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Dean assumes new role, new rank, page. 5

Oregon Sentinel



OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Ready for Combat

Story by Spc. Patrick G. Lair, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

On a bright Sunday in May, more than 900 members of the Oregon National Guard marched onto the parade field at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, along with 400 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from 31 other states and the territory of Puerto Rico. Together, they formed the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, which will spend a year in Kabul, Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army.

Their departure is the largest single deployment of Oregon military personnel since World War II.

See Pritt on page 11

Oregon National Guard's 41st BCT wraps up stateside training with farewell ceremony in Shelby, Mississippi



Photo by Spc. Patrick G. Lair, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Governor, Theodore Kulongoski, center, extends his hand in congratulations to 41st Brigade Combat Team Executive Officer, Col. Dave Enyeart, (far right), following the departure ceremony prior to the unit's mobilization to Afghanistan. Oregon National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees and U. S. Representative Peter DeFazio, greet troops in the background (far left).

BG Cunningham retires

O'Hollaren takes over as ORANG commander



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

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon's Adjutant General, (left), salutes outgoing Oregon Air Guard Commander, Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, (right), during the change of command ceremony June 27. Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O'Hollaren assumed command of the ORANG during the ceremony held at the Portland Air Base. Cunningham officially retired that same day with over 37 years of military service. See complete story on page 5.

2-162 IN BN heads to Mongolia

Oregon Soldiers will help train Asian counterparts during three-week exercise

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

More than 90 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers, from B Company (-) 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, will travel to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for three weeks in August during the Khaan Quest IV 2006 training exercise to help train members of the Mongolian Armed Forces in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

B Company, 2-162 Inf. Bn. will deploy two infantry platoons, five trainers, tactical operations personnel, and several medics to Mongolia to participate in Khaan Quest IV, a platoon level, peace support operations training exercise, sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and U.S. Pacific Command. The exercise is designed to con-

See Khaan Quest IV on page 10



Photo courtesy the World Wide Web

Above: Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces, in ceremonial uniforms. Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry will travel to Mongolia in August to help train MAF Soldiers as part of a United Nations peacekeeping training exercise.

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 ensure 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, Garamond Pro 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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Letters From The Front



Afghanistan well project turns up more than water



We visited Dehdadi for a well and pump project. We also met with the Principle of the Dehdadi School. The local general had removed the pipes supplying water to the village. LTC Goettsch explained to MOD Gen that the MOD did not control the water supply and he needed to replace the connection. The water was reconnected within 15 minutes of the discussion. LTC Goettsch explained to the MOD general about the importance of turning in UXOs. The MOD General then showed LTC Goettsch the location of an abandoned building containing over 100 rounds of UXOs (mostly 82 MM mortars rounds). After revisiting the village well we purchased ice cream for some village kids who told us about a "mine" they found. We went to the area where the "mine" was and followed the locals to a tank graveyard and found a complete tank round which was recovered by the SF explosives expert.

[Then on Thursday] we visited Nahib Abab Village behind East Camp to review the well, storage tank and pump installed in September 2005. The well and pump are working very well. Lesson learned from this project was the water storage tank (6000 Liters) enabled the villagers to draw water continuously without running the pump. The pump could fill the tank within 1.5 hours and the village could use the water stored for 1-2 days, thus reducing operation cost.

LTC Tom LaFountain
 J-9 Civil Affairs
 TF Phoenix IV

LTC Hill meets Rambo



Greetings from Sunny Kabul. I'm busy here with many projects, and assuming legal operations from the previous brigade. The picture (above) is of me and the local gate guard, RAMBO, who has been here from the start of the original mission.

DANIEL J. HILL
 LTC, JA
 Staff Judge Advocate
 41 BCT and CJTF Phoenix V

CJTF Legal team settles in



The CJTF Phoenix V Legal Team. Back row: Spc. Erik Bays, Lt. Col. Scott Clodfelter, Lt. Col. Dan Hill, Maj. Edward O'Sheehan, Capt. Tom Lee. Front row: Capt. Bryan Libel, CWO2 Charles Winston, Staff Sgt. Tammy Gordon.

Shoomaker: The world views the United States 'through our actions'



Gen. Peter J. Shoomaker,
 Chief of Staff, United States Army

We are in our fifth year of the War on Terror and our Soldiers need to know that we are doing great things. The Nation appreciates our personal sacrifices and the challenges we face as we defeat terrorism and tyrants around the world.

While we train our Soldiers to take the fight aggressively to the enemy, we are also expected to be ambassadors of America's values and humanitarian principles. This takes strong leadership at all levels. The Army Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the Soldier's Rules (AR 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development, January 2006) establish a baseline standard of conduct that must be understood and embraced by every Soldier. Every leader - those of us currently in the fight, those preparing to deploy, and those of us supporting - must ensure that our Soldiers clearly understand the strategic importance of our tactical actions and are trained to act within our core values in combat. I also expect every leader, once aware that something might be amiss, to follow up aggressively, determine the facts, and take appropriate action. This includes keeping the chain of command informed in an expeditious manner.

I recently emphasized these important principles to our Soldiers in an "All Army Activities" message. Vigorously reinforce that message. The world views the United States of America through our actions and our citizens hold us accountable to the highest standards of legal, moral, and ethical behavior. We must continue to earn our Nation's trust each and every day.

General Peter J. Shoomaker,
 Chief of Staff, United States Army

A time for reflection, forward-vision

It's been a year since I returned to Oregon as the Adjutant General, and it has been quite a year. Between deployments and redeployments, response to natural disasters, BRAC, recruiting, operational readiness inspections, transformation, and more we've encountered a number of trials. I'm pleased to say that in the face of everything we've had thrown our way, our Soldiers and Airmen have risen to the challenge.

In the coming months we can expect more challenges, and I'm confident we'll face each of them with the same courage and commitment, competence and confidence that is the hallmark of the Oregon National Guard. We are a seasoned and veteran force, ready for whatever is around the bend.

With dozens of Airmen around the world and nearly 1,000 Soldiers on the ground between Afghanistan and Kuwait, it's our responsibility to make sure the families of those soldiers are taken care of. We've got a great family readiness program, but each of us needs to know that during deployments our focus on the family mission at home helps the troops focus on their mission abroad.

Another major challenge was recruiting. The trend throughout the Army in recent years was a negative one — we brought in fewer people than expected. To turn that around and meet our end strength requirement, our recruiting mission increased by about 33-percent. That meant we not only had to stop the downward trend, we had to completely reverse it. Thanks to the superb efforts of our entire recruiting team (all 6,000 of you), and to a clear understanding of the value of service in the Guard, we're on target to meet or exceed our goal.

Now that we're meeting the challenge, it's time to turn our attention to retaining our troops. As I said, we're a seasoned force, but with all the new Soldiers coming onboard, we need experienced mentors and teachers to bring these new troops along. I firmly believe that if someone is thinking about getting out, we have options that can keep that soldier with us. I've asked commanders at all levels to address this issue. There is no reason we should lose a Soldier if we're doing what we can to meet their needs.

Perhaps the most significant challenge before us was Transformation. In looking at the long-term effects of Transformation, there are three factors we need to keep in mind: organizing for new missions, moving personnel, and getting the right equipment into the mix.

We're at about a 95-percent solution when it comes to organizing for missions. We've undergone significant changes to the organizational structure of the Oregon Army National Guard, including unit activation, unit inactivation, and unit redesignation at battalion as well as company, troop, and squadron levels. There are just a few more pieces to put in place before we are complete.

The new structure we're adopting brings many new opportunities; for example, there are new MOS's available to soldiers, and there are positions for women in many units that weren't available until Transformation. Although we have these new opportunities, we also have to realize there will be obstacles we have to overcome.

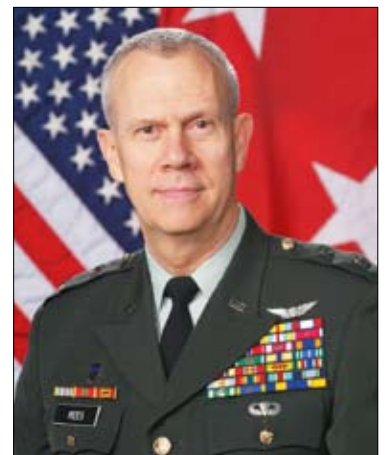
In coming years, training will be one of our greatest challenges. We've got new MOS's that require new programs. We're working a fix on what we can do here in Oregon to expand training. Right now we can easily train a soldier for an 11B Infantry MOS; but with our new Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Targeting and Acquisition battalion, for example, we don't have programs in the state yet. We're working diligently with the active component to improve our training here in Oregon and elsewhere.

The last layer to Transformation is equipment. We're reorganizing to meet federal requirements, and we'll get our equipment through the overall Transformation plan. It's going to take the Army a handful of years to provide each component what it needs. Fortunately, for us Transformation is taking place as we go into a reset period.

The bottom line is that although we've moved most of the organizational pieces, we will have personnel and equipment challenges associated with our federal mission over the long-term. It's going to take patience and perseverance, but we'll get through it. In the meantime, we'll remain a ready and relevant force to serve the state and nation.

It's been a good first year back on the job. I look forward to the next one.

Raymond J. Rees



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
 Adjutant General, State of Oregon

Enlisted leaders visit troops in Kuwait



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

In this issue of the *Oregon Sentinel*, Command Sgt. Major Moe has decided to run an article written by Sgt. Kara Greene of the 115th ASG Public Affairs Office.

Greene reported on enlisted leaders who visited troops stationed in Kuwait in May, 2006.

Story and photos by Sgt. Kara Greene, ASG Public Affairs Office

Some of the top Army senior enlisted advisors gathered in Kuwait recently to see first hand the training and services available to Soldiers in theater.

Twenty-five National Guard senior enlisted advisors joined deployed command sergeants major at the first National Guard Senior Enlisted Workshop, sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and Third U.S. Army command, May 15-17.

The Command Sergeants Major toured Camp Beuhring, Camp Virginia and the theater life support area, or "gateway", the central hub for Soldiers entering and leaving theater.

"This was a hands-on workshop where they can see the dangers Soldiers are seeing and dealing with every day," said coordinator Sgt. Maj. Bradley Murfitt. "They have the opportunity to impact the training that Soldiers need to have completed before deployment."

"They can also relate their personal experiences of what they saw and the events that they participated in. These leaders impact the training focus for their Soldiers, so Soldiers are not wasting time training on tasks they will not be required to perform,"

Murfitt explained.

While the command sergeants major came to learn more about the training and deployment process in Kuwait, they left with a better understanding of how the troops live and function daily – having experienced it first hand.

These senior leaders lived in tents with latrine and shower facilities down the "street." They ate in the dining facility – standing in long lines to get their three square meals a day and they traveled from place to place like all Soldiers, in buses. It was these experiences that allowed them to understand the deployment process and see improvements camps are constantly undergoing to improve the quality of life for all service members.

The quality of life in theater is constantly evolving, said Oregon's Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe, who has visited the theater about every six months since the war began.

"Three years ago this place was the wild west. There was no reveille, no taps," Moe recalled. "I'm pleased Soldiers are offered Morale Welfare and Recreation events, fitness centers and ways to communicate with their home."

Arkansas's Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah Collins agreed that as the theater matures, life becomes more livable for Soldiers. She was impressed with running water and air conditioned living conditions; things she said the lack of were significant issues in 2003.

When not in meetings or viewing slide-show presentations, the attendees participated in simulated battles with insurgents in Iraq using the indoor the Electronic Training System. They convoyed through the live fire ranges and they rolled over a Humvee in the Army's newest training tool: the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer. HEAT simulates a vehicle rollover, allowing service members to practice life saving techniques.

It was the training events that the attendees found most valuable, seeing that their Soldiers are getting the best possible training before facing the dangers of combat, Moe said. The general consensus was that training during the final phase of mobilization has improved greatly.

"Since Soldiers focus on individual skills prior to coming into country, trainers here are able to focus on unit-level training," Moe said. "With this kind of preparation, I'm confident my Soldier will be just fine up North."

See Moe on page 14

Recruiting and Retention are vital keys to Oregon Air Guard's mission



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

A special thank you to the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard.

We now have a new Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Air Force Chief of Staff General Moseley has named Chief Master Sergeant Rodney J. McKinley to serve as the 15th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. Chief McKinley will assume his new position on July 1, following the June 30 retirement of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray. CMSAF Murray's retirement culminates 29 years of service to the Air Force.

The office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force represents the highest enlisted level of leadership, provides direction for the enlisted corps and represents their interests to the American public and all levels of government. The CMSAF serves as a personal advisor to the Air Force Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, proper utilization, and progress of the enlisted force and their families.

I want to congratulate Chief McKinley for being selected to serve as our new CMSAF and wish him the best in this new position. He has a hard job ahead of him and we want him to know that he has the support of all the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard behind him. At the same time I would like to congratulate Chief Murray on his retirement and thank him for the outstanding job he has done for all the Enlisted Force.

We wish both of these Chiefs the best in their new endeavors.

It is hard to believe it has been two years now since Brigadier General Cunningham awarded me the privilege of representing all the Enlisted Airmen that makes up the Oregon Air National Guard.

This time has brought me even more excitement and pride in my service to you. I am especially proud as I watch you perform your duties so magnificently. I realize that some days have been better than others, but on those bad days you have always come through and met the mission head on. In the past couple of years our enlisted force has deployed all over the world. We have shown the nation the dedication and determination that comes out of the Oregon Air Guard. Your expertise and can do attitude has let the Air Force and National Guard community know that Oregon is here and ready to take on any task. I have taken many trips back to Washington D.C. and each time I go, I hear what a great job Oregon is doing to support the war efforts here at home and abroad. You are talked about at the National Guard Bureau, and that is because you are the best at what you do, and you have proven your worth over and over again.

You are the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard, Airmen serving our State and Nation with dedication and determination. I've had the pleasure of shaking hands and talking face-to-face with many of you. Your candid feedback has been a tremendous asset in helping me, your Wing and Group Chief's in making decisions that affect all Airmen in the ORANG. I regret that I am unable to come out and meet every one of you, but your opinions, concerns and comments are very important to me. I encourage you to e-mail me rodney.smith@orport.af.mil and let me know what you are thinking. This is your Guard and I need to know both the pros and cons of what is happening so we can continue to improve on what we do best. In everything I do and everywhere I go, I represent each every one of you. I do have the ear of our senior leadership and they do listen to me, so with that being said I need to know what issues you would like me to move forward.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the outstanding support you've given me, and your continued commitment and support to our State and Nation.

Oregon Air Guardsman gains insight about brotherhood, Army culture during mobilization training with the 41st Brigade Combat Team



Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy photographs the 41st Brigade's "Sunset" formation from a UH-1 "Huey" on May 21, while on photo assignment at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. See page 8 for related story.

I'm *definitely* out of my element here.

But at the same time I realize I'm not outside my comfort zone. All this somehow feels natural to me. This place, the people I'm with, the gear I carry - it's all so ... comfortable.

The place is Camp Shelby, Mississippi. It's the last two weeks in May. The people I'm with are members of Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix V, comprised

of elements from the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team. For the past three months, these Soldiers have been training for their one year deployment to Afghanistan. Once there, they will help train the members of the Afghan National Army, or ANA.

In late March, I travelled to Mississippi for an up-close and personal view of the Brigade members' training. As reported in the

March issue of the *Oregon Sentinel*, their rigorous training schedule, coupled with the top-notch cadre at the Camp Shelby Mobilization Station, prepared these men and women in areas of cultural awareness and sensitivities, weapons familiarization and qualification, and more importantly, the basics of how to stay alive.

But these are not just Soldiers preparing for their trip to Afghanistan. Indeed, the

entire ANA deployment is a model of the joint force doctrine. Joining the 41st BCT will be a large contingent of United States Navy Reserve and Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard personnel, and civilian advisors from 31 other states and Puerto Rico. They will retain their distinct capabilities and individual service branch identities, but everyone is here for one common goal: to prepare the Afghan National Army, and indeed the nation of Afghanistan, for self-governance and self-reliance.

The theme throughout the training and the subsequent deployment, as you have seen in the March, and in the pages of the current issue of the *Oregon Sentinel*, is about relationships. It is a common thread voiced by task force leaders in every presentation, document, and guidance generated and/or adopted by the 1,700 or so personnel who comprise the coalition. Indeed, it is driven from the top, dictated on all levels by the Task Force Commander, Brigadier General Douglas A. Pritt, a 36-year member of, and respected leader in, the Oregon Army National Guard.

The year the coalition will spend in Afghanistan will surely be rewarding on all levels — professional, personal, intellectual, cultural, and most importantly in the arena of international diplomacy. Through the *Oregon Sentinel* I am happy to have brought you a unique insider's view into the

invaluable training all coalition members received while they were stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Moreover, during the two weeks in March I spent with coalition members while they trained at the post, and the one week in May just before they left for Afghanistan, I had the privilege of meeting a group of people who are professional, caring, and deeply devoted to their mission. They are the epitome of the quintessential gentlemen (and women) Soldier, Airman and Sailor. They exude an undying dedication to their craft, and train with an enviable level of zest and vigor.

I'm also grateful to all those who accepted me as one of their own. Sure, I wear an Air Force uniform, and in an ocean of green, this Air Guardsman stands out like a bright blue neon sign. But the members of the coalition — in particular the Soldiers with whom I trained, slept, ate, and played — welcomed me into their world with open hearts, allowing me to become one of their 'brothers in arms'.

To all those in Coalition Task Force Phoenix V, I wish you God Speed and good luck.

Jungleers!

Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Editor-in-Chief, *The Oregon Sentinel*

Deployments a family affair for Ericson family

One would likely be hard pressed to find a parent back home who wasn't equally proud — and worried — about their son or daughter serving overseas in a combat zone in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraq Freedom.

Most rely on e-mail, letters or the occasional phone call from their offspring to put them at ease that their children are safe and everything is okay.

For one parent, however, those methods just won't cut it anymore.

That's because Army Staff Sgt. Larrie Ericson, a 36-year veteran of the Oregon National Guard, attached to the 1042nd MEDEVAC Company based in his hometown of Salem, Ore., is serving alongside his Marine son on the same base, Jalalabad Air Field (JAF), in Afghanistan.

"When I first found out 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base in Hawaii, was going to Afghanistan my dad already knew he was deploying there, so I said to him, 'Hey, we might run into each other,' not really thinking it would actually ever happen," admitted Lance Cpl. Michael Ericson, a 1/3 assaultman with Weapons Company, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1 (CAAT 1).

"Then, by chance, my unit ended up at Bagram briefly while he was running missions there on his rotation," recalled the younger Ericson, a native of Larkspur, Colo., who still carries the chiseled frame he punished opposing players with during his high school football playing days at Douglas County High School in Castle Rock, Colo. "My dad has been in the Guard a while," he added chuckling, "so a lot of the people in his unit I've known since I was a little kid. I went down to his unit and they said they'd have him there in half an hour. I went to go grab some chow real quick, but before I could I got the word from one of my sergeants that my dad was headed down to meet me at the chow hall. At that moment I glanced up the street and saw him walking toward me. I took off running towards him, but just then he crossed an intersection and didn't see me, so I ran up behind him and bear hugged him and picked him up off the ground."

For both father and son, the greeting couldn't have been more fitting.

"I live in Oregon and my son grew up in Colorado, but despite the miles between us we've always been as close as a father and son could be," said the elder Ericson, a Blackhawk crew chief in the 1042nd who also works full time as a civilian technician, employed as a Blackhawk mechanic with the Oregon National Guard. "It's just amazing that we are together here so far from our homes."

When the elder Ericson's command found out his son would be serving at JAF, they saw to it that the two could be stationed together.

"We are on a rotation, meaning we work a few weeks here, a few weeks there, and a few weeks somewhere else," said the elder Ericson. "My command told me, 'If you

Story by Sgt. Joe Lindsay,
1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment
Reprinted with permission from Hawaii Marine



Like Father Like Son

Photo by Lance Cpl. Stephen Kwietniak

Lance Cpl. Michael Ericson, an assaultman with 1/3, Weapons Company, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1 (CAAT 1), stands next to his father, Army Staff Sgt. Larrie Ericson, a Blackhawk crew chief with the 1042nd Medevac Company, Oregon National Guard, aboard Jalalabad Airfield (JAF) in Afghanistan. Father and son are both presently serving at JAF in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

want to stay in JAF for the duration, you can stay there.' I told them how much that would be appreciated. I'm very thankful to them for that."

The elder Ericson also has dealt with the 1/3 command before, though under different circumstances.

"Just as my son finished CAX (Combined Arms Exercise) last October at Twentynine Palms in California and was boarding a plane back to Hawaii, we found out that my father, a World War II veteran, had passed away. By the time my son landed at the airport in Hawaii, the 1/3 command had already drawn up his leave papers, got him checked out, and had him back on a plane to Oregon within hours. The leadership at 1/3 went out of their way to help our family during that difficult time. It is something my family and I will always appreciate and will never forget. My son is with a class outfit of Marines at 1/3. They take care of each other not only on the battlefield, but off it as well."

Both father and son know the hardships that being in the military can sometimes bring. The elder Ericson has served previously in Bosnia, Kuwait and Iraq, while his son was on the front lines in Fallujah in 2004.

Additionally, according to the elder Ericson, the 1042nd is very active back in the States.

"We don't just train back home, we do actual missions," he explained. "We rescue climbers trapped on mountains or people stuck in rivers, not just in Oregon but all the way from Washington to Northern California. I know what it's like to see danger,

to see death."

"Whether it was in Bosnia, Iraq or now Afghanistan, our job is to get to wounded service members and MEDEVAC them somewhere where they can receive proper medical attention," added the 55-year old Ericson. "When I say that I'm proud of my son you know that I am because I know what he does very intimately. My biggest fear — I know in my heart it is not going to happen — but my biggest fear is that I'll get a call to pick up a wounded Marine and it will be my son."

Still, the elder Ericson says that he's not too worried, because of something he calls, "Ericson luck."

"My father fought in World War II in Europe and came out without a scratch, and I've been in a few tight situations myself without a scratch. My son will do the same thing."

For his part, the younger Ericson said the most important thing he learned serving in combat in Iraq was to "be calm and stay cool."

"You've got to keep your head at all times, even when rounds are coming in on you, and let the Marine Corps training kick in," he said, repeating his mantra, "be calm, stay cool."

That type of battlefield presence under pressure has not gone unnoticed by those who serve with Ericson.

"Lance Corporal Ericson is the type of Marine who looks out for everybody," said Cpl. Emilio Diaz Jr., a 1/3 machinegunner with Weapons Company, CAAT 1. "He's the type of Marine you want with you in combat."

Diaz also remarked that seeing Ericson with his father made everyone in CAAT 1 feel good.

"You can tell they're both just really happy when they're with each other," said Diaz, a Brownsville, Texas native who received the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained while serving with Ericson and 1/3 in Iraq. "I mean, who wouldn't be psyched to be with their dad in Afghanistan? It's awesome. Everyone in CAAT 1 is happy for them."

Staff Sgt. Douglas Derring, a 1/3 infantry platoon sergeant with Weapons Company, CAAT 1, said he couldn't agree more.

"It's pretty amazing that they are here together," said Derring, a native of Virginia Beach, Va. "A lot of people get deployed and they get kind of down because they are missing their families, and then Lance Corporal Ericson shows up in Afghanistan and his dad is here. They really lucked out."

Derring is also quick to add that Ericson is "one of my go-to guys. He's an expert in his field. He's a tough Marine."

According to Sgt. Luis Maceira, a 1/3 anti-tank assaultman with Weapons Company, CAAT 1, it brings a smile to the faces of the other Marines when they see the Ericson's together.

"They are both walking around a little prouder, a little taller, and they should be," said the Humacao, Puerto Rico native. "I know Lance Corporal Ericson is proud of his dad. His dad is doing the same thing we are, out here supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. We all got to meet his dad. It was pretty exciting. It's a morale boost for all of us in 1/3."

Oregon Guard loses devoted Soldier, employee in motorcycle crash

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

It was a beautiful morning, the kind bikers dream about — clear skies, crisp air, with the smell of blossoming flowers in the morning mist.

Rick Braun was riding his Harley to work when he was struck by a van which crossed in front of him at the intersection of Southeast Lafayette Highway and Stringtown Road just south of McMinnville. He died instantly.

In a split-second, the Oregon National Guard lost a soldier, dedicated worker, and loyal friend.

"I felt like someone kicked me in the gut," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Rob Karnes. "I lost a good friend and mentor," he added.

Braun spent 22 years in the Oregon National Guard and retired in 2000 after 13 years as the Standard Installation/Division Personnel System (SIDPERS) Chief.

After retiring, Braun came back to work as a contractor.

"After the news sunk in, I started thinking about all the things he did to help our organization, and then I really felt sick because no one can replicate the work Rick has done," Karnes said.

"We as a state would not be as far along in our transformation...without the applications that Rick built," he added.

Braun began serving as SIDPERS Chief on August 6, 1993 and became Military Personnel Branch Chief on November 7, 1996. He later came back to serve in SIDPERS as a contractor.

Sgt. Maj. Denise Kraxberger met Braun 20 years ago when he worked full time for the 1-162. Years later he would become her boss in SIDPERS.

"He was always very patient with me when it came to computer reports," said Kraxberger. "I think of myself as computer illiterate and he would always tell me, 'Denise, you're not computer illiterate,

you're afraid. You can't hurt anything, just do it!'"

Kraxberger says she was devastated after hearing the news of Braun's death.

"My thoughts turned to how Jannett (Braun's wife) was taking the news. Rick was a family man and loved his family," Kraxberger said.

For Kraxberger and many others, Braun was much more than just a co-worker. According to many, he was also a friend.

"I will always remember his love of his family, his giggle, and everything he taught me. I considered him one of my best friends," Kraxberger added.

Braun, 47, had owned and operated Braun Systems Inc., a computer technology firm, since 2000.

Braun is survived by his wife, Jannett Braun; two sons, Richard and Jeremy; three grandchildren; his mother, Margaret Braun; four sisters, Dayle Garton, Karla Champe, Michele Stein and Melissa Loeffler; and one brother, Craig Braun.



Rick Braun.

ORANG's Garry Dean assumes new rank, new role

Story by Maj. Mike Allegre,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

SALEM, Ore. (May 31, 2006) — A self-styled “Army brat” and the former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing has been promoted to the rank of brigadier general.

Garry Dean, 49, became one of the four brigadier generals within the Oregon National Guard on May 31.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees said during the promotion ceremony, at the Oregon Joint Forces Headquarters in Salem, that for 16 years Dean “...has served Oregon with distinction and will provide great leadership to Oregon’s Air National Guard in the future.”

ORANG Commander, Brig. Gen. Jim Cunningham said the military promotes more on potential than on past performance.

“You got to this point in your career by working together with everyone—from the enlisted ranks to the officers,” Cunningham said. “We’re very proud of your service.”

Dean told more than 150 people in attendance that it was humbling to be a general officer.

“I thank my family and friends for helping me to attain this position of trust. You’ve all been examples to me,” Dean said. “Thanks to my dad for always modeling discipline during his 30-year military career. Thank

you, mom for insisting on me obtaining a higher education. I stand here today because of your support, love and guidance.”

Commissioned as an officer upon graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1978, Dean would serve on active duty (1978-87) and with the Georgia Air National Guard (1987-90) before joining the ORANG in 1990. Since then Dean has served as an F-15 mission pilot and in many leadership capacities including the commander of two units (123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Maintenance Group) within the 142nd Fighter Wing.

He became the Wing’s commander in January 2001 and led the unit following the terrorist attacks on September 11th.

Dean, who becomes the first African American in the ORANG to hold the ranks of colonel and brigadier general, was reassigned as the State Director of Operations at Oregon Joint Forces Headquarters in 2003.

“I am the first African American here (in this role) and I think it’s a good indication of where our country has come from... whether you’re an immigrant or no matter what your walk in life, if you apply yourself, you get the education that is there available for you and you take advantage of opportunities,” Dean said.

As part of his additional duties, Dean will travel to Florida to serve as the Air National Guard Advisor to the commander at 1st Air Force Headquarters, Tyndall Air Force Base.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Garry Dean, left, is sworn into the general officer ranks by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, (right), Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, while Dean’s wife, Lisa, holds the bible. Dean was promoted at the Joint Force Headquarters on May 31, 2006.

Dean is married and has three daughters and one step-daughter. They along with his parents and extended family attended his promotion ceremony at the Oregon National

Headquarters. Kimberly L. Lippert, of the Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office, contributed to this article.

BG O'Hollaren: The Oregon Air National Guard 'is set for the future'

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

“He is a visionary.”

“He understands jointness.”

“He has led this unit through some turbulent waters and he’s left us postured to move forward from a position of strength.”

Those were just a few of the accolades expressed on June 27, 2006 for Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, during the change of command and retirement ceremonies held at the Portland Air National Guard base.

Cunningham devoted more than 36 years to the Oregon Guard, and had served as the Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard since 2000, — a command he relinquished to Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O’Hollaren during the change of command.

The audience of well-wishers included family and friends, retired Oregon National Guard members, and current Airmen. The ceremony was held in the main hangar against a backdrop of two F-15 Eagles, communications equipment, and a display

from the newly-formed 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, cited Cunningham’s long and storied career that dated back through the events of 9-11, Operations Southern and Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, to the Vietnam conflict, where the former Oregon Air Guard commander flew combat missions.

“Jim has been with us for many years,” Rees said. “And all along the way, he’s given our troops the best of training, and the best of leadership.”

Also under Cunningham’s leadership, the Oregon Air National Guard was the first fighter wing to have all their fighter jets on 5-minute notice following the terrorist attacks of 9-11. Several other milestones include the creation of the 101st Combat Operations Group, the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, the successful transformation from F-4 Phantom jets to F-15 Eagles, the designation of Kingsley Field as one of two F-15 pilot instructor schools in the nation, and 60,000 hours of accident-free flying by the 142nd Fighter Wing.

Rees also welcomed O’Hollaren by saying

the new commander is a visionary who is ‘ready to step forward and take on the role of commanding the Oregon Air Guard’.

“We’re thrilled at the opportunities you’re going to face,” Rees said as he addressed O’Hollaren.

Rees cited the recent growth of the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, the creation of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, the development of the 101st Combat Operations Group, and the ongoing process of transformation and jointness alongside the Oregon Army National Guard.

“There are many opportunities ahead,” Rees said. “There are many bright things on the horizon, and I think it’s going to be an exciting time.”

During his comments, Cunningham cited four key issues he would like members of the Oregon Air Guard to consider — most notably the the Guard’s state and federal missions. Cunningham added that he is confident in the abilities of the ORANG’s leadership and members to achieve their objectives.

“The third issue is transformation,” Cunningham said, calling it a ‘necessary evil’. He quoted Brig. Gen. Leland C. Shepard, Jr., who recently spoke of the concept of transformation, warning, “You change or you die.”

“Through transformation, you will maintain your relevance,” Cunningham said.

“You will not make it through transformation successfully until you move into a joint force environment. He called attention to the few Oregon Army National Guard members who sat in the audience, saying “Get to know these people. They are your comrades in arms.”

Cunningham thanked those in attendance for “the opportunity to serve alongside you.”

He concluded his speech by quoting Rudyard Kipling’s poem, Gunga-Din: “You may talk o’ gin and beer when you’re quartered safe out ‘ere,” he said. “An’ you’re sent to penny-fights an’ Aldershot it; But when it comes to slaughter, you will do your work on water, An’ you’ll lick the bloomin’ boots of ‘im that’s got it.”

“You people have got it,” Cunningham said.

After thanking those in attendance and



James E. Cunningham, then a Lieutenant, mugs for a photo next to his T-38 training aircraft while at Randolph AFB, Texas, in November 1970.

his family members, Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O’Hollaren expressed his gratitude to Cunningham, calling attention to his distinguished 37-year military career.

O’Hollaren, an Air Force Academy graduate, cited the changes in the Air Force since the Vietnam era, pointing toward future technologies.

“It’s not just air-breathing vehicles [any more], it’s now space and cyberspace,” O’Hollaren said.

“We have the best air-sovereignty wing in the Air Force, the best F-15 training wing in the Air Force, and what we see as the platform for future emerging missions in the combat operations group,” O’Hollaren said. “We are set for the future.”

“We are in a world now where the adversary is not a nation-state,” he warned. “We have to adapt to this threat.”

Col. Bruce Marshall, who recently took on the role as 142nd Fighter Wing Vice Commander, said O’Hollaren’s close association with Cunningham over the years ensures the continuity of command — a concept highly cherished in the military.

“I think General O’Hollaren brings a great strength to the ORANG in that he’s a very experienced senior executive and he’s going to lead us in the organization in accomplishing many of the challenges that we face,” Marshall said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O’Hollaren, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, (left), presents outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, with a U.S. flag during his retirement ceremony, which was flown over the Capitol Building in Washington DC.

Oregon Guard Marathon Team makes their mark in Nebraska

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt,
Oregon Army National Guard

Near-perfect weather greeted participants in the National Guard Bureau's Marathon Championships on Sunday, May 7, 2006. The Oregon National Guard running team placed second overall during the venue, behind the team from Puerto Rico. Rounding out the top three was the Indiana National Guard team.

All the Oregon runners had an excellent showing and took home some good hardware (trophies).

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt, of Joint Force Headquarters, placed 11th overall and 5th in the National Guard with a time of 2:44:49, averaging 6:18 per mile. He was followed closely by Oregon Air Guardsman, Staff Sgt. Ed King of the 123rd Weather Flight, who placed 18th overall and 9th in the Guard with a time of 2:48:39, beating



2nd Lt. Evan Goin crests a small hill just before the 19-mile mark during the Lincoln Marathon. The annual marathon boasted 977 finishers this year.

his best time by six minutes.

Sgt 1st Class Bill Kaemmer from the Portland State University Gold Program, Placed 45th overall with a time of 2:55:42, and Oregon team member 2nd Lt. Evan Goin, of Delta Co., 2-162 Inf. Bn., placed 107th overall with a time of 3:14:48.

Vandervlugt, King and Kaemmer earned a spot on the elite All-Guard team.

The All-Guard team will travel to races across the country and set up recruiting booths at race expositions and then the runners will compete in the event. The All-Guard team is composed of the fastest male (top 40 overall) and female (top 15 overall) runners.

The runners attended recruiting and retention classes during the two days prior to the race to help them gain leads into the Guard.

The Oregon team had an impact at the Recruiting and Retention workshops held in conjunction with the marathon championships. The Oregon team was cited by event organizers as an example of a very successful program and was asked to speak to the other states to share some of their reasons for success.

"This was my first trip to Lincoln. It was a very well run race, and all the Oregon runners competed very strong. It was a good event for recruiting/retention," said Goin.

Runners participated from 50 states and three U.S. territories. A total of 977 runners finished the 26.2-mile course.

Kaemmer, who was originally with the Iowa National Guard, appreciated how the Oregon Guard supports the running team and the recruiting/retention initiative.

"The Guard runs an excellent race and it is something every runner in the Guard should experience," he said.

King appreciated the diverse population represented at the venue. It was King's second trip to the National Guard Marathon in Lincoln.

"As my running career continues to grow



Photos courtesy of National Guard Bureau

Staff Sgt. Ed King, of the 123rd Weather Flight, prepares to pass a competitor during the Lincoln Marathon as they reach the 21-mile mark.

at Lincoln, one thing that continues to impress and encourage me about the sport is the diversity of people who participate. All ages, abilities, and levels of experience are represented at Lincoln," King said. "I encourage anyone who possesses a love of physical fitness and who is searching for a challenge to look into the Oregon Guard team and the Lincoln marathon.

The venue would be the 13th year for Vandervlugt, and after coming back from an injury which sidelined him for a few months, the JFHQ Soldier was grateful for winning a spot on the All-Guard team.

"I spent two months in a cast this last fall and have been hampered by injuries all year. It makes it worth that much more by struggling through adversity," he said.

He also credited his recruiter for giving him a chance at pursuing not just a career in the military, but also his passion for running.

"I would like to thank my recruiter, MSG (RET) Bob Droke for the opportunity to serve in the National Guard," Vandervlugt added.

Oregon Team members credited Sgt. 1st Class Ester Lieberman of Graphic Latitude in Dallas, Ore., and Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley of JFHQ Recruiting & Retention, who helped sponsor their team.

If you are interested in joining the Oregon National Guard Running Team, contact Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt at Timothy.vandervlugt@us.army.mil or by phone at 541-390-3157.

SOU student & Guard member makes a mark on collegiate wrestling

Story by Rich Rosenthal,
Southern Oregon University Information Dir.

Losing every bout as a freshman would prompt many college wrestlers to pursue other competitive interests, but not Southern Oregon University senior Rick Story.

Instead, the 21-year-old Health Education major and Army National Guardsman from Spanaway, Wash. passed up a promising college football career and dedicated himself to becoming an All-American wrestler.

Mission accomplished.

Three seasons after going 0-17 while competing for Pacific Lutheran University, Story capped his three-year SOU career last March by assembling the 12th-winningest season ever compiled by a Raider wrestler (33-7) and advancing to the NAIA 184-pound championship bout.

Story, who is currently in SOU 186 Gold's officer candidate school, credits a refreshing, old-fashioned desire to 'getter done' as the source of his success - a work ethic fueled by his competitive instinct that is constantly honed by his National Guard training.

"Candidate Story exemplifies the characteristics of the scholar, athlete and leader that both SOU and the Oregon Army National Guard desire," says Capt. Travis Lee, Story's officer-in-charge of the military science department.

Story's wrestling story dates back to seventh grade - his first year dabbling in the world's oldest sport.

"One of my buddies made the (ninth grade) varsity lineup, which was a really big deal for an eighth grader," Story said. "He wasn't that good originally, and he would cry after losing matches. But I watched him work out really hard, and I hardly recognized the guy the next year, and he was winning.

"I was a short, chunky lineman, and I said, 'Shoot, I'll start doing what he does.' And I started to realize things get easier the harder you work."

Story cracked the varsity lineup his final year of middle school, but he fully blossomed

as an athlete at Bethel High School, where he amassed a solid 27-6 record as a senior 160-pounder. The gifted all-around athlete (who compiled a 3.97 cumulative GPA) gained 2001 South Puget Sound League defensive MVP accolades as an inside linebacker on the football team, and he placed fifth at the Washington state meet in the pole vault.

Pacific Lutheran University, in nearby Puyallup, a small-college football powerhouse that also fielded a tiny-but-proud wrestling team, seemed to be a perfect college choice.

He became a highly touted linebacker after redshirting in the Fall of 2002 for a program made famous by Lute football coach and 300-game winner Frosty Westering. That winter, he attempted to erase the bitter memory of his final prep match - an upset loss in the league finals that dashed all-state aspirations.

Story easily nailed down a starting role at 184 pounds - a rare feat for a first-year college competitor - which turned out to be small consolation for going a nightmarish 0-17 during PLU's final season of fielding an intercollegiate wrestling program.

"I really don't think I was that bad, but I kept losing close matches," Story said. "It started to become a mental thing. I was working hard, and I knew it would pay off sooner or later."

Story's payoff was a jackpot for SOU and its tradition-rich wrestling program.

In the summer of 2003, Story followed the lead of teammate Joe Hathaway and joined the Guard, a six-year commitment. Story, Hathaway and four other refugees of the defunct PLU wrestling team chose to continue their careers 400 miles south in Ashland for the four-time NAIA champion Raiders.

After going through basic training, a supremely fit and undaunted Story experienced a complete turnaround in wrestling fortunes. He won 17 matches and qualified for the national meet as a 174-pound sophomore, and he topped it by going 18-10 as a junior.

"Rick became a student of the sport



Photo by Ken Royce

Washington Army National Guard member and SOU senior, Rick Story, (left) faces off with Jesse Vasquez on Jan. 19, 2006. Story pinned his opponent in just 51 seconds to help seal a 25-12 SOU victory over the Menlo College Oaks.

here," 11th-year Raider head coach Mike Ritchey said. "He always had the desire and dedication, and once he better understood technique, it had a compounding effect and made him really solid."

Story returned to the more comfortable 184-pound weight class in 2005-06, and his aggressive, risk-taking, in-your-face, high-energy style produced a school-record 10 technical falls (matches that ended when Story led his opponent by 15 points on the scoreboard) and seven pins.

Toward the end of his phenomenal 33-win campaign, Story was literally winning bouts with one arm due to a pinched nerve that frequently caused his right shoulder, arm and fingers to go painfully numb.

"I could barely bench press 135 pounds because my whole right side was weak," Story said. "For a while, whenever I turned my neck, it would shoot pains down my arm."

Ranked as high as No. 2 in the NAIA polls, Story gutted his way to All-American

status and became only the 40th Raider to advance to a national title fray with three decision wins, including a 9-7 overtime scare in the opening round. He then became the only tourney performer to register a take-down of top-ranked Willie Parks of Dana, Neb., but the former junior college national champion and former Iowa State standout held off Story's charge by a 16-8 count to claim NAIA gold.

"Rick never let on how hurt he was, and we never knew how much pain he was experiencing (until after the national tournament)," Ritchey said. "He had to convince himself that he wasn't hurt in order to maintain his intensity level, and what he accomplished was truly inspirational."

But unlike his Bethel and PLU careers, Story has no regrets about his final collegiate match.

"I simply lost to a better wrestler," Story said, "but I went out with a bang. I did what I needed to do. I left everything on the mat."

ORANG sends K-Falls pilots to Bulgaria for joint fighter training

Sentry Lion marks new relationship with Bulgarians

Story by Capt. Lucas Ritter,
173rd Fighter Wing Community Manager

Just about one week shy of the 62nd anniversary of his death, David R. Kingsley was honored once again in the closing ceremony of Sentry Lion 2006, on Thursday, June 15.

Kingsley died in WWII when his B-17 was shot down over Bulgaria during a bombing mission in Rumania. Kingsley, an Oregonian, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and later Kingsley Field, home the 173d Fighter Wing, was named after him. (see *The Kingsley Story*, **Oregon Sentinel**, November/December 2004).



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Multimedia

Above: Staff Sgt. James Yandell, 173rd Security Forces Squadron, stands guard on the flight line at 3rd Airbase at Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria. More than 100 members of the 173rd Fighter Wing, from Kingsley Field, Ore. were in Bulgaria for Sentry Lion 2006, an air-to-air combat exercise between the 173rd FW and the Bulgarian Air Force, June 2 through the June 15.

Below: Staff Sgt. Gordon Symmes, a crew chief with the 173rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, prepares an F-15 for take-off, while members of the Bulgarian Air Force maintenance crew (background) watch the action, during Sentry Lion 2006.

Sentry Lion was an air-to-air combat exercise between the Bulgarian Air Force and the 173rd Fighter Wing, held at the 3rd Airbase at Graf Ignatievo, near the city of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The exercise provided an opportunity for American pilots to fly in combat situations against MiG 29, MiG 21 and SU-25 aircraft. The wing flew more than 70 sorties in country throughout the two week training exercise.

"In 2003 we were able to send members of Kingsley Field over to Bulgaria to set up a memorial for David Kingsley and the Bulgarians who were also killed in the crash," said Col. Tom Schiess, 173rd Fighter Wing commander. "The idea of a joint exercise between the 173rd Fighter Wing and the Bulgarians was birthed from that trip."

The 173rd FW trains air-to-air combat pilots in the F-15, and according to Schiess, the Sentry Lion exercise gave the instructor pilots the ability to bring back real-world experience to the classroom.

"Among all of the benefits of this exercise, the real-world training with foreign aircraft was probably the greatest," said Maj. Chris Casson, 114th Fighter Squadron and Sentry Lion Project Officer. "To be able to come back and teach our students from first-hand experiences how to fight against a MiG 29, enhances our training exponentially."

Most of the pilots from the 114th FS, located at Kingsley Field, had the opportunity to fly in at least one of the Bulgarian aircraft and learned personally what the fighter

planes are capable of doing in the air.

"The MiG 29 is a great aircraft, it has great capabilities," said Casson. "The one thing that it does not have is a long loiter time. Our jets could fly almost three times longer than their jets could during a training sortie."

Sentry Lion was more than just an air-to-air exercise, it was a chance for the United States to build a military relationship with Bulgaria. Bulgaria has recently joined the North American Treaty Organization (NATO), which will make them an ally in the War on Terror. Additionally, the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, recently signed a U.S. basing agreement with the Bulgarians.

"Looking big picture, this exercise made a lot o sense," said Schiess. "The Bulgarians have a great air force and very capable pilots, we laid the groundwork for them to train and ultimately fight like a Western nation."

Members of the Bulgarian Air Force and the Oregon Air National Guard recently completed a two-part Joint Contact Team Program, sponsored by European Command. The JCTP is a program designed to help new NATO accessions begin to learn how to train and fight with allies.

"The first part of the JCTP happened in October and about 12 Bulgarian officers came to Oregon," said Casson. "In March we sent some our people over to Bulgarian to take part in the second half of the



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Multimedia

program. The JCTP was a great learning experience and really paved the way for Sentry Lion."

While in Bulgaria, members of the 173rd FW were also able to extend some humanitarian aide. Maj. Ed Tuhy, an optometrist with the unit, and doctor in Klamath Falls, performed more than 1,300 eye exams in the local villages surrounding Plovdiv and the unit donated nearly 6,000 pairs of eye glasses.

"The humanitarian assistance, which Major Tuhy provided certainly won the hearts of the Bulgarian people," said Schiess. "It was amazing to watch as people who have not had proper eyesight for many years finally be able to see clearly. We really made an positive impression with the Bulgarian people by doing this mission and in the end this will go as far, if not further in establish-

ing relationships with the general public than flying exercise."

Among the other events during Sentry Lion was placing a memorial at the crash site of Kingsley, who was shot down during WWII not far from the village of Sunhozem. He was a bombardier on a B-17 which was attacked by German fighters on its return from a bombing mission in Romania.

"The tail gunner in the plane was wounded in the attack," said

Schiess. "Kingsley took his parachute and strapped it on the tail gunner and pushed him to safety. Kingsley went down with the plane and was the only member of the crew who died. However seven Bulgarians were killed when the plane crashed in a field."

Kingsley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously and the base was named after him in 1954.

Despite having a sad link with Bulgaria, according to Casson, the future for international relations between Bulgaria and Kingsley Field looks bright.

"I envision other exercises in the future between us and Bulgaria," said Casson. "The ground work has already been laid and the relationships have been established. The success of Sentry Lion is proof that the men and women of Kingsley Field are world-class individuals."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Multimedia

An F-15 takes off while a MiG-29 is parked on the flight line at 3rd Airbase at Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria. Six F-15s and more than 100 people from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Ore. participated in Sentry Lion 2006 June 2 through June 15.

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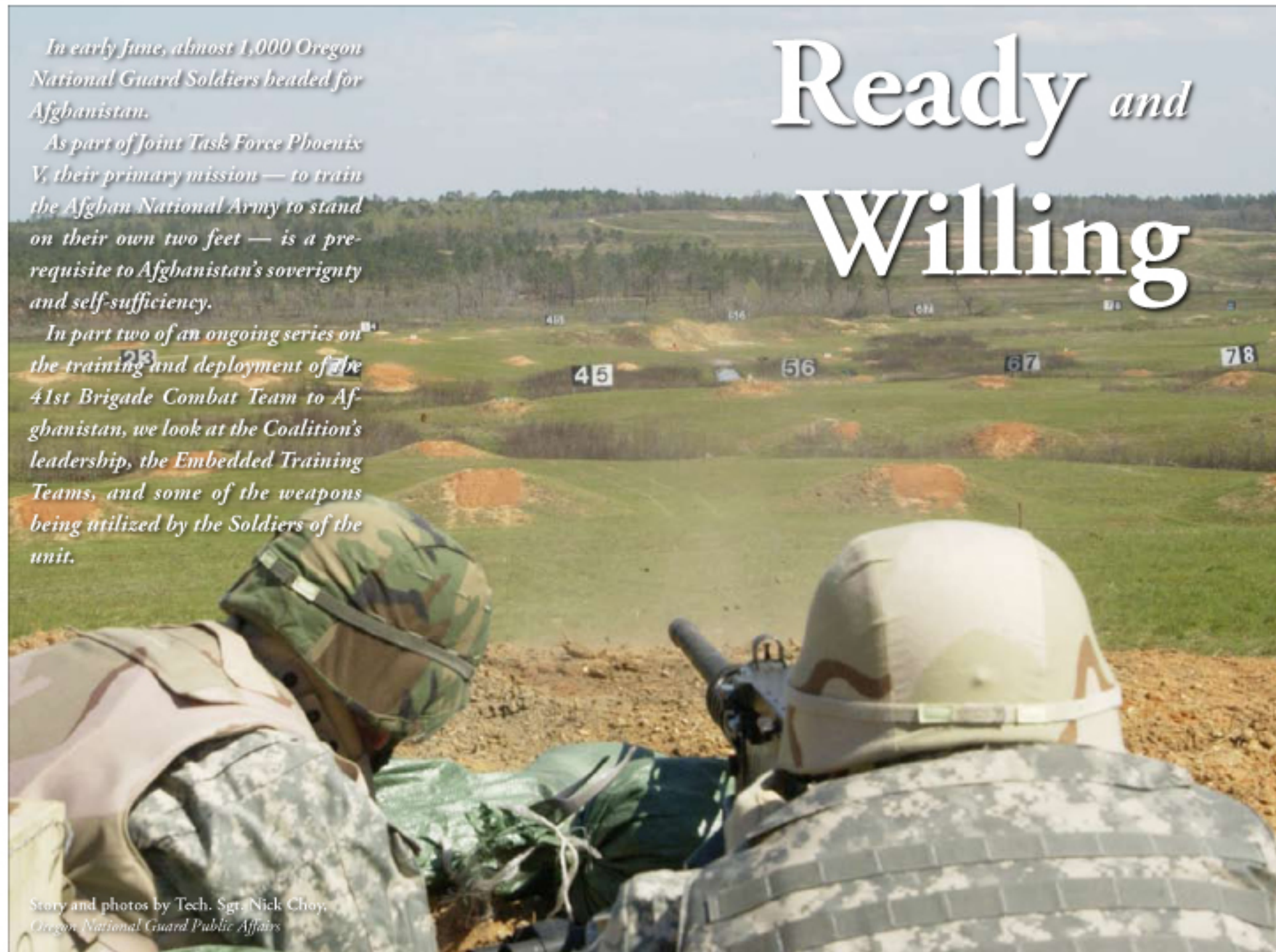
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Oregon's 41st Brigade Combat Team completes their training with an eye on their ultimate goal: Afghanistan



Ready and Willing

In early June, almost 1,000 Oregon National Guard Soldiers headed for Afghanistan. As part of Joint Task Force Phoenix V, their primary mission — to train the Afghan National Army to stand on their own two feet — is a prerequisite to Afghanistan's sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

In part two of an ongoing series on the training and deployment of the 41st Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan, we look at the Coalition's leadership, the Embedded Training Teams, and some of the weapons being utilized by the Soldiers of the unit.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Everyone on post involved in Coalition Task Force Phoenix carries a weapon of some sort, be it an M9 (9mm pistol), or M4 (M-16 rifle). In fact, soldiers don't go anywhere without their weapons. Whether attached to their side by sling, or holstered high on their hip or mid-thigh, these weapons become an extension of their body.

To forget your weapon somewhere is an actionable offense, punishable by an Article-15. Stories abound of soldiers who have lost a rank, or worse yet, been sent home from a deployment as a result of misplacing their weapon.

Upon entering any building, weapons must be cleared, to avoid what the Army terms a "Negligent Discharge of a Weapon", another actionable offense punishable under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, or UCMJ. Soldiers dine, go to the movies, and visit the barbershop with their weapons slung across their shoulder. They even carry their weapons into the latrine. The one thing that seems out of place however, is the ubiquitous lack of ammunition being carried around at Camp Shelby. Though soldiers will be issued ammo once they arrive in the combat theater, an extraordinary amount of ammunition is expended at the several firing ranges around the post during their three months of training.

Aside from qualifying on small arms and the M-16 rifle, the Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors of the task force are required to familiarize themselves with an array of exotic firepower. The M249 automatic weapon, otherwise known as the Squad Automatic Weapon or "SAW" delivers a lethal volley that, according to range officers, can cut a man in half. Soldiers swear by this weapon, calling it lethal, accurate, and dependable. The MK-19, or Mark-Nineteen, is a semi-automatic 40mm grenade launcher, and the M-224 60mm mortar system puts firepower where it is needed. Mortar gunner, Private 1st Class Jon Clevenger and Assistant Gunner Nick Vandiver, practiced in an open grassy field between the rows of concrete cinder block buildings which served as the Soldiers' homes during their stay at the post.

"The training is great," says Clevenger, a gunner from the Oregon Army National Guard's 1st Infantry, 162nd Battalion, who is now with Bravo Co., 1-180th Inf. Bn, as part of Joint Task Force Phoenix. "I feel confident on all our skills [with this weapon]," Clevenger said.

The M2, affectionately known as the "Ma-Deuce", fires a .50 caliber projectile over 6,000 meters. At Range 43, a number of soldiers paired off to practice on the weapon. Assistant gunner, Capt. Doug Bragg, of Troutdale, Ore., and gunner Maj. Jens Danielson of Medford, Ore., took lane four and awaited commands from range control.

"Grunners," boomed the range control officer over the loudspeaker. "Lock and load a seven-round belt... clear on the left, clear on the right... commence firing!"

Pressing down on the butterfly trigger, Danielson let lose a volley of shells. Everyone on the firing line feels the concussion, as the weapon and its tripod jump back, fighting the seven or eight sandbags struggling to hold it down. Four hundred meters down range, puffs of dirt and a cloud of smoke rise as the target drops out of sight. A direct hit.

"This is fantastic," Danielson said. "I joined the military to shoot guns, and this is the best!"

"This is a very powerful weapon," Bragg said. "This was awesome."

Both men are with the 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps, Regional Core Assistance Group, or RCAG. These Embedded Training Teams are, in the words of Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt, the deployment's

"main effort". The primary task of the Embedded Training Teams, or ETTs, is to literally embed themselves within the Afghan National Army in order to train them on various military processes.

Team members will train the Afghans on functions such as drill instruction, military protocol, public and civil affairs, operational security, community relations, morale and welfare, and a host of other processes. Their progress will be closely monitored over the course of the deployment, with guidance from command staff.

Col. Bob Elliott, who retired from the

Oregon Army National Guard, is the Oregon Chairperson for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR. He temporarily relinquished his post with the ESGR, coming out of retirement to head up the ETT groups at Pritt's personal request.

According to Elliott, the ETTs are comprised of embedded trainers, who are tasked with training the members of the Afghan National Army, and at both the Battalion and Company level, will live with the ANA members, staying out at the Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) throughout the region.

"It's not glamorous at all," Elliott says.

Continued on next page



Right: Members of Air Force Reserve units train with fellow Embedded Training Team members at one of the Forward Operating Bases at Camp Shelby, MS on March 26, 2006.

The ETTs will spend one year helping to train Afghan National Army members throughout the country.

Left: Capt. Doug Bragg, of Troutdale, Ore., (left), assists Maj. Jens Danielson of Medford, Ore., on the M2 "Ma-Deuce" .50 cal. weapon during qualification trials while training at Camp Shelby, MS. The pair both qualified on the weapon that day.

Below right: Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix V Commander, Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt addresses a group of drill sergeants who are part of the Embedded Training Teams (ETTs) near a Forward Operating Base at Camp Shelby, Mississippi on March 25, 2006. The ETTs will deploy with a multi-state coalition, which includes the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team, and will spend one year in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army.

The seven ETT Corps will have their own FOB inside an ANA base, and the colonels will work with two-star generals in the ANA, along with staff members, mentoring their Afghan counterparts on a daily basis. But Elliott is quick to place emphasis on the word "mentor".

"We're there to mentor the Afghans, not monitor," Elliott says. "We're there to give advice, if the ANA wants it."

The whole reason behind the ETTs, according to Elliott, is to have the Afghan National Army stand on their own. The training aspect of the mission to Afghanistan, he says, suits the National Guard well, since it is what the organization does on a regular basis.

"The National Guard is a perfect fit for this mission because this is what we do on weekends and on AT (active duty training)," Elliott said. "We mentor all our National Guard soldiers that we train, so it's natural for us to train the Afghan Soldiers. The only difference is that we're on their terrain, and we have a language barrier."

The ETTs will spend the majority of their time roving the countryside, making their way through villages, cities, and provinces in the far reaches of the country. Since they will be working directly with their counterparts in the Afghan National Army, their work is critical to the success of the overall mission in Afghanistan.

According to leadership, the members of the ETTs carry years of experience and vast knowledge of Afghanistan's history, people, culture, and political aspirations, making them particularly valuable to the mission.

"We actually have members in our task force from Phoenix 2, 3, and 4, so we've got four years of experience in our task force members," Task Force Commander, Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt says.

"Instead of us being there to tell the ANA how to do it, we need to give them the tools so they'll know how to do it on their own," Elliott adds.

Those who were not handpicked by task force leaders volunteered for the ETT teams. Sgt. Tracy Young, an Iraqi combat veteran from the California Army National Guard's 2668 Transportation Unit, volunteered to be on one of the Embedded Training Teams. Young brings real-world combat experience and years of soldiering to the mix.

"Now I get to do something great with

Military Police Company, and the Oregon Air Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing and 142nd Security Forces, to assist citizens ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

According to Oregon National Guard leadership and many observers, the response by Oregonians to this domestic emergency was unprecedented, with a mobilization and operations tempo unmatched by anything ever seen before.

But now, here at Camp Shelby, Pritt faced a new challenge — prepare his soldiers for a yearlong deployment in an austere combat environment. As a respected leader in the Oregon National Guard, there would be a



"I'm very confident about our ability. I think we'll be the best task force to ever do this job."

— Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, Commander, Joint Task Force Phoenix V

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to go do this," said Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, Task Force Commander for Coalition Task Force Phoenix V.

Pritt, a 36-year member of the Oregon Army National Guard, sat back at his desk in the Joint Operations Center — a large white tent surrounded by concertina wire — the hub of information and activity for the task force.

The bespectacled Pritt resembles more of a father figure than commanding general, exuding all the hospitality and cordial nature of his Southern Oregon roots. But make no mistake. Pritt is more than qualified for the task ahead. After spending several overseas tours in Europe, Pritt returned to take several high-ranking positions within the Oregon National Guard, including the Brigade's Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief, and then Chief of Staff at the State Headquarters, and finally Brigade Commander for the 41st Brigade.

It would be Pritt's second time in this part of the southeastern United States in less than six months. In September 2005, he led 1,400 Oregonians comprised of the 41st Brigade, elements from the 1186th

long string of subordinate leaders and enlisted members — many who voluntarily left full-time positions to work with Pritt — who would follow him to the four corners of the world. The Afghanistan deployment would turn out to be no exception.

"I'm also very confident about our ability," Pritt continued. "I think we'll be the best task force to ever do this job."

The job: train the Afghan National Army to become a professional fighting force able to conduct independent combat operations under the auspices of the freely elected government of Afghanistan. Building upon previous groups of trainers that have gone through the region — namely Task Force Phoenix I through IV — the ultimate goal of Pritt's team is to "hand over the keys to the new military."

"The second part," Pritt says, "is to have the Afghan people feel good about America, specifically Coalition Task Force Phoenix."

some really awesome guys," Young said.

According to Pritt, there are a myriad of relationships, which have to be built and maintained.

"Relationships are absolutely without question the foundation of our success," Pritt said.

Be it working with coalition partners, or with its Afghan counterparts, Pritt cites the importance of relationship building in the local Afghan culture as a model for how the Task Force must conduct their business when dealing with the locals.

"We can't just focus on training the Afghan National Army," Pritt said.

Pritt emphasizes the importance of using the synergy of the coalition partners to elevate the performance of the Afghan National Army, but at the same time respecting the Afghan community and their culture, allowing their fledgling military to be responsive to their national command authority. In the end, according to Pritt, the true focus of this mission is the Afghan people.

"It's really the people of Afghanistan we

Lt. Gen. M. Esak Noory: An exclusive interview with Brig. Gen. Pritt's Afghan counterpart



The Oregon Sentinel was able to get an exclusive interview with Lt. Gen. M. Esak Noory, Vice Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army, during his visit to Camp Shelby, MS, on Friday, March 31, 2006.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

A: I'm a professional officer who graduated from the [Afghanistan] military academy. By the time I graduated, the fight started, and the Soviet Union occupied Afghanistan. I joined the Mujahadeen groups, which waged a Jihad, or holy war defending our country. I spent most of my life doing these fights with the enemies of our country, and right now, after passing all those wars, I work on the general staff for the Afghan National Army.

We were the first officers who joined the fight and this war against the Soviet Union, and we started from nothing in the very beginning. There wasn't a lot of people with us, and we started to grow, and we got a lot of people beside us. It helped us to unsettle the government, which at the time was supporting the Soviet Union's occupation.

Q: What are your thoughts on the role of the United States military in Afghanistan?

A: As everyone knows, after three decades of war in Afghanistan, we have lost almost everything. The role of the United States in Afghanistan is a positive one, which is the fight against terrorism and insurgency, will help Afghanistan rebuild. It also helps Afghan authorities build their own army and stand on their own two feet, and to help the whole world become safe.

Q: What is your opinion of the US as mentors for the Afghan National Army?

A: The importance of the mentors in Afghanistan play a very important role because we've lost all our instructors in the army during the war with the Soviets and the terrorists. The mentors in the US Army will help us to build our own National Army.



Over the course of the year-long deployment in Afghanistan, The Oregon Sentinel hopes to bring you stories from the Soldiers of the 41st Brigade Combat Team. Check out future issues of the Sentinel for updates, profiles, and stories on the unit's deployment.

Khaan Quest IV: 2-162 joins MAF in UN peacekeeping training exercise



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Glesmann, HQ, 2-162 IN BN

Above: Lt. Col. Tooshinbayar (right), of the Mongolian Armed Forces and Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Glesmann (left), of the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, pose on a mountain-top near Five Hills Training Area, during a planning conference in April, 2006. The rock pile (center), represents a tradition carried on by MAF Soldiers who climb the mountain and make a wish. There are several of these rock piles dotting the ridgeline. Tooshinbayar works in the Department of Peace Keeping Operations of the Mongolian Defense Ministry and is a graduate of U.S. Army Ranger School in Fort Benning, Ga.

Mongolia is located in north-central Asia between Russia and China. Originally part of the Mongol Empire, the area was under Chinese control from 1691 to 1911 and from 1919 to 1921, when it formed a separate state under the protection of the Soviet Union. Ulaanbaatar is the capital and the largest city. Population: 2,790,000. Information courtesy of World Fact Book.



Left: The Mongolian flag.



Map and flag courtesy the World Wide Web

Continued from FRONT PAGE

duct multi-national training and promote positive military-to-military relationships among participating nations.

"The purpose of Khaan Quest is for all participating nations to gain United Nations Training Recognition, strengthen their peace operational support capabilities, improve interoperability, and gain planning expertise," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Glesmann, battalion operations NCO and Khaan Quest training NCOIC for 2-162 Inf. Bn.

B Company will join more than 200 U.S. military personnel to train 630 MAF soldiers, and more than 240 international participants from Fiji, Tonga, Thailand, Bangladesh, and Korea. Many other countries including, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France, Canada and Japan will be international observers during the training.

"Oregon Soldiers will get the opportunity to interact with at least six other national militaries, which will give them a greater understanding of their soldiers and their culture," said Glesmann. "Soldiers will gain a better understanding of how to conduct peacekeeping operations and get an operational familiarization on participating in multi-national missions."

Participating nations will receive Training Recognition from the United Nations in support of the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), a five-year program managed by the U.S. Department of State to address gaps in international peace operations. One goal of the GPOI program is to train 75,000 peacekeepers around the world.

"U.S. Pacific Command and GPOI wants to train 15,000 peacekeepers in the Asia-Oceania region over the next five years," said Capt. Peter Aguilar, Khaan Quest project officer for 2-162 Inf. Bn. "Khaan Quest IV is the capstone event of this training for 2006."

Aguilar said this exercise will assist in establishing and training the MAF's 150th Peacekeeping Operations Battalion.

In the past three years, Khaan Quest training exercises in Mongolia were conducted by the U.S. Marines. Through Mongolian Defense Reform, the U.S. has assisted the transformation of the MAF from a Soviet era force into a rapidly deployable, peacekeeping force that is interoperable with U.S. and Coalition Forces. The U.S. welcomes Mongolian military participation in Coalition efforts and the Khaan Quest exercises were intended to improve the military relationship between the two countries.

"Previous exercises were bi-lateral, and were smaller-scale training missions unrelated to GPOI," said Glesmann. "This year, Khaan Quest IV will be a multi-national event and focus on peacekeeping operations to achieve UN Training Recognition."

Glesmann said the Khaan Quest IV, Field Training Exercise will be held at Five Hills Training Area (Tavan Tolgoi) and will consist of three phases. During the first phase, nearly 50 soldiers from the participating nations will become UN Certified Trainers to support GPOI training missions. The second phase will consist of U.S. and Mongolian weapons familiarization, and six tactical training lanes where Soldiers will share techniques and procedures for 33 peacekeeping tasks. All participating nations will be evaluated by the United Nations Training Assistance Team during the third phase.

"It's a lot like the validation process our units go through at mobilization sites before going to Iraq or Afghanistan," said Aguilar.

Glesmann said five Oregon Soldiers will receive UN certification as instructors and two Oregon infantry platoons will gain Training Recognition as UN peacekeepers.

Aguilar said participation in Khaan Quest could develop a habitual relationship between the Oregon Guard and UN GPOI. "Besides returning from this exercise with our own training and experiences, our success may lead to further involvement with GPOI training and operations," he said.

Retired Oregon Guard member gives 'CSI-Vegas' star a new ride

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

The hard work and creativity of a retired Oregon Army National Guard colonel has Hollywood calling for his artistic talents.

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Lynn Ashcroft, of the Oregon State Defense Force designed and built a custom motorcycle that caught the eye of actor Gary Dourdan, of the hit television drama CSI: Las Vegas.

Ashcroft is the owner of Ashcroft Motorcycles, a custom bike shop in Salem, Ore. His custom-designed motorcycles have drawn national attention — having been featured in magazines such as The Robb Report and Easy Rider. As if this wasn't enough, his bikes have been shown on the Speed Channel, and his designs have been featured in a Mike Chase Studio book.

Ashcroft said Dourdan e-mailed him after seeing Ashcroft Motorcycles featured on television and in magazines. The actor offered Ashcroft \$42,000 for the custom bike known as "Evil Bastard", which won Best of Show at the 2005 Easy Rider show.

Evil Bastard more than lives up to its name. The shiny black paint, metal engine parts protruding out of a sharp low-rider frame, a spiked kick-stand, and a pointed tail

light that resembles a weapon all contribute to the 'evil' demeanor. The seat, designed by Heavy Metal Leather of Austin, Texas, has 'Ashcroft' stitched in red leather, with the word bleeding into the carved black leather and stainless steel cloth showing through underneath. The bike's frame, sheet metal and machine work was done by Ashcroft himself, and the 'shovel head motor' was custom built by Mike Steggman. The bike is a perfect manifestation of the Ashcroft motto, "Because Evil is Everywhere".

Ashcroft Motorcycles is full of many 1940s and 1950s hot-rod inspired motorcycle creations, ranging in value of \$25,000 to \$40,000. Although Ashcroft's bikes may look like rebellious renegades, they are completely street-legal and made to be ridden. They are designed to look very simple, but are built with a great attention to detail. Some of the bikes may have similar styles, but each one is unique in its own way. Ashcroft said he never builds two of his bikes the same way.

"My mind is always working, I've already got the next two or three bikes already designed in my head," said Ashcroft. "My favorite bike is always the next one I'm going to build."

Ashcroft began customizing motorcycles after purchasing his first Harley Davidson in 1992 and modifying it to fit his own style. He began coming up with his own designs and taught himself how to weld, machine, and build them.

"I have a hard time leaving things alone and not changing them," said Ashcroft. "I look at a functioning item and think of different ways that I can improve or modify it to make it look unique."

Even though the company employs three people who assist Ashcroft with his projects, he enjoys doing all of the design, assembly, metal fabrication and machining himself. According to Ashcroft, this ensures his creativity is not limited by how other people may envision his ideas.

"I get a picture in my mind of what I want the bike to look like, and then I make sure everything follows that same design and theme," said Ashcroft.



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Lynn Ashcroft with "Evil Bastard", a custom motorcycle purchased by CSI Vegas star Gary Dourdan. The bike won Best of Show at the 2005 Easy Rider Show.

Ashcroft has been building and showing custom motorcycles for 12 years, a business that started as a hobby in between juggling a legal profession as managing partner of Ashcroft & Wiles LLP with offices in Salem and Portland, a part-time assignment as a pro tem judge, and a military career.

"My military experience has influenced the way I approach all my projects," said Ashcroft. "Everything has a purpose and function, and I work in a very efficient method."

Ashcroft served seven years in the active duty Army, including stints with the 19th Special Forces Group in Utah, the 91st Division in California, and a JAG officer for ICORE at Fort Lewis, Wash. He also served 25 years in the Oregon Army National Guard as an armor officer, infantry officer, and JAG officer.

"Joining the military was the best thing

I ever did," said Ashcroft. "It gave me the confidence that there is no dream or concept that I can't accomplish whether it's becoming an officer, a lawyer, a judge, or building motorcycles."

Retiring from the Guard did not end Ashcroft's service to the state and nation. In December 2004 he was promoted to brigadier general and became the commander of the Oregon State Defense Force — a title he held until May 2005. Ashcroft now assists the new commander, Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell.

"When it comes to finding time for everything, I just see it as a project and I get it done and go onto the next one," said Ashcroft. "It takes loving what you do."

To view pictures of Evil Bastard and other custom Ashcroft Motorcycles visit www.ashcroftmotorcycles.com or visit the shop at 3525 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Ore.



CSI Vegas star Gary Dourdan

Pritt: 'We march to a destiny yet to unfold... a destiny of greatness'

Continued from FRONT PAGE

The departure ceremony on May 22 was attended by Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, U.S. Representative Peter Defazio, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, and Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, among others.

The Oregon troops departed for Shelby on Feb. 4, where they spent four months training in a variety of tasks. The 41st Infantry Brigade, led by Pritt, has been selected as the Headquarters for the JTF. The JTF is composed of the Logistics Task Force 141 Brigade Support Battalion, Security Forces 1-180th Infantry, HHC 41st BDE, the 41st Training Assistance Group, and five Regional Corps Assistance Groups.

After an inspection of the troops and a rendition of the National Anthem by the Mississippi National Guard's 41st Army Band, Kulongoski began the ceremony by praising the troops and remarking that their presence in Oregon will be sorely missed. "From fighting forest fires to helping out with search and rescue, the 41st and the entire Oregon National Guard is indispensable for Oregon's quality of life," Kulongoski said. "We will not only miss their talent and dedication, we will also miss their pride and spirit."

"But," he added, "There are no words to describe how proud I am of the 41st."

He went on to wish the soldiers luck, advised them to take care of each other and have faith in their commanders and, most importantly, he said, to come home safe.

DeFazio remarked that the U.S. Congress seldom does anything with unanimity, but that the vote to send U.S. forces to Afghanistan was as close to agreement as he's seen in his 20 years as a congressman. The reason, DeFazio said, was the necessity of removing Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime that sheltered him, "the heart of darkness for 9-1-1," as DeFazio called it.

"This is a country that has been dominated by foreign interests for a century and a half," he stated. "They now have a shot at freedom."

Honoré spoke next. He is the commanding general of the First U.S. Army, which is training troops for deployment at Camp Shelby, Miss. The general raised his fist into the air and belted into the microphone,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, Commander of the Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix V, salutes Soldiers standing in formation on the parade field at Camp Shelby, MS, following the official mobilization ceremony on May 22, 2006. Almost 900 Oregonians join 400 other Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors from around the country for a one-year deployment in Afghanistan to help train the Afghan National Army.

"Governor Kulongoski, I now pronounce this brigade fit to fight!"

Honoré's announcement signaled the end of the JTF's pre-deployment training and their readiness to move on to their mission in Afghanistan.

"This is joint training and execution at its finest, a team coming together, led by General Pritt," he said.

Pritt, the last to address the troops he was about to lead, proudly remarked that they were deploying at 109 percent of their authorized strength.

"We march to a destiny yet to unfold, but a destiny of greatness, because of the soldiers you see before you," Pritt told the audience.

Then he called out a phrase in Dari Arabic, saying, "yok-teen yok-jong."

The JTF sounded off in unison with the same phrase.

Pritt explained that it translates to "one team, one fight," and it symbolizes the mission that lies ahead: the combined joint

task force cooperating with the Afghans to train the national army and defeat the insurgents.

Some of the soldiers expressed pride in the mission and hopes of making a difference in the history of Afghanistan.

"We'd like to get out and meet the people of Afghanistan and offer our friendship and services and knowledge," said Staff Sgt. Jo Turner, a medic with C Co., 141 Brigade Support Battalion. "I know the people back home are counting on us and that's what we're hoping to do."

Another medic with the same unit, Spc. Ashley Giddell, expressed her hope of using her medical skills to aid the Afghan people while she's there.

"I would really like to get out and help the civilians and meet the people and see what they're like," she said. "It's rewarding to know that you're there to help others and you're not there to be a hostile force."

Though her unit has been training in infantry skills, such as storming buildings and

clearing rooms, she said, one of her unit's missions will be running MedCAP's, or medical civilian assistance programs.

Maj. Kimberly York, an operations officer for the Logistics Task Force, said that the four months of training were tough at times but essential to make the coming mission successful.

"These soldiers are extremely well-prepared," she said. "They've had many, many long days of training here, like 14 to 16 hours a day. But that's what it takes."

However, York said that all the soldiers are anxious to do their duty and help the Afghans reclaim their country.

"They're very excited to help the ANA and help stand up an army," York said. "We want to come out of this knowing that we helped train the ANA and also taught them how to support themselves."

The soldiers were given a ten-day furlough before deploying to Kabul.

See related story, 'Ready and Willing' on pg. 8 of this issue.

Mounted unit relies on legacy to promote mission in Eastern Oregon

Story by Cindy LeFore,

Det. 1-1186 Military Police Company

Detachment 1 of the 1186th Military Police Company resides at the Milton-Freewater Armory in the beautiful Blue Mountain Valley of northeastern Oregon. While the unit shares many similarities with other Oregon National Guard units throughout the state, one aspect makes it unique — its Color Guard is "mounted" — a throwback to the unit's long and celebrated history.

In 1847 the First Company of Oregon Riflemen was formed to defend a spot about ten miles from the Milton-Freewater Armory, then known as the Whitman Mission, where they built and defended Fort Waters. In 1918 the Oregon Military Police Battalion was formed in northeastern Oregon to patrol the valuable wheat farms, using many of the personnel from the Oregon Riflemen.

In 1947, almost 100 years after the Whitman Massacre, the headquarters for the 186th was placed in Milton-Freewater, and the armory was completed in 1952. Different units of the 186th Inf. occupied the armory until 1983 when the unit transformed into I troop of 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry. The armory continued to be home to cavalry units until 2002 when the unit reorganized into Detachment 1, 1186 Military Police Company. Taking a page from the unit's long history, members and unit family program volunteers purchased 1918 Oregon Military Police Battalion replica uniforms.

Currently, the 1186 MP Color Guard is a four-person team made up of two of the unit's Soldiers and two family program volunteers. Color Guard members provide their own horses, tack, uniforms, and means of transportation. They also volunteer their time for eight hours of weekly "drill and ceremonies" practice. Drill and ceremony commands and regulations come from Cavalry Drill Regulations — some as old as 1864.

"It's harder than it looks!" said one Color Guard member. "Horses have to be taught to march, and to teach them the military discipline, and form for drill and ceremonies requires lots, and lots of practice."

The 1186 MP Mounted Color Guard has presented the colors at PRCA rodeos, parades, and local "play-day" rodeos throughout northeastern Oregon since 2002. The Color Guard also attends numerous recruiting functions throughout the year. Recently, they had the honor of presenting the Colors at the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry transformation ceremony on May 6, 2006.

"The 1186 MP Mounted Color Guard is about all of us," said one of its members. It represents the Soldiers and family members that have always made up the Oregon Guard."

"If somehow, somehow, we can inspire a sense of pride, of honor, and of wanting to belong to this great tradition and lineage we all share, then, we have accomplished our goal," he added.



Photo by Capt. Michael S. Braibish, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

The 1-1186 MP Co. Mounted Color Guard puts their steeds through their paces in Milton-Freewater, Ore. The unit participates in numerous events throughout the state.

Soldiers use video game technology to maintain combat readiness

Story by Spc. Nicholas Wood,

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

GRESHAM, Ore. — Continuing in its mission to maintain combat readiness in all its troops, C-Company of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry conducted Basic Rifle Marksman training with some of the newest training tools the Army has to offer.

In preparation for qualification, Soldiers conducted training encompassing target discrimination, shot grouping, reflexive fire and other key skills Feb. 11 and 12 at the indoor range at the Forest Grove armory.

In order to accommodate the indoor range, Soldiers fired their M14 Carbines using low-powered .22 LR munitions with the help of a sub-caliber bolt and special magazines.

Private Kyle Bossert, infantryman and guidon Bearer said any time-on-trigger is a good thing and that he could feel difference between the sub-caliber munitions and normal rounds at the range.

Among the training tools were also a Super Nintendo Multipurpose Arcade Combat Simulator machine and a projection screen.

The MACS machine is a weapon simulator and evaluator. A user fires a weapon connected to a box, connected to a TV, much like a video game. It evaluates and educates the firing Soldier on five basics of firing, trigger squeeze, aiming, steady position, breath control and shot position. It is capable of emulating a total of eight different scenarios including zeroing and a pop-up range.

The projection screen is another new training tool. It is used on the indoor range along with a sheet of paper spanning the room. Images are projected down range, forcing the Soldier to evaluate and choose targets.

Squad Leader Sgt Shannon Reed said that Soldiers get bored doing BRM classes, so training tools like the MACS and the projection screen are necessary to keep Soldiers motivated.

In the last five years, Reed said he has seen many changes in the Army training curriculum.

"We've also been doing a lot more mounted training in five-tons and humvees, reacting to IED," Reed said. "Things like what we've come across in the sandbox overseas."

"We've been doing a lot more urban training," Reed explained "When it comes to basic marksmanship, the biggest change has been newer equipment."

New technologies include the M4 Carbine, the M68 Red Dot Scope, and the PAQ-4 Infrared Laser which is only visible in night-vision goggles.

"BRM is the number one thing I should know. It's my lifeline," Bossert said "If I get stuck out there, it's something I can always rely on."

ORARNG volunteers with Food Bank



Photo courtesy of HHD 821

On Saturday, June 3, 2006, during their drill weekend, several members of HHD 821 TCBN supported the Oregon Food Bank by volunteering their time to put together food baskets. The unit is involved in periodic community service events throughout the year.

Oregon Army Guard members find time for volunteerism during busy Shelby training schedule



Before leaving Camp Shelby, MS, members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 141 Logistics Task Force set aside their training to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita in the New Orleans, LA area with school supplies.

Dubbed Operation Backpack, they formed a convoy of 15 vehicles, and spent a day delivering much-needed and appreciated school supplies to two area high schools and two elementary schools. Backpacks containing pens, notebooks, pencils and other necessities were hand delivered to the students.

Above: A contingent of members from Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix V, led by Lt. Col. Leah Sundquist, take time out of their busy day to pose for a photo opportunity with an official from the Louisiana School District. Photo by Maj. Arnold V. Strong, CJTF Public Affairs.

Austria honors BG (Ret.) Rosenbaum

Prepared by Sentinel Staff



Retired Oregon Air National Guard Brigadier General (Ret.) Fred Rosenbaum in Austria.

Fred Rosenbaum, a retired Oregon Air National Guard brigadier general and leading Oregon businessman, accepted the Republic of Austria's Grand Decoration of Honor in Silver March 30 in a ceremony in his honor at the Museum of Military History in Vienna, Austria.

The decoration, presented by Gen. Roland Ertl, Austria's chief of defense staff and that nation's highest ranking military official, was in recognition of Rosenbaum's significant contribution to the Austrian military and to closer ties between Austria and the United States.

In presenting the decoration, Ertl also made note of Rosenbaum's historic ties to Austria. Rosenbaum, who was born in Vienna, was evacuated from Austria at the outset of the Holocaust on a Kindertransport to England. His parents followed later and the family eventually immigrated to the United States where Rosenbaum subsequently enlisted in the Army and fought in the South Pacific during World War II.

About 12 years ago, the Pentagon asked the Oregon Guard to serve as a liaison agency to the Austrian army in an exchange-training program under NATO auspices. Rosenbaum was one of three senior officers assigned the task of working with the Austrians.

He said the primary focus of the relationship was to exchange training information. Austrian soldiers came here for aircraft training. U.S. troops traveled to Austria for mountain training.

Rosenbaum also provided consultative services on the role of the military in a democracy.

In recounting Rosenbaum's personal history and his role working with the Austrian military, Gen. Ertl said that Rosenbaum impressed his Austrian hosts "not only with his dedication in the negotiations, but also with his comprehensive education, his clear principles, his humanist attitude and his profound confidence in God, something that he shares with friends across the borders of religious denominations."

Ertl made reference to "the shadows of the past," a euphemism for Austria's participation in the Third Reich.

"I am convinced," said the Austrian general, "that world history would be different if Austria and its armed forces had offered resistance in 1938."

On March 9, 1938, Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany in what is known as the Anschluss or connection, a move widely welcomed in Austria at the time.

Ertl added, "We have been given the opportunity to overcome the past, and to have a nightmare of human aberration be followed by a better world in which this celebration is possible."

Ertl pinned Austria's Grand Decoration of Honor around Rosenbaum's neck.

Guard Bureau unveils new joint logo

Prepared by Sentinel Staff



The National Guard Bureau has released a new logo to better represent the brand of the National Guard system.

Motivated by the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Louisiana in September 2005, the bureau set about creating a graphic that better represents both the Army and Air components.

The Public Affairs Office for the National Guard Bureau has been tasked with organization-wide distribution of the new logo, with the priority going to vehicles supporting domestic operations such as border patrol and hurricane relief. The bureau hopes

to have all logos in place no later than July 15, 2006.

The graphic is available on the First Muster Website, or through NGB-PA and the J-4. Two versions are available; an EPS file, which can only be opened using Adobe Illustrator and PhotoShop, and a JPG file, which can be used with Microsoft Word documents, PowerPoint, Excel spreadsheets, and most PC-desktop and office applications.

Pre-made decals and magnets were purchased with limited NGB PA fiscal year 2006 funds, and distributed to 12 states, including California, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. All other states and territories are encouraged to produce graphics locally if resources are available. According to NGB-PA, if additional FY07 funds are available, the bureau may provide additional logos to those states and territories that cannot produce their own.

If you have any questions or concerns, or need specific Pantone colors, applications, and vehicle/aircraft specific guidelines, contact Dan Allen, Chief of Community Relations, National Guard Bureau, at 703-607-2632.

If you need the graphic, but cannot access the First Muster Website, contact Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Editor-in-Chief, Oregon Sentinel at nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us. Specify whether you need the high-resolution EPS file or the JPG.

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c/o: Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,

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.

Army announces plans to ‘simplify’ service dress uniform



The proposed U.S. Army Dress uniform is very similar to the “Old Guard” uniform (above). Photo courtesy of Army Times.

Story reprinted from Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced today.

“World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army’s most honored traditions,” said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

“We have all of these variations of uniforms green, blue and white,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that’s what we’ve done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition.”

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the

fabric and fit. Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform (winter and summer versions) and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of soldier acceptance and reducing the variety of combat uniforms with which they must deal.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its

origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by Soldiers in the Continental Army of 1779.

Besides tradition, the Army Service Uniform reflects utility, simplicity and quality.

In utility, the blue Army Service Uniform provides a basic set of components that allow Soldiers to dress from the lowest end to the highest end of service uniforms with little variation required.

In simplicity, the blue Army Service Uniform eliminates the need for numerous sets of green Class A uniforms, service blue uniforms and, for some, Army white mess uniforms (and tunics, for women). Streamlining various service uniforms into one Army Service Uniform reduces the burden on Soldiers in the same manner that the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) did for the field utility uniform.

In quality, the blue Army Service Uniform is made of a durable material that is suitable for daily use without special care.

Information about the blue Army Service Uniform and its composition is available at www.army.mil/symbols/uniforms.

Army uniforms come from historical, ‘colorful’ and varied past

Story by **Walter H. Bradford,**
U.S. Army Center of Military History

Today’s Soldier wears uniforms of green and tan, plain and camouflage, and Army Blue.

During the American Revolution, when the British Army of King George III turned out in red, Gen. George Washington specified blue for the Continental Army uniform coat in 1779. Regulations of 1821 reiterated that the Army would wear the national blue, and blue remained the only color of the Army uniform until 1902, with the adoption of the khaki and olive drab service dress. In 1954, the Army adopted the Army Green.

Still, Army Blue has remained in service as the service uniform, and its story is that of the Army and the nation.

Army Blue emerged from 18th century warfare, when battle formations required Soldiers to stand elbow to elbow with smoothbore muskets, and colorful uniforms provided unit cohesion amid the clouds of black-powder smoke.

To distinguish among units of the Continental Army after 1779, uniforms displayed colored facings on the collar, cuffs and lapels of the blue coat, by group of states, not regiment, as in Europe.

For example, Soldiers from New York and New Jersey wore buff facings. Soldiers from the New England states had white facings, while red distinguished the Soldiers of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, and blue identified Soldiers from the Carolinas and Georgia.

As the new nation grew, the government provided each Soldier with an annual uniform. It consisted of a single blue wool coat and seasonal issues of white wool and linen or cotton waistcoat and overalls.

There was no distinction between a dress and undress uniform. A Soldier’s daily attire

for field service was also his parade dress, and the rank-and-file lived out of their knapsacks until the next issue.

By 1810 Napoleonic fashion had changed the cut of the uniform worn since the Revolutionary War. The coat now fastened in front and no longer exposed the waistcoat. That garment had become the roundabout fatigue jacket with sleeves, in winter gray or summer white. The skirts of the coat were cut in, straight across, without color facings.

To avoid the stains of winter mud on Soldiers’ white pantaloons or overalls, annual clothing allowances, as early as 1817, provided for the issue of more practical grey, and by 1832 Soldiers were wearing light blue trousers. This established the traditional contrasting color scheme that avoided the difficult color-match of blue coat and trousers worn by generals and staff officers. Encouraged by the excess of military dress in Europe, American uniforms became more elaborate.

Returning were epaulettes for Soldiers of all grades and the facing colors established during the Revolutionary War. Army officers and noncommissioned officers wore stripes on the trousers, and metal insignia for each branch also appeared on Soldiers’ tall, felt uniform caps.

Earlier, in 1829, officers had received an undress garment, a full-skirt frock coat to replace non-regulation civilian attire. In place of epaulettes, this coat introduced the shoulder strap. Refined in 1835, from the lace bridle used to secure the epaulette to the shoulder of the uniform coat, it helped develop the gold and silver officer insignia of grade.

However, with undress and fatigue uniforms being worn in the Seminole and Mexican Wars and the costs of the old-style elaborate uniforms becoming a concern for officers, a radical new uniform concept appeared in 1851.

A French-pattern, full-skirt tunic or frock coat with black-leather waist belt accoutrements began to replace the old body coat and the white shoulder belts worn since 1810.

By the time of the Civil War, years of field service encouraged the use of practical and comfortable uniform components. The forage cap borrowed the metal insignia from the uniform hat, and the tailored frock coat soon gave way to the loose-fitting sack coat or blouse, first adopted in 1858 for fatigue duty.

After 1872 regulations acknowledged distinctive uniforms for the field and for ceremonial occasions. This confirmed a five-button blouse for general-duty wear and a frock coat or tunic, of European style, for dress occasions and not campaign. Adopted also from Europe was a black felt helmet with plume for mounted troops and a metal spike for others.

By the end of the 19th Century, the Army Blue uniform had weathered the extremes of frontier duty and tropical fights. It trav-



American Provincial units’ uniforms appeared similar, but differed in color — either blue or, in the case of the Rangers, green. Wilderness conditions caused practical modifications, such as discarding the standard cocked hat in favor of headgear less prone to get in the way in the woods. The longer European coat was replaced by a shorter jacket, and shoes and gaiters were abandoned in favor of moccasins and Indian cloth leggings.

NCOs in this era were distinguished from privates by having better-quality uniforms. The Ranger sergeant wears worsted cording (instead of the even more ornate silver that an officer would wear) around his buttonholes. He is armed, like his men, with a cut-down musket and a tomahawk, which the Rangers favored instead of traditional European edged weapons.

eled from garrison to the field by merely exchanging the natty blue forage cap for the wide-brim slouch campaign hat and by securing the sky-blue trousers cuffs with a pair of cavalry boots or infantry canvas leggings.

But in 1902 foreign duty and the advent of smokeless powder required a service uniform for wear in both garrison and the field, and in seasonal fabrics of summer khaki or winter olive drab.

Traditional blue remained but only for dress, with officers authorized full, special evening and mess service uniforms, while enlisted issue ceased in 1917.

Experiments after World War II sought to look to the future and reinvent the dress of

the American Soldier. The old service olive drab became the new Modern Army Green in 1954, and black shoes became a common shade for all services, ending the russet worn since the Spanish-American War. That same uniform, with some modifications and the addition of the black beret, is essentially the Class A uniform of today.

But that time also saw Army Blue return to stay. For more than 200 years Soldiers have enjoyed the distinct honor and privilege, first established by George Washington, of wearing the national blue — Army Blue.

Walter H. Bradford is a museum curator with the U.S. Army Center of Military History.



U.S. Army uniform, circa 1942.

Moe: 'I'm confident my soldiers will be just fine'



Oregon's Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe prepares to fire his rifle on the Electronic Training System during his visit to Kuwait as part of the National Guard Senior Enlisted Workshop.

Continued from **PAGE THREE**

"Everyday Soldiers are better prepared for the war fight in Iraq. Initially they have no idea what they are up against. But as the war goes on, the Army is coming up with better ideas for fighting this war," California's Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Courtney said.

After visiting Kuwait, the sergeants major now have a complete understanding of the mobilization process — from the time their Soldiers leave the home state, until they report to their final duty station.

This was the purpose of the conference, said the organizers, to give the senior enlisted advisors a snapshot of Soldiers' experience in Kuwait, and with this knowledge, better prepare Soldiers for their deployment.

Lynn Jones appointed HR Director

Prepared by **Sentinel Staff**

Lynn Jones has been appointed as Director of Human Resources for the Oregon Military Department.

Col. (Ret.) Roberta Janssen served as interim HR Director while a search was conducted for a full-time, permanent candidate.

A former Oregon Army National Guard member, Jones spent eight years as an enlisted medic with C-Co., 141 Support Battalion. Jones earned a commission after attending ROTC while at Portland State University, and was subsequently transferred to 41 SIB as an assistant S1. She worked as the Recruiting and Retention Services Manager, Property Management Branch Manager, and Logistics Division Manager, before retiring in 2001, after achieving 20 years of service and the rank of Captain.

"Leaving the Guard was a very difficult decision for me," Jones said. "I was afforded several diverse opportunities during my career and was blessed with making many close friends that I am still in touch with today."

Jones comes to the Military Department with over 10 years of HR experience in both the private sector and state government. Her previous positions include HR Generalist and Manager for Montgomery Wards, HR Manager for AA Ambulance, and Training Manager for the Oregon Lottery. Most recently, she has held positions as a Field Manager with the Oregon Employment Department, and as a Program Support Services Manager with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

She is married to Lt. Col. (Ret.) John "JP" Jones, a 23-year veteran of the Oregon Army National Guard. They have five children, and live in Dayton, Ore.

USPFO receives national awards

Prepared by **Sentinel Staff**



On Thursday, May 18, 2006, the Oregon logistics community was honored when one of their organizations received the Department of the Army's Supply Excellence Award during a worldwide ceremony hosted in Washington, D.C.

The Chief of Staff of the Army's Supply Excellence Award Program was conceived during a total Army Worldwide Supply Conference held in November 1984, as a way to recognize and award supply excellence at the unit and organizational level.

The program was implemented in 1986. In 1995, Supply Support Activities and Direct Support Units were added, with the first awards being presented in 1998. Both Oregon activities were nominated for the first time in 2004 and won the 2004-05 competition.

Supply Excellence Objectives include enhanced readiness of Army units, increased awareness of the Command Supply Discipline Program, and increased public awareness of supply excellence throughout the Army system.

Traveling to Washington, D.C. to receive their awards were Lt. Col. Terri Wold, USPFO Supply Management Officer and CW4 Chuck (Norman C., Jr.), foreman of the USPFO Supply Distribution Center.

Above: CW4 Norman C. Stewart (center), of Oregon's USPFO, receives the SEA award from U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody (right), while Brig. Gen. (P) Mark A. Bellini, Quartermaster General of the Army, (left), looks on.

Office ergonomics helps alleviate CTS

Story by
Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward,
ORARNG Safety Manager

Most of you have probably heard the term ergonomics, but do you know that it relates to you? Adjusting the job task to the person improves attitude and job performance.

You have heard of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, but may think it is a vague illness that only applies to the clerk-typists. Actually, it is only one of several Cumulative Trauma Disorders, or CTDs — part of the total Musculoskeletal Disorders, or MSDs — which affect workers in many jobs. CTDs are the result of repetitive use relating to awkward postures, vibration, duration/frequency, static force/pressure, and environmental issues.

What can you do about CTDs? Make your workstation work for you. Height, distance, angle, and posture are all issues that may be corrected or improved by rearranging your workspace. Stretch every morning and get up from your chair intermittently and stretch. If doing close-up work, focus at a distance (out a window, or down a long hallway, etc.) Lighting: ensure brightness without glare and task lighting may prevent shadows.

Technology has some answers — anti-vibration gloves reduce stress on hands when using power/hydraulic hand tools, better ergo chairs help posture and variation, keyboard options keep wrists at normal angles, ergo designed tools or benches may reduce bending.

DOD and the Military Services are continuing their Ergonomics Programs and making improvements across a wide range of specialties. Some information has been distributed over the last couple of years. We will be adding more self-help ideas to our Safety webpage — it will be listed under the OH/Med tab. If you need assistance on work station reviews, or equipment related to a specific diagnosed requirement, please contact the Occupational Health Office or Safety Office at 503-584-2284 or 3931.

Air Guard personnel should contact their Wing Safety and Health offices.

Your Letters

Reader finds surprise in last issue

Dear Sirs,

My son's mail had been forwarded to our address while he was in Afghanistan.

We received his Oregon Sentinel. We really enjoyed reading about all the troops. To our surprise, there was our son throwing his hat in the air, then the beautiful picture of the Chinook with the moon, and best of all, the picture of Adrian with a group of Soldiers. God bless him and the other boys.

All our young men and women serving and who have given the ultimate sacrifice, Bless them!

Joyce Rogers, Merrill OR

Shelby story resonates with Tigard woman

Dear Editor,

I'm glad you had the opportunity to meet Miah [*Sgt. Miah Washburn of Bravo Co., 1-180th Inf., Training the Trainers, March/April 2006 issue of the Oregon Sentinel*] and create such a good article on the training in Mississippi. He has a great way with people and is very passionate about his job and taking care of his platoon. Thank you again for your personal assistance, and for writing a great article.

Sarah Bisbee, Tigard, Ore.

News Briefs

Resort vacations for military families

Members of the Armed Forces, their families, and other members of the total Defense Force can stay in any of four Armed Forces Recreation Center (AFRC) resorts around the world. AFRC resorts offer affordable Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities at ideal vacation destinations. Rates are based on pay grade and travel status. Reservation policies vary slightly by location, so be sure to check the website for your destination of choice.

Generally, room reservations will not be accepted more than a year in advance of departure date. Guests may not stay more than 30 consecutive days or register again within the following 90-day period. For more information, visit www.military.com/Travel/Content/0,,ML_afrc,00.html.

TRICARE launches prescription program

TRICARE has launched its first-ever campaign to encourage beneficiaries to use the TRICARE Mail Order Program (TMOP) to fill prescriptions.

TRICARE officials hope to use a change in co-payments not only to encourage more beneficiaries to use mail order but also generic drugs.

The plan would end the \$3 co-payment on mail order generics. At the same time, co-pay for the retail network would rise from \$3 up to \$5 for generic and from \$9 up to \$15 for brand name drugs.

The company Express-Scripts runs the TMOP. To reach it, call 866-363-8667, or 866-275-4732 from overseas; e-mail TMOP.customer.relations@express-scripts.com; or write to Express Scripts Inc., P.O. Box 52150, Phoenix, AZ 85072.

TRICARE projects help service members with healthy living

TRICARE has created two demonstration projects and one pilot program to test help service members and their families battle the dangerous effects of obesity, tobacco use and excessive drinking.

TRICARE plans to launch weight management, tobacco cessation and alcohol programs within the coming months. These projects will involve service members and their families who volunteer to participate.

The demonstration projects and pilot program will span three years and the sole pilot program will cover two years from start-up. They will help identify ways to deliver the best possible benefit for TRICARE beneficiaries.

For more information about the demonstration projects' launch dates, visit TRICARE's website at www.tricare.osd.mil/healthychoices.

Free Tae Kwon Do offered to Guardsmen

National Guard members and their immediate families (spouses and children) are welcome to receive free Taekwondo lessons every Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Camp Withycombe, 10101 SE Clackamas Rd., Clackamas, Ore.

The free lessons are being provided courtesy of Grand Master Hong Sik Kim, owner of Kim's Taekwondo, who is a ninth degree black belt. Kim is also a member of the Oregon State Defense Force.

"Taekwondo teaches self defense, and is good for physical and mental fitness," said Kim.

To pre-register for classes call Hong Sik Kim at 503-653-0200.

Active duty guard exempt from jury duty

According to Chapter 399 of the Oregon Revised Statutes' Chapter 399 — Organized Militia, active duty members of the organized militia are exempt from jury duty. The chapter and section, [1961 c.454 §49], can be viewed at www.leg.state.or.us/ors/399.html.

New guidelines issued for wearing of Army headgear

The patrol cap will be the standard headgear for class C (BDU/ ACU) uniforms in the Oregon Army National Guard from October 1 to March 31.

The beret will be the standard headgear for class C uniforms in the Oregon Army National Guard from April 1 to September 30.

Wear of the patrol cap will be governed by AR 670-1, 3-5, a(1).

The beret is the basic headgear for utility uniforms in garrison environments. The beret is not worn in the field, in training environments, or in environments where the wear of the beret is impractical, as determined by the commander. Commanders as used here are unit/ detachment commanders and above; aviation facility commanders; and the surface maintenance manager for RSMS/ FMS. Additionally, the beret is not worn on deployments unless authorized by the commander.

Soldiers will comply with AR 670-1 when traveling out of Oregon on official duty.

Monthly small arms training for ORNG

The Small Arms Readiness Training Section will conduct basic rifle and pistol marksmanship training monthly throughout 2006.

These training sessions are open to all members of the Oregon National Guard and will provide opportunities to safely train with highly skilled instructors offering quality, focused marksmanship training.

Guard members who participate will gain an increased level of shooting skill and a thorough understanding of the basic principles of marksmanship.

Check the SARTS webpage for location, dates and additional information: www.mil.state.or.us/SARTS

Although use of unit weapons is preferred, SARTS can provide a rifle or pistol to participating soldiers or airmen. Contact MSG Arnst via email: jeff.arnst@us.army.mil.

Recruiting launches ESAR Program

The Every Soldier is a Recruiter program is a referral bonus program administered by the Department of the Army. ESAR is similar to G-RAP with the following important differences:

- Payment is \$1,000, paid upon completion of BCT and AIT.
- Only Non-Prior Service referrals will be accepted.
- ALL Army National Guard soldiers are eligible, including ADSW, AGR and MIL TECH (only exception is members of the Recruiting and Retention Force).

You cannot combine ESAR with the G-RAP program. For more information and to register and provide a referral, visit www.1800GoGuard.com/esar.

Maintenance Shop changes name

The Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) has been replaced by the Oregon Sustainment Maintenance Site (OSMS). The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, approved the title change in April as the Army Transformation continues in the Oregon Army National Guard.

"The new title reflects the transformation within the logistics branch from a four level maintenance system to a two level maintenance system" said Lt. Col. Bill Schutz, Surface Maintenance Manager. The single title encompasses all the general support and depot level maintenance activities in the State. Oregon is one of five states in the nation that is performing depot level repair on National Guard Bureau equipment under the Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Site (RSMS), and Army equipment under the Communication and Electronics Command (CECOM) and Tank and Automotive Command (TACOM), Department of the Army programs along with the direct and general support maintenance performed at CSMS.

The two level maintenance system essentially will combine the Organizational and

Direct Support (DS) levels of maintenance and will be referred to as "field maintenance" while combining the General Support (GS) and Depot levels being referred to as "sustainment maintenance."

Hunting, fishing license fees reimbursed to active duty Soldiers

If you are currently serving in an active duty capacity, National Guard, or reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, or have retired from military service within the last 12 months you are eligible to for reimbursement for your Oregon Hunting and Fishing License.

The reimbursement goes through the recruiting department. You will need to show your military ID, hunting and or fishing license, secondary ID such as a driver's license, DD 214, or NGB Form 22 if you recently retired from the Armed services. Take the items to your nearest recruiting office and after filling out a form your reimbursement request will be submitted.

If you have any further questions please call the Oregon National Guard Recruiting Office at 503-584-3811.

Commissary offers ways for people to save money

Higher gasoline prices are causing many shoppers to make fewer trips to the commissary.

Other ways to save money at the commissary are: (1) Clip and use coupons; (2) Bring a cooler and stock up on a variety of top-quality meats; (3) Guard and Reserve families can get together and take a van trip to their nearest installation; (4) Check out what is on sale at the commissary at the "savings aisle" under the shopping link at www.commissaries.com. DeCA is not allowed to advertise prices outside the store, but you can print out a list of items on sale in your commissary; (5) Shop online at the Exchange Catalog and Exchange Online store at www.aafes.com or the Virtual Commissary at www.commissaries.com

AAFES to recognize retirees

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service's (AAFES') 2006 recognition of military retirees will take place Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 at PXs and BXs throughout CONUS, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and at participating Europe and Pacific locations. In addition to special sales and events at each AAFES main store, this year's "Still Serving" weekend will include an exclusive mailer sent directly to approximately 1.4 million military retirees.

Authorized exchange customers can learn about activities planned for the weekend of Sept. 29 at their specific exchange by calling their local store manager. Contact information can be found online at www.aafes.com/ by clicking on the "store locator" link.

VA urges caution following theft of data

Veterans Affairs officials have announced the theft of personal information on up to 26.5 million veterans. However, VA Secretary R. James Nicholson stressed there's no indication the information is being used for purposes of fraud.

Although the compromised data includes names, Social Security numbers and birthdates of veterans separating from the military since 1975, it doesn't include health or financial records. Military.com will keep you apprised of any further developments. For more information, read the full article at www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,98150,00.html

Quotable Quotes

"History never looks like history when you are living through it."

— John W. Gardner, (1912 - 2002)

ORNG Soldiers start Champ Car race

Prepared by Sentinel Staff



Oregon Soldiers serving in Afghanistan, were given the opportunity to give the official start of the 2006 Champ Car Race on June 18 at the Portland International Raceway.

Working with the 354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Soldiers from the 41st Brigade Combat Team gave the command to start the big race via video teleconference.

Many of the Soldiers' families were provided with free tickets to the event held at PIR.

Above: Oregon Soldiers pause for a group photo after giving the command, "Gentlemen, start your engines!"

Left: Col. Cameron Crawford, 41st BCT Commander, rides with race car legend Mario Andretti in a Ford Mustang pace car.

Oregon Guard's 1-186 builds drag race car



The Oregon Army National Guard's drag car.

Story and photo by Pvt. 1st Class. Timothy Brownlow, 115th MPAD

Members of the Oregon Army National Guard's 1-186th Combat Infantry Battalion and 41st Infantry Brigade, logged more than 600 hours of their spare time creating a drag race car. The Guardsmen Race Team is a non-profit organization funded by local donations and sponsorship. The mission is to promote the Oregon National Guard and to encourage young kids to get involved in drag racing.

The War Machine, a 1983 Chevrolet Camaro IROC Z28, was purchased in 2002 for \$400. Needing many repairs and a new engine, in May 2005 the civilian soldiers committed to the cause.

"This is a project started by Guard members that wanted to entice kids to get involved in drag racing", states Sgt. Todd Price of A Co. 1-186.

In their freshman year of racing the rookie team took home third place in season standings at Champion Raceway located in White City, Ore.

"The team missed the last month of racing due to the Hurricane Katrina deployment in New Orleans," Price continued.

PV2 Joshua Phillips of A Co. 186 drove the race car for most of the season is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in May. New recruit Michael Brown will take over driving duties this upcoming season, racing every weekend at the Champion Raceway with a new and improved War Machine.

"I like the fact I get to work on the car like it's my own." Brown said. The Guardsmen Race Team working closely helped recruiters enlist seven recruits in three weekends. "This season we plan on having a National Guard booth with recruiters at the track," Price said.

Friday nights provide a prime opportunity to recruit at the track. On average about 100 different cars enter the high school class.

The team has received media coverage nationally on ESPN as well as local coverage on KDRV, KTVL and KOB television. They have received invitations to races outside of the state as well. However, the team was built on a shoestring budget of \$2,300 in cash and parts, and cannot afford to travel to the invitational events. The Guardsmen Race Team has the approval, but is not financially supported by the Guard. The program relies on donations, as well as local sponsorships.

"Our sponsors have been great, we were hungry and they fed us." said SSgt. Dave Pearson of the 41st.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Guardsmen Race Team, mail donations to: Race Car Fund, 1701 South Pacific Highway, Medford, OR. 97501

Cash donations can be dropped off at any Washington Mutual bank.

Oregon National Guard, KXL Radio team up to benefit education fund

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Photos by Spc. April L. Dustin,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Dark clouds and intermittent rain didn't dampen the spirits of golfers who took part in the 2nd Annual Golfing with the Guard golf tournament at the OGA Golf Course in Woodburn, Oregon on May 26, 2006.

The rumble of a Blackhawk helicopter from the 1042nd Medical Company broke through the grey skies for a flyover to kick off the event. After the 1042nd's Staff Sgt. Travis Powell sang the National Anthem, golfers took to the course.

"The rain hasn't stopped but it's been great," exclaimed Lt. Col. Alaine Encabo.

The tournament — a joint venture of the Oregon National Guard and KXL Radio — benefits the Oregon National Guard's Charitable Education Fund which provides scholarships for fellow members and families of the Oregon National Guard. Golfers were split into teams of five members, and were comprised of four civilian business

representatives and one Guard member. "I think the most enjoyable thing is talking about the Guard, it's really interesting for them to learn about what we do," Encabo said.

For one particular group, the reality of the sacrifices Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen sometimes must face was made quite clear. Four civilians were teamed up with Cpl. (Ret.) William Congleton, from Oregon's 2-162 Inf. Bn. Congleton lost part of his leg while deployed to Iraq in 2004 when an Improvised Explosive Device went off near his Humvee. The team quickly learned his handicap would not keep him from playing a great game of golf.

"Absolutely inspiring — it's amazing," said Congleton's golfing partner, David McPherson, an employee at Impaq. "He's got a great attitude, a sweet swing, and is an awesome guy."

Congleton consistently received the best scores on his team and even hit the longest drive on the eleventh hole. He played with a custom prothetic fitted with a golf shoe.

"After losing my leg I had to relearn ev-

erything," said Congleton. "Luckily, I just took my time and everything came together, it feels great to be hitting my drives," added Congleton.

Still, playing golf is not as easy as it once was.

"The pain, it gets annoying because it's always there," said Congleton.

"How could you have a crappy day of golf after where he's been?" McPherson added. "I'll never whine again," he said.

For Oregon National Guard Sgt. Corwin Brown, the day meant teaming up with a group who golfs together weekly.

"They play together every Sunday so it's nice to be included," said Brown. "I've enjoyed my group — it's been fun!"

Team members Phyllis and Jim Churchill of Tektronix, Mike Halverson also of Tektronix, and Dan Callantine of Home 123 Mortgage welcomed Brown into their group.

"We give each other a lot of bull but no one takes it seriously," said Phyllis Churchill. "It's a great cause and everyone has contributed."

Lars Larson of KXL radio broadcasted live from the Golf Course during his 4 hour daily show.

"The Oregon National Guard has been a favorite cause of KXL's and more specifically to Lars Larson," said KXL Promotions Director Suzanne Glenn.

"I think I speak for everyone at KXL when I say that the Soldiers of the Oregon National Guard are some of the hardest working men and women and yet some of the least compensated," added Glenn. "Helping out the Guard is a natural fit for us and the least we can do," said Glenn.



Cpl. (Ret.) William Congleton finishes out the 11th hole after winning the longest drive, during the Golfing for the Guard tournament on May 26, 2006.



The Mo's Restaurant team pauses for a photo opportunity at the 9th hole. From left to right: Peggy Priesz, Jolee Becker, Ryan Bankroft, Jens Burks, Terry Fristad, and Sgt. 1st Class Rick Moore.

After the golfers completed their rounds it was time for a catered lunch by Northwest Natural Gas and an auction, which benefited the Oregon National Guard Scholarship Fund. Although final numbers on how much money was raised at the event were not available at press time, organizers say the event was a great success.

"The scholarship fund that we raised money for this year is something close to my heart," said Glenn. "I can't think of anything more rewarding than to invest into someone's education, who might not otherwise have that chance."

Plans are underway for another Golfing with the Guard tournament next year.

41st BDE honors Australian, New Zealand forces

Story and photos by Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro,
Joint Forces Headquarters,
Oregon National Guard

PORTLAND, Ore. - The 41st Infantry Brigade held their 14th Annual Hall of Honor Ceremony and the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Day Commemoration April 1 at the H.G. Maison Armory in Portland.

It was a day of celebration and commemoration as the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps Day Commemoration honored the bonds forged between the American 41st Infantry Division and the Australian Imperial Forces during World War II. The Australian and New Zealand National Holiday, also known as ANZAC day, is a day of tribute to the service men and women who fought in the many campaigns from World War I through operation Iraqi Freedom. Australian and New Zealand people gather to honor and salute those fallen and surviving service members who gave of their lives to defend their countries.

"This is a great day to think long and hard about the sacrifices made by the Australian and New Zealand folks," The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees said during his remarks. "It's a great continuation of relationships and one that we should be thankful for. God bless Australia and God bless the USA."

ANZAC day's roots go all the way back to the April 25, 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula at the Dardanelles in Turkey. It would be in April 1942 when the 41st Infantry Division landed on the shores of Australia that the bond between these two Nations would take root and carry into the future as the 41st Infantry Brigade helps to commemorate an intense friendship and rich history.

Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander David A. Blaclock talked of the his-

tory of ANZAC day. He explained, "Instead of diminishing as the numbers of veterans of World War II diminish, it only increases in numbers and participants." He talked of the commitment, courage, and camaraderie of "a historic group, a heroic group, and the individuals we remember them as."

To further honor ANZAC day, the laying of three wreaths before the colors took place and Mr. Earl Barton played Taps, Last Post, and America the Beautiful on his bugle.

The Australian Honorary Consul Ambassador Len Reid explained, "The way of life we are opposing, is a way of life that would not win any acceptance in our countries." Reid said this was true then, just as it is today, "as we still fight side by side today in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The commemoration ended with the Oregon State Defense Force Bagpipers and the 234th Army Band playing Amazing Grace

as onlookers cried silently.

After a break for lunch, the celebration continued with family and friends looking on as the 41st Infantry Brigade held its 14th annual Hall of Honor Ceremony honoring its 2006 recipients. Brigadier General (Ret.) James V. Torgerson, Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Theodore A. West, Master Sergeant (Ret.) Nancy M. Jackson, Master Sergeant (Ret.) Harvey Huff, and Mrs. Barb Chilton all received induction into the Hall of Honor. These ceremonies started in 1992 as a means to recognize Soldiers of the Brigade whose significant part of their careers were spent bettering not just the Brigade, but the community as well. These inductees received the Hall of Honor Medallion crafted in solid bronze as well as a statue cast in the likeness of an Infantry Soldier. This is the most prestigious honor the 41st Infantry Brigade can bestow upon their Soldiers.



The 41st Infantry Brigade's 14th Annual Hall of Honor Awards, which were given out to the inductees at the H.G. Maison Armory on April 1, 2006.

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