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APRIL 2008

# Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon Soldiers train with local S.W.A.T team

41st BDE leaders: tactical training valuable for Oregon Guardsmen

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

*Position your rifle against your clavicle, not hard against your shoulder, instructs Anthony Kollias, the SWAT team's assistant team leader.*

*It squares your body, balances your step. Wait silently just outside the doorway, rifle up. Move forward with the outside leg, to the threshold and, methodically, inside.*

Oregon National Guard Soldiers listen intently to members of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department SWAT team. They tap each other on the shoulder and push through the doorway.

*The most important thing is when you come up you need to keep your back side to the hinges, said Deputy Jason Nall, SWAT team member.*

The training on this cloudy spring day in Oregon will prepare the soldiers of the 41 Special Troops Battalion for the desert streets of Iraq when they deploy in 2009.

"We're learning tactics on how to get into a room and avoid obstacles," said 1st Lt. Eric Martz, Platoon Leader. "The more training they can get and receive it's just going to help them down the road."

See **SHERIFFS** on PAGE 5



Photo by Patrick Sherman, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Deputy Tony Kollias with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team watches as Oregon National Guard Soldiers practice making tactical entries into a building during training at Camp Withycombe, Ore., April 5, 2008.

## Local company supports citizen-Airman's deployment

Story by Starla Pointer,  
News-Register  
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Originally published Mar. 15, 2008 in the News-Register.

Just before Dan Wilcox headed overseas with the Oregon Air National Guard, Oregon Mutual Insurance Corporate Secretary Toni Chodrick mentioned to him that the company would like to sponsor his unit.

"We'll send a box every so often," Chodrick promised. "Just let me know what you need."

Even with that promise, Wilcox was in no way prepared for what OMI actually did for the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, based at the Guard's Portland Air Base.

"It was incredible," said Wilcox, who returned to his facilities management post in January. "It helped us and went way beyond the 142nd to our whole base over there. I don't think anyone at OMI really knows the impact they made and how much it meant."

Wilcox and his Airmen received five or more boxes a week from the McMinnville-based company. The gifts included everything from coffee and Chapstick to freezer pops and Girl Scout cookies.

In addition to personal items, the troops got enough DVDs to create a movie library, a hot plate enabling some personnel from Hawaii to cook teriyaki, and plenty of Sudoku and crossword puzzles to keep



Photo by Marcus Larson, News-Register

Oregon Mutual Insurance employees applaud Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron as they walk down a hallway Mar. 14 at OMI. Lt. Col. Stuart Mathew, right, and OMI President Mike Keyes lead the way.

minds occupied.

The effort was led by Chodrick and Mindy Menke. It included personalized cards to every member of the 142nd on a series of holidays - Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Companies like Oregon Mutual are very special," said Lt. Col. Stuart Mathew, who spoke Thursday at a ceremony during

which the 142nd honored OMI and vice versa.

"You really adopted these folks and never allowed them to forget," Mathew told OMI employees. "It's rare we have an employer so outgoing in its support."

See **EMPLOYER** on PAGE 6

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## COMMENTARY

## Professional organizations create better Guard experience



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

When you filed your taxes this year, did you take the new credit for active duty service offered by Oregon? Have you looked into how Tricare has improved for Guard members over the last year? The advantages and benefits of serving our state and nation are continually improving, and it's no accident.

As Soldiers and Airmen, we are fortunate to have advocates who understand our concerns about policies implemented by our

elected officials on both the state and national level. Indeed, they have our, and our families' best interests at heart.

Most of the improvements we've seen require support from the Congress or state legislature, and they are the direct result of private organizations acting on your behalf to help our legislators and the private sector understand the most significant issues we face and how they can help improve those issues.

I attended the Oregon National Guard Association's annual conference on April 19, and it's clear their commitment to you is unshakeable. As their mission states: "The Oregon National Guard Association is a professional organization that supports the constitutional roles and missions of the National Guard by influencing legislative, congressional and executive action." In other words, they put you, the modern day Minuteman at the forefront of their concerns.

On par with the ORNGA is the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Oregon. Their stated goal is, "to provide only the best for our members," whether it is advocacy or

opportunities to get competitive insurance, health coverage, or professional development.

At the national level, the National Guard Association of the United States was instrumental in helping shape how the Congressional Committee on the National Guard and Reserves assessed our current roles and responsibilities. NGAUS, along with other private organizations, demonstrated the dramatic shift in how the National Guard supports strategic and operational objectives of our nation.

More than 90 recommendations have been made to Congress to improve organization, training, equipping, leadership, and benefits for Guard members.

While no single association may be an exact fit for you, I believe you can find a private organization that will help you develop professionally and that will look out for your interests. I highly encourage you to find out what associations your friends and mentors are a part of and see what membership has to offer you.

## Challenging times require caring for fellow Guardsmen

The Oregon National Guard today faces tough challenges.

We are fighting a long war on terrorism. We are constantly asked to complete priorities against each other, weigh costs and keep an eye on balances and expenditures.

In the midst of balancing our assets, we can never lose sight of what is most important – our Airman and Soldiers.

You serve at a time that demands sweat equity; working high OPS tempos, separations from families and personal sacrifices. Yet through all this, you remain one of the few assets whose value appreciates over time instead of decapitating.

We should always treat people with respect and dignity. We have the responsibility to care for our guard families. Caring is a characteristic that endears us to each other and forms lasting relationships that bond us together.

Know that many of our most recent members may be away from home for the first time. These families need all the support we have to offer them.

Picking up the phone to check on the family of a deployed Airman or Soldier goes a long way towards reminding the family we

care and acknowledge the critical part they play in our success.

You can make a difference in their lives with a caring attitude and behavior that are representative of our Oregon National Guard values.

Care for your family and other Airman and Soldier families. Our guard families care for us by providing the inspiration, comfort and support we need to keep us focused on the mission.

These families deal with unpredictable work and deployment schedules; bear our absence during birthdays, anniversaries and holidays as they stand alongside us in selfless sacrifice. We need to demonstrate our understanding and appreciation for their unwavering dedication.

Caring for our Airman and Soldiers also means enforcing standards and discipline. When we see one of our fellow guardsman going astray or exhibiting lapses in judgment or commitment, we need to provide the proper feedback and mentoring to get them back on track.

We need to step outside our comfort zone and confront negative behaviors or trends. Providing mentorship, guidance, and



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

leadership, will help navigate them toward a rewarding and productive career path.

Because of you, the Oregon National Guard is the best in the world. Yet many citizens do not fully realize what you do and the sacrifices you make every day.

You are our major enhancement. The success of this effort will rely on making every Airman and Soldier an ambassador for the National Guard, at home and abroad.

The American public looks up to you as a model of integrity, and by sharing your experiences you are the best spokesperson for our Air Force and Army.

## Doolittle, DeShazer: two more 'Greatest Generation' members pass

**By Maj. Mike Braibish  
and Kay Fristad,**  
Oregon Military Department  
Public Affairs Office

The men and women of the United States who came of age during World War II did nothing less than shape the world we live in today. They defeated fascism and imperialism, and they proved our nation's resolve to defend freedom and liberty where it is threatened.

They're considered national treasures by some, and reporter turned author Tom Brokaw called them, "the greatest generation any society has ever produced." Great, indeed; and Oregon has recently suffered the loss of two men who were part of this greatest generation.

Born Nov. 12, 1922, in the Salem area, Staff Sgt. (ret) Jacob DeShazer grew up in the Pacific Northwest. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1940, and years



later he would participate in one of the most daring and inspiring missions in the history of American military aviation.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was as much a blow to our military might as it was to our national morale, perhaps even more so. With the U.S. determined to take the fight to the Japanese homeland, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle led a raid of sixteen B-25 "Mitchell" bombers from the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet. With no way to return to the carrier, the planes were to land in safe areas of China and Russia.

DeShazer was the bombardier on the sixteenth plane to launch. After striking their two primary targets the crew made their way toward their landing zone, but as they approached the Chinese coast they ran out of fuel and were forced to bail out.

All five crewmen were captured and treated as war criminals by the Japanese. DeShazer watched as three of his fellow airmen were executed and the other airman slowly starved to death. In the middle of his captivity, he asked for and received a bible. Moved by what he read, DeShazer turned the hatred in his heart into a commitment. DeShazer was released Aug.

20, 1945 after 40 months of captivity. After returning home he went to school to become a missionary. He returned to Japan in 1948, bringing with him hope and forgiveness instead of anger. Over the course of his missions to Japan he helped establish more than twenty churches.

Staff Sergeant (ret) Jacob DeShazer passed away at his home in Salem on March 15.

We also learned of the passing of Maj. Gen. Gordon Doolittle on April 11. He died of a stroke as he slept at home. He was born March 29, 1921 and he became one of the most influential leaders in the Oregon Air National Guard.

Doolittle enlisted in 1942, and earned his wings and commission in 1944. He flew more than 70 combat missions in World War II and was credited with three combat kills. After the war he served in various positions at the squadron and group level. When the 142nd Fighter Group



was relocated to Oregon from McChord Air Force Base, he became the Group Commander and Deputy Chief of Staff for the ORANG

As a colonel, Doolittle helped develop Air Force plans to use Air National Guard units called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. He attained the rank of brigadier general and assumed command of the ORANG in June 1962. He became a major general in 1973 and retired four years later. His service as commander of the ORANG and his work with the U.S. Air Force at the Pentagon formulating plans and logistics forever changed the face of the Air National Guard. His 26-year legacy remains with the Guard and the Air Force today, and it earned him the moniker: father of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Though they have slipped the surly bonds of this Earth, they have touched the lives of millions through their service to our state and nation. They demonstrated the finest characteristics of American military members in both the best and worst of times. We honor them; we shall remember them; and we shall strive to reflect the spirit of service they wholeheartedly embraced.

## COMMENTARY

## Mentoring key to retaining members in high performance teams

By Senior Master Sgt. Max White,  
142nd Fighter Wing  
Human Resources Advisor

In previous columns I have examined why diversity is important to any organization and how mentoring is essential in achieving it. This month I would like to cover the Nine Cornerstones of Diversity which I studied during the Diversity Champions class.



To get started, let's review the concept of diversity. From my perspective, diversity is very much linked to Stephen R. Covey's Habits #4, #5, and #6. That is, diversity has to do with

thinking win-win, seeking first to understand and only then to be understood, and finally synergizing. In other words, by capitalizing on the differences within an organization, the organization can reach its full potential.

The Nine Cornerstones of Diversity:

1. Diversity is about **inclusion and**

**engagement** – leaving no one behind!

Think of the sports analogy. Suppose you are the coach of a team and you exclude someone from playing in any of the competitions. In fact, suppose you don't even allow that individual to practice. What contribution will that individual make to the team?

2. Success is the ability to **work together!**

Our taskings in the military have become increasingly complex and demanding. We can only be successful if we work synergistically as a team and tap into the strengths of individuals on that team.

3. The most important issue is always **human dignity and total quality respect!**

Acknowledging individuals' basic worth as human beings is an important starting point in the road to becoming a Diversity Champion. How many of us are "too busy" to greet someone as we walk across the Base? And what message is that conveying to the person being ignored? I should add that this applies to us when we are in our communities.

4. Prejudice is eliminated by developing **high performance teams!**

When a high performance team is working effectively on an important mission, an individual's race, gender, age, religion, and so many other areas of difference

become irrelevant.

5. True diversity is ensuring **diversity of thought at all levels** of the organization!

If you look around your organization and everyone looks the same, then there is a high likelihood that you are not achieving diversity. Even if there is a lot of variety of appearance but there is no variation in thought, then you are still not achieving diversity. It is diversity of skills and thought that can be capitalized upon so that the organization can achieve its full potential.

6. Everyone **adds talent and value.** Each must be **developed and offered full opportunity** to achieve! As a Drill Status Guardsman, the last thing that I want to do when I am on military duty is to just sit around. In fact, the most meaningful award that I can receive is to know that I have contributed positively to the mission of my Wing. That is far more important than any medals or ribbons that could come my way.

7. Diversity solutions must be **situation specific!** There are so many different ways in which people can vary that it would be absolutely ridiculous to think that there is one magical key that will be effective in all situations. For example, in a unit that

has many single parents, the arrangement of child care would be quite important. In some other unit, perhaps the provision of marriage counseling might be helpful. In all units, a sensitivity to the composition of the surrounding community aids in facilitating recruiting and retention.

8. Diversity is a **philosophy** and is everyone's responsibility!

A Human Resource Advisor on his own can not ensure that the unit's environment is free of discrimination and conducive to the individuals' being effective members of a team. Conversely, consider the possibility if everyone in the unit shows each other mutual respect. By not allowing inappropriate remarks and behavior "on their watch", everyone can help the unit to flourish.

9. You do not have to be **one of, to stand with!**

You do not have to be a member of a group to stand up for that group. If you witness any harassment of or even jokes about some race, gender, religion, etc. and do nothing about it, then you are part of the problem.

By all being Diversity Champions in our organization, we will be doing the right thing. And consequently, as a wonderful by-product, we will be improving our mission performance.

## LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

## Alpha Co. 641 raises bar on taskings

All,

Alpha Company is inside the 30-Day countdown. All the pieces are falling into place for redeployment. The guys are maintaining their mission focus, even as the tell-tale signs of redeployment become more and more apparent.

Over the last two weeks, we have been directly supporting the operations down south around Basra. This has required a surge on our part and a real increase in our OPTEMPO. As expected, everyone has stepped up and responded to the challenge. We have even surged to seven mission aircraft a few times to handle the increased demand. This company knows its role and is executing at a level never before achieved by previous C-23 companies in Iraq.

In five months thus far, A Company has flown 3,500 flight hours, moved 8 million pounds of cargo and transported almost 18,000 passengers. Compare these numbers to our predecessor, F Company 207th who moved 6.6 million pounds of cargo and 14,900 passengers in six months. I Company 185th, who was here same time last year, moved 5.3 million and 12,500 passengers in six months. This goes to show what a highly motivated and hard-working C-23 company can accomplish.



On the April 6th, we had a Task Force Hawk Barbeque and Team/Individual competition. The competitions involved a vehicle push, stretcher carry, pull-ups, water bottle toss, etc. Team "Box Car 65" won the team event CW3 Eric Brown (Oklahoma), CW2 Steve Graves (South Dakota), Sgt. Will Caddell (Oklahoma), Sgt. Nick DuPont (South Dakota) and Sgt. Matt Day (South Dakota).

Staff Sgt. Brian Korbel (Washington) won the individual event. It was a fun event, filled with good competition and great food. We also presented Sgt. A.J. Rowlett (Oklahoma) with an Army Commendation Medal for quick action in putting out an electrical fire several weeks ago.

Thanks again for all your support back home. And thanks for taking time to write back with news and events.

Take care; we'll see you soon.

Very Respectfully,  
Maj. David R. Doran  
Commander, Alpha Co., 641 Aviation Regt. (CELTS)  
Oregon Army National Guard  
LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Enyeart: 'Kudos for job well-done'

GREAT JOB!

I just finished reading the March Oregon Sentinel online and I was compelled to send a note on the outstanding work you all do every month.

The issue really shows the diversity that the Oregon National Guard is involved in throughout the world. Great stories!

Thanks and keep up the good work.

Col. (P) David B. Enyeart,  
Assistant Adjutant General Army,  
Joint Forces Headquarters Oregon

## Rank abbreviations demystified

One quick gripe or whatever you'd like to call it, the abbreviations in the paper all always done in the Air Guard Style in all stories.

That is to say for instance Captain is Capt. for Air Force, and CPT for Army. As we venture into a joint world it is my belief we should have proper joint language, especially when this goes out for general distribution.

Sorry if this seems to be a bit pet peevis, well you'd be right it is pet peevis.

Thank you,  
CW2 Dale Williams  
Labor Relations Specialist, Oregon National Guard

Sir,

This is going to be a very easy fix, I am sure.

Please have your staff and editors of the Sentinel use the correct Army rank abbreviations.

I am tired of being embarrassed at every single issue.

This publication needs to be accurate in reflecting the correct title our Soldiers have earned. I reference AR 600-20 for the correct rank abbreviation and title.

Thank you in advance,  
Unsigned

Chief Williams, Mr. Unsigned,  
First of all, thank you for your comments. We have had many questions regarding how the ranks are abbreviated in the Oregon Sentinel. Hopefully I can address those concerns here.

The Oregon Sentinel, like many commercial and military publications, uses the Associated Press Style Guide as our point of reference for grammar, style, layout, and general reference.

It is the "technical" reference given by name by both Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau for all internal and external military publications, and is also widely used by the commercial print media as the "gold standard".

The AP Style Guide is specifically referenced in AR 360-1, Ch. 13, subsection 12, as the preferred style guide.

In the AP Style Guide section on "Military Titles", all ranks, regardless if they are Army, Air, Marines, Navy, or Coast Guard, are referenced in a certain style. As an example, "Capt." is used across the board, regardless of which branch of service for that person.

I must admit, seeing "Capt. John Smith" in an article does not help the reader to discern what branch of the military he may be in, but the intention of the rule in the AP Style Guide is that the context of the story would help explain this.

Further guidance in the AP Style Guide dictates using the branch of service prior to the name on the first reference if more than one military branch is referenced in the article. For example: "U.S. Army Capt. John Smith."

Moreover, with the ever-growing base of readership for the Sentinel; which has come to include civic leaders, family members and employers; the use of a standardized format for all ranks, regardless of branch of service, is preferable.

Using a standardized reference manual creates a sense of consistency with our civilian and military publication counterparts, and most importantly, our readers. ~ Ed.

## FEATURES

Involvement with Iraqi interpreters spawns idea for innovative training event for Oregon Soldiers

# Repaying a debt

Story and photos  
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Significant contribution  
Spc. Cory Grogan,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The names of several sources in this article were changed or abbreviated to protect the individuals' identity. For any of the Iraqi interpreters to reveal their true identity means certain persecution or even death for family and friends still in Iraq.



This is part-one of a two-part series on the Oregon National Guard's 41st Brigade Soldiers training with Iraqi interpreters and the plight faced by Iraqi expatriates who have relocated to the United States. Part-two will appear in the May 2008 issue of the Oregon Sentinel.

Soldiers of Bravo Co., 41st Special Troops Battalion, train with Iraqi interpreters, Ahmed (seated left), and Houzan (seated right) during an exercise scenario at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue facility in Sherwood, Ore., April 5-6, while other members of the team and brigade trainers observe and take notes. Above left: Motassem, playing the role of an Iraqi shopkeeper, is questioned by Soldiers as they search for stolen computer equipment during another training scenario.

The Soldiers warily approached the marketplace, weapons at the ready.

"Salaam Aleikum," (peace be upon you) one Soldier said, as he placed his right hand over his heart.

"Wi Aleikum Salaam," said the shopkeeper, returning the gesture, but eyeing the Soldiers' M-16 rifles and thick body armor.

The rest of the Soldiers in the patrol fanned out in the street, eyes scanning rooftops and passersby, watching for anything out of the ordinary.

With the help of an Iraqi interpreter—embedded with the U.S. Army patrol—the Soldiers began questioning the shopkeeper about stolen goods allegedly being sold at the market.

"Have you seen any suspicious activity here?" one of the Soldiers asked, prompting the interpreter to translate the question into Arabic.

The Soldiers paid attention to the flurry of gestures and native tongue between their interpreter and the shopkeeper, played by real-life Iraqi interpreter, Motassem. The answer from the interpreter: "No."

"But," the interpreter added, "He knows of some illegal dealings by the shopkeeper next door."

This scene, which repeats itself on a daily basis in Iraq—where American personnel are constantly gathering intelligence on an increasingly elusive enemy—could have taken place on any street in Baghdad.

But today's exchange was merely a training scenario, held not in the streets of a war-torn Middle Eastern country, but at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue facility near Sherwood, Ore.

As part of the training before their 2009 deployment to Iraq, Soldiers from Oregon's 41st Brigade were given specialized training in social meetings, interviewing techniques, and intelligence gathering. According to brigade leadership, while this sort of training is not new for those in military intelligence, what is groundbreaking for the unit is having Iraqi interpreters working closely with Oregon Guardsmen during their drill weekend on April 5 - 6.

That pairing, according to event organizers, not only added realism to the scenarios, but allowed the Soldiers an intimate glimpse into the Iraqi interpreters' skills and cultural knowledge—which, according to experts, is key to the international coalition's success in Iraq.

The training these Oregon Soldiers took part in was unique for two reasons, said Capt. Jason Faler, commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team's Bravo Company.

"This is the first time I've heard about that this sort of training is taking place on a drill weekend," he said.

Furthermore, the event was much more ambitious in planning and execution at the company level, Faler said, with more realism and significance to the players.

Faler added that majority of the participants are traditional Soldiers, otherwise known as "M-Day Soldiers," who wouldn't have otherwise been exposed to this kind of training during a normal drill weekend.

The other reason this training cycle is unique, said Faler, is how the Iraqi interpreters' skills and cultural knowledge is being utilized during the training.

"Using local nationals is not

brand new to the Army," he said. "But these guys are not actors. They're the real deal."

Ahmed, who worked extensively with U.S. forces from the start of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, said this type of training is important not just for the Soldiers, but for the Iraqi citizens as well.

"When you visit somebody, greet him with his own greeting: *Salaam Aleikum* (peace be

Soldier in Baghdad sitting atop a Humvee had his legs splayed out in front of him. The bottoms of his boots were facing toward the town's mosque, and in the eyes of Iraqi witnesses, the gesture came across as a sign of deep disrespect. Tensions ran high for several days following the incident, nearly sparking a riot in the city.

"And that is why U.S. forces and the Iraqis have many prob-

"Understanding culture is extremely important for these Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class P, one of the event organizers and trainers. He said knowing the cultural and linguistic differences are also extremely important when working with an interpreter.

Some of these skills are not like riding a bike, said Sgt. T, a Military Intelligence NCO for Bravo Co.

**Understanding culture is extremely important for these Soldiers.**

— Sgt. 1st Class P, Bravo Co., 41st STB

upon you)," Ahmed said. "It'll break the ice and ease a lot of tension. Having someone from another country in uniform on your doorstep creates a lot of tension."

"His (the Iraqi's) vision is that you are the invader," he added. "You have to break that tension with simple means—one of them is to be friendly."

Ahmed added that certain gestures or actions don't translate well between American and Iraqi cultures.

"Things which are considered okay in American culture doesn't mean it's that good in Iraqi culture," he said. "In fact, it could mean quite the opposite."

Indeed, all of the interpreters working with Bravo Co. were extremely intelligent, trustworthy and reliable sources in Iraq, said Faler. During the training event, they were quick to give feedback when Soldiers unknowingly did something that might be culturally offensive.

Ahmed cited an example a few years ago where a U.S. Army

lems," Ahmed said. "Tensions may become violent because of the lack of understanding of the culture."

Ahmed and the other interpreters also helped fix the training script when they found inaccuracies.

Sgt. Z, an intelligence analyst with Bravo Co., said the interpreters did not go easy on the Soldiers. Instead, they made the Soldiers work hard to get the right information, which in turn made the training more realistic.

In one of the training scenarios, Bravo Co. Soldiers visited with the town's mayor, played by an Iraqi interpreter named Ali. One of the Soldiers' concerns was an alleged report about Iraqi Policemen taking notes and writing down license plates as they watched coalition vehicles come and go from the compound. As one of the Soldiers brought this issue to the attention of the "Mayor," the Iraqi became agitated, responding with a heated response in rapid Arabic, punctuated with "*Guleelhum!*" (tell them!).

"He said he does not agree with this assertion, and is offended at the accusation," said Houzan, who served as the role-playing interpreter during the scenario, and the only female in the group.

No interpretation was necessary to recognize the rising anger and frustration from the play-acting mayor.

The Soldiers did their best to placate the situation, and as they explained their concern for not just the coalition forces but also for the town's native Iraqis, the tone of the exchange returned to normal.

"It was very evident to me how perishable this skill can be," he said. "But about five minutes into the scenario, it all came back to me."

Following the scenario, Sgt. Z said he also learned about cultural boundaries and the importance of things like shaking hands and creating small talk before asking for information.

Sgt. N, another human intelligence collector with Bravo Co., said he thought the training went very well.

"We got a lot of positive feedback from those that participated and they would like to see more of that type of realistic training in the future," he said.

"It gave them a more accurate idea as to what they'll encounter while deployed, which is what training ought to be focused around," Sgt. N added. "Good for us, bad for terrorists."

With ongoing U.S. military missions in Iraq, the need for western troops working closely with their Iraqi counterparts becomes more of a priority, and teaching the local culture to American troops is a necessity, said Ahmed.

"This is an excellent initiative," he said. "I hope this (training) will be expanded into all the other states."

Ahmed stressed the importance of building a good rapport between Iraqi citizens and U.S. Soldiers.

"The Soldiers need to keep in mind that we are there for the best of Iraq," he said. "In this way, you are more than half of the way there."

Part two of this series will appear in the May 2008 issue of the Oregon Sentinel.

## Checkpoint One

The Checkpoint One Foundation is chartered with bringing Iraqi and Afghan interpreters who have served with U.S. Armed Forces to safety in the United States.

The Checkpoint One Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Many Iraqi and Afghan interpreters and their families have been killed or exiled due to their work with Coalition Forces.

The foundation accepts electronic funds, cash, or personal checks via the website.

For more information on Checkpoint One, or to become involved in helping Iraqi or Afghan citizens, please visit [www.cponefoundation.org](http://www.cponefoundation.org), or contact the foundation at 503-871-3238.



Soldiers of Bravo Co., 41st STB, question one of the shopkeepers, played by Sam, (center), an Iraqi interpreter, about stolen computer equipment during a training scenario, while other Soldiers 'pull security'.

## RECRUITING &amp; RETENTION

**Leader, mentor, action figure: Soldier re-enlists to ensure a better tomorrow**

Story by Spc. Sheraya Paradis,  
JFHQ Recruiting & Retention Command

Staff Sgt. Matthew Zedwick is a Soldier who has brought much to the Oregon Army National Guard.

From instructing at West Point to participating in United Nations training missions in Mongolia, to being awarded the Silver Star with Valor, Zedwick has accomplished much in his career.

But with his recently signed reenlistment packet, Zedwick plans to give six more years of service to the organization he has grown to love.

"It's been one of those love hate relationships, but I wouldn't trade the experience and service that I've had with the National Guard for anything," Zedwick said. "The experiences and the people I've served with have helped me become the Soldier and person I am today."

Zedwick originally joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1998 as a Corvallis high school student. Over the next nine and a half years, he accomplished more than many people do in their entire career.

In 2004, he deployed to Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Infantry, 162nd Brigade. During an insurgent attack, he risked his own safety to rescue fellow Soldiers injured in the attack. Even wounded, Zedwick returned to the vehicle to retrieve valuable documents and weapons. His actions garnered him The Silver Star with Valor.

"I wasn't trying to be a hero, no one is," Zedwick said. "You do anything for your brothers in arms, they would have done the same for me. The medal isn't just about me,

their heroism and bravery helped get me out of there that day as well, and its just as much their's as it is mine."

Upon returning to the United States, Zedwick volunteered to teach at West Point Military Academy, NY. There, he taught basic infantry skills in mid-2005.

In August, 2006, Zedwick's unit, the 2-162 IN BN, participated in Khaan Quest IV, a multi-national training exercise held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The two-week training event helped train members of the Mongolian Armed Forces in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"Mongolia is a beautiful place, and they were very hospitable to us," Zedwick said. "But stay away from the mare's milk!" he warned.

"It was a lot of fun and honor to work and meet with other nations from around the world," he added.

While all this would have been enough to fill a military resume, Zedwick also volunteered to fight forest fires in eastern Oregon, and helped with evacuating Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005.

And as if this wasn't enough, Zedwick was immortalized in 2006 with an action figure and video game profile modeled after him. This all brings one resounding question to mind; what would cause a Soldier who has already done and accomplished so much, to reenlist with the Army National Guard?

The answer is simple; According to Zedwick, he has an overwhelming desire and drive to help develop tomorrow's Soldiers and leaders, provide his family with a steady and honorable lifestyle, and maintain the camaraderie that has made his unit a second

family from home.

Zedwick said it was hard to leave the guys with whom he grew and developed as a Soldier. And with so many Soldiers opting to leave the National Guard, he was torn as to what he should do. In the end, he chose to stay.

"I couldn't leave the boys when they were looking for leadership and guidance and wanting to become good leaders themselves," he said. "I felt that I had more to give."

While the answer may seem simple, the road to his decision was not. Matt Zedwick considered many different factors before coming to the conclusion to reenlist.

He thought about how he spent more time doing paperwork surrounded by concrete walls than training his Soldiers in their warrior tasks out in the fresh air.

Zedwick also thought about how politics were affecting morale and life within his unit, and wondered what life had to offer him outside of the organization.

After sorting out all of his concerns, he decided to turn and confront these issues head-on. Rather than leaving the situation to someone else, Zedwick chose to be a part of the change that he wished to see happen.

Zedwick said he doesn't want to take credit for the changes he has participated in to date. Ever humble, he cites his commander, Capt. Scot Caughran, First Sgt. Scott Davis, and fellow unit leadership for improvements to the training calendar and training structure.

"It was Sgt. 1st Class Chris Johnson who really sat me down and took the time to talk things out with me. He has always been the close 'older brother' to me and someone

I can easily confide in," Zedwick said.

"It was winding down pretty close to my ETS date, about a month before I made my decision. I noticed a commander and first sergeant who really had the drive and focus to see their Soldiers succeed. That meant a lot to me and I wanted to continue to be a part of that."

Zedwick is currently attending Oregon State University and participating in the school's Reserved Officers Training Corps program. He said he has aspirations of receiving a commission as a Public Affairs officer, and wants to become a better leader in Bravo Co., 2nd Infantry, 162nd Battalion.

He credits much of his current success and drive to the support of his fiancée Kristin Van Dusen, his family, and his Army brothers-in-arms, like Johnson, Staff Sgt. Tim Marr, and Sgt. Brandon Hern.

"I'm blessed to have God and these people in my life. I feel a lot of the things that I've accomplished is due to the close support that I have around me," Zedwick said.

"It has greatly contributed to my success as an NCO in the Oregon Army National Guard," he added.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Matt Zedwick in Iraq in 2004.

## NEWS

**Sheriffs grateful for Soldiers' service**

Photo by Patrick Sherman, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Under the watchful eye of Clackamas County Sheriff's Department Deputy and SWAT team member, Tony Kollias, soldiers from the Oregon National Guard practice making a tactical entry through an open door at Camp Withycombe, April 5.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

he said.

More than 30 Soldiers with the 41 STB, trained with seven members of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department at Camp Withycombe on April 5, 2008. The Soldiers faced urban warfare scenarios like room clearing and hand to hand combat.

"They do this type of operation everyday, this is their bread and butter, so to have them here to add to our expertise is very valuable," said Capt. David Bankston, Commander of HHC.

The SWAT Team may use these skills to clear a suspected drug house, while the Soldiers can easily use the tactics to gain access to a building in Iraq.

"I told my guys I want them to mess up now, this is where they can make their mistakes, when they get over there that's when it counts," said Martz.

The Soldiers training with the SWAT

Team are Military Police. In a civilian incident they could quite possibly be working together, while deployed the platoon will need to master these skills to execute their mission.

Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts, a former SWAT team member, said he is humbled and honored to be able to provide training for the Oregon National Guard.

"They make a huge sacrifice for our country and I really believe it is about working together," said Roberts. "The National Guard has helped us with searches and drug eradication. If there is something we can ever do for the National Guard we are going to be right there."

The 41 STB will deploy to Iraq in 2009 as part of the 41 Brigade Combat Team. Once there, the Soldiers who make up part of the Oregon National Guards' Military Police will take part in protection operations, civil support, and security.

**The Eagle's Way**

CW5 James Powell, Command Chief Warrant Officer,  
Oregon National Guard

This month, we feature a HIGHLY technical Warrant Officer MOS: the **140A Command and Control Systems Technician**.

This subject matter expert deals with and integrates command missile defense, serves as the link manager for joint forces, and makes sure that all systems "talk" to each other.

The position is assigned in Oregon to the 41 IBCT, working with ADAM cells and the like. Prospective applicants should be E-5 or above, MOS 14J with 5 years experience, although a SPC (P) will be considered. Documented experience of three years with UNIX, computer repair, or tactical communication, with a Mechanical or

Electrical score of 100 or more is needed.

This specialty position is very important to the success of the warfight. If you occupy it, you are the warrant officer who advises the commander, secures air defense on the ground side, and makes sure all the computer hardware and software are working for the command in the area of air defense, radar, and any other assignments deemed necessary!!

Whew!! This sounds pretty specialized, and you're right...it is!! If your background fits the requirements here, call me at 503-584-3579, so we can make an appointment.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Lopez, Oregon Military Department Recruiting Command

**NASCAR OF ROSES**

The #88 National Guard NASCAR race car, which appeared at Wentworth Chevrolet in February 2008, will make another appearance at the Tom McCall Waterfront Village, in Portland, Ore., as part of the Rose Festival celebration, May 29 - June 8.

## FEATURES

Deployed Oregon Air Guardsman receives overwhelming support from fellow employees, community

## Two families for this Airman

Story by Starla Pointer,  
News-Register  
Reprinted with permission

Two kinds of support are critical to the success of a National Guardsman - that from the family and that from the workplace.

"You can't be fully successful in the Guard without the full support of both," said Dan Wilcox of McMinnville, a sergeant in the Oregon National Guard's 142nd Civil Engineering Unit.

"You want your head in the game when you're on duty," he said. "You don't want to be worrying about home or about whether you'll have a job to come back to."

Wilcox came home in January after a five-month deployment in Kuwait.

He returned to a supportive family: wife Gail, son Shawn, stepdaughters Autumn, Amanda and Anina, daughter Kelly Merten, and Kelly's three boys, Derek, Carson and Blake, the latter born while Grandpa was deployed.

Gail, whom he married in April 2001, regularly sent care packages to him in Kuwait.

"She's a trooper," he said. "She knew I had what I needed, and she was always asking if anyone else needed help over there."

Guardsmen who deploy to the Middle East have some specific needs, he said, including Chapstick, chewing gum, hand lotion, socks and towels. They also desire

things that people who are serving anywhere would like: playing cards, DVDs, video games and greeting cards to send to loved ones.

Then there are the intangibles that mean so much, such as personalized notes telling them they haven't been forgotten and pictures of whatever is happening at home. "It's nice to keep up with what's going on in your community," he said.

E-mail and the Internet make it easy to stay in touch these days. Wilcox said he read the News-Register online, for instance, and he was thrilled when his daughter e-mailed photos of newborn Blake.

Wilcox also had the support of his work family at Oregon Mutual Insurance, where he has been employed for about 20 years. On his return, he settled happily back into his job as facility maintenance supervisor, keeping the OMI home office's employees comfortably warm or cool and making sure all the building's services are running properly.

Both the company and its employees had gone overboard to help Wilcox and his fellow Airmen during their tour. "I don't know if they realize how much the 142nd and everyone appreciated OMI," he said.

They helped the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron, based at the Portland Air Base, focus on doing its job.

The 142nd is similar to a general contracting firm, Wilcox said. Made up of subgroups that handle carpentry, electri-



Photo by Marcus Larson, News-Register

Oregon Air Guard Staff Sgt. Dan Wilcox, thanks his fellow employees at Oregon Mutual Insurance Co., for their support of the Oregon National Guard at the company headquarters, March 14. Wilcox and 37 of his fellow Oregon Air Guardsmen deployed to Kuwait for five months in 2007.

cal, engineering and plumbing work, operate heavy equipment and oversee fuel delivery, the unit's job is to build and maintain military facilities, and protect them during hostile periods.

Wilcox transferred into the unit about seven years ago.

He spent the first 13 years of his military career in the Seabees, the Navy's construction battalion. "Same thing, different uniform," he said.

The more he learned about the National Guard program, the happier he was to have become part of it. "The training is

above and beyond," he said.

Wilcox generally serves one weekend a month and one two-week period each year. However, he said four- or five-day training sessions also come along at times.

He always is available for emergency work - sandbagging during a flood, removing a heavy snowfall, fighting a forest fire.

Since Guardsmen can be called up at any moment, it is particularly important that they have understanding employers.

"Your employer has to support you as much as your family does," Wilcox said.

### Employer praised for support

Continued from FRONT PAGE

OMI President and CEO Mike Keyes said he and his staff were glad to do it, especially for Airmen whose personal sacrifices help make the world a safer place.

"We received such a positive energy boost from preparing the care packages and reading Dan's e-mails," Keyes said. "We got more back than what we gave."

Anything the Airmen wanted while they were overseas, OMI made sure they got.

When the Oregon guys mourned having to miss the annual Civil War football game, the company not only sent a recording of the event, but also supplies for a game-watching party, including popcorn, pom-poms, toy footballs and both Oregon State University and University of Oregon hats.

"That blew everyone away," Wilcox recalled. "It gave us something to enjoy and a way to remember what we left behind."

During the holidays, OMI sent a nice artificial Christmas tree and tons of red, white and blue decorations, along with stuffed stockings for each member of his unit and a Santa hat for Wilcox to wear when distributing the goodies. He figured that had to be the ultimate gift.

Then he received another shipment, this one containing eight fresh Christmas wreaths.

They gave off a heavenly scent to Airmen who had been smelling nothing but sand for months, Wilcox said. He said he hung them in the mess hall so they could be enjoyed by all 2,000 people on base. "That brought tears to a lot of eyes," he said.

After 20 years at Oregon Mutual, Wilcox is used to the personal touch and generosity displayed by the company. But even he was surprised at the level of giving and support.

"The quality of the people here. They really do care and like to be involved," he said. "If it's not for the military, its for the community or a fundraiser for Hospice or some other need."

When Wilcox entered McMinnville's Biggest Turkey Contest last year, for instance, he had a ready-made support system. Fellow OMI staff members helped him win the title by raising \$27,270 for Henderson House and \$1,000 to donate to the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund.

"I feel fortunate to work for a company that views community service as a corporate value. Oregon Mutual's commitment to our community is visible everywhere," Wilcox wrote in a thank you letter following the turkey contest.

### STS Airmen require vast knowledge, training

Story by Master Sgt. Vanessa La-Huis,  
125th Special Tactics Squadron

When you walk back into any Mission Support section within any of the Special Tactics Squadrons around the globe, there is generally a group of Airmen working diligently on some sort of project.

Whether it's training on equipment, packing up equipment, working on the test bench, getting ready to go somewhere, or getting ready to support one of the many unique missions for which the Special Tactics Squadrons (STS) are responsible.

At the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th STS work center, also known as the "Radio Shop," there is a ten-person team who work in either the Ground Radio Maintenance, or Airfield Systems career fields.

Both career fields involve attending a seven- to eight-month extensive electronics course based at Keesler AFB, Miss. During the first part of the course, students learn about direct current and alternating current principles, semiconductors, power supplies, amplifiers, wave shaping and digital circuits, computer fundamental and network theory.

After two months of electronic principles, Ground Radio Maintenance and Airfield Systems personnel attend their respective technical schools to learn their career field specific equipment.

When an Airman graduates from Ground Radio Maintenance or Airfield Systems, they assume they will work in a typical communication-electronics work center.

However, when they enter the "Radio Shop" of an STS, they realize they will be working in a not-so-typical work center in a not-so-typical squadron.

The technical school they just graduated from has only scratched the surface of what they will be expected to know and learn for the next couple of years.

Nothing remotely resembles what they saw and learned in their technical schools for either career field—the radios they are now responsible for are a quarter the size, and have several times the capability than the radios they just learned on.

The equipment they will use are cutting-edge technology which the Battlefield Airman carry into combat; infrared and visible-beam illuminator/designators, LASER range finders, handheld thermal imagers, beacons, night vision devices, GPS



Photo Kim Johns, USIA

Staff Sgt. Zachary Shaffer, one of the ground radio maintainers assigned to the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron, is one of seven certified boat pilots in the Special Tactics Assault Boat (STAB) unit.

units and radios.

Due to the wide range of new technology they will now employ, Ground Radio and Airfield Systems personnel are constantly attending training all over the country to keep up with battlefield technology.

Airmen who work in the radio shop are expected to not only be qualified experts in all the equipment assigned to the shop but also at additional tasks unique to STS.

Most, if not all, personnel are trained or familiarized in All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) operations, Zodiac boat operations, Swift Action Vessel, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Night Vision driving operations, snowmobiles, hand-to-hand skills, combat pistol and rifle proficiency.

Within the Oregon Air National Guard's 125th Special Tactics Squadron, the communications shop has the direct responsibility of providing communications-electronic equipment support and training to Combat Control Teams (CCT) and Special Operations Weather Teams (SOWT).

Most personnel assigned to the work center are asked to deploy with the CCT and SOWT teams for immediate and direct support, maintenance and accountability of all the equipment.

In the short time Oregon's 125th Special Tactics Squadron has been in existence, personnel from the "radio shop" have deployed in support the Hurricane Relief efforts for Katrina and Rita, flood relief in Vernonia, Ore., and exercises throughout the country.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Rilea hosts womens' veterans group



Service members past and present enjoy lunch at the women's veteran group meeting at Camp Rilea, April 13.

Story and photo by Maj. Alisha Hamel, ORNG Heritage Outreach Program

Camp Rilea hosted a women's veteran group for a mess hall lunch on April 13, 2008.

The unofficial group meets on a monthly basis to discuss women's issues in the military and their collective past military service.

"We can talk service talk with another service person and they understand," said Madora Bahr, unofficial spokesperson for the group. "Civilians don't always understand our experiences." She added.

According to Bahr, the group started with members of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), but has since opened to include other branches. The group now consists of women who participated in campaigns during World War II, through the current Gulf War.

"The friendships are great," Bahr said. Sgt. Mary Morse, of Joint Forces Headquarters, Oregon National Guard, said the group is representative of our country's living history.

"I think they are awesome," she said. Spc. Ashley Anderson, also of the Oregon Army National Guard was inspired by the women.

"What an inspiration it is to me as a female soldier to see such successful women to emulate," Anderson said.

Staff Sgt. Janet Christy, a member of the women's group who works as a supply sergeant at Camp Rilea, organized the luncheon along with post commanders. She said the motivation behind the event came out of a chance meeting with Bahr at a local restaurant in nearby Warrenton, Ore.

"She called me over to her table and said 'thank you for your service,'" Christy said.

Bahr then asked if Christy would like to attend their weekly meetings, to which Christy agreed.

"I have been attending every month since then," Christy said. "What a great group of ladies," she added.

While Camp Rilea's lunch was simple, it proved a step-up from the food served to many of these women veterans during their time of service.

"We never ate that well when we were in," Bahr said about the food. "Actually having a dish (to eat off of) was great. We just remember the trays," she said, referring to the stainless steel food trays typical of many mess kitchens throughout the military.

Sgt. Tia Carrar, of the Oregon Army National Guard said she felt a sense of pride being a female in the military as she spoke and ate with many of the women at the event.

"They really opened a lot of doors for women in the military today," she said. "I feel really proud."

## Benefits changes require update of emergency data

You may want to update your DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, due to recent changes to death gratuity beneficiary policies. Learn more about the policy changes at [www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/death-gratuitybeneficiarypolicychanges.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/death-gratuitybeneficiarypolicychanges.html).

## 'Fan-tastic Summer' promotion giving away MWR prizes

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons can win valuable prizes simply by eating hot dogs at participating MWR food and beverage facilities this summer.

Patrons who participate in the "Fan-tastic Summer" promotion may become eligible to win the grand prize of a trip for four to see the New York Yankees play in one of the last games in the old Yankees stadium in New York City.

The trip includes four tickets behind home plate, airfare, lodging and \$2,500 spending money. Other prizes include his and hers customized Dream-Seat Leather Recliners featuring the winner's favorite team, a 36 inch flat screen television, a digital high-definition sports camcorder with 10X zoom, and a \$150 gift card to the Major League Baseball online store.

Sponsored by Hebrew National, the "Fan-tastic Summer" promotion features a frequency card program: buy six half- or quarter-pound hot dogs and receive a free quarter-pound hot dog free. When customers redeem their frequency cards for their free hot dog, they may enter their name into a sweepstakes drawing for a chance to win any of the "Fan-tastic" prizes.

The "Fan-tastic Summer" promotion replaces the "Dress the Dog" promotion, a similar program held last year in partnership with Hebrew National.

Last year a young Soldier was awarded the grand prize of a car, but opted to receive the cash equivalent instead.

"Having the other military services involved with the Fan-tastic Summer promotion creates a great opportunity for all military Families to participate and win great prizes," said Kristen Kea, events planner for the Events Division of Business Programs. "MWR facilities that are participating get the opportunity to offer their customers a quality product and a chance to win prizes at the same time."

"I think that the grand prize is the biggest attraction," said Kea. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Yankees play in their old stadium—'The House That Ruth Built' – by simply eating at MWR restaurants and snack bars.

"We are really excited to have both the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard facilities participate in the promotion again this summer," Kea said.

The promotion begins on April 1, and runs through July 31.

To learn more, log on to [www.mwrpromotions.com](http://www.mwrpromotions.com).

## Salem museum to host Guard appreciation day, Aug 2 &amp; 3

The Antique Powerland Museum Association will be the driving force behind the Guard Appreciation Days at the 2008 Annual Great Oregon Steam-Up. On Aug. 2 and 3, the Antique Powerland Museum in Brooks, Ore. will offer free admission to all Oregon National Guard members and their dependents. The museum is located at 3995 Brook Lake Road NE. Gates open at 7 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Antique tractors pulling four wheel people movers serves as parking lot transportation on the 62-acre museum, and Willow Creek Railroad a 1-1/2 scale railroad is available to ride for children and adults. The trolley car line circles the park and offers displays at their indoor trolley car museum. Other activities include different antique engine, tractor, car and motorcycle museums traditional tractor pulling; flea market and vendor sales; food concessions; live musical entertainment and more.

Antique Powerland's roots began in the 1950s when farmers would showcase "heritage apparatuses" and test the power of their tractors. Eventually, these events generated enough popularity, which eventually gave way to the 62-acre plot of land acquired

by Western Antique Powerland Inc. known today as the Antique Powerland Museum.

On display will be antique tractors, large trucks, vintage automobiles and motorcycles. Vintage military vehicles will also be on display. Also on site is a steam-powered sawmill that cuts logs into dimensional lumber that is used to build some of the buildings at the museum. The museum also has several stores, swap meets and craft shops. Great place to bring the entire family at no cost to enjoy the day.

## Savings bonds available via Internet

Did you know that you can buy U.S. Savings Bonds in electronic form and hold them directly with the U.S. Treasury over the Internet?

You can even convert your paper savings bonds into electronic form and hold them in an account with the government. Both are possible when you open a TreasuryDirect account.

Be sure to check out more information on the TreasuryDirect Program at [www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/treasurydirectprogram.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/treasurydirectprogram.html).

## TSP limits change for those who deploy

If you work in a combat zone anytime during the calendar year and also contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the annual addition limit is important to understand.

Learn more about the annual addition limit of TSP at [www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/annualadditionlimit.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/annualadditionlimit.html).

## DMDC website offers free service for active duty personnel

A new free service is available on a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Web site to obtain certificates of current active duty service needed for creditors under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA).

Learn more about the DMDC at [www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/freeActiveDutyServiceCertificates.html](http://www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/freeActiveDutyServiceCertificates.html).

## PAL offers summer youth camps

The Police Activities League of Portland is hosting several youth camps and activities this summer.

Beaverton PAL Day Camps are scheduled for June 16 through Aug. 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The activity is open to youths, 8 through 18, and is located at 12500 SW Allen Blvd. in Beaverton, Ore. Cost is \$50 per week.

The Day Camps feature large recreation rooms with pool tables, air hockey and foosball tables, a learning center sponsored by IBM, an art room, a snack bar and cafe, and the Nike Fitness & Training Gym. For more information, contact Jocelyn at 503-469-9137.

The Greater Portland PAL Youth Center is open June 30 through Aug. 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for youths 8 through 18. The center is located at 424 NE 172nd Ave. in Portland, Ore. Cost is \$50.

The Youth Center features sports activities, educational enrichment, field trips, arts & crafts, computer games, teen programs, swimming, museum visits, hiking, and more. For more information, contact Mike at 503-256-3479.

The Greater Portland PAL Sports Camp held at Marshall High School is June 23-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and features sports such as basketball, archery, golf, martial arts, tennis, cheerleading, and football.

The one-week camp is coached by Portland Police Officers and local community law enforcement volunteers and high school coaches. Transportation to and from the camp, and lunch is provided. The camp is open to youths 8 through 14, and the cost is

\$35. For more information, contact Tracie at 503-823-0250.

## AFS offers study abroad programs

A study abroad experience is a valuable addition to a college application, and so much more.

If you're in high school or about to graduate, there's still time to apply for a summer study abroad program or 'gap year' experience. AFS has been sending high school students abroad for 60 years. Can't decide where to go? Let AFS provide advice or connect you with students who have just returned. Financial aid is still available, especially if you let AFS suggest destinations for you.

Call 1-800-AFS-INFO today or visit [www.afs.org/usa](http://www.afs.org/usa) to learn more.

## Oaks Park offering free rides, admission

Oaks Park in Portland, Ore., will once again host its Armed Forces Appreciation Celebration, May 17.

All military personnel and their immediate families (significant other and children under the age of 18 living at home), will receive a free ride bracelet when they show their military ID.

There will also be live entertainment and patriotic activities throughout the day on the Comcast Stage.

The free ride bracelet offer for military members and their dependents will be from noon to 7 p.m.

## Memorial Day starts 101 Critical Days

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward, ORNG Safety Officer

Both the Army and Air Force recognize the 101 Critical Days that begin with Memorial Day weekend as increased activities create higher risks to our personnel and families.

Many units increase the level of activity, with more adventurous training and longer hours as available daylight increases. The annual training schedule is filled to the max.

Everyone tries to cram as much as possible into the summer, home & yard chores, as well as a myriad of "fun" activities. Everyone's particular favorite may be more or less hazardous than those around them, but all of us are increasing the 'fun factor'.

We don't expect you to stop having a good time. All we ask is that you do some risk management and always wear the appropriate protective equipment that will increase your survivability if the worst scenario comes true.

On rivers, lakes, and oceans the best item is your personal flotation device. Survivability decreases on any open water if you aren't wearing the appropriate PFD.

Hiking in our own Cascades, even for a day, can lead to disaster. Our own helicopter pilots can relate many stories about their rescues of lost and injured hikers. They don't really want to have to search for one of us; they already have plenty to keep them busy.

You can find information at one of our military safety WebPages or at the National Institute of Health at [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sportssafety.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sportssafety.html).

## Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays,  
10 am to 2 pm  
(503) 584-2891  
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891  
E-mail:  
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## USA Rugby, National Guard partner for '08 season



Courtesy photo

Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Rob Fraser, (right), presents commemorative rugby balls to the Reed College team in early 2008. Formed in 1975, USA Rugby is responsible for the development of boys and girls rugby teams at the primary, secondary, and collegiate levels.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Late last year, USA Rugby and the Army National Guard announced an agreement which will make the Army National Guard an Official Sponsor of USA Rugby.

This alliance includes title sponsorship of USA Rugby's College and High School Championships as well as the select National Team.

This strategic partnership will enhance the support provided to the nations' top performing rugby athletes in premier matches throughout the United States. The sponsorship will include events such as the U.S. National College Playoffs and Championships, the Boy's and Girl's High School Championships, the National Guard Military Challenge and select Men's and Women's Championship events.

"The National Guard is looking forward to the partnership," said Maj. Michael Baptista, chief of the Army National Guard's Strength Maintenance Advertising Branch.

"USA Rugby's beliefs of lifelong camaraderie beyond the game and the greatest asset being the players are principles the Army National Guard shares. These shared values are a big part of the reason I think both organizations will benefit from our partnership."

In addition to title sponsorships, another added benefit of this new partnership is that in conjunction with official USA Rugby licensees, USA Rugby and the National Guard will also launch a comprehensive college kit campaign that will provide apparel and equipment to 300 college teams across the country. All colleges in good standing with USA Rugby will be eligible to receive the college kit. Applications will be processed by USA Rugby.

This partnership between USA Rugby and the National Guard also includes an array of highly visible branding opportunities that will be announced throughout the 2007-2008 rugby season.

"This is great news for the sport of rugby in the U.S.," said USA Rugby's Vice President of Business Development David Voth.

"USA Rugby is always looking for the right kind of partner. USA Rugby and the National Guard share several admirable traits among members, including character, strength, vision and intelligence. A partnership with the National Guard will ensure positive exposure for both organizations at the highest level of play," he said.

For more information, please visit the USA Rugby's National Guard webpage at: [www.usarugby.org/goto/national\\_guard](http://www.usarugby.org/goto/national_guard).

## Oregon's Military Honors Team takes top award

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

For the second year in a row, the Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team takes first place at the honor guard competition held March 30 through April 4 at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

"We felt great, to get it two years in a row is pretty awesome" said Staff Sgt. Richard Lawrence, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Military Funeral Honors Team.

The eight soldiers who competed on the Oregon Military Honors team are the best of the best – many had to compete just to get a spot on the team. Lawrence said for them the mission is intensely personal.

"Almost all of our team has

been in combat and lost friends," said Lawrence. "So that is the driving force – you have a deeper appreciation and knowledge for what you are doing."

The Oregon Military Funeral Honors Team competed against seven other teams from various states. The National Guard Bureau established the competition as a way to standardize the way that state teams render final military honors to those being laid to rest.

"The goal is to have every state doing the same thing so that on a national level you could go to any funeral and it would look the same," said Lawrence.

Oregon established its Funeral Honors Team in 2004. Soldiers must compete every 90 days to keep their spot on the



Photo by Spc. Josh T. Hudson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The Oregon Army National Guard Military Honors Team took first place during a national competition held at Camp Rilea recently.

state's team.

"For us it's not about the title, it's about the ability to show that

we are giving 110-percent and leading by example," concluded Lawrence.

## Kingsley Field leads Oregon in DACT training

Story by  
Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public  
Affairs

Navy F-18 Hornets and Navy F-16 Fighting Falcons from Strike Fighter Warfare, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., arrived at Kingsley Field on March 17, 2008 to participate in a week long dissimilar air combat training (DACT) exercise known as "Navy Fallon".

Organizers say the exercises provide an opportunity for both student and instructor pilots to train against a diverse range of capable combat aircraft.

DACT was introduced as a formal part of U.S. air combat training to improve aerial combat exchange rates during the Vietnam conflict.

Prior to 1968, pilots would train against similar aircraft for training. This would cause a problem when those aircraft flew against different types and sizes of aircraft in real world combat situations.

The Navy took a hard look at its air-to-air problems of Navy engagements with North Vietnamese MiGs from 1965 to 1968. After a thorough review, Navy Capt. Frank Ault,

who was tasked to come up with recommendations to improve problems faced during engagements, authored what is now known as the "Ault Report".

His report resulted in establishment of the Navy Fighter Weapons School known as "TOPGUN" and incorporation of DACT into the syllabus.

After seeing the improved successes of the Navy exchange rates with North Vietnamese MiGs, the U.S. Air Force adopted DACT.

DACT provides a means to train against a wide range of different fighter aircraft with different capabilities and tactics.

"It seems pretty unlikely that I could someday find myself flying in combat against another F-15, any chance to fly against a different aircraft will undoubtedly be beneficial as it adds to my experience," said 1st Lt. Jon "Deep" Friedman, who is currently attending a seven-month F-15 Basic Course (B-Course) at Kingsley Field.

The training gives B-Course student pilots a unique opportunity to challenge themselves in a diverse flying environment.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Navy F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-18 Hornet from Strike Fighter Warfare, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., and an Air National Guard F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., prepare to taxi down the runway at Kingsley Field to perform dissimilar air combat training (DACT) during a week long exercise called "Navy Fallon".

"I got the chance to see what a Viper (F-16) looks like at different ranges and aspect angles in addition to seeing a little bit about how it performs differently from the Eagle (F-15)," he said.

"Additionally it forced me to do a little research prior to the flight about the Viper itself and what type of fights it excels in," added Friedman who will be assigned to the 493rd Fighter Squadron, Lakenheath Air Base, England after graduation.

"Having professional bandits in town with different airframes and unique electronic attack capabilities really increases the quality of training that our F-15 students receive," said Lt. Col. Wes "Pappy" French, 114th Fighter Squadron Director of Operations.

"We are very lucky to be able to host our fighter pilot neighbors from Fallon Naval Air Station and their F-16's and F-18's," he added.

## Oregon honors ANZAC veterans, 41st Div. Soldiers



The Oregon Army National Guard's Honor Guard Team presents memorial wreaths at the ANZAC ceremony Apr. 13.

Story and photo by Spc. Cory Grogan,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters and Headquarters Company hosted the 16th annual Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) commemoration and the Hall of Honor induction ceremony at the Tigard Armory, Apr. 13.

The ANZAC ceremony was a tribute to the strong alliance the Australian and New Zealand Army's have had with the U.S.

Army since WWII.

The ceremony included speeches by The Adjutant General of Oregon, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees and the unit's new commander, Col. Daniel Hokansen.

Also present were the 234th Army Band, representatives from the Oregon Military Museum, and Tigard Mayor, Craig E. Dirksen.

"It's an honor just to think somebody would put me in that (group), but there's so many that didn't come back," said Portland developer, philanthropist and 41st Division WWII veteran Tommy Moyer. "I gave four years of my life but they gave their whole life."

Retired Brig. Gen. Richard Rusch, who started the Hall of Honor 16 years ago, told the gathering it was a privilege to serve in the same company as those who served in WWII in Australia and Europe.

Oregon was one of only five states that sent National Guard troops to fight overseas in WWII, and the 41st was the brigade that served their state with honor during that deployment, said Rusch.

Former WWII veterans were also on hand to witness the event. Retired Master Sgt. David Funk, who is the head of the 41st Infantry Division Association

Portland Chapter, said it is important to recognize our heroes.

The chapter is chartered with creating awareness about the 72 remaining WWII veterans in Oregon, several of whom were also recognized at the ceremony.

Honorary Australian Consul, Len Reid said ANZAC is a national holiday in Australia, similar to Memorial Day in the U.S. He said Australians give tribute to those who have served their country and that his fellow Australians took pride in fighting alongside the U.S. troops during the campaigns.

Reid added that the 41st Junglers were the first to come to the aid of Australia when they were being invaded by Japan in WWII.

"Australia has fought in every major conflict of this century," said Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Jason Mcheyzer. "The relationship we have with America (and the New Zealanders) is a strong one that will continue in the future."

For more information on the history of the 41st Division and the Junglers, contact the Oregon Military Museum, or visit them at 10101 SE Clackamas Road, Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore.