. Oscar Quijano reads the rules to the Recycle Relay. The game is meant to teach children the value of recycling.

the school. At any given moment, music was playing and the kids ran circles around Quijano picking up the trash and placing it in the appropriate recycle bin.

"I am going to recycle all the trash I pick up at the park and fill the recycle bin with paper," said Annabell Chal, a second grader.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. Kingery, a volunteer and member of the 162nd Engineer Company from Camp Withycombe, Ore., enjoyed working with the kids.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of this venue and to see these children learn to care for the environment," he said. "It's great to show the children that the Army is more than just shooting things — that we too are concerned about the environment, and the smallest bit of effort does make a difference."

The message of earth day was summed up nicely by Jody Tucker, Shaver Elementary fourth-grade teacher.

"Everyday in our classroom is earth day. We have been doing a year-long science curriculum of lots of things that involve the earth," she said.

"This day has been really great because of the hands-on activities, it gets the kids pumped and it is especially great having the National Guard involved. It shows the kids and the community that the earth is everyone's to protect and help," Tucker continued.

This day was like none other for the kids and volunteers at Shaver Elementary School and the soldiers and airmen of the Oregon National Guard. As the helicopter flew away at the end of the fun-filled day, everyone was noticeably tired. As one volunteer put it, "This is 100-percent positive exhaustion."

As Earth Day came to a close, the entire gathering of teachers and children were abuzz with lots of happy talk and excited chatter. No doubt their friends and families will be hearing about their Earth Day for sometime to come.

## EARTH FACTS

- Because the Earth is more flexible than you might imagine, it bulges at the midsection, creating a sort of pumpkin shape as it rotates.

- The distance from the surface of Earth to the center is about 3,963 miles (6,378 kilometers). The mostly solid skin of the planet is only 41 miles (66 kilometers) thick — thinner than the skin of an apple, relatively speaking.

- Arica, Chile, gets just 0.03 inches of rain per year. At that rate, it would take a century to fill a coffee cup. By contrast, Lloro, Colombia averages 523.6 inches, or more than 40 feet — enough to fill six average-sized swimming pools every year!

- Earth's atmosphere is actually about 80-percent nitrogen. Most of the rest is oxygen, with tiny amounts of other stuff thrown in.

- Over 70-percent of the Earth's fresh-water supply is locked up in the icecaps of Antarctica and Greenland. The remaining fresh-water supply exists in the atmosphere, streams, lakes, or groundwater — accounting for a mere 1-percent of the Earth's total usable fresh water.



# Base realignment could leave entire Northwest vulnerable, experts say



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Todd Enlund, 142nd Multimedia

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission listens to testimony from Oregon National Guard and State leaders in Portland June 17. Seated at table from l. to r.: Commissioners Philip E. Coyle, James V. Hansen, Anthony J. Principi, and James M. Bilbray. Coyle and Bilbray visited the Portland Air Base on May 23, and were briefed by PANG commanders before conducting a tour of the base.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

to defend this region. That alone is reason enough to reconsider this decision.”

“Our enemies will look for the weakest link,” the Governor continued. “And the weakest link will be in the Northwest.”

Senator Gordon Smith said the Pentagon’s plans will leave just a handful of planes to defend a “target-rich environment,” citing the dams along the Columbia River, the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot, and the Hanford Nuclear Site.

“Currently we have fighters and backup that can be in the air in five minutes. Under the BRAC proposal, the nearest backup fighters will be in Fresno, Calif. — more than an hour away. That cannot be called ‘readiness,’” Smith said.

Senator Ron Wyden challenged the commission to propose changes to the BRAC recommendations.

“At a time when Oregonians are being asked to make a disproportionately high sacrifice of lives in Iraq, and in the face of the Pentagon’s recommendations that simply defy common sense, I would urge that the commission reject the Pentagon’s recommendations,” Sen. Ron Wyden said.

On May 13 Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recommended the realignment of

the operations and maintenance functions from the 142nd Fighter Wing to bases in Louisiana and New Jersey and a complete realignment of the Air Force Reserve’s 939th Air Refueling Wing to Oklahoma and Kansas. Aside from losing the planes, Oregon will also lose up to 1,000 jobs to base closures and realignment — 564 of them from the Air Base in Portland.

The BRAC Commission will continue to hear from communities affected by BRAC recommendations and present their findings and recommendations to President George W. Bush by Sept. 8. The President will have until Sept. 23 to either accept or reject the Commission’s recommendations.

If President Bush accepts the recommendations, Congress will have 45 days to either accept them or enact a joint resolution of disapproval. The President may also send the recommendations back to the commission for further review, in which case they would have until Oct. 20 to revise the recommendation.

The proposed base closings and realignments were announced as part of a nationwide plan to close 33 bases and downsize 29 others. The savings to taxpayers is estimated to be approximately \$48 billion over 20 years.

# Cadets face several challenges during ROTC training courses

Story by  
Spec. Janelle Henderson and  
Spec. April Dustin,  
115th MPAD

**WARRENTON, Ore.** — Several soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry provided instruction and played the role of opposing forces for the Reserve Officer Training Corps field training exercise at Rilea Training Site on the Oregon coast, April 9-10.

More than 30 soldiers from the Eugene-based unit assisted 160 cadets from the University of Oregon and Oregon State University with field and situation training exercises including, battle simulation and reaction drills, squad attacks, the obstacle course, paintball competition, and Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) site exercises. This was the third year that the 2-162 has assisted the ROTC FTX.

Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Miotke, Charlie-Co., 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, said the instruction and guidance the unit provided helped cadets build valuable relationships with current members of the military.

“These cadets may actually become part of our unit,” he said. “They’ll be around to be the future leaders of our platoons.”

According to Maj. Mark Chappelle, Assistant Professor of Military Science and Executive Officer for the U of O Army ROTC

Program, many cadets are in the Simultaneous Membership Program in which they are enlisted in the National Guard and will become officers through the ROTC program upon graduation. He said the ROTC program prepares cadets for their commission in the National Guard, Reserves or Active Duty components and helps them acquire the skills necessary to lead soldiers.

Chappelle said the FTX was designed to develop the cadets’ leadership, decision-making, and problem solving skills. The two-day exercise was designed with recruiting and retention in mind, but provided training in a tactical environment, where participants could hone their skills.

“We give them adventure training and exposure to build their confidence,” Chappelle said. “Some of these kids could be in Iraq or Afghanistan someday and that confidence is critical as a leader because other soldiers can see it.”

One exercise designed to test the cadets self confidence was the rappel tower. After receiving instruction and safety briefings from course instructors, the cadets rappelled from the 35-foot wall section of the tower.

According to one cadet, the rappel exercise was exciting and different.

“I thought it was awesome. Your heart starts pumping because you don’t know what to expect,” said Oregon State University Sophomore, MS2 (Military Science,



Photo by Spec. Janelle Henderson., 115th MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Everett D. Horvath, Recruiter for the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, instructs Oregon State University and University of Oregon cadets on proper techniques for clearing buildings in an urban battle setting during the ROTC Field Training Exercise at Rilea Training Site in April. The cadets then practiced their training inside several of Rilea’s Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site buildings.

2nd year) Monica Lopez.

According to Chappelle, once these cadets reach the upper class levels, they attend the Leadership Development and Assessment

Course (LDAC), before receiving their commission, and eventually going on to become officers in the Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard.

# Braddock gets to thank his ‘Angel’ in person at Purple Heart ceremony

Continued from FRONT PAGE

right, and I yelled that I was all right as I thought I was. Then I took two steps and hit the ground.”

The two other soldiers in the vehicle with Braddock were okay, suffering only minor injuries. The two were treated and returned to duty.

Braddock sustained injuries caused by the explosion and flying shrapnel. The bones in his feet were pulverized, and he lost his left leg. He is currently undergoing continued treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

He was initially treated at the field hospital at Forward Operating Base Warrior, then transported to Tikrit, and eventually to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany. While there, the “Soldier Angels” visited Braddock after being contacted by the State Public Affairs Office in Oregon.

“We were asked to check on Matt, who was believed to be at Landstuhl,” said Wilhelmine “Willie” Aufmkolk, a member of the Soldiers Angels of Germany.

According to Braddock, he was laying on a stretcher in a bus at Landstuhl waiting for transport to the United States. He said he felt miserable, cold and in need of a pillow. All of a sudden a lady with a German accent appeared out of nowhere, calling his name. She gave him a pillow, a quilt and a backpack with essential personal items. Before he could get her name, she was gone. He said it was like an angel had just appeared, given him what he wished he had, then just as quickly disappeared.

A German citizen and volunteer with the German chapter of Soldier’s Angels, Willie spends her time putting together backpacks for soldiers, distributing them in Landstuhl — a 150 mile drive from her home.

At the ceremony in Oregon, a familiar face appeared in the crowd, just as she had done two months earlier in Germany. This day of recognition for Braddock would be extra special, as Willie attended the ceremony.

Braddock’s mother had contacted the Soldier’s Angels group in Germany, and corresponded with Willie. After discovering that she would be vacationing in Detroit, Michigan around the same time Matthew Braddock was to receive his Purple Heart, it made sense that she should be there to share his special day. So arrangements were made, and Braddock’s “Angel” reappeared.



Photo by Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock receives the Purple Heart April 24 at the Forest Grove Armory, for injuries he received during an anti-tank mine explosion in Iraq. Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, pins the purple heart on Braddock, as his mother, Rhetta, looks on.



# Oregon National Guard running team takes top honors at Lincoln Marathon

By Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt,  
Administrative Assistant  
to the Chief of Staff

The Oregon National Guard's running team participated in the 2005 Marathon Championships, which were held in conjunction with the Lincoln Marathon, in Lincoln, NE, May 1. Of the almost 900 runners completing the marathon, 151 came from National Guard units from all over the world.

Oregon's team won top team honors this year with a time of 8:23:47 followed very closely by Puerto Rico's score of 8:24:12, and Wisconsin's third-place finish of 8:36:22. Scores are tabulated by adding up the finishing times of the top three runners for each of the teams.

Coming in first for Oregon's team was Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt of JFHQ, with a time of 2:37:41, giving him a second-place finish for all National Guard participants, and a first-place finish for the Masters category (ages 40 and over).

1st Lt. Sean Nixon of Bravo-Co., 1-162 IN BN, placed 4th in the overall National Guard standings with a finishing time of 2:39:25. 1st Lt. Phil Demontigny, also of 1-162 IN BN, placed 42nd with a score of 3:06:31, and Senior Master Sgt. Max White, of the 142nd Fighter Wing placed fifth in the 50-54 age group, with a time of 3:20:21.

Second Lt. Peter Pritchett, of the 741st Corps Support Battalion, Sgt. 1st Class William Kaemmer of the 249th Regional

Training Institute, and Staff Sgt. Edward King, of the 123rd Weather Flight, Portland Air Base, all earned a spot on the Oregon team but did not run the marathon.

Capt. Lori Baldwin of the 41st Brigade set a personal best by 30 minutes with her finishing time of 4:04:27, earning her a coveted spot on the All-Guard team. Nixon and Vandervlugt earned spots on the All-Guard team as well. Nixon's time broke his previous personal best by two minutes. Also setting a personal best by 12 minutes was Col. Larry Studer, JFHQ Army Chief of Staff, who ran a 3:52:06, making him arguably the fastest Chief of Staff in the country.

Vandervlugt, a 13-year member of the Oregon team, said the times came as a surprise to a few of his teammates.

"The personal best times are surprising since the temperature at race time was in the low 30's and the runners faced a 20 mph wind during the race," Vandervlugt said. "The wind was especially bad the last six miles as the runners headed directly into it."

The top 40 males and top 15 females earned a spot on the All-Guard team, which travels around the country to compete in running events and marathons. The team members also help with recruiting for the National Guard at race expos and other venues. This year, the All-Guard team is scheduled to participate in the San Francisco Marathon and Relay, the Air Force marathon and Relay, and the Marine Corps and Blue Angels marathons.



The ORNG running team. Top, from l. to r.: Senior Master Sgt. Max White, Sgt. 1st Class Bill Kaemmer, Col. Larry Studer, 1st Lt. Sean Nixon. Bottom, from l. to r.: Capt. Lori Baldwin, Staff Sgt. Edward King, 1st Lt. Phil Demontigny, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt.

In order to be invited to the Lincoln Marathon Championships, participants must have completed a marathon within the past 18 months with a finishing time of 4 hours or less. The championships are organized by the Lincoln Track Club.

The Oregon team is always looking for more runners. To make the Oregon National

Guard team, you must have completed a full marathon within the last 18 months. Members are also selected based on their fastest verified times. If you are interested in joining the Oregon National Guard running team, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt at 541-390-3157 or via e-mail at: [timothy.vandervlugt@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:timothy.vandervlugt@or.ngb.army.mil).

## 41st PCS prepares for Mideast deployment

Story by Spec. Nicholas Wood, 115th MPAD

**WARRENTON, Ore.** — Members of the 41st Personnel Services Company gathered at Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., May 14 and 15, in preparation for their impending deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the Modified Record Fire Range soldiers refined and polished their individual weapons skills as part of ongoing operations aimed at making sure all 51 of its soldiers are ready to deploy.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen C. Smith, Military Personnel Technician for the 41st PCS, activities such as weapons-firing are an integral part of ensuring every soldier will be safe overseas.

"Any amount of time on the range is important," said Smith.

The unit will be replacing another National Guard PSC currently serving in Kuwait. Their duties will include strength reporting, casualty documentation and in-out processing of soldiers to and from the theater.

1st Lt. Ramona Treat, Commander of the 41st said, "It's an amazing opportunity to actually do a wartime function as a personnel company."

Treat expects the unit will have no-problem completing their mission in-country.

"We're not reinventing the wheel," Treat said. "We're walking into a well-established operation."

Treat said one challenge of deploying is balancing the needs of the state against the needs of her unit. Fifty percent of the soldiers in the 41st support the state in a full-time capacity, either as contractors, technicians or Active Guard and Reserve soldiers.

Aside from commanding the 41st on drill weekends Treat works for the 206th Quartermaster Battalion as the Administration Officer helping to ensure day-to-day operations. She is one of nine AGR soldiers deploying.

"It will affect the AGR community greatly," Treat said.

Other tasks which need to be done prior to the unit's deployment include preparing soldiers' families and employers for the unit's departure. Smith said the unit will attend family, financial, and other deployment briefings.

Smith said the last time the 41st deployed, it was split into 11 sections and spread throughout Germany.

"There was no unit integrity," he said.

During their deployment, the 41st PCS will be going overseas as a cohesive unit and is expected to be gone for 18 months.

"I can't wait," said Sgt. MaryAnn Fraser, Records Specialist for the 41st PCS. "It's going to be an excellent learning experience."

## Members of 1186th MP Co. return as heroes

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff

**SALEM, Ore.** — The Oregon Army National Guard's 1186th Military Police Company returned to a heroes' welcome from a year-long overseas deployment on April 29.

The unit's 46 soldiers were deployed to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, overseeing detainees and supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

There are 25 soldiers from the Salem area, where the unit is based. The other 21 soldiers are from the unit's detachment in Milton-Freewater.

The soldiers arrived on four separate flights into Portland International Airport, then boarded chartered buses for the trip to Salem via I-5. The convoy was escorted by Oregon State Police officers and members of several local motorcycle clubs. They arrived at the Salem Armory, where friends and family members were awaiting their arrival.



Members of the 1186th Military Police Co. stand in formation at the Salem Armory during the unit's demobilization ceremony May 4.

## Oregon Guard rescues pair of injured hikers



Photo courtesy of Deschutes County Search and Rescue

Staff Sgt. Travis Powell (r.), a flight medic with the 1042nd Medical Co. Air Ambulance, based in Salem, Ore., assists ground personnel with moving one of two injured hikers from an Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter to an awaiting ambulance for the trip to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Ore.

By Keith Chu,

Bend Bulletin, Reprinted with permission

**SISTERS, Ore.** — Two people were airlifted from the eastern slope of North Sister Sunday with serious injuries after their hiking party triggered an avalanche on the mountain Sunday afternoon.

Nancy Miller, 40, and James A. Ellers, 36, both of Portland, were transported to St. Charles Medical Center-Bend by ambulance and helicopter, said Lt. Michael Johnston of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

Ellers and Miller, along with David Byrne Jr., 39, and James Brewer, 50, also of Portland, set off the avalanche when they walked into the path of an unstable snow slope on Thayer Glacier on the east side of North Sister, sometime before 1:30 p.m., said Johnston.

"They were just hiking, I guess," Johnston said.

Their location was about a day's hike up the mountain, he said.

According to Johnston, the rescue operation unfolded as follows:

Dispatchers at Deschutes County 911 received a call from Brewer and Byrne, at 1:30 p.m., reporting the avalanche. About an hour later, a helicopter from Air Life of Oregon delivered search and rescue workers to the scene, Johnston said.

Deschutes County Search and Rescue coordinated the operation from a mobile command center at Sisters Airport. The Oregon National Guard launched two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Salem at 3:30 p.m. to rescue the hikers. Passers-by gathered on the edge of the Sisters Airport to observe the two black military helicopters.

Rescue teams transported Miller, who suffered the most serious injuries, to a staging area at the Sisters Airport about two hours later.

There, military personnel and volunteers removed Miller from a bright orange sling-type harness and placed her on a stretcher before loading her onto the Air Life helicopter.

Rescue workers also airlifted Ellers from the glacier, but transported him to the hospital by ambulance.

Byrne and Brewer were not injured in the avalanche, Johnston said.

Personnel from the Jefferson County Search and Rescue and the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District also assisted in the operation. About 30 people took part in the rescue, Johnston said.

Keith Chu can be reached at 541-383-0348 or at [kchu@bendbulletin.com](mailto:kchu@bendbulletin.com).



## Website lists benefits available to military members and their dependents

The federal government has a list of benefits for military personnel and their families listed on the Internet. Some of the popular ones include revisions to the Montgomery GI Bill, Licensing and Certification, and Tuition Assistance Programs. For the complete list, please visit: [www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm).

## TRICARE site adds new features, information

A new TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health plan materials have been added to the TRICARE Web site. Beneficiary education and staff training materials are being added weekly, and updates of current TRS information are uploaded on a regular basis. Some of the new information includes TRS Brochure, updated Frequently Asked Questions, and a TRS Briefing with Speaker's Guide and Suggested Uses. The TRS Web site is located at: [www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm). Users can subscribe to any or all of the services offered, including our TRICARE Reserve Select e-mail update service.

## Reminder about Tricare claims filing deadline

TRICARE beneficiaries who file their own claims should remember that, with few exceptions, claims must be filed within one year of the date of medical service or from the date of discharge from an inpatient facility. Beneficiaries also have one year from the date they receive medication to file for reimbursement of pharmacy claims. Additionally, the one-year filing deadline applies to those who file on behalf of individuals with other health insurance (OHI).

The deadline applies to TRICARE Standard beneficiaries as well as to TRICARE Prime enrollees who obtain emergency or urgent care outside of the TRICARE region in which they are enrolled. TRICARE Prime and Extra providers are required to file claims on a beneficiary's behalf, and must also meet the one year requirement. To read the entire article, visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/news/2005/news0518.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/news/2005/news0518.cfm).

## Reintegration Team launches website, toll-free number

The Oregon National Guard Soldier Reintegration team, which provides post-mobilization support to commanders and soldiers, has launched its official web site. It is located at: [www.ornng-vet.org/](http://www.ornng-vet.org/).

The team, formed in early 2005, established a centralized point of contact on the multitude of agencies that provide support and benefits to soldiers and their dependents. The key mission of the team is to actively assist demobilizing Oregon National Guard members during their transition back to their families, their job or school, and their community.

Some of the services offered include TRICARE information, contact to resources within the Federal Veteran's Affairs (VA) Administration, the Oregon Dept of Veteran's Affairs and the VA hospital, The Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Department of Labor, and Associated Oregon Industries. The reintegration team works closely with command to bring representatives for local and federal agencies to the armories throughout Oregon to conduct seminars and workshops.

The team has a help desk and help line which is manned 24/7, which provides referral assistance to guard members and their families. Working closely with the Family Readiness Program coordinators, the reintegration team is able to provide formal referrals as well as family-related assistance.

The help desk can be reached at 1-888-688-2264, or by e-mail at [help@ornng-vet.org](mailto:help@ornng-vet.org). Other demobilization resources can be accessed by calling 1-800-464-8107.

## Select Honor Guard needs new members

The Adjutant General's Select Honor Guard (SHG) is currently accepting applications to join their elite team. This group is made up of soldiers & airmen from the Oregon National Guard who participate in local community service events and con-

duct military funeral honors for the state of Oregon, as directed by the State Command Sergeant Major.

Members have an opportunity to train with the 3rd Infantry Division in Virginia, also known as "The Old Guard". They will also visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Members earn retirement points and are paid for monthly training, including specialized training for performing military funeral honors.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 1800-2000 at the Oregon Military Department. For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact: SFC Rick Moore at 503-584-3591 or MSG William Boyd at 503-584-3746 (ARNG), or Senior Master Sgt. Scott O'Neal (ANG) at 503-335-4181.

## 142nd FW gears up for Employer Day on July 15

The 142nd Fighter Wing will celebrate Employer Day on July 15. Personnel are encouraged to submit their employers' names for an action-packed day designed to show companies what the Air National Guard is all about.

Scheduled activities include the following an extensive look at F-15 Eagle jet fighter operations, a tour of the Portland Air Base, a mission briefing, a visit to the 'hush house' with an F-15 engine run, a look at the latest night vision technology, an engine shop tour, and an F-15 launch with maximum performance climb. Depending on mission availability, familiarization rides in a KC-135 tanker for employers with air-to-air refueling of F-15s may also be offered.

Please e-mail your employer and DSG information to Chief Master Sgt. Michele Marshall at [michele.marshall@orport.af.mil](mailto:michele.marshall@orport.af.mil) or call 503-335-4355.

## Camp Rosenbaum looking for clothing donations

Fred's Threads is now accepting donations of clean and wearable clothing in sizes for children ages 9-12.

Fred's Threads is part of the annual Camp Rosenbaum kids camp held at the Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Oregon every summer. The children who attend the camp come from economically disadvantaged homes and need your support. The surprise and joy the kids' express when they see that they can choose their own clothing from the 'free rummage sale' is delightful for both the campers and the staff.

Fred's Threads is looking for girls sizes 7 or 8 (small) through 16 (extra large girls), and boys sizes 7 or 8 (small) through 18/20 (extra large boys). They are not accepting infant or adult sizes. Clothing items will be accepted through July 15.

For more information or to schedule a pickup, call Master Sgt. Elizabeth J. Fredericks at 503-335-4035. If you are at the PANG Base, you can visit her in building 155.

## Army unveils desing of Combat Action Badge



WASHINGTON D.C. — The Army announced on May 27 the design for the Combat Action Badge.

The design was approved by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff.

The CAB, featuring both a bayonet and grenade, may be awarded to any member of the armed services performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized. They must also personally have been actively engaged by the enemy, and have performed satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. The award is not limited by one's branch of military, or by their occupational specialty.

"Warfare is still a human endeavor," Schoomaker said. "Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos."

Commanders at the rank of major general will have award authority the CAB.

The CAB is distinct from other combat badges, officials said. The Combat Infantryman's Badge, or CIB, and Combat Medical Badge will remain unchanged, they said.

"The Global War on Terrorism and its

associated operations will be the first era of conflict considered for this award," said Lt. Col. Bill Johnson, Human Resources Command chief of military awards. "September 18, 2001, is the effective date for the new award. That is when President Bush signed Senate Joint Resolution 23, authorizing the use of military force against those responsible for the recent attacks launched against the United States."

The CAB will go into immediate production and should be available late this summer or early fall through unit supply and military clothing sales stores.

To see medals available to U.S. military personnel, please visit: [www.military.us-medals.com](http://www.military.us-medals.com).

For more information on the CAB, see the soon-to-be-operational CAB Web site at [www.army.mil/symbols/combatbadges](http://www.army.mil/symbols/combatbadges).

## Civilians will be required to use myPay.com

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Civilian employees of the Air Force will be required to use the myPay system to access their leave and earning statements beginning March 31.

The change brings Air Force civilians in line with active duty-and reserve-component Airmen who are already required to access their pay data online, officials said. Hard copy statements will no longer be mailed.

Printing and mailing costs are some reasons for the change, officials said. But the primary goal is to provide people with more services and quicker access in an online format.

There are numerous advantages to using myPay, officials said. Civilian users can view and print their last 26 pay statements; change allotments, direct deposit or tax withholding information; and buy savings bonds. Users may also view and print their W-2 tax forms.

The myPay system can be found at [www.dfas.mil/mypay](http://www.dfas.mil/mypay). New users will need to establish a personal identification number.

## VA expands benefits, programs for returning Iraq, Afghanistan veterans

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 3, 2005 — The secretary of veterans' affairs said today that where some might see challenges for the department, he sees opportunities.

"One of the big opportunities we have - and it's a priority of ours - is to make sure that our service members coming out of the combat theater are well taken care of," R. James Nicholson said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service. "That is one of our biggest opportunities."

With more than 200,000 Guardsmen and Reservists deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the VA has expanded some of the benefits offered to this group of service members, he said.

"VA has a very extensive, new program for our reserve components," Nicholson said. "The reserve component person who comes back, is redeployed back, is entitled to two years of full medical and dental care at any nearby VA facility. Then of course, if they have any other service-connected disablement, either physical or mental, as a result of their service, that care will continue on beyond the two years."

Education benefits also have been expanded for Guardsmen and Reservists so they may participate in the G.I. Bill. The amount of the benefit, however, depends on the time spent in an active duty capacity, Nicholson said. The life insurance and home loan programs also have improved for Guardsmen and Reservists, he said.

Eligibility requirements can be found on the Veterans Affairs Web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

Changes within VA affect active duty service members who come back from the combat theater and choose to leave the service, too, Nicholson said.

The Seamless Transition Program, he said, makes 158 medical centers and more than 850 clinics available for service members who separate from the military. A home loan program has 25 percent of the mortgage guaranteed by the VA, which allows most veterans to buy a home without a down payment. "That used to be a one-time benefit," Nicholson said. "It now is a continuing benefit throughout the life of a veteran -- any veteran."

Benefits also include vocational and rehabilitation training for those injured physically or mentally. The VA also is working to help disabled veterans adapt to their environment, including the adaptation of a home or a vehicle if needed.

The VA also works to help veterans find work. This is a top priority, Nicholson said, as about 20 percent of veterans between the ages of 20 and 24 are unemployed.

"We are working within the other agencies of government, encouraging them to hire our veterans. We're doing it ourselves at the VA," Nicholson said. "We have many disabled veterans working here, especially in the [Information Technology] department."

Nicholson said he has worked with governors and heads of corporations and major trade associations to encourage them to reach out to veterans looking for employment. The program is promising, he said, but more needs to be done.

Readjustment counseling services are important as well, Nicholson said. The program is crucial to heading off any latent mental health problems. "It's important to (veterans) now, and it's important to them for the rest of their lives," Nicholson said.

The program was extended to families of veterans who also make a sacrifice. Injuries cause change for every family member and every family member needs to adjust to that change, he said.

"We're responsible for veterans affairs," Nicholson said. "And certainly part of a veteran's welfare is his family, his family life and his quality of life. Spouses and dependents have to endure a great deal of sacrifice at home when a service member is deployed, especially to a combat zone, and especially if they're injured."

Congress has approved the increase in the death gratuity -- a one-time payment to the family of a service member killed in action -- from \$12,000 to \$100,000. The maximum life insurance benefit also has increased, from \$250,000 to \$400,000.

## DoD warns of fraud directed at soldiers, airmen

WASHINGTON, May 3, 2005 — Defense Department officials are working to thwart insurance and investment marketing practices that exploit military personnel.

"You really have to be a little bit skeptical if somebody says if you invest a little bit of money with us today you'll have a great deal of money tomorrow," warned Air Force Col. Michael A. Pachuta, DoD's director of morale, welfare and recreation policy. "Also, you should shop (for investment opportunities) like you would for anything else. Don't buy the first thing that comes along. Make some comparisons."

Congress raised concerns last fall after press reports documented abusive insurance and investment sales practices at some military installations, including Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Fort Benning, Ga. This caused DoD to step up its efforts to improve oversight and enforcement of policies.

Brand-new service members are sometimes enticed to go off base to what they think are investment seminars that end up being insurance sales pitches, the colonel

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said.

"Unfortunately, our policies don't apply off the installation," he continued. "So we have to rely on financial education, which we've tried to improve at the first basic-training opportunities with our new service members."

Pachuta recommended that troops ensure there are no combat-exclusion clauses in life insurance that they buy. "We're going to be in harm's way, and it doesn't make any sense to have a policy that won't cover those kinds of events," Pachuta noted.

He encourages service members to seek counseling and advice for financial matters through base family support centers and legal offices.

Service members should be on the lookout for such things as something presented as a savings plan with an insurance component to it. That's a red flag, he said. Before buying insurance, service members should compare what the premium would be for a rate of coverage compared to the rate for the same amount of coverage through the Service-members' Group Life Insurance program.

About 96 percent of service members have SGLI, and 92 percent of them have opted for full SGLI coverage of \$250,000. More than 160,000 service members have military pay allotments for supplemental commercial life insurance. The premiums they pay total over \$190 million per year, according to DoD statistics.

"SGLI, to a large extent, especially for single service members who have no dependents, should fulfill most of their insurance needs," Pachuta noted. "But a lot of times, our young service members are looking at putting away some money. And some of these insurance sales pitches are disguised as savings plans, although there's an insurance aspect to it that wasn't explained clearly when they signed up."

Pachuta suggests that service members who want to open a savings account should consider the Thrift Savings Plan. "It's a tax-deferred plan, and there are not many investments, other than tax-free bonds, that have the same kind of advantages that TSP has," he said.

DoD officials are rewriting parts of the department's commercial-solicitation policy to enhance enforcement. This includes a requirement for installations that detect policy violations to report them to their service headquarters, and then to DoD. The aim is to keep a record of violations to have them available for installations to check when a new insurance agent wants to do business on the installation.

Pachuta said there are 14 prohibited practices in DoD's commercial-solicitation directive, such as soliciting without an appointment, soliciting door-to-door, and soliciting individuals during duty hours at their work places.

"Those are the kinds of policies that limit where, when and how an insurance or investment solicitor can make contact and solicit someone on the installation," he said. "We've also been concerned about agents having access to allotment forms and having them there for the service member to sign on the spot. And even the agent taking those forms to finance to get them processed."

"We think that really steps over the line," Pachuta noted. "Pay is a personal decision that a member has to make and they need to

be the one to process any kind of allotment for an investment or insurance that goes through the military pay system."

He said financial education is the key to stopping service members from being ripped off by unscrupulous insurance agents and companies.

"The department kicked off a financial-readiness campaign about a year and a half ago with 28 federal and nonprofit private organizations that specialize in financial education, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Treasury, and National Association of Securities Dealers," Pachuta said. "These are large, reputable organizations that have good information. They have great Web sites, great training tools, and they provided us information we can use in our financial-education programs."

Pachuta said DoD policies apply to any military or civilian employees as long as the transaction takes place on a military installation. "That has been the problem," he noted. "Some people have been enticed to go off the installation to carry out these business agreements. So we're interested in working with the federal and state regulatory agencies to broaden our oversight."

He pointed out that DoD policies cover insurance and investment agents who operate overseas, as well. The companies have to apply to DoD each year for permission to operate on U.S. military installations overseas.

Pachuta said he'd like to hear from individuals who have been taken advantage of by such unscrupulous practices. People can send comments to him at Michael.Pachuta@osd.mil no later than June 20.

He also recommends that anyone who has a problem with an insurance product contact the appropriate state regulatory agency. "They're the ones that have a strong hammer if there has been a legal or ethical violation," he said.

The Securities and Exchange Commission or the National Association of Securities Dealers are oversight bodies for investment products. "So if someone feels they've been taken advantage of in the financial-investment arena, those are the agencies they should contact," Pachuta said.

## 419th Signal Battalion to hold July reunion in McMinnville

The 419th Signal Battalion will hold a reunion on the weekend of July 9-10 at Richard Shellito's Farm in Rickreal, Ore. The festivities will start at Noon on Saturday, and go until Noon on Sunday.

According to reunion coordinator, Steve Wilson, there is more than enough room for Rvs and tents. A/C power will be supplied by the farm.

The unit was formed on Nov 11, 1975 as a detachment of Bravo Co., 127th Signal Battalion, Ft. Ord, Calif., and was deactivated in 1996. Event organizers will share old pictures, and recommend attendees bring any memorabilia or photos they want to share.

Richard Shellito's farm is located at 8475 Crowley Road in Rickreal, Ore., just past McMinnville. For directions, or more information, contact Steve Wilson at 503-835-6600, or via e-mail at: wilson40954@yahoo.com.

## Commander's Safety Course offered online

By Lt. Col. Marilyn K Woodward,  
Oregon Army National Guard Safety Manager

**The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center has added the Additional Duty Safety Officer Course and improved the Commander's Safety Course.**

**The Commander's safety course was mandated in August 2002 IAW the Chief of Staff of the Army as part of the safety campaign. The newer version is designed to be more user friendly, and provides for tracking by command elements.**

**The Additional Duty course provides a standardized format for additional duty unit Safety Officers or Non-Commissioned Officers' training. The National Guard Bureau will be issuing guidance as to whether any further requirements are required for National Guard personnel.**

**Both are web-based programs and are available on-line. A link is on the ORARNG Safety Page (both use the same link). You can also log directly into the site by visiting <https://safetylms.army.mil/librix/loginhtml2.asp?v=usac>**

**The courses take several hours and are beneficial for commanders and unit safety personnel.**

## Legislature tackles bills related to national guard



Clatsop County Veterans' Service Officer, Kenneth Rislow (r.) speaks to members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs during a meeting held at Rilea Training Site April 8. Members of the Committee from left are Rep. Debi Farr, Rep. Donna Nelson, Rep. Phil Barnhart, Rep. Betty Komp, Jim Stembridge, and Erin Seiler.

Story and photos by Spec. April Dustin,  
State Public Affairs Office

**WARRENTON, Ore.** — Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the 73rd Oregon State Legislative Assembly traveled across the state during the 2005 regular session and hosted meetings with current and former members of the military to research veterans' issues.

"Knowledge is power and the more we know, the more we can help," said Rep. Donna Nelson, Committee Chair, during a meeting held at Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore. April 8. "We want to get our arms around our veterans in the way that it should be and we are not letting go of this hug."

Members of the 2005 Veterans' Affairs Committee also included Vice-Chair Rep. Phil Barnhart, Vice-Chair Rep. Debi Farr, Rep. Brian Boquist, Rep. Scott Bruun, Rep. Dave Hunt, Rep. Betty Komp, Committee Administrator Jim Stembridge, and Committee Assistant Erin Seiler.

"This is the first year in 50 years that the state legislature has had a committee for veterans' affairs issues," said Nelson. "Our goal is to help secure the future of our veterans the way they have secured our future."

The committee successfully helped pass 20 house bills, five house joint memorials, and two house joint resolutions that address veterans' issues.

At press time the following Measures have passed the House of Representatives and are currently awaiting review by other committees:

**House Bill 2425** will allow free access to State Parks to disabled veterans and active duty personnel.

**House Bill 2437** removes limitations on eligibility requirements for veterans applying for educational aid and increased the monthly amount from \$350 to \$500.

**House Bill 2602** will create an Oregon Military Emergency Financial Relief Program and Emergency Relief Fund for military members serving on active duty.

**House Bill 2677** creates Life Insurance Reimbursement Program and Fund for the Oregon National Guard.

**House Bill 2700** will help expand the Veterans' Service Officer Program.

**House Bill 2737** creates an Oregon Military Family Relief Program in the Oregon Military Department.

**House Bill 2795** will help generate funds towards building a memorial for Oregon military members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**House Bill 2843** requires a waiver of occupational and professional license, certificate, permit and registration fees for veterans.

**House Bill 2844** limits the interest charged on delinquent property taxes for members of the military who are called to active duty.

**House Bill 2847** requires Oregon Veterans' Home Account be listed on individual tax return form for charitable contributions.

**House Bill 2864** creates the Veterans' Discharge Stipend Program which provides a temporary income to veterans upon being discharged from active federal service.

**House Bill 2933** will allow outstanding income tax liabilities of active duty military personnel to be postponed until six months after release from active duty and discharged if the taxpayer is killed in action.

**House Bill 2945** modifies the exemptions for property taxes to veterans' residences.

**House Bill 3053** establishes the Oregon Troops to Teachers program within the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

**House Bill 3103** allows current and recently retired members of the military to obtain hunting and fishing licenses at no charge.

**House Bill 3325** modifies references to people who qualify for veterans' loans.

**House Bill 3332** will allow the Public Employees Benefit Board to offer health benefits to members of the Oregon National Guard and their dependants.

**House Joint Resolution 34** proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution dedicating 1.5 percent of state lottery funds to provide services for Oregon veterans.

**House Joint Resolution 47** proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution on eligibility for veterans applying for home loans through the Oregon War Veterans' Fund. Measures that are currently being reviewed by the Senate include:

**House Bill 2680** extends the validity of driver licenses, vehicle registration and plates for Oregon National Guard and military reservists on active duty outside the United States.

**House Bill 2681** requires school districts to issue high school diplomas to veterans who did not finish high school as a result of serving in specified wars.

**House Joint Memorial 13** urges Congress and the President to exempt veteran pension income from federal income taxation.

**House Joint Memorial 18** urges Congress to change veterans' health care funding to permanent entitlement.

**House Joint Memorial 25** urges Congress to eliminate the subtraction of disability payments from disabled veterans' pension.

**House Joint Memorial 31** urges Congress to amend the federal definition of "veteran" to include all soldiers who have served in the military.

The Governor signed **House Bill 2687-A** into law. The legislation modifies the definition of individuals who can be considered as "veterans".

At press time, **House Bill 2795**, which would allocate \$100,000 for the Afghan Iraq Freedom War Memorial had just been heard by the House Budget Committee. The Governor has publicly expressed his support for the Memorial, and assuming it passes the Senate the bill will be signed into law. The dedication is tentatively set for November of 2005.

For more information on these measures in the Oregon legislature visit [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us) and click on the Bills/Laws link to search for 2005 Measures.





Under overcast skies, nineteen-month-old Christopher O'Keefe of Vancouver, Wash., takes in some of the military hardware on display at American Youth Day, held Saturday, June 11, 2005 at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland Ore.

Families from all over Oregon and Southwest Washington came out to enjoy the event, which is held every year at the air base. Photo by Senior Airman Trish Lewis, 142nd Multimedia.

See story on page 4.

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# Oregon Sentinel

OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Third year for ORARNG "You Can Award for Leadership Excellence"

By Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley, Marketing NCO



The Oregon Army National Guard sponsored the "You Can Award for Leadership Excellence" for the third consecutive year in 2005. The Oregon Army National Guard formally recognizes one graduating senior from each participating Oregon High School for demonstrated leadership throughout their high school years. All high schools throughout Oregon were invited to participate in the award program, and over 70 Oregon high schools chose to participate. This year's You Can Award recipients included valedictorians, sports team captains and leaders of volunteer groups of all types.

Each participant received a plaque (left) and a certificate signed by Oregon's Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr. Each Award was presented by an Oregon National Guard member at the participating school's graduation or year-end awards ceremony.

This award program is rapidly becoming an Oregon tradition. Schools are beginning to call and inquire about the award before it is announced. Conversely, Oregon high school students are beginning to ask what they have to do to earn the "You Can Award for Leadership Excellence."

## Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

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

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

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

OFFICE OF THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON  
P.O. BOX 14350  
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRRST STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #178  
Salem, OR

## Updated shipping information made available for deployed soldiers

For those interested in sending care packages to Oregon National Guard troops deployed overseas, the following is a list of contacts and addresses.

Keep in mind that the US Post Office recommends using their shipping boxes for a flat rate of \$7.70. You can also order their shipping kit by visiting [www.usps.com/supportingourtroops](http://www.usps.com/supportingourtroops)

For more information about how to package items, and a list of restrictions, please visit [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com).

### AFGHANISTAN:

CPT David Doran  
Flight Ops  
D Company/ 113 AVN  
Task Force Storm  
APO AE 09355-9998  
(Pendleton/Approx. 95 Soldiers)

### IRAQ:

CPT Eric Walstrom  
Troop F/ 82 CAV/ 29 BCT  
LSA Camp Anaconda  
APO AE 09391  
(Lebanon, Portland/Approx. 95 Soldiers)

1SG Darrell Walz  
G Troop/ 1-163 IN BN  
116th BCT FWD  
APO AE 09368  
(Redmond, Woodburn/Approx. 150 Soldiers)

CPT Teruo Chinen  
G Troop/ 1-163 IN BN  
116th BCT FWD  
APO AE 09368  
(Same as above address)

CSM Joseph Brooks  
HHC/ 3-116 CAV  
116th BCT FWD  
APO AE 09368  
(La Grande, Pendleton, The Dalles/ Approx. 250 Soldiers)

CPT Dominic Kotz  
A Company/3-116 CAV  
116th BCT FWD  
APO AE 09368  
(Ontario, Baker City/ Approx. 65 Soldiers)

1LT Jeffrey Clements  
B Company/3-116 CAV  
116th BCT FWD  
APO AE 09368  
(Hermiston/Approx. 65 Soldiers)

1LT Chris Lennox  
1071st Maint. Co.  
RSS/278th RCT  
FOB Caldwell  
APO AE 09324  
(3670th Maint. Co. Clackamas/ Approx. 75 Soldiers)

1LT David Rambin  
1071st Maint. Co.  
RSS/ 278th RCT  
FOB Caldwell  
APO AE 09324  
(Same as above address)

CW4 Joseph Mollahan  
Co. A, 249th AVIM  
APO AE 09391  
(Salem/Approx. 10 Soldiers)