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Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

OREGON GOVERNOR VOWS ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS

'Devastating'



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

The coastal town of Vernonia, Ore., viewed from the air, Dec. 4. The majority of the town was underwater for two days.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department



Courtesy map

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and other state officials visited coastal towns in the northwest part of the state hit hard by widespread flooding, Dec. 4, calling the damage "devastating."

The group arrived in Vernonia, Ore., via an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter. He spoke with residents whose homes were flooded by heavy rains that pounded the Oregon coast Dec. 2 and 3.

"I will make requests to FEMA, and get a hold of the Congressional delegation, because (recovery efforts) will be ongoing," the governor said, during a press conference following the group's return to Salem.

The Governor said that the National Weather Service was surprised by the impact of the storm, which left many residents on Oregon's coast unprepared for the heavy rains.

See **FLOODS** on PAGE 11

Stories by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon units spring into action to help flood victims

Soldiers, Airmen assist local officials in a true 'joint-force' effort



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing

Master Sgt. Adam Monticelli (left) and Staff Sgt. David Geisser, combat controllers with the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron explain how they rescued stranded civilians during two days of storms that flooded coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest.

One of the Oregon National Guard's newest units, the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, teamed up with Soldiers from the 141 Support Battalion and 2-218 Field Artillery, and officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation, to assist residents of coastal towns flooded by violent storms which hit the region the first week of December.

The joint-force team headed out to the coast in the pre-dawn hours on Dec. 4, braving high winds and fallen trees, said Capt. Dan Schilling, commander of the 125th STS.

"We deploy half way around the world and risk our lives for

foreigners in defense of individual rights," Schilling said.

"But to be able to rescue your fellow citizens, it doesn't get any better than that," he added.

Recent storms which hit coastal towns in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington State Dec. 2 and 3, left many residents homeless, and more without power. The flooding closed miles of highways, including a long stretch of Interstate-5 near Chehalis, Wash. High winds brought down hundreds of trees, blocking roads and downing power lines at the Oregon coast.

See **OREGON** on PAGE 10

Oregon pushes for F-22

Request comes amid concerns surrounding aging F-15 fleet



Courtesy photo

An F-22 Raptor escorts a Russian bomber out of U.S. airspace in November 2007.

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Dept.
Public Affairs

At the end of November, Oregon's Governor sent a clear message to President George Bush: We need the F-22 Raptor.

The request came after the second of three stand-downs in two months by the Air Force of its premier strike fighter, the F-15 Eagle, following a mishap near St. Louis in early November.

"Replacement of these aircraft is critical," said Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski of Oregon's aging F-15 fleet during a press conference held in Salem Nov. 30. "They defend our skies, and we must demand replacement of the squadron as our top priority."

Oregon's F-15 Eagle fighter jets are divided between two bases; the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, which has 20 jets, and the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, which has 25. The 173rd Fighter Wing is one of two F-15 pilot training bases in the country.

The Air Force grounded the nation's entire fleet of F-15 jets after a pilot ejected safely Nov. 2, following an incident over Missouri. The jet was destroyed in the crash.

The fleet was returned to duty on Nov. 21, but about 60-percent were grounded a week later by the Air Force

See **KULONGOSKI**
on PAGE 20

The Oregon Military Department

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Asst. Adjutant General, Air
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COMMENTARY

Feds praise Oregon Guard for role in TOPOFF

In October more than 15,000 people from around the world observed and participated in TOPOFF 4 – the largest disaster response exercise ever undertaken by the U.S. government. In the exercise scenario terrorists notionally detonated a radiological dispersion device, or dirty bomb, in downtown Portland.

The crisis called for an extensive response from local, state, federal and non-government organizations. It was quite a learning experience and a very valuable exercise.

Though it was administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, local and state governments as well as non-government organizations were on the frontlines as first responders and supporting agencies.

Prior to the exercise, Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski clearly defined four objectives for state participants: coordinate well among agencies whether local, state, or national; implement the Oregon Emergency Management plan to speed the response and quickly move to recovery; integrate with the right agencies at the right time through National Incident Management System procedures; establish and sustain communication capabilities to reach the public and each other.

The Oregon Military Department has a role in all disaster response, and so it was with TOPOFF. Within the Oregon Military Department we tested the abilities of the Office of Emergency Management, the Oregon State Defense Force, and the Oregon National Guard to respond appropriately and meet the governor's objectives.

Overall, I think we did quite well.

The OEM led the effort to coordinate state agencies and select non-government, organizations in their supporting roles. Though OEM is well versed and rehearsed in their

established procedures for many crisis situations, such as wildfires or search and rescue, the scale of TOPOFF posed a challenge.

Dozens of agencies provided liaison officers to the Emergency Coordination Center to provide a clear, up to the minute picture of the collaborative effort being put forth. In addition, OEM send LNO's to coordinate with local and federal agencies.

The OSDF performed equally well. Many members of the OSDF are retired military members, and in a disaster, we can turn to them for their depth of experience. Furthermore, we rely on the OSDF to provide alternative communication networks.

Each of our armories is equipped with specialized communications equipment. The OSDF maintains this equipment to provide continuity to local commanders and ensure the ORNG has this critical capability. In addition, the OSDF works closely with ham radio operators to deliver additional communications.

Participation from the ORNG focused on three areas: our Joint Operations Center, the 102nd Civil Support Team, and a Joint Task Force.

In Salem, the Joint Operations Center, under the direction of Brig. General O'Hollaren, served as the nerve center for the ORNG response. Operational observations and administrative information from all ORNG organizations flowed into the JOC to give the command a clear picture of resources, challenges, and activities. In addition, the JOC worked closely with the OEM to ensure accuracy and timeliness of critical information.

From an operation perspective, the ORNG mobilized the 102nd CST and a JTF to support the response.

The 102nd CST deployed to Portland and began operations within a matter of hours. The 102nd integrated into the incident command structure and gave key decision makers critical information that helped them select the best courses of action in the immediate response.

The JTF, established at Portland Air National Guard Base, under the command of BG Yriarte, provided operational oversight of ORNG resources and tested important communications capabilities. Members of the 1186th Military Police Company from Milton-Freewater and Salem, mobilized to serve in a National Guard Response Force for the JTF.

Each element of the OMD – OEM, OSDF, and ORNG – delivered on its promise of supporting first responders and providing the state with essential disaster response capabilities. TOPOFF 4 was certainly a success for our organization. We received universal praise from the Governor, the NORTHCOM commander, Secretary Chertoff, Mayor Potter, to the first responders on the ground. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in our success.



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
Adjutant General,
Oregon Military Department

Holiday safety number-one concern for military members

Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon Guard: we have lost another of our fellow service members recently, due to a traffic accident.

This is not the first we have lost one of our members this year. I am reprinting the safety message from the Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff, and the Sergeant Major of the Army.

The holidays are a time for families and celebration, but with the holiday season comes additional risks. Weather, late hours, too much fun, long trips, all add to the risks that we face, both at home and on the road.

Please read the following message and do your best to keep your risk and your Families' risks to a minimum. Please don't take chances with your safety or your Family's safety.

Have a great holiday season.

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming holiday season, we send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the men and women who are serving around the world and to their Families. Each of you is making the sacrifice to defend our Nation and our way of life, especially those brave Soldiers and civilians currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thank you.

Historically, during the holidays, the Army loses approximately 15 to 20 Soldiers to preventable and devastating accidents. With the exception of combat fatalities, POV accidents continue to be the number one area in which we lose Soldiers. Alcohol is a major contributor to vehicle accidents. Across America, alcohol related accidents kill 71 people and injure 2,000 every day. That's over 25,000 deaths per year.

As you prepare to celebrate the holidays, we ask each of you take time to carefully plan your activities and remain mindful of the hazards that routinely accompany holiday celebrations. Recognize the special hazards associated with the changing weather and take the precautions necessary to protect yourself and your Family members. We want each and every member of our Army team to return safely to their formations after this holiday break. Deployed members of the Army team may face different hazards, as they miss sharing these holiday breaks with their Families, and they also must remain vigilant and safe.

For more information on Army safety, visit the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, at <https://crc.army.mil>.



Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe,
State Command Sergeant Major,
Oregon Military Department

Scholarships important to development of Airmen

The Oregon Chief's Advisory Council Scholarship Program is intended to help further the educational goals of its Oregon Air National Guard members and their families.

The objective of the program is to foster a desire to further education and help provide financial support for selected recipients.

This year the Oregon Chief's Advisory Council established a scholarship fund to help individuals further their education.

The council has awarded the educational scholarship to Danielle Siluano, a drill-status guardsman assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing's Services Flight at Kingsley Field. She is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Theresa Ulam, who works in the 173rd Financial Management Flight.

Danielle is attending the Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Ore., studying business administration. The scholarship is for \$500, but was matched by USAA making the scholarship \$1,000. Our congratulations go out to Danielle.

Eligibility candidates must be affiliated with the Oregon Air National Guard as either a member or dependent, and must have a grade point average of 2.0 or above. The scholarship can be used for undergraduate education or technical training schools. Applications are accepted each year from Feb. 1 through Apr. 30. Recipients are notified by mail and funds are submitted directly to the educational institution.

If you have questions on how to apply, please see your section chief for more details.



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith,
State Command Chief Master Sergeant,
Oregon Military Department



Oregon Chief's Advisory Council Scholarship recipient, Danielle Siluano, with Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Walsh (left), and Chief Master Sgt. Rodney Smith in Klamath Falls, Ore., in June, 2007.

COMMENTARY

Retiring Oregon Guardsman had many irons in the fire



Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Hovie, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

Master Sgt. Doug Anderson (right), with Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees at Anderson's retirement ceremony on Sept. 7.

I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed the last 23 years.

I've known many people who hated their work, their co-workers, and their jobs. They worked for employers who lacked basic principles of integrity. They worked for employers who routinely sacrificed people for monetary gain. I am thankful that I did not spend the last two decades in that kind of environment.

As many of you know, before I found honest employment as a professional Soldier, I was an attorney – specifically a criminal defense attorney. During that time, I had a few clients who were truly innocent; people who were not guilty of any crime (or at least that crime). I also

met a few good people who did a bad thing, bad enough that they were facing large fines and jail time.

But most of the people I met were career criminals. I had several repeat clients, largely because I was a good enough lawyer to have kept those people out of jail by crafting sentences that included probation, community service, restitution, and counseling of some sort.

But after five years in court and at the jail every day, I was extremely unhappy. There was something missing in my life. I didn't know what that was, but it was gigantic hole. I just couldn't take it anymore. I closed my law practice.

In April 1984, I joined the Army National Guard as a private in 1-162 Infantry out of Forest Grove. And it was there that I found what I had been missing.

What I found were people who understood and practiced four basic values: loyalty, duty, selfless service, and integrity. None of us – least of all me – practice those values perfectly, but the largest majority of the Soldiers with whom I have served for the last 23 years understood that those four values were goals worthy of attaining. They understood that these values would enhance and enrich their lives. Most of those Soldiers worked to make those values an integral part of their lives.

And so, for most of my 23 years, I've enjoyed putting on the uniform every day. I looked forward to coming to work, helping Soldiers, as a section sergeant, as a platoon sergeant, as a detachment

sergeant, as a unit clerk, a training NCO, a readiness NCO, an intel sergeant, an operations sergeant, and as an Inspector General.

I will miss putting on the uniform, and everything that it signifies. But I am also looking forward to retirement. I hope to be taking classes at the community college. I hope to do more woodworking and wood carving. I want to get back to piano lessons – as is the case with other musical endeavors, what I lack in skill I make up with enthusiasm.

And I will continue to add content to my website, The Hymns and Carols of Christmas, which currently has over 2,800 Christmas carols, over 500 Christmas poems, and other Christmas content. I've recently published a book about my dad's World War II experiences as a tail gunner in a B-17 flying 21 combat missions over Europe. I'll be updating the book of Christmas carols that I published in 2004. And I've recently published ten books of Christmas poetry from the 15th through the 20th centuries, with accompanying CDs of some of this poetry that I recorded for the LibriVox project.

In short, I'm looking forward to retirement.

But I will miss you all. It has been a wonderful 23 years. I have been enriched beyond measure by this service, by being with you every day. I wish you all the very best.

Thank you. God Bless,
Master Sgt. (Ret.) Doug Anderson,
September, 2007

Winter a good time to complete safety 'to do' list

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn Woodward,
JFHQ Safety Officer

It's that time of year again for many 'to-dos' in preparation for winter conditions and activities. Sometimes the list seems endless; ensuring ourselves, our vehicles and homes are ready for both the weather and some great outdoor activities.

As a child, my son used to think I was being ridiculous about the preparations, until the electricity went out for two days, or the time the flood was at our door, or when he had a vehicle accident in the rain. As a young adult on his own he was unable to get any additional food or services, when all the businesses were closed during an ice storm.

Many articles and checklists are available on various safety websites to help us prepare. Our own military safety websites: crc.army.mil and afsafety.af.mil are a starting place.

The USA Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine offers guidance for on and off-duty safety, which can be found at chppm-www.apgea.army.mil. The U.S. Dept of Health and Human

Services has a tremendous amount of information from health to disasters. Their website is located at www.hhs.gov.

If you do not have Internet connectivity, or just don't want to spend hours surfing the Web, there are a few rules of thumb to get you started in your risk management.

Vehicle checks; tire tread depth and type, windshield wipers, radiator/coolant levels, oil and lube service, heater/defrost, and an emergency kit with visibility markers which includes gloves, hat, poncho, food, water, blanket and first aid kit.

For your home, check stoves and furnaces for good drawing and ventilation, window seals for integrity, and make sure you have at least three days of easy no-cook food, water, batteries and candles. Don't forget to check batteries in the smoke detectors and the fire extinguishers for their charge.

Finally, don't neglect yourself; get out the warm clothing, and layer up when temperatures dip near freezing. Eat properly, ensure you have a good sleep cycle, and get some regular exercise – but if it is an activity that you haven't done in awhile (like skiing/ snow boarding), warm-up and

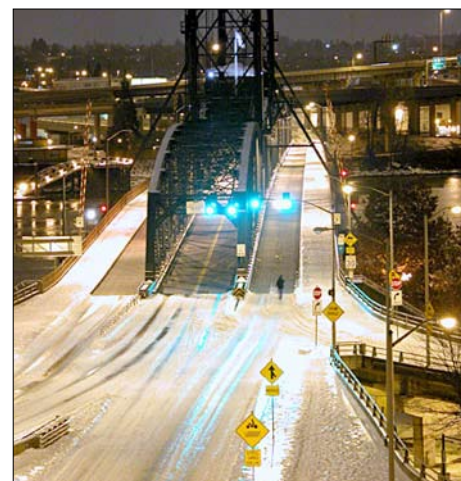


Photo courtesy KATU.com

A lone pedestrian negotiates ice covering the Hawthorne Bridge in downtown Portland during ice storms in December, 2006.

start slow.

These recommendations seem simple, but how many of us don't get them all done? We have personnel injured every winter due to poor vehicle maintenance, home fires, and sports injuries. Make time to prepare.

Hooley introduces bill to give Guardmembers 'transition' time

EDITORIAL

Reprinted from the
Salem Statesman Journal

Our country wouldn't think of sending National Guard troops to Afghanistan and Iraq without giving them a couple of months training. Yet one year later, these troops are given just days to make the transition from hyper-alert warriors to husbands, wives and parents back home.

That's much too fast. Our Guard troops need paid time to train, as it were, to return to civilian life.

Rep. Darlene Hooley has been working on this issue along with Rep. Ike Skelton, (D-Mo.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Even in Oregon, which has a good reintegration program, returning Guard troops get only a fraction of the attention

they need and deserve.

It takes weeks or months for them to transition back into society, and while returning soldiers are eager to get back to their families and put war behind them, some post-combat nightmares won't go away.

They question whether it's normal to fear driving because ordinary roadside trash reminds them of an improvised explosive device.

They soon recognize that the euphoria of homecoming has worn off and that family members need help to readjust to one another.



That's where the paid transition comes in.

Hooley was able to include the issue in a Department of Defense bill which cleared the Senate Dec. 18. It now heads to the President for his signature.

Her reintegration provision will also set up advisory boards to recommend whether Guard members should get as much as 15 days paid transition time.

Ideally, they need more time, but this is a good start.

A little time to ease back into civilian life seems pretty damn cheap next to all we have asked these men and women to do.

To comment about reintegration for National Guard troops, contact President George Bush at: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C. 20500. Also contact the White House Comment Office 202-456-1111, fax: 202-456-2461, comments@whitehouse.gov, or visit www.whitehouse.gov

MOS Conversion Bonus Program: New opportunities for Soldiers

The Oregon Army National Guard is offering incentives to Soldiers who reclassify into selected critical positions.

In some cases, Soldiers may be eligible to receive a \$2,000 MOS conversion bonus.

For more information on the jobs listed below, or to see the complete list of requirements and qualifications, send an inquiry to: mosreclass@ng.army.mil.

There is an MOS conversion bonus of \$2,000 to eligible Soldiers that voluntarily or involuntarily reclassify into a targeted shortage MOS.

13F Fire Support Specialist is primarily responsible for leading, supervising or serving in intelligence activities such as target processing, division artillery and maneuver brigade. Some of the duties include establishing, maintaining and operating communications systems, encoding and decoding messages, and assisting in preparing and disseminating fire support plans, coordinating documents and target lists, assisting in the operation of laser range finders, target designation and night observation devices.

Vacancy locations include Ashland, Bend, Coos Bay, Cottage Grove, Grants Pass, Hood River, Medford, Portland and Roseburg.

25U Signal Support Systems Specialists are primarily responsible for working with battlefield Signal support systems and terminal devices. Some of the duties include integrating signal systems and networks, installing, operating and maintaining designated radio and data distribution systems, performing signal support functions and unit level maintenance on authorized signal equipment and associated electronic devices, training and providing technical assistance to users of signal equipment, and operating and performing preventive maintenance checks and services on assigned vehicles and power generators.

Vacancy locations include Ashland, Bend, Clackamas, Coos Bay, Cottage Grove, Dallas, Forest Grove, LaGrande, Portland, Prineville and St. Helens.

21B Combat Engineers primarily supervise, serve or assist as a member of a team. They provide much-needed combat engineering, such as building roads, constructing bridges or helping our forces to move across foreign land. Some of the duties include constructing trails, roads and field fortifications such as shelters, bunkers and gun emplacements, assembling floating or prefabricated bridges, operating various light or heavy engineer vehicles, placing and detonating explosives, and loading, unloading and moving supplies and equipment using planes, helicopters, trucks and amphibious vehicles.

Vacancy locations include Clackamas, Dallas, Prineville and Salem.

92F Petroleum Supply Specialists are primarily responsible for supervising and managing the reception, storage and shipping of bulk or packaged petroleum-based products. Some of the duties as a Petroleum Supply Specialist include dispensing bulk fuels and water from storage and distribution facilities, selecting and submitting samples of petroleum, oils and lubricants to labs for testing, testing oils and fuels for pollutants, and repairing pipeline systems, hoses, valves and pumps.

Vacancy locations include Baker City, Burns, Coos Bay, Eugene, Forest Grove, Portland and Salem.

11C Indirect Fire Infantryman Employs, fires, and recovers anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. Operates and maintains communications equipment and operates in a radio net. Emplace and recover early warning devices. Constructs and camouflages individual/crew served weapons firing position. Constructs and camouflages a mortar firing position. Maintains mortars and fire control equipment. Performs safety checks on mortars. Performs as a member of a mortar squad providing indirect fire support.

Vacancy locations include Coos Bay, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Lebanon, Medford, Pendleton, Roseburg and Woodburn.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please work with your chain of command or E-mail MosReclass@ng.army.mil

Oregon lauded by Feds for participation in TOPOFF 4



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and North American Aerospace Defense Commander, General Victor Renuart, move through the media and others gathered at David Douglas High School in Portland, Ore., on October 18, during the TOPOFF 4 Exercise.



Photo by Spc. Nicholas Wood, 115th MPAD

Members of the Portland Fire Department cut through concrete pillars, simulating a collapsed building. A simulated casualty lies in the foreground.



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

Col. Steven Gregg, 142nd FW Commander, presents a briefing on TOPOFF to Gen. Victor Renuart and Governor Kulongoski at the Portland Air Base, Oct. 18.



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

Secretary of Homeland Defense, Michael Chertoff briefs the media about the TOPOFF 4 exercise at David Douglas High School in Portland.



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

Above: A Tri-Met bus is used to replicate a light-rail train destroyed by a simulated dirty bomb, as part of the TOPOFF 4 exercise in Portland, Oct. 16.



Left: Members of the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team, gather data and make notes at the edge of the blast zone after a simulated dirty bomb was detonated during the TOPOFF 4 exercise in Portland, Oct. 16.

Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

Prepared by Sentinel staff

The first bomb detonated in Guam, followed by a second one in Portland, and a third in Phoenix. Terrorists had attacked the United States with radiological dispersion devices – also known as dirty bombs – and the nation mobilized.

The dire situation, though fictional, was part of TOPOFF 4, the fourth of a series of exercises designed to help top officials in local, state, and federal government entities respond to a major disaster.

“TOPOFF 4 is the largest exercise of its time, to date, and Portland is the biggest player in TOPOFF 4,” said Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Defense.

In Portland, the scenario simulated the detonation of a dirty bomb on the Steel Bridge as a MAX train made its way across on Oct. 16. To minimize disruption of everyday, real-world life exercise coordinators reconstructed the scene Portland International Raceway.

Portland mayor Tom Potter called the first two hours of TOPOFF, “One of the most intense situations” in his experience as Portland’s top official. “In the early hours of this exercise it was really hard for me to tell if this was real or not as we were inundated with situation after situation moving in front of us,” he said.

Within minutes first responders from the Portland Police Bureau as well as Portland Fire and Rescue were on scene, and shortly thereafter they detected simulated radiation and called on the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team – Weapons of Mass Destruction (CST-WMD).

The 102nd CST-WMD rolled onto the incident site with a convoy of vehicles and a wide array of equipment and personnel dedicated to supporting crisis response: several chemical, biological and radiological detection devices; a mobile laboratory used to identify the threat; a communications suite that allows personnel to communicate with local authorities on up to national leaders under the most extreme conditions.

Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, commander of the 102nd CST-WMD, said working with the many agencies supporting the exercise

proved valuable.

“This was a chance to continue working with some of the folks we trained with and to demonstrate to some of the other agencies that Oregon has more folks and more training in the radiological field than they may have thought,” said Ferrell.

During the exercise the team worked with several organizations including the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Oregon Radiological Assistance Program and for the first time the Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center.

As the 102nd arrived on scene, the Joint Operations Center – also known as the JOC – buzzed with activity. The JOC, located at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., is comprised of a team of Army and Air Guard experts who provide a common operating picture for all Oregon National Guard activities.

The JOC also coordinates with the Office of Emergency Management. In July, state legislation went into effect that aligned OEM with the Oregon Military Department, and this was the first significant test of a new partnership between OEM and the National Guard.

The OEM also established around the clock operations to track requests for assistance from local authorities, coordinate the appropriate state support, and work with federal officials throughout the disaster.

With a clear view of the situation maintained by the JOC and OEM, the Oregon National Guard stood up a Joint Task Force to command Army and Air Guard personnel assigned to get the job done in the field.

Based at the Portland Air National Guard Base, the JTF established vital communication links and directed the Soldiers and Airmen who supported first responders.

At one point in the exercise, Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski lauded the effort of the National Guard.

“One of the best parts of my job as the Governor has been my association with the men and women who wear the uniform for our Country and State,” he said.

Oregon State Defense Force played integral role in TOPOFF exercise

Story by Lt. Jimmy Khoo,
82nd Regimental Group, Lake Oswego Armory

Inside the cool tent, it was quite pleasant.

There was the usual clutter of tables and chairs. Scattered about on the tables were notebooks of every shape and color. In the background, the chatter of fingers on keyboards could be heard.

The melody of sounds could almost lull one into a hypnotic trance, especially during the sleepy doldrums of the day.

It’s like the mid-day doldrums. It’s the quiet before the storm.

All stations were looking toward the three projection screens in front of the room. Everybody was going about their usual planned activities of TOPOFF 4, a joint exercise organized to test Oregon’s response to a man-made disaster. In this scenario, a “dirty bomb” was to be detonated in downtown Portland.

Suddenly the table with two portable ham radios came alive. The Multnomah County EOC fire alarm had gone off, and the center had been evacuated. All ORSDF personnel at the center were safe.

A “runner” from the Oregon State Defense Force radio trailer in the parking lot of Building 115 came rushing in. The news broadcast over the radio was confirmed.

It was to be followed by other real world events ... bomb sniffing dogs zeroing in on a car. The Hazardous Materials Team was called, and the Max train was stopped in downtown Portland because of a bomb threat.

At that moment, the scenario at JTF was suspended immediately. Real world events such as these took precedent over any exercise, and all JTF members followed the unfolding events just as the main television channels came alive with the story.

At 1900 hours, the day’s After Action Report was filed. The Battle Staff Commander, Col. Bush summarized the day’s events, and congratulated and praised the members of the ORSDF for doing a fine job.

“The ORSDF team was the first to get the scoop on the information,” he said.

The room broke out into a round of applause for the ORSDF team.

Oregon, Washington units collaborate on communication during exercise



Lt. Col. Eric Bush of the Oregon Army National Guard, explains the role of the Joint Task Force to Congressional staffers.

**Story and photo by
Spc. Nicholas Wood,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Air and Army Guard units from Oregon and Washington collaborated with Oregon Soldiers to provide communications support for the recent TOPOFF 4 exercise in Portland.

The 272nd Combat Communications Squadron, along with the Washington Air National Guard's 252nd Combat Communications Group and the 41st Brigade, provided networking, internet, and voice communication capabilities to the Joint Task Force.

The JTF operated command and control for the military during the week-long exercise in early October. It required uninterrupted two-way communication with a simulated disaster site at Portland International Raceway, and both the Joint Operations Center and the Emergency Coordination Center, in Salem.

"This is a real-world mission for us," said Air Force Capt. Christopher Jenkins Flight Commander and Communications Officer for the 272 CCS. "That's the way we conduct ourselves."

Services were provided by means of a satellite link to the Defense Switch Network, a Department of Defense telephone system and support for a non-secure and Secure Internet Protocol Routed Network, otherwise known as SIPRNET.

In order to ensure clear communication between the PIR and Portland Air National Guard Base at the Portland International Airport, the 272 CCS set up a VHF Radio Base Station at PIR.

Nearly all of the hardware used during the exercise came from the stores of the 272 CCS, which presented a unique challenge since both equipment and personnel are being shifted to other units in preparation for their merge with the 116th Air Control Squadron in April, officials said.

In addition to hardware and communications support, the 272 CCS provided equip-

ment training and environmental control to the JTF and 82nd Brigade.

"We've been the [communication] gurus," said Jenkins.

The Washington National Guard's 252nd Combat Communications Group helped provide a Joint Incident Site Communication Capability, a large satellite dish with increased capabilities.

Since 1994, the 272 CCS has been the only deployable asset of the Oregon Air Guard. Their state mission is to provide communication to the adjutant general and governor in case of emergency.

"Our federal mission is to go anywhere in the world and provide the communication capabilities expected of a fixed site," said Jenkins.

Though the 116th ACS has a different mission profile than the 272 CCS, much of the equipment and personnel will be retained by the 116th ACS, which will take on many of the roles that the 272 CCS filled in the past.

ORANG leaders, participants say NGB mortuary affairs project a success

**Story and photo by
Senior Airman John Hughel,
142nd Fighter Wing**

On a damp October afternoon, six United States Air Force personnel carefully lift the simulated human remains of disaster victim onto a litter and take them back to a temporary field morgue.

The purpose of their exercise was to learn how to show proper respect to victims of accidents disasters. More importantly, they also learn how to carefully recover remains in an austere or contaminated environment.

Members of the 141st Air Rescue Wing from Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Wash., the 182nd Air Wing from Peoria, Ill., and the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Ore., participated in the event organized by the National Guard Bureau.

"The motivational level and dedication of these young Airmen is a success in itself," said Capt. Gerald Cullers.

The 11-member group, comprised of Airmen from Illinois

and Washington, are part of the Fatality Search and Recovery Team (FSRT). They are tasked to recover the remains of unidentified casualties and move them to the morgue for proper identification. In a word, they provide the "muscle" for the identification process for victims of man-made or natural disasters, said Cullers.

The FSRT is a National Guard capability in support of Homeland Defense Incidents in the Three-Tiered response of local, state and federal situations.

The National Guard Bureau hopes to partner with Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) within the Department of Health and Human Services in order to help bring closure to the Families of missing service members.

"We came to Portland to test a new capability that the Air National Guard Services is trying to start up. As of right now there is no specialized mission for Fatality Management, which encompasses the extraction of human remains in a Chemical,

Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Environment," said Capt. Michael Fanton, a spokesman from NGB.

Capt. Lisa Scott of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, is the point of contact for the Portland Air Guard Base for the NGB project.

"I think they are planning on doing the training biannually, and if that's the case we will be ready to host it again," she said.

"Hopefully, every state will have their own team. It's going to be an excellent program within the next five years," Scott added.

"The Peoria and the Fairchild Teams were asked to take this on because of their history and capabilities. They've always been the go-to units in Services," said Col. Robert Aunan of the Washington Air National Guard.

This was the first time the Portland Air Base hosted this type of event, but many of the participants, and indeed leaders in the Oregon Air Guard agree that getting together on a



Mortuary Affairs Team members recover a simulated casualty from a training area as part of the NGB Services Fatality Search and Recovery Exercise at Portland Air Guard Base, October 19.

biannual basis is good for the organization.

Having the NGB mortuary affairs exercise the same week as the TOPOFF 4 event presented some unique challenges, especially with the Portland Air Base being used as one of the main locations for both exercises.

However, the work of the FSRT is perfectly suited for a real-world event like TOPOFF, should it happen, said Fanton.

In such a scenario, teams would be assigned at the wing level, and one team for each FEMA region, he said.

Air Force Equal Opportunity deploys worldwide

**Story by
Capt. Dawn DeLand,
HRO-EO Specialist, JFHQ**

Over the past six years, there have been numerous military deployments made overseas. Most of the time these military members live, work and hang out together in peace. However, when a human relations incident occurs while deployed overseas in a combat zone, there is now someone available to assist them.

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, in Balad Air Base, Iraq, has a full-time Non-Commissioned Officer available to address human relations issues. Military Equal Opportunity is now being deployed.

In July, the Air Force Master Sgt. John Schumann deployed to Balad, Iraq from his home station at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Being the only MEO assigned to Iraq, he assisted members who were dealing with discrimination and sexual harassment issues. Schumann also reported problems to commanders, in addition to practices and procedures which adversely affected any unit.

As the only MEO representative during his deployment, Schumann was quite busy. So the Air Force created a number of liaisons at the bigger Geographically Separated Units who were available to assist him in communicating with members and accomplishing the goals of MEO.

"As liaisons, we bridge the gap between the regular MEO duties and help to get information out to the Airmen," said Master Sgt. Alexandra Hoellein, an MEO liaison, and Superintendent for Personnel Support for Contingency Operations for the 507th Air Expeditionary Group at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Members like Hoellein were also available for

initial information about a possible MEO complaint, in addition to conducting newcomer briefings on the commander's equal opportunity policy. It typically gets busier right at the start of a new rotation, she said.

The MEO job differs slightly between the home station and a deployed location. At home station, Unit Climate Assessments are done to assess a unit cohesiveness, supervisory support and morale of the personnel. Because this process isn't established overseas, liaisons, and visiting unit members can be vital to assessing the deployed environment.

"After the unit visit, I'll brief unit commanders to let them know how (the unit climate is) doing," Schumann said.

"A commander's policy is basically the same as the Air Force equal opportunity policy, but it emphasizes that Airmen are in a combat environment," he said. "The tone of the policy encourages Airmen to solve a problem at the lowest level and use their chain of command to resolve a problem."

Since many deployed locations are high-stress environments, commanders strive to keep the working environment as stress-free as possible. If an incident does occur, the MEO can assist individuals, provide information, and mediate between the two sides.

According to the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, an equal opportunity complaint occurs every three days in Iraq. Of those, 75-percent are categorized as sexual harassment/sexual assault in nature. Approximately three-quarters of the complaints come from subordinates who implicate a senior NCO or an officer.

Information was contributed to this article from the July 31, 2007 edition of the Air Force Link webpage.

Wreaths across America



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142 FW

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. San Caraballo of the 104th Division from Vancouver, Wash., and a member of the Oregon Civil Air Patrol salute at the grave site of Army Spc. Brandon Toblar, one of the first Oregonians to lose their life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, at Willamette National Cemetery on Dec. 15.

FEATURES

Living History: Oregon Citizen-Soldier's 'hobby' a tribute to Soldiers past, present, future



Sgt. John Muller, of Alpha Co., 641 Army Aviation, Oregon Army National Guard, portrays Civil War-era Pvt. John Muller of the Maryland Line. Muller, and several hundred Oregonians, any former Oregon Guardsmen, get together each summer to create a 'living history' museum which recreates battles and daily scenes from the Civil War for the viewing public.

As the morning fog opened up to reveal clear skies, a small group of Confederate Soldiers made their way down a dirt road, through an open field. They were soon ambushed by a band of Union Soldiers hiding in a ditch behind some tall grass.

What started as a small skirmish between about 40 Soldiers, soon turned into an all-out melee involving over 200 Soldiers, several horses and cannon batteries on either side. The battlefield quickly filled with smoke as dead or dying Soldiers of both armies lay strewn about. What was once a quiet country farm in Oregon was now filled with the sound of flint-lock rifles, pistol shots, and small and large cannon rapport.

At one point, a group of Confederate Soldiers were able to make their way around the Union's flank. They rushed the Union cannon battery, 'killing' several artillerymen, and taking several prisoners. Today's battle would belong to the South.

"Every minute of this is worth it," said Sgt. John Muller, of the Oregon Army National Guard's Alpha-Co., 641 Army Aviation.

Muller and about a thousand other Oregonians – men, women and children – from throughout the Pacific Northwest spend their summer months re-enacting famous battles and daily scenes of the Civil War at numerous venues throughout the region.

The event, sponsored in part by the Lane County Historical Society and the Northwest Civil War Council, was held at Dorris Ranch in Springfield, Ore., Aug. 4.

Calling themselves 'living historians', members submerge themselves into the dress, style and vernacular of the period. Soldiers fire period-correct flint-lock rifles and canons, while women tend to historically-accurate military encampments sprinkled throughout the filbert trees.

"This is an amazing group of people," said Patricia Estabrook, civilian advocate for the NCWC, which oversees various groups who participate in the events. "We try to show people what life was really like. There's so much learning that goes on."

Muller and Estabrook are members of the famous Maryland Line, which formed in 1861 and was officially recognized in 1863 as part of the Confederacy. The original regiment, made up of some 800 Maryland citizens, won the respect of both the North and the South as highly-skilled, disciplined Soldiers.

If someone told you their idea of fun included wearing heavy wool clothing in the middle of the summer, eating bad food or sleeping on the cold ground, you might say they've gone completely mad.

But for this group of Oregonians, being involved with the living history museum is not only fun, it's a passion.

"Just like in the Battle of Chancellorsville, the Confederate victory was due in large part because they were able to roll up on the flank of the Union Army," said Erik Wood, referring to the morning's mock battle.

The real battle, which took place near the town of Spotsylvania, Virginia from April 30 to May 6, 1863, was called Gen. Robert E. Lee's 'perfect battle' because of his risky but successful



Union Soldiers, portrayed by members of the Northwest Civil War Council, fire period-correct weapons at Confederate Soldiers during a mock battle.

Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department

Civil War facts

- 10,450 recorded engagements took place during the Civil War.
- Battles were due in large part to "accidental" encounters between Northern and Southern Soldiers.
- Most units were only about 50-percent manned by the middle of the war.
- Shooting was so inaccurate, experts said it took the weight of a man in lead to actually hit a target.
- Majority of U.S. Presidents prior to the Civil War were from the North.
- Buglers served two purposes; to signal troops and to give directions during battle.
- Drummers signaled to the infantry, while buglers signaled the cavalry.

direction of his army in the presence of a much larger enemy force.

While the NCWC portrays segments of actual historic battle scenes for public audiences, the group doesn't necessarily try to recreate every nuance of Civil War battles, said Wood, who is the NCWC's Chairman. Instead, battle planners try to employ characteristic battle tactics used during the period, he said.

"We replicate some of the small skirmishes not recorded in most of the (history) books that happened every day during the Civil War when small groups of troops would encounter each other," Wood added.

Wood, who portrays a Confederate chaplain, said while actual battle recreations require many more participants, what's important for the public to remember is the planning that goes into each of the council's presentations.

"We try to set things up in a way so as the battle progresses, they'll be a logical progression of forces pushing other forces," Wood said. "That way it'll last long enough so the public can see a number of different things."

and bad guys, and all the women were like Scarlett O'Hara, when in reality, they were very hard working," she said.

The Civil War re-enactment is not limited to battle scenes. Daily life in the camp is recreated with as much authenticity as possible. While some participants bring actual Civil War-era weaponry or clothing, which by today's standards are considered priceless. Many utilize replicas of everything ranging from clothing and cooking implements to shelters and weapons – all in an effort to be as historically accurate as possible.

"Our camps are fairly extensive, and we try to make them as characteristic of camps of the period as we can," Wood said. "Our civilians try to camp in ways that were characteristic of the time."

"We want visitors to think they're stepping back into 1863," said Ron Rogers, event coordinator for the Civil War portion of the living history event.

Not surprisingly, many of the re-enactors are either former or current military members, military buffs, or individuals interested in military strategy.

Rogers said he likes to listen to former

This is my way of saying thank you to the fallen Soldiers who have fought in other wars.

— Sgt. John Muller, Oregon Army National Guard

Everyone in the group has a reason for becoming a part of the living history museum – as it is often referred to by the members.

Muller said while he was in Pennsylvania helping to train UH-60 Blackhawk pilots in 1996, he accompanied a coworker to watch a Civil War battle re-enactment on Herr's Ridge at Gettysburg.

"I fell in love," he said.

Muller had no idea there were similar groups in Oregon, but kept the idea of becoming a part of a Civil War group in the back of his mind over the following decade. In the fall of 2006, Muller ran into a friend at the Clackamas County Fair, who invited Muller and his family to a Civil War event at McIvor State Park, in Estacada, Ore. Since then, Muller's entire family spends their summers 'stepping back in time'.

"We are doing this now as a family," Muller said.

Estabrook, who works in vocational rehabilitation in her 'normal life', has a similar story. As a five-year veteran of the NCWC, she said she got into enactment because of her husband. She said the events allow her to exercise all her hobbies.

"I like to sew, I love history and I love educating the public," she said.

Estabrook said the goal of most of the members is to show people what life was really like during the Civil War, and to change some of the misconceptions the public has about life in the 19th century.

"People think that there were good guys

military members, who compare what life was like for the Army in 1860 to what military life is like more than 200 years later.

"It's pretty interesting listening to the current National Guard members," said Rogers. "We've got Air Force, Marines and Navy down here as well. They do comparisons of what it was like in 1863 up to the Iraq war."

For re-enactors like Lynch and Muller, their military background helps give them a unique perspective on accurately portraying life during the Civil War.

"Sure it's history, but it's also an honor," Muller said about being allowed to play Pvt. Muller.

As a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, he occasionally receives gratitude from the general public. Muller recalled how on one mission through Boise, Id., a gentleman in a café bought breakfast for him and his fellow Blackhawk crewmembers as a gesture of thanks for their military service.

"Those are thanks that I can never do to the men who fought in the Civil War," Muller said. "So this is my way of saying thank you to the fallen Soldiers who have fought in other wars, saying, 'Hey, we haven't forgotten you guys'," he said.

"I believe that every soldier, past, present and future, does this as a love for our country," Muller added.

If you would like more information on the Northwest Civil War Council, are interested in becoming a member, or would like to view a schedule of upcoming events, visit the council's website at www.nwcwc.org.

Oregon Guard's Reintegration Team committed to helping returning vets

Never say 'no'



Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department

Additional photos courtesy of the ORNG Reintegration Team



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team members, from l to r: Staff Sgt. Kevin Coady, First Sgt. (Ret.) Ray Lewallen, Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) J.D. Baucham, Maj. Daniel Thompson, Col. (Ret.) Scott McCrae, Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques, Sgt. Ben Hier. Above left: What's left of a Humvee destroyed in an explosion which killed Leisten and injured Pfc. Ben Ring and Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques.

"My boys. How are my boys?"

"They're fine Sergeant Jacques. They're fine."

"Make sure my boys go before me. Get them on the bird first."

His Humvee had been blown to pieces, a mangled mess shattered by an improvised explosive device.

Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques dangled upside down with his legs trapped under the dashboard. His gunner, Pfc. Ben Ring, was seriously wounded. His driver, Pfc. Kenny Leisten, was dead.

But on that fateful day, July 28, 2004 in Iraq, despite his own injuries, Jacques had only one thing on his mind: his soldiers, "his boys".

"Everyone's on. They're waiting for you."

Miraculously, Jacques survived the blast. But his injuries prevented him from returning to Iraq with his unit, the 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry. The days and months that followed was tough, Jacques admitted.

"Knowing they were over there and I wasn't was really hard," he said.

Back home in Oregon, Col. (Ret.) Scott McCrae was also struggling. His son, 1st Lt. Erik



1st Lt. Erik McCrae in Iraq.

McCrae, also a member of 2nd Bn. 162nd Inf., had died in another IED attack in Iraq only weeks before. That attack resulted in the largest loss of life the Oregon National Guard had faced in a single day since World War II.

"He was the kind of person you would have loved to have as a son," said McCrae about Erik.

In Eastern Oregon, another Oregon National Guard soldier from the 2-162 Inf. Bn. was also coping with immense loss. Sgt. Luke Wilson had lost his leg to a rocket-propelled grenade in Iraq. After he was released from Walter Reed Medical Center, Wilson said he felt aimless.

"I pretty much hid in my garage for the first two to three months after I got home, working on my jeep," said Wilson. "There was no place out there looking to hire a one-legged man to kick-in doors and pull triggers."



Pfc. Kenny Leisten, in Iraq.

Out of the depths of despair emerged a mission. These men, united by separate twists of fate, would come together to ensure that their "boys", and all of Oregon's service members, are taken care of when they return home from war. In February 2005, the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team was formed.

"We do a great job of getting

said McCrae.

One resource to which the ORNG Reintegration Team refers Soldiers and Airmen is the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, where veterans' service officers can help them apply for benefits.

"I'm very impressed with the character and commitment of all of the Soldiers working for the Oregon Guard Reintegration Team," said Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. "By working together we can make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families on a daily basis."

Jacques said he wants to reach those who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

"I want to talk to the 'Joes,'

"When I was over there, the guys were te best I'd ever seen ... We need to provide them with tools to be successful here at home as well."

— Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques

our soldiers out the door, we train them to be a warrior and after they've been gone for 18 months or more, we send them back into the community and say, 'have a great life,'" said McCrae.

The Oregon National Guard recognizes that nearly 37 percent of its returning veterans are under or unemployed, and 90 percent want college education and job training for their families. The ORNG Reintegration Team works with federal, state, local and civilian agencies and refers service members to resources where they can receive assistance with any need they may have.

"We are in effect, a highly-networked help desk where we act as 'traffic cops' to direct Soldiers and Airmen to the right place,"



Sgt. Luke Wilson, recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital.

down to the lowest private," said Jacques.

"When I was over there, the guys were the best I'd ever seen. We know they can handle a lot of responsibility. We need to provide them with tools to be successful here at home as well," he said.

Jobs, counseling, education, are just a few of the tools the ORNG Reintegration Team helps put in the hands of returning veterans. The team provides military job and benefit fairs, daily phone calls, and a commitment to 'never say no' to someone who needs help.

"We have never turned anyone away," said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, who leads the ORNG's Career Transition Assistance Program in Salem, an integral part of the ORNG Reintegration Team.

Currently, there are nine states involved in reintegration issues for returning service members. Oregon is the only state that combines its reintegration efforts with the Jobs Program and the Career Transition Assistance Program.

McCrae said he keeps his focus on helping veterans get back to a normal, healthy life.

"We want to fix physical problems, mental health problems,



Scott McCrae and Jacques (background) listen to a briefing during one of the team's weekly meetings in Salem, Ore.

family problems, and financial issues so they can be a productive member of the community and a stable well-adjusted member of their unit," said McCrae.

For some Soldiers, like Spc. Patrick Silva, help meant a referral to be treated for Post Trau-

ment, walked up to the guy and said, 'hand me that (weapon). You and I are going to leave here together and we're going to get you some help,' and they did," said Maas.

"The individual came into the office the other day, and he's cleaned up and back on his feet," he added.

First Sgt. (Ret.) Ray Lewallen, Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of the ORNG Reintegration Team, and a Vietnam War veteran, drove four hours in the middle of the night to resolve another police stand-off involving a different Soldier.

"The guys on the team have personally intervened on 15 suicides," said McCrae. "If we can prevent one Soldier from taking their lives that's a great deal. You can't put a price on that."

McCrae said he believes suicide is not a sudden decision but a desperate act that occurs when many aspects of a person's life fall apart.

"Our goal is to break that chain somewhere along the cycle and not allow it to get to the point where they are hopeless, debilitated and dysfunctional," he said.

A steady job can make a huge difference in the quality of life a Soldier and their family can enjoy, according to Maas.

"I got a phone call on a Saturday night from a woman who said, 'Sgt. Maas you don't know me but you got my husband a job at Swift Trucking. He never had the money to take me shopping, but now we are at the mall and I'm buying a new dress and we're getting new clothes for the kids,'" said Maas.

Nearly three years since its implementation, the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team continues to evolve. Each member has a story and purpose, their resolve forged from the fires of battle in Iraq.

"Working for the Reintegration Team has been a form of therapy for me," said Wilson. "It has helped me a lot."

For Wilson, Jacques, and McCrae who lost limbs or loved ones in Iraq, the Reintegration Team not only provides a chance to help, it is also a chance to heal.

"I love my job," said Wilson. "Every day I get up and help veterans and Soldiers."

Excerpts from "The Devil's Sandbox," by John Bruning, were used in this story.

WHO TO CALL

If you or someone you know needs help from the ORNG Reintegration Team, call toll free:

1-888-688-2264

The line is manned 24/7.

For more information on the Career Transition Assistance Program, visit them on the Web at:

www.orng-vet.org

Soldier awarded Purple Heart two years after injury in Iraq

The prevailing opinion at Staff Sgt. Tim McCrary's Purple Heart ceremony at Camp Withycombe on Sept. 13, 2007 was that the award was well deserved.

But the comments were quickly followed with, "and a long time coming".

Due to lost paperwork, and delays by the Army, McCrary's Purple Heart citation wasn't processed until recently – even though he sustained injuries over two years ago.

"It's just one of those things, I guess," McCrary said, as his family stood around him in the cavernous space of the Withycombe Armory in Clackamas, Ore.

McCrary, was wounded on Aug. 31, 2005, by an improvised explosive device while on patrol just south of Kirkuk, Iraq. He was deployed with G-Troop, 116 Brigade Combat Team, as a gunner on the commander's vehicle.

While on patrol with his unit, McCrary was hit by a piece of shrapnel from an IED which exploded just outside his vehicle. A two-inch chunk of metal made its way under McCrary's body armor, lodging near his spine in his lower back, breaking off pieces of several vertebrae in the process.

McCrary then reached into his pocket and brought out the chunk of metal doctors removed.

"I'm fortunate to be alive and walking," McCrary said as he rolled the piece of shrapnel over in his right hand.

McCrary said he was taken via MEDEVAC to a hospital at the Forward Operat-



Staff Sgt. Tim McCrary, at Camp Withycombe, shows off a chunk of metal doctors removed from his lower back.

ing Base in Iraq, where they prepped him for surgery. A medical technician there asked him if there was anyone he wanted to call before being sedated. He said sure – he called his wife Nancy who was at the couple's home in Beavercreek, Ore.

"My heart stopped," she said. "The first thing out of his mouth was that he needed me to sit down and I knew something was wrong."

Both McCrary and his wife believed that phone call, though stressful, gave the family time to prepare for the stress of his treatment, recovery, and eventual homecoming.

**Story and photo
by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department**

"I was lucky that my wife didn't have to find out with a knock on the door or a phone call in the middle of the night," McCrary added.

McCrary, who has been in the National Guard since 1996, originally joined the U.S. Navy in 1974, serving aboard a submarine. He took a 20-year break in service before joining the Oregon Army National Guard at age 39 – one year before the Army's age limit for new recruits.

McCrary said he is currently working with the Veteran's Administration and the Army's Medical Discharge Board to transition out of the military one last time. Though he said he has trouble bending over and walking or standing for long periods of time, his goal is to return to work as a traffic signal technician with the City of Beaverton.

"They've been calling me a lot asking me when I'm going to come back," he said.

Aside from the Purple Heart, McCrary received the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Oregon Faithful Service Award.

Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte, Commander of the Oregon Army National Guard's 82 Brigade Troop Command, presided over the ceremony, and pinned the medals on McCrary's uniform, before a gathering of about 100 friends, family and coworkers.

"This is the first time I've gotten medals," McCrary said. "It's pretty neat. There's no better country to live in (than America), so it's worth it...every drop of blood is worth it."

McCrary said he was grateful for the support his unit received while on deployment, and thanked those who sent supplies and care packages.

He also stressed the importance of Soldiers seeking proper medical treatment during demobilization, warning about the pitfall of rushing through the demob process in order to get back to waiting families as quickly as possible.

"The longer they're in demob, the longer they're away from their families," McCrary said. "So a lot of guys don't tell the medical people that there's something wrong with them, and then they have to deal with it later."

"Don't do that," he warned. "It may take a little longer, but you have to get (your injuries) documented, because that's the best way to get (them) taken care of."

Benefit fairs help servicemembers find more than just jobs

**Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs**

After two combat tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, Spc. Patrick Silva, of Alpha Company, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, is back in Oregon and looking for work.

Silva is one of many veterans having recently returned from

deployments and in need of help finding a job, accessing veteran benefits, and furthering education.

"Soldiers returning know they have benefits, but don't know where to get them," said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, who leads the Oregon National Guard's Career Transition Assistance Program for the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team. "The process

can be very daunting to a young Soldier."

That is why the ORNG Reintegration Team is sponsoring Military Job and Benefit Fairs throughout Oregon; to make it easy for service members to speak with people who can help them take the next step in their lives, whether that be a new job or education, Maas said.

"We're trying to be that 'one-stop shop' for service members and their families," Maas added.

More than 600 service members and their families attended a job and benefits fair at the Medford Armory on Sept. 23, another 800 turned-out for the fair held at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City Nov. 3.

"This is incredible," exclaimed Silva, amidst the crowd at the Medford Armory.

Both of the job fair events brought together representatives from more than 80 businesses throughout Oregon, and nearly 20 different veteran service organizations. Their aim; to help Soldiers transition back into civilian life.

"You have all of these agencies with a common goal, and that's to help service members and their families," said Maas.

"I think this is great," said Donna Fulton, financial aid officer at Klamath Community College, during the Medford job fair. "Having all of these organizations together to combine our efforts, so that we can serve these men and women who served so valiantly, is wonderful."

Service members attending the job fairs took advantage of the opportunity to network, finding strong leads for employment.

Spc. Kelli Toney, of F Troop, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, met with Mike Miles, of the Medford Police Department, to discuss her dream of becoming a dispatcher. "He helped me out, gave me some numbers and asked me if I would like to sit along with the dispatcher before I apply," said Toney.

Miles, who is a training officer



Photo courtesy of ORNG Reintegration Team

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and their Families take advantage of a number of job and benefit fairs being held throughout Oregon.

with the Medford Police, said he enjoyed having the opportunity to meet with veterans. "The men and women of the Oregon National Guard have a lot of training and communication skills, and they know how to work the chain of command," he said.

Senior Trooper David Randall of the Oregon State Police, one of the employers at the job fair in Oregon City, agreed that veterans are some of their best qualified applicants. "They have a high level of professionalism, discipline, and self confidence," said Senior Trooper David Randall of the Oregon State Police. "They have what it takes to succeed."

The job fairs not only provided opportunities for Soldiers, but for their spouses as well.

"I'm checking into college courses here for phlebotomy," said Linda Hawkins, wife of Oregon National Guard Soldier, Spc. Dale Hawkins, of Delta Company, 1-186 Inf. Bn.

Many service members and their families, who attended the Military Job and Benefits Fairs, walked away with promising employment leads and positive steps towards a brighter future.

"This job fair has given lots of us the tools we need to go out and be successful in the job market," said Silva.

National Guard turns 371



Photo by Kay F. Fristad, Oregon Military Department

Officials from Pacific Power present the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund a check for \$10,000 at the National Guard Birthday celebration in Salem, Ore.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

The Oregon National Guard celebrated the 371st birthday of the National Guard, Dec. 13 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore.

On hand for the event were Governor Theodore R. Kulon-goski, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, and about 200 members of Oregon's Air and Army National Guard.

Kulon-goski lauded members of the Oregon National Guard for their contribution and assistance during the recent floods on the Oregon coast.

Pacific Power was recognized for their assistance to the Emergency Relief Fund. The company donated \$10,000 toward the Oregon National Guard to assist military families affected by storm and flood damage. Pacific Power has also agreed to transport donated comfort items to Oregon National Guardsmen currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Helpful contacts for veterans

- Oregon Military Dept: 1-800-452-7500 or 503-584-3980
- Dept. of Veteran's Affairs: 1-800-827-1000, or www.va.gov
- Oregon Veteran's Administration: 1-800-828-8801
- VA Hospital Portland: 1-800-949-1004
- VA Hospital Rosburg: 1-541-440-1000
- Army One Source: 1-800-464-8107
- ESGR: 1-800-452-7500 or 503-584-2850
- Employment Assistance: 1-800-452-7500 or 503-584-2393

Bright 'Days' ahead: Klamath Falls Airman enters Air Force Academy, shows promise as leader



Photo courtesy of 73rd Fighter Wing

Senior Airman Kurt Day at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

At a very young age, Senior Airman Kurt Day proved he's a little more adventuresome and ambitious than most people.

At just 9-months-old, he made stair steps out of his dresser drawers and tried his best to climb out the window. Fortunately, according to his mother, Jeanine Day, he wasn't successful.

Since then, 21-year-old Day, a member of the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing, has come to know success extremely well. In fact, he's right on track to graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy's (USAFA) Class of 2012. Day's goal is to become an Air Force pilot.

Day, who just started in the USAF Academy's Preparatory Program in July 2007, has already been singled out by the

**Story by
Lt. Col. Donna Prigmore,
173rd Fighter Wing**

cadre staff to be the first commander of Alpha Squadron.

"He has demonstrated in a very short time that he's a strong performer," said Lt. Col. Ida Widmann, 1st Preparatory Group commander at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. "He is now in charge of 80 cadets."

Leadership just seems to be his style. In 2004, shortly after enlisting in the Oregon Air National Guard in Klamath Falls, Ore., Day earned the First Airman Award as the top graduate among 700 Airmen at the end of the Air Force Basic Military

Training School in San Antonio, Texas. He went on to receive the Distinguished Graduate Award when he graduated from security forces technical school a few months later.

"There's no question about Senior Airman Day, he's a very exceptional and determined young man," described Lt. Nikki Jackson, 173rd Security Forces Officer. "He is a true leader that others easily want to follow. The Air Force Academy is lucky to have him."

According to Jeanine Day, her son came back a changed person after he toured the Academy as a junior in high school.

"It really made an impression on him," she said. Although very serious when he needs to be, Kurt has a humorous side to him as well, she added.

"He was always the class clown in school, who spent a lot of time at the teacher's desk for talking too much. I never would've thought he'd excel in the military with so much structure and so many rules, but he's doing great," Jeanine said.

Only four Air National Guard members have attended and graduated from the Air Force Academy program since the Class of 2005. Each year, approximately 9,000 civilians and prior service

military members seek entrance into this highly sought-after military institution.

Day, plus two other Guard members from other states, Michael Brown of the Idaho ANG and Matt Hensley of West Virginia ANG, are scheduled to graduate from the preparatory school in May 2008. They will then begin their four-year academy program in the Fall of 2008.

Academics and time management are by far the toughest challenges for Day.

"They (the cadre) throw a lot at us, like military training, academics, and more than two hours of physical training each day," said Day.

"English is the hardest course for me. My papers get bloodied-up pretty good," he said, referring to the red ink used to correct his papers.

Day has a lot of advice for anyone setting their sites on the Air Force Academy, now that he's experienced it firsthand.

"Volunteer for everything you can so your package stands out, get into shape, and study hard for the SAT," he said. "You don't have to have the best grades, but you have to prove you're willing to work hard at everything."

To qualify for an appointment, students must successfully com-

plete the Prep School program in academics and military training (including an obstacle course with trail runs, low crawling and weapons training).

They must also pass a fitness test, exhibit strong ethical character, receive the recommendation of the prep school commander, and be approved by the Academy board.

Pre-requisites for Air Force Academy appointees:

- Successfully complete the Prep School program in academics and military training (to include an obstacle course with trail runs, low crawling and weapons training).
- Pass the Candidate Fitness Test.
- Exhibit strong ethical character.
- Be recommended by the prep school commander.
- Be approved by the Academy board.

Hangar dedication, deployment mark changes for unit

Prepared by Sentinel staff

The Oregon Army National Guard dedicated Hangar 375 to Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fred M. Rosenbaum, and simultaneously deployed 14 Soldiers in a ceremony at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oct. 13.

Fourteen Soldiers from Alpha Company, 641 Aviation Regiment deployed to Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq. The unit will spend a year transporting personnel and equipment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Alpha Company 641 Avn., a C-23 Sherpa unit, relocated from Salem, Ore. to facilities formerly occupied by the Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing.

The move prepares the Oregon Guard for the Joint Cargo Aircraft, a program where the Army and Air Force will replace their aging fleet of Army C-23 Sherpas and Air Force C-130s with C-27J Spartans.

The hangar facility was named in honor of Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Fred M. Rosenbaum, former Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard and former Assistant Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard. Rosenbaum and his wife, Jane, attended the event to accept the honor of the dedication.

Rosenbaum said the dedication of the facility was a great moment for those who serve in the military.

"Freedom is not free," he said. "And the Oregon National Guard Soldiers that are currently deployed are a great example of Americans' personal sacrifice."

Rosenbaum, who grew up in Austria as the Nazi's ascended to power, escaped the



Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 641st Aviation Regiment stand in formation during their deployment ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, October 13, 2007.

Holocaust and made his way to the United States with his family.

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulonogski and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, also spoke at the event.

Rees honored Rosenbaum for his many accomplishments as a WWII veteran, retired general with more than 40 years of military service, and as a community leader throughout his lifetime. Camp Rosenbaum, the annual at-risk youth camp which bears his name is celebrating its 38th year, while numerous foundations and scholarships also carry Rosenbaum's name.

Also in attendance were Brig. Gen. Daniel O'Hollaren, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Charles

Yriarte, 82 Brigade Commander and Brig. Gen. Garry Dean, Assistant to the Adjutant General for the Air Guard to recognize Rosenbaum for his service.

The Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum facility will be occupied by the Army Guard Sherpa unit, A Co. 641 Avn., which previously mobilized from December 2004 to March 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as Alpha Company, 249 Aviation.

Of the Soldiers deploying, only a few of them previously deployed with this unit, many others have deployed with other aviation units in the Oregon Army National Guard.

The deployment is the second overseas mission for Spc. Jed Ball from Pendleton, Ore. Ball was first deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom two years ago. He said he is both excited and apprehensive about this deployment.

"I am looking forward to this mission, but my family will be on my mind while I am gone," said Ball.

Ball works as a maintenance technician in Pendleton, Ore., working on the Oregon Army National Guard C-47 Chinook helicopters there. During the six month deployment he hopes to build his skills as a C-23 technician while serving his country.

The 641st joined other National Guard units from South Dakota, Oklahoma and Washington State to make up the entire company at LSA Anaconda in Iraq.

Oregon Guardsmen help distribute holiday food baskets

Prepared by Sentinel staff

PORTLAND, Ore. – Because of the efforts of Oregon Guardsmen and community members, Christmas may be a bit brighter this year.

Volunteers from the Oregon National Guard, community members, and the Portland Police helped distribute holiday food baskets to qualified families throughout the Portland Metro area Dec. 15.

The annual event, coordinated by the Portland Police's Sunshine Division, distributed food baskets which contained all the ingredients to put together a holiday meal, including a four-pound ham.

Local companies including Franz Bakery, Botsford, Goodfellows, Ventura Foods and Fred Meyer donated the food items included in the baskets.

Community groups and the Portland Police also donated hundreds of stuffed animals, which were included with the food baskets.

Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O'Hollaren, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, thanked the group during the early morning briefing before the kickoff of the event.

"As members of our community we need to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves," O'Hollaren said.

Southeast Police Precinct Commander, Derek Foxworthy said people need three things in order to be active members of society; someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.

"Hopefully what we're doing here today takes care of hope," he said.

According to Officer Bob Clevenger, event coordinator for the Southeast precinct, just under 1,000 food baskets were delivered, with over 300 distributed from the Southeast precinct alone.

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or
503-584-2393

Oregon Guardsmen join forces with state, local offi

Continued from
FRONT PAGE

Following an arial review of the devastation, Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski declared a state of emergency, promised aid to businesses and residents.

Units like the 125th STS, are well-suited for their war-time mission, and employ specialized equipment and training on a daily basis. It is these abilities which make them particularly valuable during natural disasters, Schilling said.

“There’s no communications, none of the cell phones work, all the land lines are completely down, the radio networks that require repeaters for the law enforcement guys aren’t working,” Schilling said.

“Except for us,” he added. “We have the ability to talk anywhere in that environment in any conditions.”

In addition to supporting local officials, 125th STS personnel provided recovery and relief efforts for people stranded by the floodwaters.

Members of the unit fanned out across flooded areas in Vernonia, providing relief to flood victims. Some Guardsmen even waded through neck-deep water to gain access to homes the boats couldn’t reach because of submerged debris.

Senior Airman Russell A. Ellersick, a combat operator with the 125th STS, was one of the first-responders sent to Vernonia to rescue people from the rising waters. Many people were stranded in vehicles when they tried to venture out to get food and supplies, or when the rising Nehalem River forced them to evacuate to higher ground.



Floodwaters isolated the welcome sign just outside the town of Vernonia.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

Residents of Vernonia, Ore., use a boat to transport those stranded by widespread flooding, Dec. 4, 2007. Vernonia and several other Oregon coastal towns were inundated by heavy rains Dec. 2 and 3, prompting state officials to declare a state of emergency.

In one instance, a family was separated by quickly rising floodwaters the afternoon of Dec. 3. The following day, Tech. Sgt. Stefano Guadagnuolo and his team located two of their children who had made their way safely to a neighbor’s house. With the help of the eldest child, they were able to locate the third sibling.

“All were accounted for and safely delivered to the firehouse,” Guadagnuolo said.

“It was a pretty emotional reunion,” Ellersick recalled.

For most residents, rescue came in a similar fashion in the early hours of Dec. 4.

“The rescue was fantastic,” said Vernonia, Ore. resident, John Halvorson, whose ranch-style home just off Highway 47 was under five feet of water after the Nehalem River crested well above flood stage.

Halvorson spoke as his wife Rutha struggled to push a thick layer of mud out their front door, Dec. 6, after the raging Nehalem River had retreated behind its banks. The power restored early that morning, every light was ablaze in their home. As a

counterpoint to the destruction, their Christmas tree stood in the corner of the room, with twinkling lights and ornaments, but with a distinct muddy water line half-way up its branches.

“The water was above the steps, and we were worried it was contaminated,” he said. “The Guard came with a boat right up to our doorstep, and we all piled in the boat, and they took us to the truck and down to the (Red Cross) shelter.”

It is because of the unique training as combat controllers that the unit’s personnel have the abilities to accomplish certain tasks that others cannot, said Schilling.

“The combat controllers in particular can operate in any environment, at any time day or night, for extended periods of time,” Schilling said.

Indeed, several members of the group worked non-stop through 30-hour shifts, rescuing people

“Those people needed help, and for us to use our skills and equipment to save them was a privilege,” he said.

Some of the unit’s unique equipment included inflatable “Zodiac” boats, 117-F radios with satellite uplink, and inter-team radios for communication between unit members.

The Oregon Army National Guard contributed 2.5-ton and 5-ton vehicles, including drivers from the 2-218

“Those people needed help, and for us to use our skills and equipment to save them was a privilege.”

— Senior Airman Russell A. Ellersick, 125th Special Tactics Squadron

Tracy Fletcher, who lives about a quarter-mile away from the Halvorsons, decided to stay after relocating her children to a relative’s house. She spent most of the evening of Dec. 3 moving furniture and household items upstairs in her two-story home. After floodwaters reached nearly to the top of her garage doors, she decided she had had enough.

“The Guard rolled in and wanted to make sure we were okay, but we went ahead and let them evacuate us from our roof,” Fletcher said. “We were just saying, ‘God bless the Guard.’”

from flooded houses, or reuniting kids who were separated from their families.

“Typically we’re not a rescue operation,” said Lt. Scot Berg, Director of Operations for the 125th STS. “But it’s our capabilities that we bring to the fight that allow us to get into these situations and go places where a lot of people cannot go.”

Ellersick said being able to utilize his training and skills during peacetime during the rescue operation was rewarding.

Field Artillery and 141 Support Battalion, while Humvees and drivers from the 142nd Logistics Readiness Squadron at the Portland Air Base also provided valuable transportation support, Berg said.

According to Schilling, the operation was a complete joint operation—including elements and personnel from both the Army Guard and Air Guard.

Sgt. Kevin A. Mix, of Alpha Co., 141 Support Battalion’s supply platoon, was one of the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Warren Ruedy, 125th STS

Staff Sgt. Scott Geisser, combat controller with the Oregon Air Guard’s 125th STS, watches as an Army Guard UH-60L carrying Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and several representatives from city and state government lands in Vernonia on Dec. 4.

ANATOMY OF A ‘PERFECT STORM’

LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER

A typhoon develops off the coast of Japan, and makes its way across the Pacific Ocean, gaining intensity as it traverses warm, tropical waters.



Officials to help fellow Oregonians



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

of the streets in Vernonia, Ore., sits under several feet of water, Dec. 4, 2007, following heavy rains the night before. Many residents in Vernonia and other coastal towns were left homeless after floods caused widespread power outages, and damage to buildings and property there.

Members who accompanied the 125th STS to Vernonia. "It's horrible. I've been in Katrina and that was bad, but this was devastating. I've never seen anything like this in my entire life," Mix said. "I and his fellow Soldiers felt a sense of accomplishment and gratification by helping fellow Oregonians. Most people say it's a gratifying feeling, but that's the reason we deployed the military," Mix said. "I may have been tired because I was up for 35 hours straight, but when I went to sleep, I slept peacefully because I knew I was doing something good."

While the story of the rescues made national news, many of those directly involved in the rescue efforts looked at the event as 'another day at the office.'

"After it was all over, I went home, took a shower, and spent some time with my family," Ellersick said. "To me, the whole thing wasn't that big of a deal, but to those people in Vernonia, we were heroes."

National and local recognition aside, Schilling emphasizes that while his unit is well-equipped to handle natural disaster response, as seen during the recent TOPOFF 4 exercise, the 125th STS focuses on being able to complete the mission, regardless of geographic location or the level of risk.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Warren Ruedy, 125th STS

125th STS personnel used inflatable rubber Zodiac boats, (left) to rescue residents stranded by floodwaters.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Warren Ruedy, 125th STS

Tech. Sgt. Stefano Guadagnuolo of the 125th STS, gets directions to the location of another one of her siblings from a child separated from her parents by quickly rising floodwaters in Vernonia, Dec. 4.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

Neighbors lend a hand at Tracy Fletcher's house, dragging mud-soaked debris from her house in Vernonia. Fletcher, (right facing), whose father, Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Poulin works for JFHQ's motorpool shop, said the tight-knit community came together to help each other out.

"Deploying into a high risk situation, even in the states, is already old hat," Schilling said.

But the fact that their mission was accomplished in their home state of Oregon was a significant milestone, he added.

"This was by far the most significant thing we've done in Oregon. To go out and rescue fellow Oregonians was definitely a very proud day for the 125th," Schilling said.

And for Vernonia residents like Fletcher and Halvorson,

their gratitude is perhaps the best compliment the Oregon Air Guard special operations personnel will ever hear.

"I really appreciate those guys," Halvorson said, as he pushed piles of mud from his driveway. "They really made a world of difference. After spending the night in the house with all the water and the debris hitting the house, with no power, it was a real relief seeing those guys."

Floods prompt officials to declare state of emergency



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, walks through the house of Mark and Karin Baer, Dec. 4, whose house was damaged by flood waters the day before.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

According to weather officials, a freak combination of a heavy rain storm generated in the North Pacific, combined with remnants of a typhoon that originated in the South China Sea to create what came to be known as Oregon's "Perfect Storm."

Furthermore, the system parked itself over northwestern Oregon, dumping up to 11.5 inches on Vernonia and 16.5 inches on Lee's Camp the night of Dec. 3.

"Most people I talked to in Vernonia said their concern wasn't the wind, but the flood waters," Kulongoski said.

Indeed, wind was a factor, with hundreds of trees bringing down power lines, blocking several Oregon highways, and damaging many buildings.

Both the Governor, and Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director, State Affairs for the Oregon National Guard, lauded the quick response of local and state agencies. They pointed to the recent inter-agency emergency exercise, TOPOFF 4, held in mid-October, in helping prepare rescue and relief agencies for such a disaster.

The Oregon National Guard in particular, said the governor, is very good at relief efforts.

"But now we're doing a great job at recovery," he added.

Department of Transportation official, Lucinda M. Moore, said portions of Hwy-26 and Hwy-18 were closed as of Dec. 4 due to sinkholes and downed trees. Hwy-47 just north of Vernonia remained closed through the end of the first week of December, due to downed trees, she said.

ODOT officials and power crews worked through the week to reopen highways and restore power to hundreds of residents.

The Governor vowed to help communities affected by flood damage by, "... bringing every resource of the state to bear."

Several Oregon National Guard units were dispersed throughout the hardest-hit communities on the Oregon coast, helping with relief efforts, but by week's end had begun to turn over most of the responsibility to local authorities.

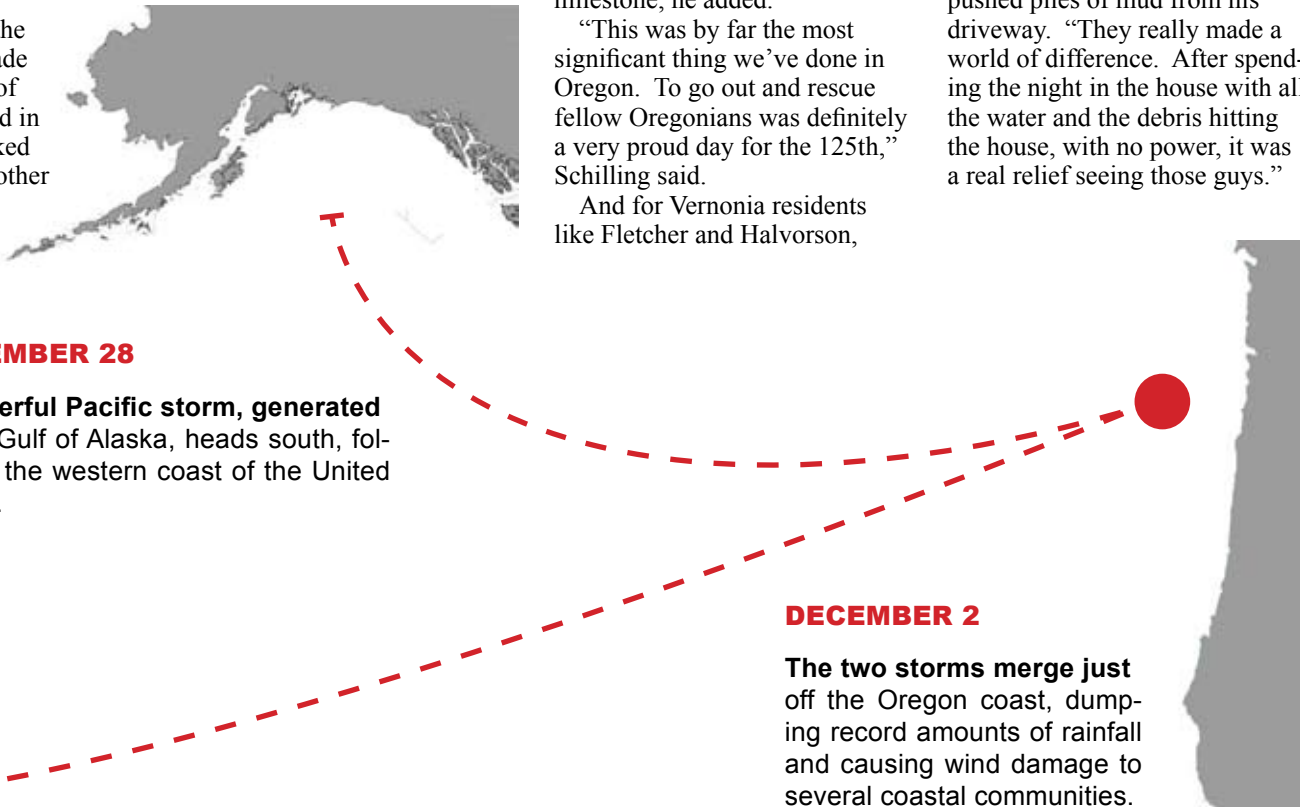
State and local officials have yet to release figures on the financial impact to the area.

NOVEMBER 28

A powerful Pacific storm, generated in the Gulf of Alaska, heads south, following the western coast of the United States.

DECEMBER 2

The two storms merge just off the Oregon coast, dumping record amounts of rainfall and causing wind damage to several coastal communities.



SPORTS

Junior!

National Guard to sponsor Dale Jr. in 2008 NASCAR season

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell,
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs



Above: Dale Earnhardt, Jr. with the number 88 National Guard car in Dallas, Texas. Left: Earnhardt (left), meets with Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, during a press conference in Dallas, Texas on Sept. 19. Earnhardt will drive the National Guard car in next year's NASCAR's top-level Sprint Cup Series.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., whose family name is synonymous with American motorsports, will drive the Chevrolet that the National Guard will sponsor in NASCAR's top-level Sprint Cup series next year.

Earnhardt, "Junior" to the millions who follow the sport, will drive the 88 car for Hendrick Motorsports' new team that will have PepsiCo products Mountain Dew and AMP Energy as its other major sponsors, it was announced during a nationally televised

press conference here Sept. 19. Earnhardt, "Junior" to the millions who follow the sport, will drive the 88 car for Hendrick Motorsports' new team that will have PepsiCo products Mountain Dew and AMP Energy as its other major sponsors, it was announced during a nationally televised

press conference here Sept. 19. Earnhardt, "Junior" to the millions who follow the sport, will drive the 88 car for Hendrick Motorsports' new team that will have PepsiCo products Mountain Dew and AMP Energy as its other major sponsors, it was announced during a nationally televised



Courtesy photo, ESPN.com

"I think it's important to support the military, especially now."

— Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

press conference here Sept. 19.

The popularity of the Earnhardt name raises the Guard's participation in one of America's two most popular spectator sports, the National Football League being the other, to a new level, said Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard.

NASCAR appeals to the same age group, 18-24, that is the prime recruiting group for the Guard and the other military services, Vaughn pointed out. The Army Guard has to recruit about 70,000 new people every year, he said at the Dallas Convention Center.

"If the strength of our recruiting is the same place that you run NASCAR, which it is, and if Dale Earnhardt Jr., is the most popular of all the NASCAR drivers, which he is, than you would think that would make a difference in the number of people who will

at the partnership this way: The Guard is a great way to serve. It's a first-class organization. And I like Dale Earnhardt Jr., so does the Guard. I'm going to have to think about that."

"I think it's important to support the military, especially now," said Earnhardt about his new affiliation with the National Guard.

Previous Guard car drivers have been Todd Bodine and Greg Biffle who finished second in the Nextel Cup Series in 2005. Casey Mears is this year's driver.

Earnhardt, 32, has won 17 Cup-level races and two NASCAR Busch Series championships. He is the son of racing legend Dale Earnhardt Sr., who was killed in a crash on the final corner of the final lap of the NASCAR season's inaugural race, the Daytona 500, in February 2001. He is the grandson

and nephew of, respectively, NASCAR pioneers Ralph Earnhardt and Morgan Shepherd. His mother's father, Robert Gee, built NASCAR cars.

Earnhardt will replace Mears as the driver for the Guard car and will add his name and pedigree to the Hendrick lineup of dominating drivers that include Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson.

Mears will replace Kyle Busch, who is leaving the Hendrick team for the Joe Gibbs team, after one season as the No. 25 Guard/GMAC Chevrolet car driver, and Earnhardt will begin racing for Hendrick Motorsports after severing his ties with Dale Earnhardt Inc., the company that his father founded.

Earnhardt has signed a five-year contract with Hendrick Motorsports, he announced in June. His new car number is no accident. He has driven the No. 8 Chevrolet since he entered the Cup Series in 1999. His grandfather raced with that number, as well as 88, and Dale Sr., drove the 8 car early in his career. Earnhardt family politics, however, precluded Junior from bringing the famed single-digit number to the Hendrick team.

"We considered every number with 8 in it that was available," he told a room filled with media and Texas Army Guard recruiters, distinctive in their Army Combat Uniforms.

Earnhardt is currently in 13th place, and out of this year's 12-car chase for the Nextel

Cup, after finishing 16th in the Sylvania 300 on Sept. 16 at the New Hampshire International Speedway. He has started on the pole, in first place, once this season but has yet to win a race. He has finished among the top five six times, and he has been among the top 10 drivers in 10 races.

He did qualify for the chase last year, beginning the season's 10-race championship series in sixth place and finishing fifth, 147 points behind Cup victor Jimmie Johnson.

Earnhardt is joining the Hendricks team that has ruled the NASCAR roost in 2007. Johnson and Gordon, with 10 victories and 30 top five-finishes between them, are tied for the lead with 5,210 points after 27 races. Kyle Busch, with one victory and a total of 22 top-five and top-10 finishes, is fifth in the Nextel Cup standings.

All four Hendricks teams finished the Sylvania 300 among the top 10 in New Hampshire — Gordon second, Busch fourth, Johnson sixth and Mears eighth in an unusual mathematical sequence.

Mears is in 15th place after his strong performance at New Hampshire where he started 15th. He has one victory in the Guard/GMAC Chevrolet, coincidentally in the Memorial Day Coca-Cola 600 which raised money for the families of U.S. military troops. Ten drivers raced in cars painted in military camouflage patterns to signal their support for that cause.

Klamath Falls rides for multiple sclerosis

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Victor Ford,
173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., have not forgotten Master Sgt. Bob Miller.

Miller, who died from multiple sclerosis in 2000, is remembered each year by the Kingsley Field Bicycle Team, who rides in his honor during the Health MS Bike Ride.

On August 4-5, about 40 riders from Kingsley Field collectively rode nearly 4,500 miles, and raised more than \$13,600 for the cure of multiple sclerosis. Kingsley had the largest team, and, according to organizers, raised the most money in the state.

Riding with the team was Miller's wife, Debbie.

"This is great," she said.

"I'm so glad to do this and help find a cure for the disease that shortened Bob's life."

She thanked the team for all their effort, and for coming together year after year. "Bob will never be forgotten and neither will all of you," she added.

If you would like to get involved in the bike ride, or contribute to helping find the cure for multiple sclerosis, contact Senior Master Sgt. Victor Ford at Kingsley Field, at 541-885-6455.



Dale Jr. at a glance...

- Born: October 10, 1974, Concord, N.C.
- Claim to fame: Son of NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt, and winner of the 2004 Daytona 500
- Accomplishments: Two-time champion of the Busch Racing Series, holder of two Winston Cup victories in 2000, second place in the Daytona 500 in 2001, the race in which his father was killed. Took first place victory in Daytona 500 in 2004. Sponsored by National Guard for 2008 race season.
- Business dealings: Founder and former co-owner of JR Motorsports, current member of Hendrick Motorsports.
- Interesting Facts: In August 2007 he announced he would be joining Hendrick without his famous car (#8), laying the blame on his stepmother's unwillingness to relinquish the licensing rights. Dale Earnhardt, Inc., is controlled by Teresa Earnhardt, Dale, Sr.'s widow and Dale, Jr.'s step mother. Racer Kerry Earnhardt is Dale Jr.'s half-brother. Their grandfather Ralph Earnhardt was also a popular race car driver.

Oregon's IRT program helps Vancouver community build 'field of dreams'



Above: Col. Steve Dickenson, special projects officer with the Oregon National Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters, cuts the ribbon at the Harmony Sports Complex dedication ceremony in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 22. Helping Dickenson is Sgt. Mike Germundson, of the 234 Engineers (center), who, along with fellow Soldiers from the Innovative Readiness Training program, worked on upgrades to allow access for individuals with physical disabilities to the baseball park. Art Liss, President of the Columbia River Miracle League (left), emceed the event. Right: Boy Scout Troop 770, conducts the flag presentation during opening ceremonies at the Harmony Sports Complex.

**Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department**

Thanks to the efforts of the Oregon National Guard, people with physical disabilities can now play baseball at a local neighborhood sports complex in east Vancouver, Wash.

On Sept. 22, representatives from the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, including those from the Oregon Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program, joined representatives from the Columbia River Miracle League and about 150 other people for a dedication ceremony at the Harmony Sports Complex.

Since the last week of August, Oregon

Soldiers worked to upgrade the park in order to provide full access for children and adults with disabilities. The upgrades include wheelchair ramps and sidewalks, hand rails, and 16 handicapped parking stalls.

Art Liss, President of the Columbia River Miracle League – a Vancouver-based league for children and adults with disabilities – called the project a true community effort. He thanked all those who donated time, equipment and building materials.

"The adaptability, attention to detail, and commitment from these guys was incredible," Liss said about the Oregon Soldiers' effort on the project.

The group hopes to make the sports complex their new home. The ongoing construction project is being monitored by inspec-

tors with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure proper accessibility requirements.

For Oregon Guardsmen who worked on the project, the work was fulfilling on both a community and a personal level, said Sgt. Mike Germundson, of the 234 Engineers.

"This is really satisfying," he said. "This is going to give people with less opportunities in life a chance to have some fun," he said.

Germundson, who lives in Portland, Ore., is no stranger to construction projects. He deployed to Iraq with the U.S. Army's 52nd Engineers during the early days of the Iraq War. He worked on construction projects alongside local Iraqis in and around Mosul, Iraq for most of 2003, building block houses and schools.

He said projects like the Harmony Sports Complex shows that Soldiers can deploy around the world and do their mission, but can return home and go right back into important civilian jobs.



"The purpose of the IRT program is to match up the training needs of our Soldiers with construction needs in communities," said Maj. Dan Brewer, IRT Program Manager.

The Soldiers take pride in the projects because they often live, work, and have family members in the community where the project is being done, said Brewer.

"We want to do good things for the community," Germundson said.

As a member of the IRT program, Germundson, and other Oregon Soldiers also gain valuable field experience while helping out their local communities.

Col. Steve Dickenson, a special projects officer for the Oregon National Guard, said participating in projects like the Harmony Sports Complex increase community support of the military by integrating citizen-Soldiers into important local projects.

"Even though there's an enormous amount of respect and support for the military, but when they actually see folks working on a project that's going to help the community, I think it really boosts the support," he said.

"In today's society, you wonder how many people support the military," Liss said.

"What happened here is clearly a reason for saying that the military doesn't just defend the country, but it also makes contributions in the community and I don't think a lot of people know that."

There is a lesson to be learned here, said Liss.

"Don't overlook the Guard," Liss added. "Because they won't overlook you if you ask for help."

For more information on the Columbia River Miracle League, schedule of upcoming games, or to obtain a press packet, contact Art Liss via e-mail at aellis1@comcast.net, or you can visit the organization's website at www.columbiarivermiracleleague.org.

For more information on the Oregon Army National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training Program, contact Maj. Daniel Brewer at 503-584-2866, or via e-mail at daniel.brewer@us.army.mil.

Ride raises awareness, funds for injured Soldiers

**Story and photos
by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department**

Emmy-nominated actor, Jack Scalia, visited Soldiers at the Oregon National Guard's Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Sept. 24. But instead of arriving in a limousine, as is customary for most actors, he arrived on a road racing bicycle.

The visit came during the Oregon leg of Scalia's Seattle-to-San Diego bicycle trek aimed at raising awareness and funds for injured military veterans and their families.

His riding companions included injured Iraqi veteran, J.R. Martinez, former Oregon Soldier, Kerry Kingsley-Smith, and John Wordin, executive director of Operation American Spirit – which aims to raise \$50 million for severely injured military veterans over the next few years.

According to the organization's website, operationamericanspirit.org, donations will help injured military veterans concentrate on their recovery efforts, and ease financial burdens on their families. The organization aims to provide mentoring, recovery programs, job and trade assistance, and activities intended to improve morale.

Kingsley-Smith, who lives in Sheridan, joined up with the group in Portland on Sept. 23, and planned to ride through Oregon. He said the ride is personal to him because of his friendship with fellow rider Martinez.

Kingsley-Smith and Martinez met in 2003 while they were both at the Army's burn treatment unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Martinez, a former Soldier who was injured in the line of duty, had been burned over 40-percent of his body. Kingsley-Smith, an Army nurse working as a therapist at the burn unit, found inspiration in Martinez's recovery.

"He had to put up with me because I kept sending him in to talk to the other veterans at the burn unit," Kingsley Smith said.

When Kingsley-Smith found out about the ride on the local television news, he jumped



Riders with Operation American Spirit, from left to right: Oregonian Kerry Kingsley-Smith, Actor Jack Scalia, Organization Executive Director, John Wordin, former Army Soldier, J.R. Martinez.

at the chance to be with his old friend Martinez, but also liked what Operation American Spirit was doing.

"I wanted to see the foundation reach their goal," said Kingsley-Smith, who planned to ride with the group toward southern Oregon before returning to his job in public health.

He added that though there are a lot of good stories about returning veterans, most of the stories about military members have a strong political angle. Being a part of the bike ride was his way of raising awareness for a really good story, he said.

Scalia echoed Kingsley-Smith, saying that the organization's goals have nothing to do with politics or the government.

"This is about mom and apple pie," Scalia said. "The military members of this country have stood watch for us for so long, and now it's time for us to stand up and do what's right for them."

For more information on Operation American Spirit, visit their website at www.operationamericanspirit.org. The website also contains blogs and news releases from the trip.

Soldiers test skills at Commander's Cup

**Story by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Blevins,
1-186 Infantry Battalion**

The 1-186 Infantry Battalion "Guardians" conducted its second annual Commander's Cup Competition on Sept. 22 at the Grants Pass Sportsman's Park.

More than 400 Soldiers participated in the event, which pitted the best warriors in seven companies against each other in friendly competition.

The event consisted of seven military skills matches beginning every hour during the day. The events included an 8-kilometer ruck-sack run, extreme litter carry, short-range marksmanship competition, combat pistol course, 5-ton truck pull, combatives tournament, and timed weapons assembly.

Charlie Company from Roseburg was last year's big winner, sweeping four out of the seven events, but the overall event winner this year was Delta Company from Grants Pass.

"Delta was the big surprise of the day. They came very well organized, obviously well practiced and ready to take-it to the other companies," said Lt. Col. Keith Ensley, battalion commander.

The award was an oak trophy with golden cup that resides in the armory of the winning company until the following year.

"Our hope is that this will continue, in some fashion, for as long as the battalion exists," said Command Sgt. Major Michael Campbell. "We did it a lot better this year by focusing strictly on military instead of sports events. The Soldiers were terrific. It was an exciting day to watch."

First place finishers in each of the events were:

- HHC (Ashland) in the 8K Ruck Run
- D Company (Grants Pass) in the Extreme Litter Carry
- B Company (Coos Bay) in the SRM competition
- HHC (Ashland) in the Combat Pistol Course
- D Company (Grants Pass) in the 5-ton Pull
- D Company (Grants Pass) in the Weapons Assembly for Speed
- A Company (Medford) in the Army Combatives Tournament



Photo by Mr. Will Storm, Ashland, Ore.

Delta Co. (Grants Pass) during the winning truck pull competition.

RECRUITING & RETENTION

You want to be an officer in the Oregon Guard?

Story by Lt. Col. Lance Englet, JFHQ Recruiting & Retention Command

Have you or someone you know expressed interest in becoming a commissioned officer in the Oregon Army National Guard?

When traveling around the state and talking with commands, I am often surprised that our Soldiers don't know about the many commissioning programs, or the amount of money available to complete college (including a Master's Degree) and commission using the Guaranteed Reserve Force Duty (GRFD) scholarship.

Sometimes Soldiers want a new challenge and the ability to influence the organization as an officer. Others have a need for the management training as an enhancement to their civilian careers. Simply put, if you have the desire and meet the basic requirements there is a program designed for your schedule.

Your career as an officer requires strong commitment and personal responsibility. Though desire is a critical component, I encourage individuals to do a self-assessment before entering a commissioning program. This includes physical fitness, personal readiness, support of Family and employers. Most important is the ability to balance time.

Your chain of command plays a significant role in ensuring the proper paperwork and required assistance. Regardless of the program selected, you will be treated as a leader and given the responsibility to manage others.

Officer accessions are divided into three categories: the Basic Branch, which includes all Combat, Combat Service Support, and Support branches; the Special Branches, which include Medical, JAG, and Chaplains, and take into account civilian training in the medical, legal, or divinity fields; and finally the Warrant Officer Branch, which do not require a college degree and are directly correlated with the enlisted MOS.

Once you have made the decision to pursue your commission, you need to contact your command or Officer Strength Manger to determine which program suits your current situation. Pay close attention to the "Ideal Candidate" portion. The guidelines contained in the graphic below will help you determine qualifications. Remember they are only guidelines. Working with your chain of command will ensure your eligibility for a specific program.

Organizers say new SRT program a success

Story and photos by Maj. Arnold V. Strong, JFHQ Recruiting & Retention Command

Since its inception this summer, Oregon Army National Guard's Strength, Readiness and Training (SRT) Team of the Recruiting and Retention Command has engaged a number of diverse missions focused on strengthening overall retention in the Guard.

Recently, the SRT provided an adventure training camp for North Salem High School's ROTC program that produced some significant results.

Held on the Oregon coast at Camp Rilea, the three-day training event was designed to expose JROTC cadets and their friends to a challenging program that encouraged them to surpass their perceived limitations while learning about service in the Army National Guard.



Above: JROTC cadets at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.



Left: JROTC cadets gain valuable field instruction from seasoned Oregon Guard members during their week-long program.

I am pretty excited to be a part of the Guard.

— JROTC Cadet Kayla Carion

According to Title 10, Section 2031 of the United States Code the purpose of JROTC is "to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, and personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment."

Additionally, the Department of the Army requires each junior ROTC cadet to develop good citizenship, patriotism, self-reliance, leadership, and responsiveness to constituted authority. Each cadet must also develop an appreciation of the importance of physical fitness and a knowledge of basic military skills, in addition to improving his or her ability to communicate well both orally and in writing, and to increase a respect for the role of the U.S. Armed Forces in support of national objectives.

In light of all these program goals, the SRT led the camp to show NSHS students some basics of military culture. With almost 70 cadets in the class, the North Salem High School program is one of the largest in the state. Almost 30 cadets brought along a friend to join them in the event. Between classroom and field instruction on subjects like High Ropes, rappelling, physical fitness, self-defense, map reading and orienteering, the students were kept busy from wake up until lights out.

"We tried to get these kids in front of as much 'hooah' stuff as possible in a short time," Sgt. 1st Class Dan Dunn, SRT Operations Sergeant said. "After reading the After-Action Report comments of these students, I think we accomplished our objectives."

Unique to the NSHS JROTC program is the presence of over a half dozen Soldiers in the student ranks, six of whom are also members of the Oregon Army National Guard. Having enlisted through the split-option program that enables 17-year-old high school students to enlist in the National Guard with their parent or guardian's permission, these cadets provided a wealth of knowledge to their non-military peers.

Typically, Split-option enlistments enable the student to attend basic training between their junior and senior years, returning to their final year in high school with a greater level of physical fitness, discipline and focus.

Cadet Kayla Carion who serves as the cadet battalion commander of the North Salem program, enlisted in the Guard after her experience with the SRT.

"I am pretty excited to be a part of the Guard," she explained after her weekend at Rilea. "I think it will be good for me after I graduate."

Based on the success of the program, the SRT is planning on a similar camp at both Camp Rilea and at the Biak Training Area, the first weekend of Spring Break, for several schools and week-long camps of a similar nature during the summer.

"With the success we had at Rilea, we are definitely looking forward to doing this again, but next time, we'll do it for all seven of the JROTC programs in the state." Dunn said.

	IDT (-2)	IDT (-1)	8-WEEK COURSE							IDEAL CANDIDATE *
FAST TRACK OCS	Drill at RTI	Drill at RTI	Alabama Fast Track - Fort McClellan, AL Jan - Mar							* Already has degree * Not currently a student or is a college senior * Has employer / family support during 8-week course * Up to age 39
			Alabama Fast Track - Fort McClellan, AL Jun - Aug							
			Pennsylvania Fast Track - Fort Indiantown Gap, PA Jul - Sep							
18-MONTH COURSE (CONDUCTED ON IDT WEEKENDS + 2 AT PERIODS)										
TRADITIONAL OCS	OCS Orientation begins with the March IDT	Phase 1(June), Ft. Meade, SD	Phase 2 will be conducted at the Regional Training Institute (RTI) at WOU (Monmouth, OR) all Drills are from Friday at 1900 hrs to Sunday at 1700 hrs					Phase 3(August), Ft. Lewis, WA / OCS Graduation / Commissioning	* Has min. 60 sem. hrs. (90 qtr. hrs.) to begin OCS * Has min. 90 sem. hrs. (135 qtr. hrs.) by commissioning * Doesn't have time to take 8 weeks off * Needs additional leadership experience * Up to age 39	
	Freshman	Summer	Sophomore	Summer	Junior	Summer	Senior	Graduation	Summer	IDEAL CANDIDATE *
GOLD PROGRAM	Attend MS 111, 112, 113 No Military Commitment	Basic Training & Advanced Individual Training	Attend MS 211, 212, 213 / OCS Orientation begins with the February IDT	Phase 1(June), Ft. Meade, SD	Attend MS 311, 312, 313 (Phase 2) / Drill with GOLD Program	Phase 3(August), Ft. Lewis, WA / OCS Graduation / Commissioning	Attend MS 411, 412, 413 / Drill with GOLD Program for 12 IDT periods following OCS Graduation	BA / BS with a Military Science minor	NO GOLD AFFILIATION / SCHEDULE & ATTEND OFFICER BASIC COURSE	* College student at non-ROTC school * Already enrolled in school * Not completed degree * May use in conjunction with master's degree program
	Freshman	Summer	Sophomore	Summer	Junior	Summer	Senior	Graduation	Summer	IDEAL CANDIDATE *
ROTC	Attend MS 111, 112, 113 No Military Commitment. Apply for 3yr Scholarships to convert to GRFDs next FY		Attend MS 211, 212, 213 Contract MS IIs as SMP Apply for 2yr GRFDs	Contracted CDTs attend Airborne & Air Assault Schools	Contract Request GRFD Join SMP ARNG Scholarship starts Convert Regular Scholarships to ARNG	Attend NAL Camp Formulate Duty and Branch preferences CPDT	Make Branch Selections. Need PAR & LN #. OML Board. Request GRFD Conversion. Join SMP. Complete Degree. Find ARNG Unit to Join for Accessions			* Full-time student at participating school * Not completed degree * May use scholarship towards master's degree program * Up to age 30 for contract, 35 for non-contract

Graphic courtesy of JFHQ Recruiting & Retention Command

Oregon Guard, Singapore forces collaborate in Tiger Balm 2007

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Members of the Oregon National Guard traveled more than 8,000 miles to sunny Singapore to participate in Tiger Balm 2007, this past summer.

Oregon Soldiers trained with members of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) at Camp Kranji, home of the 4th Singapore Armoured Brigade (SAB) and the SAF War Gaming Center – a training location where participants work through mock battles and simulated tactical scenarios.

The Oregon Guard served as the executive agent, the high control, and the coalition joint task force command cell along with members of the SAF Headquarters Armour.

With the 82 Rear Operations Center taking the lead, Col. David A. Greenwood served as the director for exercise, leading a team of planners in preparing for the bilateral command post exercise.

“Tiger Balm is a critical faction of the U.S. Pacific Command’s Theater Strategic Capabilities Plan, and a critical component of Asian-Pacific Security Cooperation,” Greenwood said. “It provides our Soldiers, and theirs, a great opportunity for professional and cultural exchange.”

Tiger Balm has a longstanding history dating back to 1981. This year marks the 26th iteration of the command post exercise between the United States and Singapore, and represents the strength of the commitment between the two nations.

Singapore accomplished quite a bit in a short amount of time—gaining independence, joining the United Nations, and attaining sovereignty, in just 42 years.

“The military operates at an extremely high level of proficiency at the tactical and operational levels,” Greenwood said about the relatively youthful nation.

“Clearly, we benefit greatly from the exchange,” he added.

The U.S. Joint Manning of the CJTF consisted of nearly 60 personnel. In order to provide the highest quality Soldiers for the respective skill-sets required, Oregon leveraged personnel from Fort Leavenworth, KS, one member of the Oregon Air National Guard, who acted as the ‘air liaison’, members from the National Guard Bureau, and personnel from the U.S. Army Reserve’s Western Information Operations Command.

Tiger Balm 2007 focused on offensive and defensive operations or the kinetic phases of simulated combat operations. The Hawaii Army National Guard’s 29 Infantry Brigade Combat Team and both the SAF and SAB acted as maneuver units with the Brigade commanders’ respective staff serving as the target training audience.

According to Greenwood, the current sequence of simulated training is a two-year cycle, with 2007 focusing on battle tactics, and the 2008 training focusing on reconstruction efforts. Greenwood said both brigades achieved quick and decisive tactical victories this year, and established favorable



Map courtesy of National Geographic Online

The Republic of Singapore is an island nation located at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. It lies 85 miles north of the Equator, south of the Malaysian state of Johor and north of Indonesia’s Riau Islands. At 272 square miles, it is one of the few remaining city-states in the world and the smallest country in Southeast Asia.

conditions for the 2008 reconstruction and stabilization operations.

“This very much relates to our current operations in Iraq,” Greenwood said.

Planners say the focus for Tiger Balm

2008 will be held next summer at the Battle Command Training Center at Schofield Barracks, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The Oregon National Guard will spearhead the training in 2008, Greenwood said.

Father-son Oregonians, deploy together, fly UH-60 missions in Iraq

Story by Sgt. Brandon Little,
12th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tim Kelly has been a pilot for almost 40 years. During those four decades, he has been on two combat tours in Vietnam and flown with many other pilots. However, his current deployment with Task Force XII in Iraq has given him a once in a lifetime opportunity; to fly with his son.

“We’ve flown together on four missions so far,” said Tim Kelly, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot in B Co. 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. “He’s doing a great job. He reminds me a little of myself when I was younger.”

His son, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Kelly, is also a pilot in B Co. 2nd Bn. 147 Avn.

“My father had a big role in my decision to become a pilot,” said Ben Kelly. “When I was younger, he flew planes for a civilian company (in addition to military aircraft) and he let me fly with him.”

But this father and son team deploying together is no coincidence. Tim Kelly was

a colonel serving full-time in the Oregon Army National Guard. When he learned his son’s Hawaii National Guard unit was scheduled to deploy to Iraq, he decided to hop back in the saddle one last time and transfer to his son’s unit to deploy with him.

“I thought one day this would be a good story to tell my grandson,” said Tim Kelly. “I’d tell him about how his dad and I flew over Baghdad together.”

The transfer required Tim Kelly to take a reduction in rank for the duration of the deployment, but he didn’t seem to mind since he started out his pilot career as a warrant officer.

“I wanted to finish out my career the way it started, as a pilot, not behind a desk,” said Tim Kelly.

Although a father and son both serving in the military is not uncommon, this father and son duo say this was the chance of a lifetime to deploy together.

“I thought it would be cool to fly together,” said Ben Kelly. “I also thought it would be an opportunity to spend time together.”

Ben Kelly has not yet achieved the position of pilot-in-command of an aircraft, so

when they’re flying together, father knows best.

“One pilot has to operate the aircraft and the other has to operate the radio,” said Tim Kelly. “It works better when both pilots alternate these responsibilities.”

Tim Kelly would know what works best. In addition to the Black Hawk, he has flown CH-47 Chinooks, OH-58 Kiowa Warriors, Bell UH-1 or “Hueys” and even the fixed wing C-12 Huron.

“Having gone through so much training in flight school, I already knew a lot, but he did teach me a few tips and tricks to flying,” said Ben Kelly. “I have a lot of respect for his experience.”

Sometimes a pilot’s knowledge and experience can be the difference between life and death.

“I know that he’s my son, but in the cockpit we are both professional,” said Tim Kelly. “When I think about him sitting next to me, it feels a little different but I have to treat him the same as I do any other pilot.”

The Kellys are not the only father and son team serving in the 2-147th. Staff Sgt. John Lowe and his son, Pfc. Cody Lowe, both maintain helicopters for the unit.



Photo by Sgt. Ghrisaron Booth, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tim Kelly (left) and his son, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ben Kelly, after a combat mission for Task Force XII in Iraq on Sept. 25. According to the father and son team, the mission was the first time they had ever piloted the same aircraft together.

New JFHQ paralegal brings training, deployment experience to job



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Michael Johnson, JFHQ JAG Office

Sgt. Michael Johnson playing with Iraqi children during his deployment in 2004.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

As an Advanced Individual Training and Warrior Leadership Course honor graduate, in addition to president of his fraternity at Oregon State University, and a full-time paralegal position at the Oregon Military Department, Sgt.

Johnson said about his new post at the Oregon Military Department.

Johnson joined the Oregon Army National Guard in June, 2002, signing on as a paralegal. After completing the Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, where he graduated with honors, he returned to his home station in Warrenton, Ore.

Michael Johnson has a lot of irons in the fire. But you couldn’t tell that from his relaxed demeanor and unassuming tone.

“I wanted to be in a place where I could better use the training that I received,” Johnson

In June, 2003, Johnson transferred to Joint Force Headquarters in order to utilize the training he had received in the legal field. After working with the Judge Advocate General’s office for about a year, Johnson moved to the 3-116th Cavalry (Armor) to fill a paralegal position for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, in June, 2004.

Johnson trained with the unit at Fort Bliss, Texas, then at Fort Polk, La., before heading to Iraq. He was stationed near Kirkuk for most of the deployment.

Johnson spent his time working in the administrative section, doing paralegal work with the 116th BCT JAG section, but says his duties often ranged outside the realm of the legal field.

“I also did many administrative tasks include awards processing, mail pick-up and distribution, keeping up to date personnel files for all of the members of our unit, and many others,” he said.

On several occasions, Johnson

volunteered to go on patrols with the Battalion Commander’s Personal Security Detachment.

“I felt I wanted to get out into the country and do something important,” Johnson said.

After returning to Oregon, Johnson transferred back to Joint Force Headquarters, continuing to work with the JAG section. He has since been a court reporter for several administrative separation boards and supported numerous Soldier Readiness Processes (SRP’s) for deploying units.

Not keen to sit on his laurels, Johnson attended the Warrior Leadership Course at Camp Williams, Utah, in July, 2007. The training consisted of leadership development in both a classroom and garrison environment, focusing on the paralegal field. Johnson finished the course as an honor graduate.

“For me, this school was not necessarily difficult, but (it) definitely was challenging,” he said. “I learned how I react to different

situations and which steps to take in order to successfully navigate each situation.”

Johnson was happy to learn he had exceeded the course standard, earning the second highest ranking among his peers.

According to Johnson, the training he receives builds upon itself, benefiting not only his career, but those he helps in the legal field.

“I think that the training that I received during the Warrior Leadership Course is going to be vital for any of my future missions,” he said. “It provided me with a sense of squad leadership in a tactical environment, delegation, attention to detail, distribution of information, and ensuring your Soldiers are confident and competent.”

Johnson is currently attending Oregon State University, majoring in exercise and sport science with an emphasis on physical education and teaching. He is president of his fraternity, Sigma Pi Fraternity, and actively involved in sports, including baseball and softball.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Sherpa mission a 'hodgepodge of unique personalities, talents



Members of Alpha Co. 641 in Iraq.

The story of Alpha Company, 641st Aviation Regiment is as complex as the 44 personalities that comprise the company. It is a mixture of experienced combat veterans on their second or third tour and young and eager Soldiers experiencing their first "rodeo." The youngest of us is 21; the oldest 52. There are married fathers and unmarried bachelors.

There are fulltime Guardsmen and traditional National Guard Soldiers who split time as electricians, students, civilian aviators and aspiring attorneys. We identify with "Ducks," "Huskies," and "Sooners."

The dynamic of this hodgepodge is sometimes surprising, generally humorous and always fascinating. From Washington to Oklahoma and South Dakota to Oregon, the soldiers in this company have clashed cultures with equal parts of Midwest know-how and Northwest can-do. As a result, those from Washington have learned

the right way to eat grits and those from Oklahoma have learned 20 different words for "coffee."

Each person in this company has brought a unique perspective and fresh batch of life experiences to share with the group. Everyday, a new story begins with "back when I was a kid..." or "on my last deployment..." This company has brought together a cross section of America, fresh with an unflinching sense of

duty, deep-seated pride in their job and an unquenchable drive to get that job done.

We operate the C-23 Sherpa, which is the least understood and most underestimated aircraft in the Army inventory. With its boxy dimensions (looking more like the crate that an airplane was shipped in), it has assumed the moniker "Box Car." As unsightly and unusual as it may be, pound for pound and passenger for passenger, this rat-nosed aircraft has moved more parts and people around Iraq than any other military airframe.

The crews who fly the Sherpa will tell you that what it lacks in looks, it makes up for in dependability. The Sherpa is the unsung, unappreciated and unassuming aircraft that gets it done, around the clock. Whether it's a box of widgets or 14 soldiers going out on R&R leave, this aircraft and its crews make it happen.

With a colorful combination of interesting personnel and an eccentric aircraft,

Alpha Company is not likely to run short of oddball stories and fascinating events. The following is one of many I hope to bring to you on a regular basis. It is titled "The Lanyard."

Shortly after we arrived, Spc. Jed Ball (Oregon) learned a valuable lesson in accountability. Between games of ping-pong, Jed walked away briefly, leaving behind his 9MM pistol. Another Soldier came upon it and within an hour, it was in the hands of the Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. Resler. Sheepishly, Jed reported to the TF Commander to retrieve his wayward pea-shooter (reminiscent of trips to the principal, no doubt).

The TF Commander, more interested in instilling an appreciation for weapons accountability, rather than a scolding, developed a plan with Jed. The plan involved tying a lanyard to the pistol grip stock to the holster. Jed agreed and he left the office with his 9MM.

The next day, Lt. Col. Resler happened upon Jed in the dining facility. He had succeeded in tying the lanyard firmly to his pistol ... but unfortunately, the other end was dangling unattached behind him. We now refer to the lanyard (that we all are required to have now) as the "Jed Cord."

From Alex Miner's Borat impressions to Rob Burnett's Ace Ventura hairstyle, we are seldom far from fits of laughter and good times.

I will bring you more stories and slices of life as we go. Take care and know that Alpha Company is making you proud.

To date, we have flown over 500 hours, hauled 950,000 pounds of cargo and 2,300 passengers throughout the Iraq AOR. The troops are doing very well and, as always, are doing above and beyond what is being asked of them

Some significant events include:

Jed Ball (Ore.) promoted to sergeant on Nov. 17; Eric Brown (Okla.) promoted to CW3 on Nov. 25; boxing promoter Don King visited the company and flew on our aircraft as part of a USO tour (see picture below); Combat Patch (SSI) donning ceremony on Nov. 25; and my son, Colin Shaun, born on Nov. 21.

Maj. Dave Doran, Commander,
Alpha Co., 641st Aviation Regiment,
Oregon Army National Guard



Oregon's Public Affairs Soldiers document operations, life in Iraq



Members of the 115th MPAD with Marine Gen. Peter Pace (center), Chairman, Joint Chiefs.

The 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment has troops all over the Multinational Division North, and really have good working relationships with the units across the North. The new division is so much better to work with than what was here when we first rolled-in.

We have tried linking up with the other Oregon units and it is a challenge since they are not part of our area of operations, although they do roll through or fly through.

I talked with a chief from the aviation unit (Alpha Company,

641 Aviation) when I was in Mosul last week, but we have not been able to get missions coordinated with them yet. I have been able to travel out to keep tabs on the conditions of the Soldiers.

I spend lots of time coordinating transport around MND North, supply, communication issues, admin, and keeping battalion tasks away from the troops so they can actually work. It would've been better for me to have more supply and admin experience, but I am learning the processes. I am becoming a jack of all trades and master of none. I have gained just enough knowledge in some things to sound smart, but I am probably just dangerous ... (ha, ha).

We received are in the process of resetting teams to meet the mission sets. We have three Soldiers assigned to 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd

Infantry Division, two Soldiers assigned to 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, three Soldiers assigned to Tactical Air Command North, one assigned to 1st Brigade 10th Mountain Division, three Soldiers with 1st Armored Division.

Three Soldiers are MPAD headquarters, but our admin spends three days a week working with 111th Engineer's admin shop, and three in general support at Contingency Operating Base Speicher. The 111th Eng. is a West Virginia National Guard unit, which is in our higher headquarters, so our admin is working brigade level admin for us.

The working conditions we have at most locations are better than we have at home. We are treated better here, than we were at Fort Dix. We all live in container housing units now, although three Soldiers were in surge housing tents until just two weeks ago.

At COB Speicher we have a command office, a team room and a television studio with

the satellite system for Digital Video and Imagery Distribution System. Getting the DVIDS satellite system in Oregon would be the best thing the state could do to increase the effectiveness of public affairs. (To view news stories, photos and videos MPAD Soldiers are producing in Iraq visit the unit's DVIDS website at www.dvidshub.net/units/115MPAD.)

We have submitted five Soldiers for Combat Action Badges so far, two have been approved and three are at still waiting for division-level approval.

We do roll with the infantry and have been on some missions where our Soldiers kicked-in the door. Every Soldier in the MPAD will have a different perspective on the war and will have very different experiences. More often the Soldiers go out individually with the units we support. It has become rare that we have a pair of MPAD Soldiers on the same mission. Most of the units are very good about giving us the mission briefs and getting our

Soldiers into the walk-through prior to the mission.

I can say one of the best things the state did for us was provide M9 pistols for all of us. The M9 has been good to have when some of the troops have gone on lower risk missions and they do not want them to look so intimidating. When we are at the Forward Operating Bases we can lock the rifles and just carry the M9. The M4 (rifle) is the way to go for us when we go out. The M16 (rifle) is cumbersome with all the extra gear we carry. Luckily most of the Soldiers that go out have the M4.

In January we start working on the paperwork and checklists for coming home. We received a return date from Forces Command, we will have boots on the ground in Oregon in mid May 2008.

1st Sgt. Mike Cummings,
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment,
Task Force Iron Public Affairs
COB Speicher, Iraq

Oregon's 224 Engineers settle in to their new home in Balad, Iraq

The unit is in the midst of change; as you know the unit was initially based out of Balad. This is still true, however since Oct. 8, our entire unit was assigned to Baghdad for a RIP/TOA until replacements could arrive.

The unit then was faced with two company's worth of equipment, Balad and Baghdad. Our new assignment resulted in sending our platoons to remote sites and leaving only a Headquarters piece ... very challenging. The good news is Capt. Mouser and I spent the entire month of October traveling throughout Iraq checking and conducting missions with our troops. Best experience in my career to date. We were in Kalsu, Forward Operating Base Delta, and the Commander went on some 911 missions throughout the

greater Baghdad area.

Currently we are scheduled to return to Balad as a company mid to late November. It will be the first time since our arrival Sept. 7 that the entire company will be together...very exciting. Our missions will continue with Rapid Crater Repair (RCR) and Route Sanitation, along route Tampa.

Our 1249th Engineer Battalion has been outstanding and has responded to our every need ... most notable Sgt. 1st Class Linter, Staff Sgt. Browning and of course Capt. Welch. In addition, we have maintained communication with the battalion commander on a regular basis.

I have attached a picture of our company sign and will send a few more if you like.

Oh, almost forgot. I found the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment first sergeant! I'm hoping to coordinate a story on our Soldiers and their mission. I have also talked to Maj. Brown and 1st Sgt. Carrar, they seem to be well. I will see them again mid November. The 224 and 234 are a 15-minute walk from each other.

I must tell you, it certainly is an honor for our Soldiers to wear the State patch, so we can remind our active component brothers that it truly is the National Guard holding down the fort ... and I won't let them forget that fact.

Regards,
1SG MICHAEL F. AMEN
224 ESC
Balad, Iraq



Photo courtesy of 224 EN BN

From left to right: Pfc. Cooper R. Huffman, Spc. Tracy S. Sherwood, and Spc. Bret M. White, show off the finished company sign in front of their headquarters.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Deptula appointed new Counter-Drug program commander

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Lt. Col. Stephen Deptula assumed command of the Oregon National Guard Counter-Drug Program, Oct. 1.

Outgoing commander, Col. Rick Williams retired in a ceremony held Sept. 8, 2007 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore.

Deptula began his military career in January, 1986 when he attended the United States Air Force Officer Training School.

He is currently assigned to the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, as the unit's Detachment Commander.

Deptula holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Alaska, a master's degree in computer information systems from the University of Phoenix and a master's degree in administrative management from Central Michigan University.

His prior assignments include Executive Officer with the 124th Security Forces Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, among other high level positions throughout the Air Force.

He has more than ten years' experience in corporate security management, where he worked extensively with local and federal agencies on a variety of criminal investigations and other law enforcement matters.



Rees awarded coveted national medal

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, was awarded the General Raymond S. McLain Medal for outstanding contributions to the Army in Washington D.C., Oct. 8.

Rees accepted the medal in front of 31,000 guests during the opening ceremony of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition at the Washington Convention Center.

The McLain Medal is given annually to a member of the National Guard for outstanding contributions to the AUSA's goal of a seamless and component-integrated Army.

Rees became Oregon's adjutant general for a third time in 2005, having previously served in that position from 1987 to 1991 and from 1994 to 1999. During his career as a Citizen-Soldier, he has served the Guard in a variety of key leadership positions including, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau for more than 14 months in 2002 and 2003, and director of the Army National Guard for more than a year in the early 1990s.

Rees has served twice as vice chief of staff for the National Guard Bureau, and was chief of staff for U.S. Northern Command and NORAD from May 2003 to June 2005.

"These assignments afforded him unique opportunities and influence regarding the 'One Army' concept," wrote Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Norm Hoffman, president of the AUSA Columbia River Chapter, in Rees's nomination.



Powell replaces Bard for State Chief Warrant Officer position

Chief Warrant 5 James Powell was named Command Chief Warrant Officer in August 2007, and was promoted to CW5 on Sept. 18, 2007, replacing CW5 Floyd Bard, who retired.

In the new post, Powell will oversee recruiting and career management for the state's warrant officer corps.

"This is an incredible opportunity, and I thank Maj. Gen. Rees for appointing me to serve in this capacity," Powell said. "I look forward to marketing the Warrant Officer opportunities to our highly skilled NCOs in the Oregon Guard."

Powell entered the Oregon Army National Guard as a musician in the 234th Army Band on Nov. 19, 1968, and served as a French horn player and percussionist. In 1973, Powell, then a sergeant, was named Acting First Sergeant of the unit, and in 1983, was commissioned as a CW2 and named Bandmaster Commander.

In 2000, Chief Powell was named to the Army Bands Steering Group and the Reserve Component Strategic Committee as a Deputy Staff Bands Officer for those Army Bands in the 5th Army region. He serves today in that position.



Murphy to preside over NEMA

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



The director of the Oregon Emergency Management was recently named president of the National Emergency Management Association, Oct. 1, in Salem, Ore.

Ken Murphy, will lead NEMA as the organization provides national leadership and expertise in comprehensive emergency management.

"This position will allow me to work with various national organizations and figures and help them to understand and recognize that Oregon is proactive and concerned about emergency management," said Murphy.

As president of NEMA, Murphy will represent 50 states and several U.S. territories. He will work with hundreds of associate members of public and private sectors to im-

prove the nation's ability to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies, disasters and threats to our homeland.

"I will be meeting on a quarterly basis with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the FEMA administrator to discuss issues, policies, and improve this countries ability to deal with disasters," he said.

NEMA serves as a vital emergency management information and assistance resource. The organization advances continuous improvement in emergency management through strategic partnerships, innovative programs, and collaborative policy positions. Murphy said he has specific goals he would like to accomplish in his time as president of the organization.

"I hope this brings positive attention to Oregon," he said. "I hope to instill in Oregon's Congressional delegation, state legislative body, and the Governor's Office that emergency management is a serious and important subject that we need to pay attention to."

Disney appointed Senior Army Advisor



Col. Paul R. Disney Jr. was appointed Senior Army Advisor for Joint Forces Headquarters, Oregon National Guard in August 2007.

Disney was born in Baltimore, Md., and is a 1980 graduate of Elizabethtown College, Penn. He holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Boston University and a Masters of Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Disney was commissioned as a field artillery officer in 1981 and began his service as a battery executive officer at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Col. Disney commanded the 2nd Battalion (Air Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, from June 1999 to June 2001.

He is married to the former Kathleen Richardson from Pine Island, Minn., and together have three children.

Army Musicians!!

"Oregon's Own" 234th Army Band has immediate openings for:

Trombone
Oboe
Percussion
Electric Bass Guitar
Guitar

Soldiers considering applying to the band must pass an incoming performance audition, and be capable of becoming a 42R (Army Musician). Guitar and percussion players must be skilled at reading music; percussionists must also play both drum and chromatic, or mallet instruments. Join an awesome unit! Perform for audiences across the spectrum of Soldiers and civilians.

If you have the skills, call:
Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Salas, Readiness NCO at 503-335-4822.

Oliveras assumes JFHQ IG post

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Col. Robert B. Oliveras assumed the position of Army Inspector General for the Oregon Army National Guard in Salem, in early September. Oliveras replaced Col. Bernard "Kimo" Gabriel, who retired.

Oliveras was born in Manhattan, N.Y. He received his commissioned while attending the University of Puerto Rico in 1982. The following year, he was assigned to Fort Dix, N.J., as the Company Executive Officer for Alpha Co., 1st Battalion, 5th Training Brigade, Fort Dix, N.J.

He has served in various staff and command positions throughout the Army in such places as the Honduras, Saudi Arabia, Europe and Puerto Rico.

Oliveras holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Puerto Rico, a Master's Degree in Management from Webster University and a Master's Degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.



UPAR Training set to begin soon

If you've ever considered being a part of the fast-paced world of Public Affairs, now's your chance!

The Joint Forces Headquarters' Public Affairs Office in Salem, Ore., is looking for Soldiers and Airmen interested in becoming Unit Public Affairs Representatives, or UPARs.

The additional duty will involve representing your unit as an "embedded journalist" for all unit functions and events. Duties include photography, writing, editing, and working with the civilian media, and leaders within the Oregon National Guard.

All training will be provided for you by State Public Affairs staff members. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact your unit First Sergeant (Army), or First Shirt (Air). A formal schedule of training dates and locations will be released after Jan. 1, 2008. Stay tuned to the January issue of the Oregon Sentinel for more details.

NEWS BRIEFS

TriWest offering grief counseling

TriWest Healthcare Alliance is offering a new program to help military leaders respond to families who have lost a loved one.

TriWest and noted author and nationally certified counselor, Joanne Steen will offer "Grief Solutions" to military leaders in communities hit hardest by casualties, to provide them with a deeper understanding of how to support and assist survivors.

The programs will be offered to active duty, National Guard and Reserve units throughout the 21-state TRICARE West Region administered by TriWest Healthcare Alliance. For more information, visit TriWest's Behavioral Health Portal.

For more information, visit www.triwest.com/

IRS warns of tax-related scam

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service is alerting taxpayers to the latest versions of an e-mail scam intended to fool people into believing they are under investigation by the agency's Criminal Investigation division.

The e-mail purporting to be from IRS Criminal Investigation falsely states that the person is under a criminal probe for submitting a false tax return to the California Franchise Tax Board. The e-mail seeks to entice people to click on a link or open an attachment to learn more information about the complaint against them. The IRS warned people that the e-mail link and attachment is a Trojan Horse that can take over the person's computer hard drive and allow someone to have remote access to the computer.

The IRS urged people not to click the link in the e-mail or open the attachment.

Similar e-mail variations suggest a customer has filed a complaint against a company and the IRS can act as an arbitrator. The latest versions appear aimed at business taxpayers as well as individual taxpayers.

The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal and financial information. Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Recipients of questionable e-mails claiming to come from the IRS should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the e-mails. Instead, they should forward the e-mails to phishing@irs.gov.

Since the establishment of the mail box last year, the IRS has received more than 17,700 e-mails from taxpayers reporting more than 240 separate phishing incidents. To date, investigations by TIGTA have identified host sites in at least 27 different countries, as well as in the United States.

OR Retiree Council launches new website

The Oregon National Guard Retiree Council will be launching a new website to give retired and former members of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard access to resources available to them.

"The website is another method of communication where we can pull together information that pertains to current and former members of the Oregon National Guard and retirees," said Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Bud Snively, the council member responsible for designing the website.

The Retiree Council helps former Guardsmen stay in touch with the Oregon National Guard after they have completed their service.

Chairman of the Retiree Council, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Richard Norton, said in recent years the council has been providing services for a new generation of retired Guardsmen.

"We have young veterans who have returned from one or two active duty tours, and for one reason or another they are no

longer in the Guard, but they still want to maintain knowledge of current events and relationships with members of their units," said Norton. "It's a whole new culture of retired Guardsmen than what you might have seen 20 years ago."

The website will help veterans of all ages gain access to the information and benefits they may need, and will help them stay up-to-date on current issues pertaining to them. It will contain links to news and information for the Oregon National Guard, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, Tri-West/ Tri-Care, My Pay, Family Support Programs, Reintegration, Employer Support of Guard and Reserve, Space A travel information, among many others.

The Retiree Council invites veterans to visit their website at <http://orngetirees.info/> beginning Jan. 1. The website will be updated with new information regularly.

Oregon 150 seeking original Oregon ties

The Oregon National Guard is looking for Oregon Guardsmen and their families who may have a continuous family connection to the Oregon National Guard.

The search is part of the Oregon 150 Celebration which will commence in 2009 to mark the 150th anniversary of statehood in Oregon.

Interested parties should contact Major Alisha Hamel, the Oregon 150 Special Projects Officer, at alisha.hamel@or.ngb.army.mil or by calling 503-584-2272.

Multimedia training aids available to all Guard units

The Defense Automated Visual Information System and Defense Instructional Technology Information System now has Department of Defense video training material available to all personnel within the DoD.

The training products include thousands of visual information and interactive multimedia programs designed to support operational training and internal information missions. These are available in the form of videotapes, DVDs, CD-ROMs and multimedia programs. All products are distributed free of charge to all DoD and government personnel.

An online catalog of these training products can be found at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/davis>. Since the website's launch in 1997, DAVIS/DITIS has successfully processed and distributed close to one million multimedia products worldwide. DAVIS/DITIS also utilizes the Pentagon Channel for training purposes.

For more information, visit the DAVIS/DITIS website at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/davis>, or contact them via e-mail at vibuddy@hq.afis.osd.mil, or by phone at DSN 795-7827 or 570-895-7827 (commercial).

Virginia group to offer grants to deployed Soldiers' children

A Virginia-based group is offering grants to children of deployed military members to help cover fees for extra-curricular activities.

Our Military Kids, based in McLean, Va., is accepting applications from families of deployed Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, who are members of the National Guard or Federal Reserves, for grants to help families offset the cost of fees associated with sports, fine arts, or tutoring.

The group has corporate support from Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed-Martin, Target, TriWest Healthcare, 3M Corporation, and others.

OMK was founded in 2004 out of a concern that school-aged children of deployed Reserve and National Guard parents were missing out on sustaining support services. After a successful pilot program with the

Virginia National Guard, the group launched nationwide to reach over 1,000 children in 47 states by the end of 2006. The group currently holds a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which it received in early 2005.

Grants awarded average between \$330 and \$500 per child.

"In the scope of things, \$500 is not a huge amount of money," says the mother of a grant recipient. "But for this family, it meant the difference between my daughter being able to continue dancing, as she has for the past nine years."

OMK is recognized by the White House and the Department of Defense, and is endorsed by educators and child psychologists. It is also the recipient of the "Newman's Own Award," which recognizes organizations for ingenuity and innovation in working to improve the quality of those serving in the military.

For more information, contact Our Military Kids at 703-734-6654, or via the Web at www.ourmilitarykids.org.

ORNGA offering 2008 scholarships

The Oregon National Guard Association will present six \$1,500 scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year.

The awards will be presented at the Oregon National Guard Association Conference in Salem, Ore., in April 2008.

Scholarships will be awarded for demonstrated qualities of leadership, civic action and academic achievement. Note: Previous year (2007) recipients are not eligible. The application deadline is Mar. 1, 2008. Winners of 2007 scholarships are not eligible.

For more information visit www.ornga.org, or call the ORNGA office at 503-584-3030.

Navy offering Space-A lodging for all military members

New World-Wide U.S. Navy Space-A lodging opportunities are being offered as of Nov. 15, at all U.S. Navy temporary lodging facilities throughout the world.

Temporary Duty personnel are required to use on-base lodging when directed by their command and are encouraged to use on-base lodging when available.

Reservations and assignments are made on a first-come, first-serve basis without regard to rate or rank.

For more information, contact www.dodlodging.net or call 1-877-628-9233.

Army looking for drill sergeants

The Army National Guard's Summer Surge Drill Sergeant program is currently accepting applications for qualified NCO's to attend the Active Component Drill Sergeant Course at Ft. Jackson.

All associated funding will be provided by the Army at no expense to the Soldier's state or unit.

Drill Sergeants will then incur a FY 08 Summer commitment (90 - 130 days on active status) to serve as a Basic Combat Training (BCT) Drill Sergeant at one of the Army's five Army Training Centers.

The centers are located at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Knox, Ky.

The Drill Sergeant Candidate must be a Sgt. to Sgt. 1st Class, and meet the Drill Sergeant criteria. The list can be found online at: www.guarddrillsergeant.com.

Soldiers who are currently Drill Sergeant qualified (ASI X) can also volunteer for this duty but may require the two-week Drill Sergeant Recertification Course at Fort Jackson.

Soldiers may not volunteer if they have been notified of a future deployment.

Federal and State deployments will take precedence over this program and/or the follow-on Summer Surge period commitment.

Each applicant must go through a back-

ground investigation and will be required to mail an SF 86 and a fingerprint card (FD 258) to the address below, regardless of their current security status, including a letterhead stating it is for Drill Sergeant School. Your State Security Officer will adjudicate the completed packet.

Department of the Army, Attn: Greg Williamson, ARNG Liaison Office, 6580 Eisenhower Ave, Room 322, Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Ramsey, NGB-ASM RSP Drill Sergeant Integrator at Jerry.Ramsey1@us.army.mil.

Army, Marines looking for qualified NCOs

Non-Commissioned Officers with combat experience are needed to work part-time, assisting with pre-deployment training for U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps units.

Soldiers must have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan as a pre-requisite and must have combat arms experience. Soldiers will be assistant lane controllers for convoy operations, urban patrolling, react to sniper, react to RPG, and react to IED/ SVIED and will work with Afghan and Iraqi role players.

Assistant instructors are wanted for Military Transition Teams and Embedded Training Teams. Medics with combat experience and Soldiers with Emergency Medical Technician certificates are also needed.

Soldiers will generally work 10 days per month, and can earn up to \$200 to \$250 per day.

Paid travel to training sites in California, North Carolina, Nevada, Virginia, Alaska or Hawaii. Travel will be done on Saturdays, preparation and rehearsal on Sunday, conduct training Monday through Friday, and return home the following Saturday.

Send military biography, resume, and DD 214 to bboquist@icwyoming.com, fax to 503-623-7665 or mail to International Charter Incorporated, 17080 Butler Hill Road, Dallas, Ore. 97338. International Charter Incorporated is a Department of Defense contractor and equal opportunity employer.

DEERS Salem changes office hours

The DEERS/RAPIDS site in Salem, Ore. is operating on a walk-in basis starting Nov. 1. The change will provide timely support for Military ID cards / DEERS actions for eligible military members, dependents, and retirees.

Personnel who need CAC pin resets will also be seen on a walk-in basis. All current appointments will still be honored, but no new appointments will be set.

The walk-in hours of operations will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday. Adjustments to these times will be kept to a minimum, but may be made without notice depending on staffing requirements as dictated by critical support mission requests.

Priority and appointments will be given to E9/CW5/O6 and above. Customers located 75 miles or more from the DEERS service center or incapacitated individuals will be given secondary priority and appointments will be made available upon request to them.

Please remember to bring all original documentation with you so the staff will be fully able to assist you during your visit. A list of original documentation needed can be obtained by calling the DEERS/ Tricare reception desk at (503) 584-2387.

The list of original documentation required is dependent on the circumstance and includes, but is not limited to, two pieces of picture ID, Birth Certificate, SSN cards, Marriage Certificate, Divorce Decree, Promotion Orders, Extension of Enlistment, Retirement Order, DD214, NGB 22 and any other document that might be pertinent.

For more information contact 1st Lt. Sharel Paradis at (503) 584-2285, or via e-mail at: sharel.paradis@us.army.mil.

Decorated WWII vet, former Jungleer, dies at 89

Story by Spc. April L. Davis,
Oregon Military Department

SCOTTS MILLS – Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Frank R. Gehrman, Distinguished Service Cross recipient from the 162nd Infantry, 41st Infantry Division, passed away Nov. 23 at the age of 89.

Frank was born in 1918 to August and Clara (Schafer) Gehrman. He was a farmer in Mt. Angel before volunteering for service in 1941 with the U.S. Army Medical Department.

He served overseas with 162nd Infantry, 41st Division from March 1942 to 1944 and saw action in Salomaua, Hollandia and Biak Campaigns as a section sergeant and surgical technician for the battalion aid station.

"I had a grade-school education and I was in charge of the outfit. I had several guys that had a college education and ... they put me in charge. I had a big mouth. That's what it takes to be a sergeant, you've gotta have a big mouth and a few cuss words," Gehrman said, during an interview with Oregon Public Broadcasting for the Oregon At War documentary.

Gehrman earned the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during an enemy attack on Biak Island,



Gehrman in 1944.

Schouten Group on June 5, 1944. During the attack the battalion perimeter received intense knee mortar, machine gun and sniper fire causing many casualties. Gehrman left his foxhole, exposing himself to enemy fire, to care for the wounded and

accompany the litter cases to safety. On seven different occasions without regard for his personal safety, he removed wounded men from areas of heavy enemy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire, saving many lives.

"I was supposed to see that the litter-bearers went out and got the wounded to bring them in. And I never could order anybody to go out on the front line and pick up the wounded guy. So I'd say, 'C'mon fellers, follow me, let's go,' and I always had volunteers that would go with me," Gehrman said during the OPB interview. "But I never once ever ordered a guy out there, and that's one of the reasons I got the Distinguished Service Cross, because I was stickin' my neck out there everyday."

Although Gehrman knew he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, he never actually received the award. After enlisting the help of then Adjutant General of Oregon, Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, and Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, he was pinned with the award on January 13, 2003 in a ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center, now known as the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore.

Gehrman was also awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement during an enemy ambush at Humboldt Bay, Dutch New Guinea on April 23, 1944, for leading a litter squad across Nubai Creek, while under enemy fire, to carry a wounded man to safety.

He received a second Bronze Star for heroic achievement on June 7, 1944 for volunteering to take a litter squad across 500 yards of open terrain under heavy enemy fire to deliver a unit of plasma, needed to save the life of a seriously wounded man. Despite being pinned down by heavy fire three times, he and his



Photos courtesy of Gehrman family

Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Frank R. Gehrman (right), with Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, former Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, at Gehrman's award ceremony in Salem, Ore., Jan. 13, 2003.

litter squad were able to safely deliver the plasma while evacuating a casualty from their own aid station, and they discovered a safer route to evacuate the rest of their casualties.

His other awards include three Purple Hearts, Expert Rifleman, Southwest Pacific Asian Theatre of War Medal, Combat Infantry Medic Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Star device, and five Overseas Bars.

After WWII he bought a farm in Marquam, Ore. where he raised turkeys, sheep dogs, Appaloosa horses, and a top winning race horse. He spent some time working in the logging industry, building roads, and making the parking lots, ski

runs, and landings at Mt. Hood Meadows and Timberline.

Gehrman worked for the Bureau of Land Management and Horning Seed Orchard, managing crews and inventing much of the equipment needed for cone gathering, separating seeds, and starting trees for replanting.

Frank retired and moved to Arizona for short time, but eventually returned to Oregon. After his wife Molly passed away, he married his war buddy's widow, Bonnie, in 1994.

Frank was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Legion of Valor.

Veterans from Oregon's 41st Division reunite as numbers dwindle

Story by Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro,
Heritage Outreach Program

The 41st Infantry Division gathered for their 58th Annual reunion in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 1-4.

"It's funny how these guys all seem to be getting older," said Raymond Chapin of Sonoma, Calif. "Not me though."

Chapin has been attending 41st Infantry Division reunions since 1972 and held the position of reunion president twice.

"He is always looking for his buddies from his unit," said his wife, Bernie.

Many of the World War II veterans say they've been imbued with a sense of cam-

raderie that has survived through the years. The continued success of the reunions is a testament to the bond the Soldiers have built throughout the years.

Many wives and children find that their loved one will open-up and tell more "war stories" if they are among their buddies, leading their encouragement for veteran to attend the reunions.

The 41st Infantry Division was activated on September 16, 1940, before Pearl Harbor was attacked, and was one of the first units to be sent overseas following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The division spent 45 months overseas, beginning with training in Australia, and

the liberation of New Guinea with a particularly bloody and extended battle on the island of Biak. The division then moved on to the liberation of the Philippines and helped General Douglas MacArthur fulfill his promise of, "I shall return."

The 41st was then scheduled to be in the first wave of the offensive onto the mainland of Japan on November 1, 1945. The dropping of the atomic bombs in August negated the invasion and allowed the 41st to be part of the occupation of Japan. The division occupied the port of Kure and many of the soldiers traveled to Hiroshima to view the devastation.

At the time, Soldiers thanked President

Truman for dropping the atomic bombs saying that millions of lives were spared by avoiding the invasion of mainland Japan.

As Gen. Douglas MacArthur said of the 41st, "It is one of my oldest and proudest divisions." Now Oregon's own 41st Infantry Brigade carries this proud history into the future.

A documentary has been created to capture this fading source of information about WWII and the 41st Infantry Division. For more information on the history of the 41st Infantry Division, contact the Oregon National Guard Heritage Outreach team at 503-584-2272 or cherie.cavallaro@us.army.mil to schedule a presentation for your unit.

Oregon Engineering unit experiences 'eventful' first week in Iraq



Soldiers from 3rd Platoon of the 234th Engineering Co. gather around their M1117 Armored Security Vehicle-150 at Forward Operating Base Normandy in Iraq on October 10. The unit, now attached to the 101st Airborne Div., is currently serving a 12-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NORMANDY, Iraq — Oregon Soldiers from the 234th Engineering Company recently told reporters that their first nine days in Iraq have been very eventful.

"This is our fifth mission in the first week and a half, and we've already hit two IED's and been engaged by small arms fire twice," said Pfc. Matt Kunze.

The interview took place dur-

ing a chance encounter with two Oregon Guardsmen from the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at a small base near Baqoubah. The 115th MPAD mobilized for deployment to Iraq in June 2007.

Spc. Elizabeth Conley and Sgt. Patrick Lair, two Oregon National Guard public affairs specialists attached to the 25th Infantry Division, crossed paths with Oregon's Engineering Soldiers in early October at FOB Normandy, a small base on the outskirts of Baqoubah, the capital city of Diyala province.

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

Spc. Philip Laughlin said one of their engagements with the enemy happened just outside the gates of FOB Anaconda when a truck belonging to Kellogg-Brown & Root contractors broke down.

"We started taking tracer rounds so we engaged back. No one was hurt," Laughlin said.

The engineering company arrived in Iraq at the beginning of October after more than two months of mobilization training at the Camp Shelby Joint Force Training Center in Mississippi. The transportation unit, based at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., consists of about 180 members who are now attached to the 101st Airborne Division's 101st Task Force.

The Oregon Soldiers' mission consists mainly of escorting KBR food trucks, third-country nationals and other military convoys from one base to another.

"We operate all kinds of vehicles here, hummers, wreckers, big gun trucks, armored security vehicles, you name it," said Staff Sgt. Robert Ball.

The unit is based at Forward Operating Base Anaconda, less than 50 miles from Baghdad, Baqoubah and Tikrit.

"Anaconda's actually not that bad," Kunze said. "You don't realize it until you get to some of these smaller posts and see how other guys are living."

"Iraq's pretty interesting, a lot different than I expected," Laughlin said. "I expected to see a lot more blown-up buildings but you see all kinds of different neighborhoods."

One thing everyone agreed upon was the surprising amount of finely-powdered dust to be found in the area. Called "moondust" by the Soldiers, it can be knee-deep in some places.

"When you see someone driving through it, it looks like they're kicking up jets of water behind them," Laughlin said.

The 234th Engineering Co. is made up of Soldiers from across the state of Oregon and volunteers from several other Western states.

The 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment is comprised of Soldiers working in support of Multi-national Division-North at Forward Operating Bases Taji and Warhorse, Contingency Operating Base Speicher and in the city of Mosul.

Kulongoski to Feds: 'Replace these aircraft'



File photo

An F-15 Eagle takes flight at the Portland Air Base.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

because of defects found in the metal rails that hold together the fuselage.

Kulongoski said the F-15s could be fixed, but the safety of the nation's skies required replacement of the aging fleet, "sooner rather than later."

"Duct tape, new paint and a blind eye will not make our nation safe," he said in a statement released by his office in conjunction with the news conference held at the state capitol Nov. 30. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Daniel B. O'Hollaren, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, flanked the governor during the 15-minute news conference.

Oregon's 45 F-15 jets were returned to duty the weekend of Dec. 1, following inspections which deemed them safe.

According to Maj. Michael Braibish, Public Affairs Officer for the Oregon National Guard, 142d FW F-15s have stood-down from 24/7 air sovereignty alert operations.

"An F-16 unit from the California Air National Guard sent a detachment (of jets) to Portland as backup during the stand down," Braibish said.

"The window of opportunity is now for securing funding to produce additional F-22's as replacement to the F-15's," said O'Hollaren.

"The Department of Defense and the White House are preparing the FY09 budget as well as planning for the Future Years Defense Plan (FY10-FY15), making this time now a critical juncture," he said.

O'Hollaren added that the current production commitment of F-22's ends in four years.

Stressing the importance of future homeland defense, O'Hollaren pointed to the strategic significance of our geographic location — one of the United State's continental '4-Corners' vital to Air Defense of our homeland. "We are perfectly postured to fulfill the Air Sovereignty Alert mission well into the future, given the best jet fighter America can produce."

The Air Force plans to replace its entire fleet of 30-year old F-15s with the F-22 'Raptor,' but the new jet has turned out to be more expensive than originally thought—upwards of \$135 million per plane, and more than \$350 million if research, development and testing are factored in.

The Air Force said the F-22 is far more capable than the F-15, which was first delivered in 1972. It can cruise at 1.5 times faster than the speed of sound, perform maneuvers at altitudes greater than 50,000 feet and uses its stealth capabilities to attack targets without ground detection.

The Air Force initially hoped to purchase 750 Raptors. The Quadrennial Defense Review validated a post cold-war requirement of 381. Due to funding constraints, the Pentagon plans to stop production at 183 aircraft — an insufficient number to replace any of the aging F-15s and F16s that the nation relies upon to perform air sovereignty alert.

Loveboxes help deployed Soldiers 'feel the love'

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

During the holiday season many people find themselves looking for ways to give back to Oregon Soldiers who are serving overseas. Fortunately, there are many ways to help service members and their families this time of year.

Operation Love Boxes began in 2005, when John Baker wanted to do something for his friend, Oregon Army National Guardsman, Col. William Schutz, who was deployed to Iraq. Baker sent him a care package with food and a book. In return, he received a heartfelt e-mail from Schutz thanking him for the gifts.

What began with one box two years ago, has grown to more than 15,000 boxes sent to service members stationed overseas from all over the world. For more information on how you can send care packages to soldiers visit the Love Box website at www.loveboxesforourtroops.com.

Another way to help Oregon Soldiers who are stationed overseas during the holidays is to send them pre-paid phone cards.

"E-mail is great, but not everybody has e-mail," said Dale Potts, spokesperson for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3452 in Tualatin, which is sending phone cards to service members overseas. "On the other hand, everybody likes to talk on the phone," he said.

Potts said his VFW post has a bulk purchase arrangement that the Military Exchange negotiated with AT&T, getting a much lower price per minute for the phone cards — about 22 cents a minute to Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait.

Donations for phone cards can be made at any branch of Washington Mutual Bank or checks can be mailed to VFW Post 3452, 8455 S.W. Seneca St., Tualatin, OR 97062.

There are also a number of ways to support military Families throughout the holidays. The Salem Elks Club is providing 25 meals to family members of deployed Soldiers, while the Keizer Elks Club is donating 50.

"The outpouring of support we get from local citizens and businesses is amazing," said Kay Fristad, Deputy Public Affairs Officer for the Oregon National Guard. "It's always surprising to see the new ideas people

Photo courtesy of www.loveboxesforourtroops.com

Love Boxes.com receives hundreds of letters from thankful guardsmen. One wrote, "Even though I have received cards, letters and gifts from my (family), it is the love box that has touched my heart."

come up with to show their support."

Many individuals send gift cards for gas and groceries. If you wish to send gift or gas cards to families of deployed Soldiers please mail the cards to the Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon 97309. The Oregon National Guard will ensure the donations are put in the hands of Soldiers and their Families.

PANG's static F-15 Eagle display gets a facelift

Prepared by Sentinel staff

The F-15 Eagle on static display at the Portland Air Base got a recent facelift.

Members of the Oregon Air Guard's 142nd Maintenance Squadron's Structural Repair Shop performed the majority of the work on the F-15A static display aircraft, tail number 76-066.

"A project of this magnitude took a lot of planning, coordinating, supplies and man hours to accomplish," said Master Sgt. Gaylord Richey, Structural Supervisor for the 142nd Maintenance Squadron.

In 1989 the 142 FW converted from F-4C/D aircraft to the F-15A/B's. The first group of aircraft received by the fighter wing included number 76-066. In 1993, following upgrade modifications, tail number 76-066 was scheduled to be flown to AMARC, otherwise known as the "bone yard", in Tucson Ariz.

Painting an aircraft outside in a field on a pedestal at an angle poses many challenges, said ORANG officials. Crews had to consider weather, environmental impact and the difficulty of getting workers high up enough to reach the plane's surfaces.

Officials chose July 9, 2007 to begin work, finishing on Sept. 6, with only six days of work lost because of weather.

Structural personnel used a high lift (JGL), managed by civil engineering to get crews high up enough to sand and paint the aircraft. Base Civil Engineering personnel helped coordinate the use of the JGL between their own shops, the Communications Flight and Structural Repair Shop. CE provided training, safety harnesses and equipment, insect control, and all necessary equipment to connect to the in-ground sprinkler system for water to wash the aircraft.

Painting the aircraft required three gallons of primer and 14 gallons of extended life polyurethane paint. The Hazardous Materials Section closely monitored the project to ensure environmental protection and adherence to Oregon Department of Quality standards.

According to Richey, the squadron requested the aircraft be kept on base and used as a ground trainer for avionics and to be used as a parts aircraft to keep other F-15A aircraft flying. The F-15A was used in this capacity until 1994, when all upgrade training had been completed, but because so



Work crews repaint the F-15 static display at the Portland Air Base.

many parts had been removed, it was no longer air worthy. Plans were then drawn up to convert it to an Air Force Museum aircraft, and to have it mounted on a pedestal at the Portland Oregon Air National Guard Base. The aircraft underwent a new paint job in 1999, and on March 2, 2002, tail number 76-066 took to the air again—just 25 feet above the grass parade field at the Portland Air Base. The official dedication ceremony was held on June 28, 2002.

Ten individuals from the Structural Repair Shop worked approximately 393 hours on the project, Richey said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department

CAPITOL TOYS

Spc. Merari Manuel and Pfc. Michael Manuel, both from the 1249 Engineer Battalion, load toys into an Oregon Army National Guard five-ton truck at the State Capitol, Dec. 18. The Capitol Toy drive collected unwrapped gifts, which were donated to the Salvation Army for distribution to deserving families in Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties.

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