

In This issue

Personality Profile: CW4 Powell and "Oregon's Own" 234th Army Band, pg. 4



1186th MP Co. pulls duty "inside the wire" at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, pg. 6



Oregon National Guard officially dedicates Oregon Veterans Heritage Park, pg. 7



THE
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Oregon Sentinel

OF THE
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Vol.2....Issue No. 5

September/October 2004

Quilts offers comfort to Oregon families



Tom (l.) and Jennifer McKinley display a memorial quilt which was created for their son, Spec. Eric McKinley, a soldier with the Oregon Army National Guard, who was killed in Iraq on June 13.

Photo and Story by Kay Fristad,
State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

See story on **Quilts help families** PAGE 5

Oregon mourns four more fallen heroes



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

Gov. Ted Kulongoski presents the Oregon State flag to Staff Sgt. David Weisenburg's father, James. David, 26, was killed in an explosion Sept. 13, which also took the life of Sgt. Benjamin Isenberg. The two men were members of ORARNG's 2nd IN, 162nd BN.

By Maj. Arnold V. Strong,
State Public Affairs Officer

Portland, Ore. – In late Sept. 2004, Oregon had the unfortunate distinction of becoming the nation's leader in National Guard casualties. With the death of Sgt. David Johnson, on Sep. 28, the Oregon National Guard has had nine total fatalities in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eight of the nine soldiers killed were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, currently assigned in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq.

On July 28, 2004, Pvt. 1st Class Ken Leisten of Bravo Company, based in Corvallis, was killed when his Humvee was struck by an improvised explosive device. Leisten, who had not finished high school but had completed his General Education Degree in order to qualify as a member of the National Guard had distinguished himself within his adopted family in the Guard.

"He was just about the smartest young man I had ever worked with," said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Mork, an expe-

See **Oregon National Guard** PAGE 8

Oregon National Guard leads multi-state training in Colorado



Photo by Staff Sgt. Laura Flori, 115th MPAD

Members of the Oregon Army National Guard begin their daily trek into the field while training at the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Colorado. The deployment was one of the largest Active Duty training exercises in 2004.

By Spec. Nicholas Wood,
115th MPAD, Oregon National Guard

Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, Colo. – More than 2,500 soldiers from 12 U.S. states and territories participated in Operations Pinon Canyon and Bayonet Thrust Aug. 7-21 at Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site near Trinidad, Colo.

Operation Bayonet Thrust was originally intended to prepare the 41st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) for their 2005 Joint Readiness Training Center rotation to Fort Polk, La., but because the unit will ultimately not go to Ft. Polk, they continued with the Pinon Canyon mission.

"The concept of the original operation was changed because the 41st BCT's mission has changed," said Lt. Col. Rendell Chilton, Chief of Staff for the Joint State Task Force.

Instead of going to JRTC, the 41st BCT is slated to go to Afghanistan to support on-going stabilization and security operations there, said Col. Stephen Truesdell, commander of the JSTF.

"[We] wanted to replicate missions in Afghanistan down range," Chilton said.

See **Active Duty** PAGE 8

142nd Fighter Wing spends part of summer in the 'Land of Fire and Ice'



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amy Elker, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Pierre Jones leads a formation of F-15s from the 142nd Fighter Wing on a training mission Northwest of Reyjavik, Iceland. Personnel from the 142nd FW worked alongside the 85th Operations Squadron during a NATO exercise May 28 to July 19 in support of the Bilateral Defense Agreement between the Icelandic government and the U.S. The deployment included five F-15 aircraft and about 180 personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing. See related story on Page 5.

Editorial

Camp Rosenbaum makes a big impact on counselors as well as kids

This year marks the eighth year I have been involved in Camp Rosenbaum. For the past seven years I worked in the capacity as a videographer, photographer, and/or public affairs representative. This was the first year I played the role of a camp counselor, and I'm happy to report there is no turning back.

Camp Rosenbaum, named after retired Brig. Gen. Fred Rosenbaum, the camp's founder, is a youth camp organized by the Housing Authority of Portland, in partnership with the Oregon Air National Guard, Camp Rilea, the Portland Police Department, and the Gresham and Tualatin Fire Departments, with corporate sponsorship by Nike and contributions by other Oregon businesses rounding out the non-profit organization.

The camp, held during the last week of July at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., hosts 160-170 boys and girls who have been chosen throughout the year by Housing Authority employees. The children, ages 8 to 13, typically come from "at-risk" situations where substance abuse, neglect, physical/sexual abuse, or legal trouble may exist in their homes.



Research has shown that reaching at-risk youth just prior to age 13 results in a higher instance of helping them avoid the juvenile legal system. Counselors try to accomplish this by teaching the camp's attendees goal-setting, good role-modeling behavior, the value of staying in school, and avoiding drugs and gang involvement. Programs such as D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance and Education) and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training), as well as good old-fashioned teamwork and sharing are promoted and taught throughout the week.

My group included co-counselors, Troutdale Police officer Mike "Special-K" Kellogg, 142nd Fighter Wing Retention Office NCOIC Robert "Orca" Talley, and ten young boys from communities throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Aside from getting to know each other, we spent the week enjoying arts and crafts, talent shows, great music, dancing, and the beautiful Oregon coast. There were field trips to Fort Clatsop and the Seaside Aquarium, swimming in the ocean, building sand castles at Sunset Beach, and a night at a campsite on the North end of the post. There was even an F-15 flyover provided by pilots from the 142nd Fighter Wing. In as much as it was a chance for these children to leave behind the stress of their inner-city neighborhoods, it also served as a reminder to the adults what it was like to be a kid again.

Sure, by week's end I was tired. We all were. Maybe a better descriptor was exhausted. There were things I had heard counselors talk about during the number of years I had attended camp, but I had no clue what they really meant until I myself became a counselor. Things like "hitting the wall" (resulting from how tired you were), and how the counselors bonded with the kids in their groups, were now crystal clear to me. I had spent almost a decade watching camp happen from the 'outside'. I was now on the inside — and loving every minute of it.

Aside from the newfound insight and understanding, even though I thought I had been 'giving back' to my community by attending camp all these years, I never knew what it meant to truly make a difference in the life of a youngster. By becoming a counselor, I had ceased to 'pay back' society, and begun to 'pay it forward'. I found the transition to be truly enlightening, albeit quite emotional. I was now a real participant of something much larger than myself. I also found comfort in my fellow counselors, who were facing the same thoughts. It was heartening to know that I was not alone in my emotions — and rewards.

I've been back at work for a couple of months now. Not a day goes by where I don't stop and think about the kids that were in my group. I wonder how they're all doing, and secretly hope I made a positive impression on at least one of them. I think I speak for many Camp Rosenbaum counselors when I say I often dream that one day I'll run into one of my 'kids' years from now, and see a proud young person who is sure of their bright and promising future. My fantasy is that their experience at camp contributed in some small way to their positive outlook on life. In my dream, this youngster looks at me quizzically and say, "You know, you look familiar."

If you are interested in volunteering to help organize Camp Rosenbaum 2005, or would like to become a camp counselor, please contact Master Sgt. Elizabeth Fredericks at 503-335-4020, or via e-mail at elizabeth.fredericks@orport.ang.af.mil.

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

Your Letters

This is your chance to air your thoughts about any subject! Send your thoughts, opinions and ideas on any topic, or current affair issue via e-mail to the following address: sentinel-letters@mil.state.or.us

WWII Veteran appalled at treatment of Guard

In 1942 I went to Corvallis as a green second lieutenant to help organize the 96th Division. As a civilian turned soldier at Ft. Benning, Ga., I am not sure how effective I was. I know that we turned out some pretty good soldiers and accomplished our mission on Leyte and Okinawa.

That training sticks with one. The story of what happened to the Oregon National Guard soldiers unsupported by higher command makes me sick. My connection to Oregon goes deep and having been a grunt under fire saddens me for my long-ago fellow infantrymen. Please know that we still feel the pain. The rotten deal handed to the Guard troops makes me ashamed of my country.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Jackson
Anacortes, Wash.

Widow of Vietnam Vet ashamed of lack of support for Iraq Vets

The military has changed since the time of my husband's service. I am ashamed of the military wives who protest their husband's deployment. This would never have happened in our day. We knew that we signed up for duty and gladly went from post to post or overseas to accompany our husbands. Is there no discipline in today's military? I am a widow now but my husband served three years in Vietnam and I proudly supported him for 39 years. The protest for Ms. Rice makes me question the motivations of some of the young people in the military today. The US military is an all-volunteer force, so I wonder why they signed up in the first place? I am ashamed.

Carol Enloe
Gresham, Ore.

Guardmember helps passenger with nosebleed

Dear Sir,

In June my husband and I left Portland, Ore. on a United Flight to Denver, Colo. During the flight my nose started to bleed. I have rarely had a nosebleed and I could not stop the bleeding. I became very anxious and embarrassed.

I was very fortunate that Sgt. Troy Waddell was a passenger on the flight. He witnessed my distress and came to the rescue. He was compassionate, calm, and his sense of humor restored my confidence and calmed my fears. Troy stopped the bleeding, packed my nose, and stayed with me until we were off the plane and he knew I was okay.

Troy advised me to see my doctor after arriving home. I followed his advice after arriving back in Wichita. My doctor referred me to a specialist and the problem has been resolved.

Please convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to Troy for his kindness and generous assistance. The Oregon National Guard is fortunate to have an individual with his talent and compassion serving in their unit.

My warmest regards,
Jo Ann Pappas
Wichita, Kan.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

The Oregon Sentinel
Attn: Editor
c/o State Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

The Oregon Sentinel

The **Oregon Sentinel** is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309, (503) 584-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the **Oregon Sentinel** are not necessarily those of the departments of the Army and Air Force. The **Oregon Sentinel** is distributed free to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation: 10,500. The **Oregon Sentinel** is also distributed electronically via the Internet at <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml>.

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

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

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

© 2004 Oregon Military Department
All Rights Reserved

Oregon Military Department

State Commander-in-Chief
Governor Ted Kulongoski

Acting Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr.

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

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

State Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith

Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Maj. Arnold V. Strong
arnold.v.strong@mil.state.or.us

Associate Editor
Kay F. Fristad
kay.f.fristad@mil.state.or.us

Managing Editor
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.choy@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Editor
Capt. Michael S. Braibish
michael.s.braibish@mil.state.or.us

Audio/Visual
Sgt. 1st Class Tom Hovie
tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributors
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Command Message

On the 25th of September we dedicated the Oregon National Guard Heritage Park. The park sits adjacent to the Oregon Military Department in Salem and is intended as a permanent symbol of the long and proud citizen-soldier heritage of the Oregon National Guard, Army and Air, past, present and future. This dedication has additional meaning this year because of the loss of nine Oregon Army National Guard soldiers.

Additionally, there was a senior Oregon National Guard commanders meeting that discussed our focus for this fiscal year. The agenda for the conference reflects our focus for this year as well as celebrates our successes during the past year. First, we must have success in recruiting and retention. Second, continued support for the Family Readiness

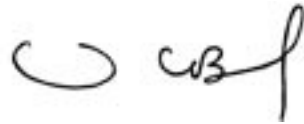
Program is essential. Third, protecting traditional Guard member's jobs as well as working closely with their employers makes perfect sense.

The Oregon National Guard, both Air and Army, will be going through tremendous changes over the next several years. Currently, the staff in Salem is working on the Oregon National Guard's Twenty-Year Plan. This plan will be our vision of what we see, based on what we currently know, of future force structure, stationing, facilities needed for training and education, and training areas both on the ground and in the air. The Air Force VanGuard Program, the Army Brigade Combat Team, and Army Air restructuring initiatives require us to take a long hard look at the impact it will have on the National Guard. The Guard of

the future will challenge our realities and assumptions that we have operated under for most of our careers.

As citizen soldiers we serve both the state and the nation. Our duty is to defend both our homes and this great nation. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to fulfill another of your important duties as a citizen and vote this November.

I wish to thank you and your families for remaining with the Oregon National Guard and your service to Oregon and the United States of America.



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



ESGR. What does that really mean? The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency within the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, operates programs directed toward U.S. employers, employees, and communities to ensure understanding of the role of Reserve Component members. ESGR encourages development of employer policies and practices to facilitate employee participation in the Reserve Components through a network of volunteers and local ESGR Committees. How many employers of our soldiers and airman really know what their Guard employees do when they leave their place of business to attend Unit Training Assemblies, Active Duty or are deployed for a contingency operation? Have you invited your employer out to see what you do as a member of the Oregon National Guard?

On Aug. 20, the 142nd Fighter Wing hosted an employer day, where some 60 businesses came to the Portland Air National Guard Base to see what their employees do for the Oregon Air National Guard. The employers were briefed on the operation of the base to include the wing, and were told about past and present deployments and how their employees play a major role in the operation of the squadrons and the wing. After registration, (and a few goodies at the breakfast bar), the employers were treated to a KC-135 tanker-refueling mission. Two tankers furnished by the 939th Air Refueling Wing took about forty employers in each plane to observe both F-15 and F-16 aircraft being refueled. After the flight the employers met their respective employees for a group luncheon. In the early afternoon, they watched the launch of six F-15's, with each aircraft doing a gate-climb. From there, they paid a visit to the "Hush House", where they were able to see a jet engine being run, then went to the engine shop where the internal workings of the engine, such as the mechanics and hydraulics, were explained to the group. A visit to the Life Support section gave the employers a first-hand look at survival equipment. The tours were concluded by the employers accompanying



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

their employees back to their respective work areas where they were briefed about their particular duties.

I learned from the participants in the tour that they were all very excited about coming to the air base for the day. Participants enjoyed the tour and now better understand the mission of the Oregon Air National Guard. More than anything else, employers now have a better understanding of what their employees do when they are away from their civilian jobs – be it on their two-week active duty, or deployed for extended periods of time in support of various military missions around the world. It is important that these employers understand they are not just losing an employee for an undetermined period of time. They need to know their employee is performing an invaluable service for the state of Oregon and indeed the entire Nation.

I encourage all of you to arrange a visit for your civilian employers to come to an Armory or Air Base, and show them what you do when you need to take time off from your civilian job in order to complete your military duty. In doing this we will not only have the support of each and every individual soldier and airman, but we will have the support of their employers – and indeed the larger community – as well.

I think it is real obvious to all of us that as the national command pursues our worldwide military commitments, we – the National Guard – have a very large role to play. Much larger than any role we have had since World War II.

Our last edition was dedicated to our soldiers, serving in harms way on the other side of the world. We showcased the sacrifices the soldiers are making, the good things they are doing, and saluted those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Even though we couldn't show them all, our deployed soldiers are doing good and heroic things everyday.

In the last edition I told an old story. The bottom line was that we must trust each other to know and do our jobs; both Officer and NCOs alike.

I have had the opportunity to talk with soldiers and NCOs who have returned from Iraq. Some on leave, some recovering from wounds and injuries. One of the things they talked about is trust. Trust in their leadership, in their NCOs, and their fellow soldiers – and how important it is to the overall mission. The other thing they talk about is how important it is that each soldier knows their job and is trained to established military standards.

One soldier told me about an incident where they were ambushed. Soldiers were wounded, the group was receiving incoming fire, and their vehicle was damaged. Though the situation was chaotic, each member of the patrol did their job and trusted one another to do their part. The patrol laid down lethal suppressive fire, the medics treated the wounded, and the radio telephone operator (RTO) called in supporting fire and the evacuation. The platoon leader and platoon sergeant then directed the action and destroyed the ambush and consolidated the patrol. In about ten minutes, the wounded were on their way to the aid station, and the patrol went on to complete its assigned mission.

The soldier I spoke to credited the success of the patrol to each member being able to



Command Sergeant Major Thomas Moe,
State Command Sergeant Major

trust in their fellow soldier – knowing the other person knew their job. He described the synergy of the group as "awesome".

Our mission here in the Oregon National Guard is similar. We need to continue to develop this kind of warrior spirit.

The Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

FROM THE EDITOR

In the past month, the Oregon National Guard lost another three of our finest in prosecuting their duties in the Global War on Terrorism. Staff Sgt. David Weisenburg and Sgt. Benjamin Isenberg were killed on September 13, 2004, when an improvised explosive device struck their vehicle and they took small arms fire. Then on September 25, Sgt. David Johnson of HHC, a door-gunner in the last vehicle in a convoy was killed by yet another improvised explosive device. These soldiers were among the finest in their unit and will be sorely missed by their fellow soldiers, friends and families. At their memorial services they were eulogized by friends and family as heroes both on duty and off.

Aside from the loss of our compatriots, the Oregon Guard has much to rejoice over. The ongoing successes of the 2-162 IN BN in Najaf and Sadr City, have been witnessed all over the world. With strong media coverage of the events and with help from the second embedded team from *The Oregonian*, the world saw the "Sunset Brigade" patch on the shoulders of some of the greatest infantrymen the world has ever seen. Also, Associated Press photographer Jim Macmillian chronicled the work of 1st Platoon, Bravo Co. in Najaf, with his photographs displayed in a number of publications throughout the world.

In another far away land, the 142nd Fighter Wing and 123rd Fighter Squadron deployed members to Reykjavik, Iceland, in a NATO exercise, Operation Northern Watch.

Closer to home, but still overseas, the 1186th Military Police Company is continuing

to meet its challenges in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as the security force responsible for the most difficult inmates and detainees at this facility.

Simultaneously, the 3rd Squadron of the 116th Cavalry and Gulf Troop 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavalry continue to train at Ft. Bliss, Texas in preparation for their yearlong deployment to Iraq. More recently Troop F, 1st of the 82nd Cavalry departed for training also at Ft. Bliss for their rotation into Iraq. The 41st Brigade conducted the largest training exercise in recent history in Pinon Canyon, Colo., hosting 3,000 soldiers and airmen, and almost 100 civilian role players from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Bosnia, in a comprehensive joint and combined arms training exercise in support of the Global War on Terrorism for Annual Training '04, Operation Bayonet Thrust.

Thirty volunteers from the Infantry Brigade recently completed training at Ft. Hood, Texas and have deployed to Iraq as replacement troops to backfill vacancies caused by injury or death on the battlefield.

Members of the 41st Personnel Services Branch have again conducted Soldier Readiness Processing for 83 volunteers who will process and train as possible backfills for 2-162 to maintain the integrity of the Battalion while forward deployed.

Finally, Camp Rosenbaum was a great success again this year, thanks to the community involvement of stalwart members. Our citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen are performing their duties with discipline, courage and élan. Thanks for reading about them!

Maj. Arnold V. Strong, State Public Affairs Officer

Hear the Band

If you were offered the perfect assignment where you could do that which brings you the most satisfaction and get paid for it, would you take it?

By Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
State Public Affairs Office

For Chief Warrant Officer-4 James W. Powell, leading Oregon National Guard's 234th Army Band is just that kind of assignment.

The group – often referred to as “Oregon’s Own” – carries the heady distinction as Oregon’s goodwill ambassador of the Oregon National Guard, performing extensively throughout the state, the rest of the country, and abroad.

Though the band plays such traditional military staples as Ruffles and Flourishes and The Army Song, the band has splintered into specific musical groups including Dixieland, Jazz, Country-Western, and Blues.

“The connection to music for me is really important. I’ve always worked in high-stress jobs, so when I came here, I found I could relax.” Powell said.

Powell, a former narcotics police officer, joined the Army Band in 1968. He eventually became the Bandmaster and Commanding Officer of the band in May 1983.

“When I look back, I didn’t think I’d make it this long without going crazy.” Powell said with a chuckle.

Powell began playing the trumpet at age four, and though he majored in music at Portland State University with the intention of later becoming a music teacher, he became a police officer instead – a venture that turned into a 26-year career with the Portland Police Department.

When Powell first joined the Army Band as a French Horn player, there were 28 people and one Warrant Officer in the band.

“I was a Private (E-1) making \$3.40 a drill,” Powell said.

When Powell joined the band, he was reunited with a former classmate of his, Sgt. 1st Class Bob Rutherford.

“Bob and I met in the first grade,” said Powell of his life-long friend. “This band is a great slice of Americana. I’ve known most of these guys for some 30 years.”

After retiring from the Portland Police Department in 2002, Powell devoted himself full-time to the Army Band. Whatever spare time he found ended up being filled with his true love – music. In addition to commanding the 234th Army Band, Powell divides his time between playing with the Oregon Symphonic Band, a 65-piece, premier concert/symphony band, and as a choir conductor for the First Baptist Church in Oregon City.

“This band is a great slice of America.”

– CW4 James Powell

“It’s a lot of fun,” Powell said. “Now that I’m retired, I can spend more time with my wife and do fun stuff.”

Like most members of the Oregon National Guard, Powell has been able to travel to places and meet people that he may have never otherwise been exposed to. In 1990, the 234th Band traveled to Papua New Guinea for a WWII commemoration ceremony that included the Royal Australian Army. The band would meet up with their Australian counterparts again later that same year at the Washington Memorial, where they honored the Royal Australian Reserve Band by playing for them as they departed from the ceremony.



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



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

Above: Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Powell, Bandmaster of the 234th Army Band leads the group during a mobilization ceremony for G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry in Redmond, Ore. in May.

Left: 234th Army Band member, Sgt. Rob Izzett plays under “Old Glory” at the Portland Air National Guard Base during a mobilization ceremony for F-Troop, 82nd Cavalry on August 16.

“Being with the band has allowed me to go places that I could have never done otherwise,” Powell said.

Military bands have traditionally played an important role in promoting *esprit de corps* among service members, as well as representing the military to the general public. Since 1919, when the band was federally recognized as the Band Section, Service Company, as part of the 162nd Infantry at Portland, Ore., the Army Band has seen duty throughout the region, including the South Pacific during WWII. In June 1947, the band was redesignated as the 234th Army Band, and to this day the group continues to promote camaraderie among the troops, and promote the Oregon National Guard at public functions.

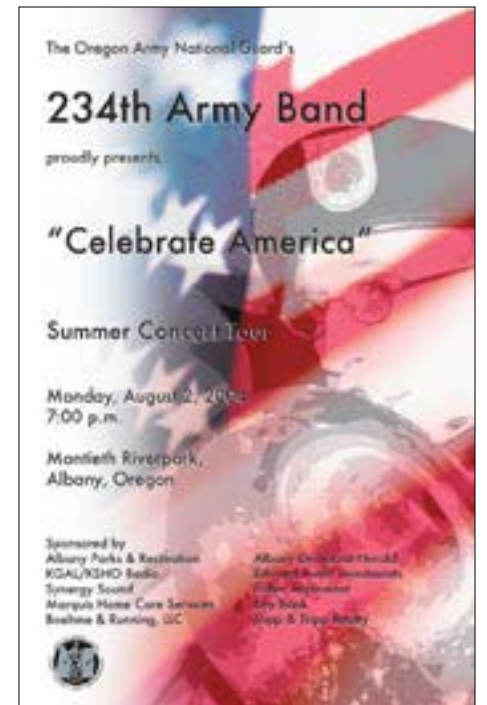
“When people see the band, we’re their first impression of the Army Guard,” Powell said. “So we always have to look sharp.”

Throughout its 85 year history, the band has remained flexible to adapt to the Army’s changing mission, and fluctuations in musical trends. One of the more exciting transitions for the Band has been the new building located on the grounds of the Portland Air National Guard base. Remodeled in 1980, the state-of-the art building is one of the best acoustically-tuned practice spaces the 234th Band has ever had. A far cry from their original accommodations at the 10th Street Armory in 1969, the band now practices in a building that was originally designed for 28 people.

However, with the increasing operational tempo of the band, and some 38 musicians vying for practice space, a drastic redesign was in order. Current building space not used by the band will be repurposed for the band, the siding on the exterior of the entire building will be redone, and current underutilized office space will be devoted to much-needed practice rooms.

“Army bands typically don’t get good buildings,” Powell said. “Ours is one of the best on the West Coast.”

Another exciting venture on the horizon



The 234th Army Band holds free community concerts throughout Oregon during the summer months.

See 234th Army Band, NEXT PAGE



The 234th Army Band in 1922, while stationed at Ft. Lewis (known then as Camp Lewis). Photo courtesy of 234th Army Band archives.

Personality Profile

Oregon Air Guard father and daughter team deploy to Iceland

Photos and Story by
Staff Sgt. Amy Elker,

142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KEFLAVIK, ICELAND – A deployment for any duration of time typically means leaving a job and family behind. However, Master Sgt. Gary Stroh, Aircraft Engine Mechanic (Full-time Technician), 142nd Maintenance Squadron, and Senior Airman Raina Stroh, Information Management (AGR), 142nd Maintenance Squadron, were fortunate enough to take with them what is usually left behind. This father-daughter duo deployed together on the second two-week AEF rotation to Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland on what appears to be his last, her first, and their only deployment together.

The Strohs have always been a close family. "Especially," Raina said, "when we moved from North Dakota to Oregon, because it was just the four of us – me, my mom, my dad, and my brother. We didn't have any other family out here." Through the deployment Gary and Raina had the opportunity to become even closer. They worked side by side, with Gary, in the role of First Sergeant, and Raina as his Administrative Assistant.

Not only are they a close family, but they are now what one might consider a military family, due largely in part

to Gary's influence and example. Gary's son, Brandan, was the first to follow in his father's footsteps – although he chose a slightly different path – enlisting in the Active Duty Army. For Raina, the decision to join took a bit more persuading.

"My dad was always telling me to join the Guard and kept pushing me to join," Raina said. Three years ago, after ending a relationship, Raina finally joined the Oregon Air Guard in the pursuit of finding a new direction in life.

In addition to her father's influence on her professional life, he also had a hand in changing her personal life as well. Gary, who worked with, Staff Sgt. Mitch Boucher, (Technician) Engine Shop Mechanic, 142nd MXM, began to wonder why his daughter couldn't meet and date

a nice guy like Mitch. This thought set Gary's match-making wheels in motion, and one day, knowing Boucher was on duty, decided to task his daughter with doing some typing for him so the two could meet. His plan worked perfectly – Raina and Mitch were married in May 2004.

Although the couple originally planned to marry in late September, Raina's brother, Brandan, stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash., was due to deploy to Iraq in September. It was certainly the first of many changes in store for the Stroh family.

Another transition for this Guard family is Gary's retirement, set for 2005. Gary said, "I have spent my entire adult life in the military so it will be an adjustment, but it's time for a change and I'm ready to let the young ones take over."

Gary is not the only one however, who will find the change difficult. Raina may find herself alone on her duty day after her father retires.

"Mitch works a different shift than I do, so it's always been nice to have my Dad here to have lunch with and talk over issues with," Raina said. "Or if I'm having a bad day, it's great to have someone there loving and supporting you."

The prospect of Gary's upcoming retirement made his and Raina's deployment together that much more meaningful and significant. Then Gary was selected to receive his first incentive ride while on the deployment, making the trip even more momentous for the family. Raina supported and encouraged her father throughout the entire process. As Gary returned

from his flight, the two locked eyes and shared ear-to-ear smiles as Gary gave his daughter a heartfelt thumbs-up.

Gary reflected on the deployment with his daughter. "It has been fun watching her [Raina] grow," The elder Stroh said. "Witnessing her experience new things, and watching her expand her horizons in the military." I'm as proud as a father can be of his daughter."

Not to be outdone, Raina reciprocated her father's sentiment, "It makes me feel less homesick having him here. Plus, he needs me here to keep him on his toes!"



Master Sgt. Gary Stroh and daughter Raina deployed together to Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland in May 2004.

234th Army Band: "To most people we *are* the Army National Guard"

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

for the Band is a concert CD, scheduled to be recorded in late 2004. The CD will include the standard Army musical fare, but will also feature rock, popular music, jazz, and some of their concert selections. The band hopes to make the music CD available to all military members and the general public sometime in 2005.

"People always think Army Bands are all about marches," Powell said. "But we've done so many different venues. We encourage the public to come out to our concerts and see the wide variety of music we play."

Becoming a member of the 234th Band is not easy. Prospective musicians are interviewed by the senior members of the band, and then put through a rigorous audition process that includes playing with the rest of the band members over a period of four hours. The final step involves the applicants playing solo in front of the band's section leaders. Musicians are asked to *sight-read* music, while other band members set the tempo, and observe such things as their pitch, tempo, rhythmic variations, time signatures, general musicianship, and dynamic markings (how loudly or softly they play their music).

"It's incredibly stressful," said Powell. "They need to be very accomplished. Most high school students play a wide variety of instruments, but none of them play any single instrument very well. They become a jack of all trades, but a master of none."

Furthermore, band members rarely spend more than one night in the same locale, traveling up to 2,000 miles through-

"Oregon's Own" 234th Army Band plays at a welcome home ceremony for the Bravo Co., 52nd Engineers in March 2004. Besides mobilization and demobilization ceremonies, the Band's venues include parades and free public concerts.

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



out the state during a busy concert season.

One important thing that escapes most people not associated with the Army Band is that members are required to do two important things simultaneously. According to Powell, first and foremost, members of the band are soldiers. The music, though very important, is second.

"To most people watching a parade, we are the only soldiers that they ever see in the flesh," Powell said. "If we do something wrong, or if we don't look good, that's the final impression that we leave with the public. For instance, when we play a concert in Burns, Ore., we *are* the Army National Guard."

Regardless of the challenges, the lure of being in a military band is still very strong. Most new recruits are drawn to playing for the band by seeing the group play. Others are referred by current mem-

bers of the band. Most, however, see the band as a venue to express their musical talent and enjoy a steady paycheck.

Powell hopes that people with musical talent will consider joining the band when they think about joining the National Guard. In addition to new band members, the band is in need of individuals who can become section leaders in the future, as most of the current members are approaching retirement age, including Powell himself.

"I've been so fortunate to play music my whole life," he said. "If it all were to end tomorrow, I'd consider myself very lucky."

If you are interested in joining the 234th Army Band, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Bob Rutherford at 503-335-4822, or Staff Sgt. Jesse Salas at 503-335-4823.

Quilts help families cope with loss

Continued from FRONT PAGE

A group called Operation Home Front Quilts has begun sewing quilts for the families of Oregon's National Guard soldiers killed in Iraq. According to Jessica Porter, a spokesperson for the Hudson, Fla.-based group, a photograph of the soldier being memorialized is incorporated into the quilt's 'signature', and the women find inspiration for the unique design of each quilt they sew by learning about the background of each individual.

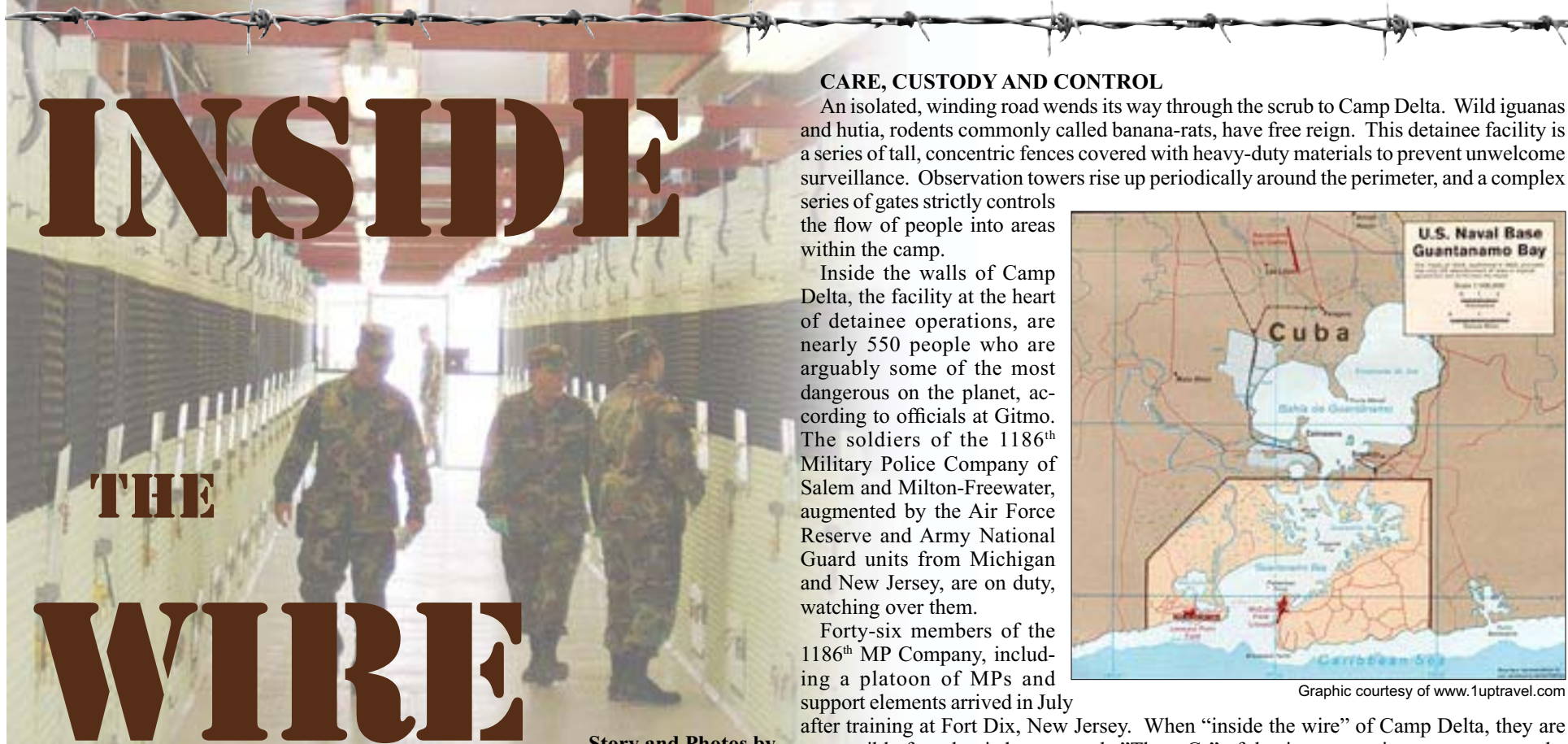
Tom and Jennifer McKinley, parents of Spec. Eric McKinley – a soldier with Oregon Army National Guard's Bravo Company, 2nd Infantry, 162nd Battalion who was killed in Iraq on June 13 by an Improvised Explosive Device – were the recipients of the first quilt.

Eric's memorial quilt was done in a red, white and blue pattern of squares and herringbone, with his photo displayed on one corner. Included is a statement acknowledging Eric's sacrifice, and his commitment to the state of Oregon and the United States.

"This is absolutely beautiful and will be cherished forever", said Eric's father Tom.

The McKinleys were extremely pleased with the work of art and very surprised to have received it from the group in Florida. What made the presentation all the more emotional was that their grandson recently received a similar quilt, also honoring Eric's sacrifice. The gift was presented to Seth Wehr by a similar quilters club in Klamath Falls, Ore. to honor his favorite uncle.

Life at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with ORARNG's 1186th Military Police Company



INSIDE

THE

WIRE

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

Off the southeast coast of Cuba, the azure waters of the Caribbean seem to invite the casual observer in for a luxurious swim. They look cool, calm, and comforting. It's hard to resist the temptation to dive in – especially when the steep cactus-covered, rocky, shell-strewn hills join the overwhelming humidity – all but pushing you to the water's edge.

Guantanamo Bay, called Gitmo by those familiar with it, is a land of extreme physical contrasts. So too, is it a land of ideological contrasts.

Cuba is the last bastion of communism in the western hemisphere, defiantly resisting the decades-long trend toward democracy and capitalism. Although the Castro regime dominates the island, the U.S. has a lease signed in 1903 that allows the Navy to maintain a small outpost on Guantanamo Bay – a 45 square mile island of American military authority fenced off within the island of Cuba.

The ideological contrasts on Cuba deepened even further when the global war on terror began in Afghanistan in 2001. With the commencement of Operation Enduring Freedom, there came an immediate need to account for and control enemy combatants captured during engagements or who presented a threat to coalition forces.



Detainees who don't cooperate with interrogators only get 20 minutes outside their cell to run or kick a soccer ball in a 20 x 30 foot cage. Inset: Sgt. 1st Class James Frank of Milton-Freewater, Ore. (r.) goes over the day's assignments with the Command Sgt. Major of Joint Task Force Gitmo.

In the early days of operations, the U.S. decided to transfer enemy combatants from the area of operations and detain them at Gitmo. Detainees are brought here because they have "high enough of an intelligence value" to U.S. operations in the war on terrorism, said Lt. Col. Leo Sumpter, the public affairs officer for JTF-GTMO (Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay) – the group charged with detainee operations.

Though the international community has discussed and debated the exact nature of their detention, the U.S. committed to applying the principles of international law to detainees.

The first detainees arrived at Gitmo on Jan. 11, 2002, and the base has undergone a variety of changes and facility upgrades, but two fundamental, yet separate missions have remained the same: managing the detainees and collecting intelligence from the detainees.

CARE, CUSTODY AND CONTROL

An isolated, winding road wends its way through the scrub to Camp Delta. Wild iguanas and hutia, rodents commonly called banana-rats, have free reign. This detainee facility is a series of tall, concentric fences covered with heavy-duty materials to prevent unwelcome surveillance. Observation towers rise up periodically around the perimeter, and a complex series of gates strictly controls the flow of people into areas within the camp.

Inside the walls of Camp Delta, the facility at the heart of detainee operations, are nearly 550 people who are arguably some of the most dangerous on the planet, according to officials at Gitmo. The soldiers of the 1186th Military Police Company of Salem and Milton-Freewater, augmented by the Air Force Reserve and Army National Guard units from Michigan and New Jersey, are on duty, watching over them.

Forty-six members of the 1186th MP Company, including a platoon of MPs and support elements arrived in July after training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. When "inside the wire" of Camp Delta, they are responsible for what is known as the "Three Cs" of detainee operations: – care, custody, and control.

They're performing exceptionally well, according to their commander.

"You couldn't ask for more," said Capt. Trent Klug, the company commander. "From the day we set foot on Fort Dix [for training] to getting here and becoming a full fledged member of the detainee operations they have made the company and Oregon look spectacular."

Many of the Oregonians, about one third of those who work inside Camp Delta, credit their experience in law enforcement or correctional facilities with enabling them to perform.

"It's all about communication," said Staff Sgt. David Williams, a member of the Salem Armory. "The verbal skills aren't different; it's the corrections environment that's different."

Duties on the toughest blocks have gone to the soldiers from Oregon. The detainees they watch are the least cooperative and most disruptive, their only goal seeming to be to disgust and taunt their captors. A senior enlisted member of JTF Gitmo says the detainees will sometimes throw their own feces and urine at the soldiers.

"... they have made the Company and Oregon look spectacular."

– Capt. Trent Klug, Commander, 1186th MP Co., describing ORARNG's 1186th's soldiers

A typical day for the soldiers lasts more than ten hours. It begins with guard mount and planning of the day's activities. Then it's eight hours inside the wire. The soldiers will bring meals to the detainees, take them to fenced-in recreational areas, assist them to the camp hospital, or escort them to interrogations by civilian and military intelligence operatives.

THE PAYOFF

The interrogations are perhaps the most important component of detainee operations, and although MPs are not directly involved, they can positively influence cooperation from the detainees.

A senior interrogator, who gave only his rank to protect himself and his family from possible retaliation by terrorists, described a situation where a detainee became very cooperative. The Chief Warrant Officer explained that a detainee, an amputee, freely gave details about enemy operations and organization after an MP gave the detainee a chair so he could have an easier time while showering.

"The key is treating them like people, like human beings, and getting them to see you as a human being," said the Chief.

Often times, interrogators will use tactics to put the detainees at ease – such as playing checkers or chess, and watching movies. In one instance, an interrogator laid out a tea service for a detainee who had been obstinate. The service, which is an important social function in many cultures, encouraged the detainee to open up.

"Terror cells have been rolled up," said a civilian interrogator who described the importance and value of the intelligence gathering at Gitmo.

"I believe Guantanamo is a success story," said the Chief, "and future military intelligence will learn how to do their jobs by looking at what happens here."

Williams summed up his experience as an MP at Gitmo: "I believe in the mission. I believe we're doing the right thing over here," he said. "Whether in Iraq or here, we're doing the right thing."



Graphic courtesy of www.1uptravel.com

Cuba at a Glance

Capital: Havana
 Political System: Communist
 Population: 11,308,764
 (July 2004 est.)
 Land Area: 110,860 square kilometers
 (slightly smaller than Pennsylvania)
 Coastline: 3,735 kilometers
 Climate: Tropical, moderated by trade winds.
 Highest Point: Pico Turquino, 2,005 meters
 Notes: US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay (approximately 29 km) is leased to the US Government and only mutual agreement or US abandonment of the area can terminate the lease.



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

As early-morning fog lifted in the Willamette Valley, dignitaries arrived at the Joint Forces Headquarters building in Salem for the dedication of the Oregon National Guard Heritage Park.

The Oregon Heritage Park foundation, a non-profit enterprise that began in early 2004, is chartered with gathering and preserving the historical accounts of Oregon's Veterans. The foundation's board members are made up of current and former senior leaders in the Oregon National Guard and principles in the local business and civic community.

Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, commander of the 41st Brigade said, "I believe this park is and will be forever more a fitting place to honor the great patriots that make up and support the Oregon National Guard."

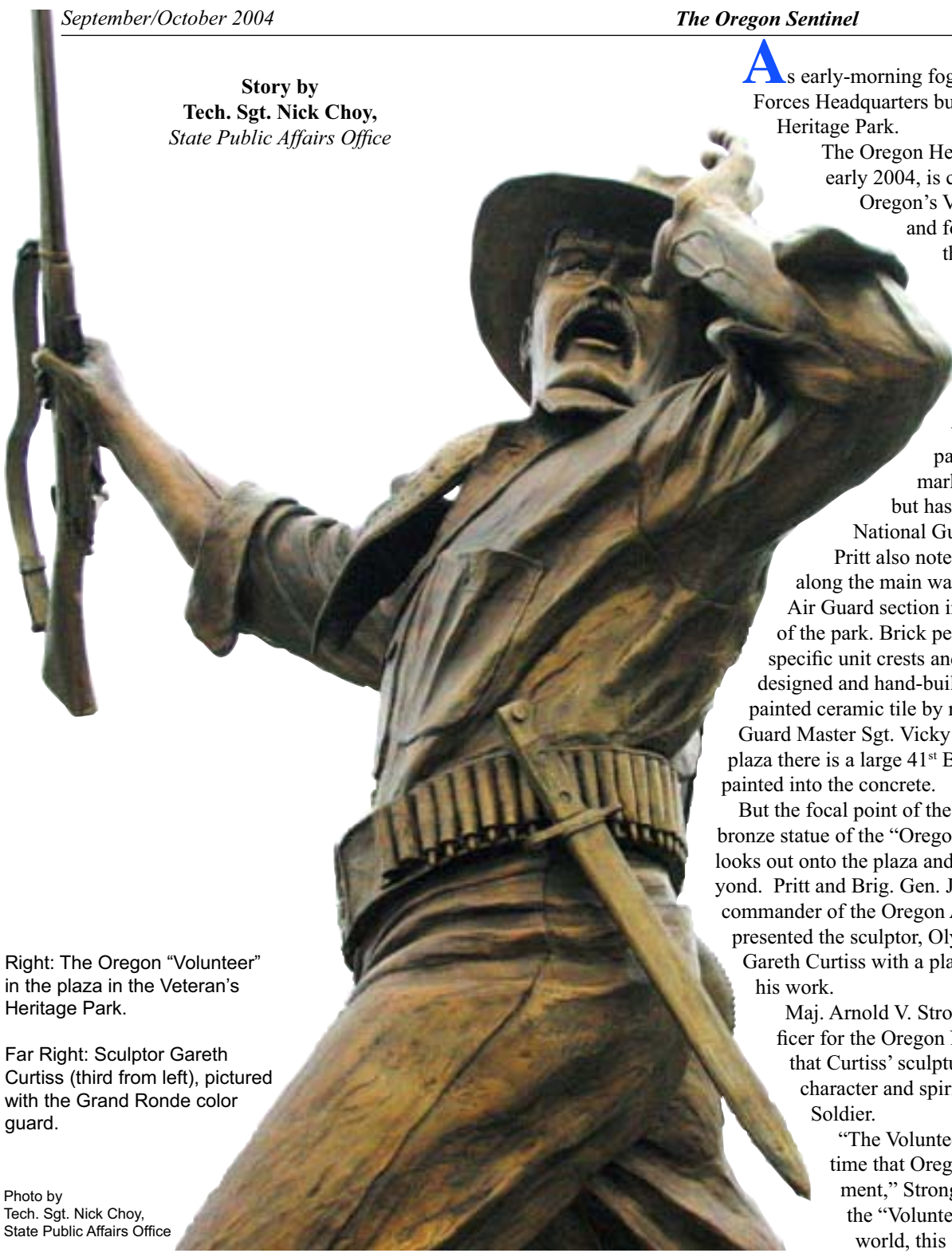
During his speech, Pritt called attention to the design of the park, with its purposeful alignment to the JFHQ building's entrance, and the 25 stanchions, which are to hold the state flags of the participants in the Spanish American War – an event which not only marked the first time the Oregon State Militia was federally mobilized, but has also been cited by many scholars to be the birth of the modern-day National Guard.

Pritt also noted the unit plaques along the main walkway, and at the Air Guard section in the Northeast end of the park. Brick pedestals contain the specific unit crests and patches, which were designed and hand-built using colored and painted ceramic tile by retired Army National Guard Master Sgt. Vicky Paulson. In the central plaza there is a large 41st Brigade "Sunset" patch painted into the concrete.

But the focal point of the park is the 8-foot bronze statue of the "Oregon Volunteer" which looks out onto the plaza and the JFHQ building beyond. Pritt and Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presented the sculptor, Olympia, Wash. resident Gareth Curtiss with a plaque commemorating his work.

Maj. Arnold V. Strong, Public Affairs Officer for the Oregon National Guard noted that Curtiss' sculpture exemplifies the character and spirit of Oregon's Citizen Soldier.

"The Volunteer represents the first time that Oregon National Guard soldiers were federalized for war-time deployment," Strong said. "As Oregon Guard units such as the 2-162, also known as the "Volunteers", continue to demonstrate deployment excellence around the world, this statue will continue to inspire future generations of Oregonians."



Right: The Oregon "Volunteer" in the plaza in the Veteran's Heritage Park.

Far Right: Sculptor Gareth Curtiss (third from left), pictured with the Grand Ronde color guard.

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

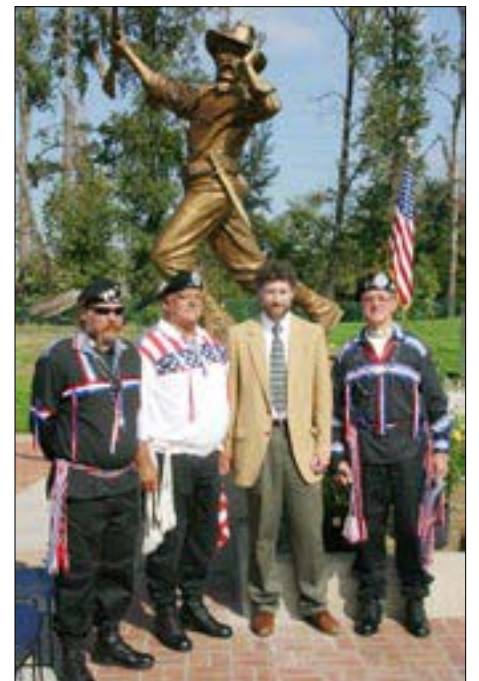


Photo by Maj. Arnold V. Strong, State Public Affairs Office

The Volunteer Spirit

Oregon National Guard dedicates Veteran's Heritage Park in Salem



"This statue represents the volunteer spirit of the Oregon National Guard"

– Gareth Curtiss, sculptor

Photos by Capt. Mike Braibish, State Public Affairs Office



"I've really enjoyed the involvement I've had with the Oregon National Guard," said Gareth Curtiss, the Volunteer's sculptor. "What has impressed me is that so many of these highly committed men and women have day jobs, but they're also in an all-volunteer force."

"The statue represents the volunteer spirit of the Oregon National Guard," Curtiss continued. "While it commemorates the past, it also calls out to the future, reminding us how to conduct ourselves."

Cunningham spoke about the future vision of the park, which includes a 10,000 square-foot auditorium, library, interpretive media center, and a classroom. The building will also house an interactive media center, which, patterned after the Library of Congress-sponsored National Veteran's History Project, will capture and share the stories and experiences of Oregon's veterans.

"It will provide the public with a connection to individuals and military units that continue to add value to our state and our society," Cunningham said.

While F-15 and UH-60 Blackhawk flyovers commemorated the event from the air, on the ground, the National Anthem, Air Force Song, and the Army Song were rendered by the Oregon National Guard "Oregon's Own" 234th Army Band. Members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were on hand to witness the dedication along with a tribal color guard.

Pritt cited the service of some 356,000 veterans currently living in Oregon, and evoked the memory of Oregon National Guard soldiers recently killed in action in Iraq, calling for a moment of silence to remember the sacrifice made by Spec. Nathan Nakis, Sgt. Justin Eyerly, Spec. Justin Linden, 1st Lt. Erik McCrae, Spec. Eric McKinley, Pvt. 1st Class Ken Leisten, Sgt. Ben Isenberg, Staff Sgt. David Weisenburg, and most recently, Sgt. David Johnson.

"This park provides a place to honor the history, heritage, accomplishments and sacrifices of Oregon's Citizen Soldiers and Airmen," Pritt said. "A place to remember our fallen comrades, an area to recognize the sacrifice our families and employers make. Our past is honorable, our future is bright. We are truly blessed with exceptional soldiers and airmen."

To purchase a commemorative brick to honor a veteran, please contact Col. Carol A. Brown at JFHQ at 503-584-3582. If you would like to make a donation to the Oregon Veterans Heritage Park Foundation, call 1-877-589-9757, or write to P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR, 97309. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Above: Former commanders/members of the 1249th Engineer Battalion pose in front of their crest. From l. to r. (back row): CW4. (Ret.) Chuck McCloskey, Col. (Ret.) Hugh Nelson, Col. (Ret.) Bill Cook, Col. George Lanning, CSM (Ret.) Bill Van-Natta. Front row, l. to r.: Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt, Lt. Col. William Schutz, Lt. Col. Jason Schwabel.

Above Right: The dedication is marked by a F-15 flyover.

Below Right: Approximately 200 Oregon National Guard personnel, guests and dignitaries attended the Heritage Park dedication ceremony.



Oregon National Guard hit hard in latest Iraq casualty numbers

Continued from PAGE ONE

rienced member of the Oregon National Guard who had brought Leisten into the full-time force due to his technical expertise.

"He mastered the ULLS-G System (Unit Level Logistics Ground) faster than anyone I've ever seen," Mork continued. "That boy was just so bright. This is a terrible loss."

Memorial services were held for Leisten at Lincoln Memorial Park on Aug. 9, and the burial was held at Willamette National Cemetery. The service brought together family that had not been in contact for many years.

After a brief reprieve in August, insurgents detonated an IED near a Humvee killing Staff Sgt. David Weisenburg and Sgt. Ben Isenberg on Sept. 13, 2004 while they were on patrol. Again, Bravo Co. of Corvallis was hit hard. Weisenburg's memorial service was held at New Hope Community Church in Clackamas on Sept. 20, and Isenberg's memorial was held at

the First Nazarene Church in Sheridan on Sept. 23. Both were buried at Willamette National Cemetery.

On Sept. 28, Sgt. David Johnson of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company 2nd of the 162nd in Cottage Grove, was killed while on a supply mission. Insurgents detonated an IED near his Humvee while en-route to Taji, Iraq. Memorial services were held Oct. 5, at New Hope Community Church with interment at Willamette National Cemetery.

Other soldiers have been injured in these and separate attacks. Some have returned to duty or been treated in Iraq for minor

injuries. Others have been sent to Landstuhl Regional Army Medical Center in Germany or stateside facilities.

The soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry continue to perform their primary mission in an exemplary manner while also working to win the trust and cooperation of the Iraqi citizens, who have never known the freedoms now being shown to them. These soldiers work to build and furnish clinics, and work to connect water, electrical and sewage to a city torn by insurgent activity. Their mission performance, patriotism and pride will never be forgotten or equaled.



Photo courtesy of Leisten family

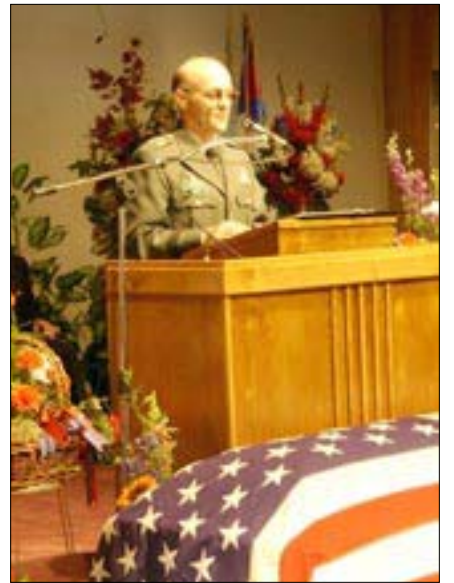


Photo courtesy of 2-162 IN BN

Spec. Ken Leisten's memorial at Camp Cooke in Iraq.



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



Left: Three ORARNG UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters fly a 'missing-man' formation above Isenberg's funeral ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery. Above: A funeral detail carries Sgt. David Johnson's casket prior at his memorial ceremony. Top Right: Spec. Ken Leisten in Iraq. Middle Right: Staff Sgt. David Weisenburg on patrol in Iraq. Bottom Right: Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt, Commander, 41st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), delivers a eulogy at Sgt. Ben Isenberg's memorial ceremony in Sheridan.

Active Duty: critical for soldiers' training, prepares them for real world scenarios

Continued from PAGE ONE

The 7th Infantry Division, 41st BCT's higher command, also participated in the training. Located on Fort Carson, the 7th Infantry Division is the host unit for the operation. As the higher command, the 7th ID is not only participating in Operation Bayonet Thrust, but also integrated with the 91st Training Support Battalion from Washington State, to ensure training and execution is up to par with Army standards through evaluation and mission essential task training checks.

In addition to the 41st BCT, many other units received training through doing their

jobs in support of this training operation.

While the combat training mission, known as Operation Bayonet Thrust, was overseen by Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, commander of the 41st BCT, the welfare, supply and transportation of all soldiers, Operation Pinon Canyon, falls to the Joint State Task Force, which arrived on July 25 and stayed through Aug. 27.

The JSTF set up supply lines through the 67th Area Support Group from Nebraska and set up receiving facilities for the soldiers who would soon be inbound.

Truesdell said there are three task forces involved. The aviation task force, headed up by the 211th Aviation Group from Utah,

provided medevac and other aerial services. The logistics task force included the 67th Army Support Group which was charged with supply and logistics in support of Operation Pinon Canyon. The third task force is the Medical Task Force, which provided real-world medical services, and was led by Oregon Medical Command and staffed by the medics of Charlie Company, 141st Support Battalion.

Though not a task force, Military Police also played an important role in the operation by



Photo by Staff Sgt. Laura Flori, 115th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Carmelo Lopez, Squad leader, 480th Military Police Co., of Puerto Rico, directs convoy traffic at Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Colorado. The Puerto Rico Army National Guard unit, which returned home Oct. 2003, after being deployed for nearly a year in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, provided its services in the consolidated supply area at Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

securing the base against any threats and helping to maintain peace and order within the base. They are from both the 480th MP Company from Puerto Rico and the 1186th MP Company from Oregon.

There were five phases to Operation Pinon Canyon. The first and second phases involved planning the operation, which began nearly three years ago as the JSTF coordinated what type of units were needed, which units would go, how they would arrive at PCMS and finally the readying of troops involved in Operation Bayonet Thrust.

The third phase was the actual combat training mission, which took place in and around the fictional town of Talatha, where the 41st BCT dealt with all the threats of a modern battlefield, to include non-uniformed combatants, improvised explosive devices, the media, and civilians on the battlefield.

The last two phases of the mission involved the recollection of any issued equipment, the breakdown of unit areas and travel home.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Laura Flori, 115th MPAD

Spec. Jessy Claehout of the 741st Corps Support BN tries out the new 9mm pistol range at Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Letters From The Front



ORARNG unit finds enemy ammo cache



Members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, assigned to the 39th Brigade Combat Team, uncover 38 wooden crates of .50 caliber-armor piercing rounds during a patrol in a palm-tree grove located on the outskirts of Taji Village near Camp Cooke. In the crates were two ammunition cans containing 50, 12.5 mm rounds each. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment).

Unit settles in, continues their good work

Family and Friends,

It looks as if things are cooling off in Najaf. We certainly hope so, because that means that things will probably cool off in Sadr City as well, which is where we have been taking mortar fire. Also, if things cool down in Najaf, that means our two platoons would probably return to the north and get out of that danger zone down there.

We have heard great things about our two platoons in Najaf. 1st platoon Alpha's command consists of Platoon Leader Dwayne Jones and Platoon Sergeant Shannon Compton; and 2nd Platoon Bravo's command consists of Platoon Leader Christopher Kent and Platoon Sergeant Pete Salerno. If you have been paying attention to the media lately, many 2nd Plt. Bravo soldiers have had pictures in the newspapers.

Things are going well in Patrol Base Volunteer. We have been receiving fewer mortars lately, although they have not stopped completely. Soldiers are wearing their ballistic armor at peak times when we expect mortars.

It still looks like we could be moving up to Camp Cooke. We are waiting for more specific information. The majority of the soldiers here do not want to move up there because we have it pretty good where we are now. I would rather stay here myself, but if we do happen to move up North, we would not have to secure the camp all by ourselves like we do here. However there are some advantages to going to Camp Cooke. Soldiers would have access to finance, postal, a bigger PX, a swimming pool, a bigger weight room, and other miscellaneous benefits.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The response to the request for school supplies has been overwhelming. I think we may have found a way to get the supplies sent without costing too much. If you can drop off the supplies to Alpha Company in Eugene, Ore., they are making periodic runs to McChord AFB and can ship them from there. We have received over 100 packages of various sizes already, and there is no end in sight. As soon as the school year starts here, we will take pictures and send them back home for all of you to see the fruits of your labor.

SPORTS BAR

We have started a non-alcoholic sports bar. We have installed two satellite dishes and televisions so the soldiers can watch two games at the same time. We will serve munchies and sodas and near beer. It will be a place for the soldiers to watch their favorite teams. We wanted it to be ready in time for football season. We all are anxiously awaiting the upcoming Ducks and Beaver's seasons. We are short on decorations, if any of you have old sports posters or pennants or anything we can hang in the bar to make it a little homier. We would appreciate it. You can send it here care of me at the address below my name.

REPLACEMENTS

Recently, over 30 replacements were sent to Ft. Hood to fill some of our losses. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival. They will surely help us become stronger and we sorely need them. They should arrive around the middle of September. They will be a big part of making us all more capable and ready.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to drop me a note and I will answer to the best of my ability. I haven't heard from some of you, so I encourage you to drop me a note just to let me know you are OK and that you are receiving the messages I have been sending. You don't have to write a novel, just say "I'm Ok!" That would be fine.

I wish you all the best and we are almost to the half waypoint of our year here. Just so you know, the 26th of each month marks our arrival in theatre. The 26th of August marked our 5th month. We expect to be out of here by the 26th of March 2005. There is always the possibility of an extension if things get hot again next spring... we witnessed that first-hand with the 1st Armored Division upon our arrival. We all hope against that, but I don't want our soldiers to be unprepared for all contingencies. That only leads to disappointment. We will be here until we are finished.

All my best to all of you.

CSM Brunk Conley
1st CAV DIV., 39th BCT
2-162 IN/HHC
Camp Cooke
APO AE 09313

Oregon, Washington Air Guard converge on Rilea for war games

Inter-state ANG exercise deemed a huge success

Story by

Senior Airman Angela Bergeson,
Washington Air National Guard
Public Affairs Office

Photos by

Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
State Public Affairs Office



Tech. Sgt. Tom Kimball (foreground) enters communications coordinates on a laptop, while Senior Airman Preston Antisdell of the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron looks on.

CAMP RILEA, Ore. – On the Oregon coast in August, not far away from where vacationers played in the surf at Sunset Beach and basked in summer sunshine, members of the Washington Air National Guard (WAANG) and Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) were learning how to mobilize for deployments. Just over the sand dunes separating Seaside from Camp Rilea Military Reservation, personnel from the 252nd Combat Communications Group, the 256th Detachment, and the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron assembled for duty Aug. 7 – marking the activation of Learning Owl 2004, a military training event that took almost a year to implement.

Air Guard members spent just over two weeks connecting mobile communication systems, operating ground satellite terminals, protecting themselves from terrorists, and qualifying on weapons they may someday need on deployment to protect America's assets.

Colonel Neil A. Currie, WAANG Commander of the 252nd Combat Communications Group and Learning Owl 2004 explained, "Participation in learning activities like these gave our men and women the crucial skills that ultimately will provide expertise in achieving the maximum level of deployable tactical capability."

"Our team is a group of individuals with incredible technological knowledge and they are here at this year's annual training event because when they are deployed, they need to know how to get in, get out and by God, make it home safe." Currie continued.

This year, in response to conflict abroad, the Washington Air National Guard provided opportunities to participate in a multitude of training classes, both inside and outside the typical classroom setting. Guard members learned first hand from guest speakers who shared their professional experiences about international events affecting the National Guard throughout the country. Daily activities also included intense technical training on new communications equipment and focused on specific combat communication operations. Outside the classroom, students demonstrated the skills they learned in class, during scenarios utilizing the post's training bunkers and mock city.

The 252nd Combat Communications Readiness School, with Lead Instructor Master Sgt. Michael L. Billheimer, who is a member of the 143rd Combat Communications Squadron, provided a two-week force protection course, which is one of the most demanding and realistic training available anywhere. In addition to the academic challenge, students focused on developing leadership, basic survival, physical fitness and war fighting tactics. Students tested their skills during a three-day field training exercise (FTX) with a defined mission to build and eventually defend an airbase.

"We have aggressors who have tons of combat experience. Our goal is to transfer that information to everyone in the unit." Billheimer said. "The first time we ran the scenario, all the good guys got killed. By the third time we did it, there was a one-to-one ratio of bad guys to good guys, and the good guys did an incredible job of defending their area." he continued.

According to Maj. Mike Sweitzer, commander of the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, these jobs require a special breed of person.

"We're looking for a Bill Gates with a little bit of Arnold Schwarzenegger." Sweitzer said. "Our people have to be able to do all the high-tech stuff but also defend themselves and complete their mission."

"It's amazing how much I've learned in a year and a half." Says Senior Airman Preston Antisdell of ORANG's 272nd CBCS, who is also a student at the University of Oregon. "It's been fun and real interesting." He said.

Realistic scenarios, real time communication uplinks and simulated snipers tested the students' abilities in a wartime atmosphere. Utilizing Miles Gear, and weapons loaded with blank ammunition, students seized every opportunity to practice anti-terrorism tactics and protective measures against enemy attack. All of the opportunities in and outside the classroom during Learning Owl 2004 were designed to enhance the ability of each individual to effectively participate as a member of the Air Force if and when they are called to active duty.

Major Gent Welsh, Commander of the 256th Detachment, a component of the 252nd Combat Communications Group (CCG), also served as the Commandant of Learning Owl 2004 said the current training takes into account the changes that have taken place in the world over the past few decades.

"We face a completely different situation today in our battles against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq then we did when we trained to fight in the Cold War." Welsh said.

According to Welsh, the training received at Camp Rilea closely resembles situations that Air Guard members are facing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Principally, there are no front lines to hide behind in our conflicts with terrorists. They strike everywhere, and at anyone. Our highly trained communications experts need to know how to survive in a low-tech war if they are to be effective." Welsh continued.

In the end, Currie believes that the training, though exhausting for the participants, was well worth the effort.

"It was a physically, emotionally and mentally intensive two weeks for everyone, and time well spent. I believe each will look back upon this event and consider it advantageous." Currie said.

"And working with the Oregon Air Guard's 244th and 272nd makes for a seamless mission in any real-world scenario." He added.



Master Sgt. Chris Bailey of the 252nd Combat Communications Group prepares an antenna mast for mounting.

ORNG Associations welcomes new agent

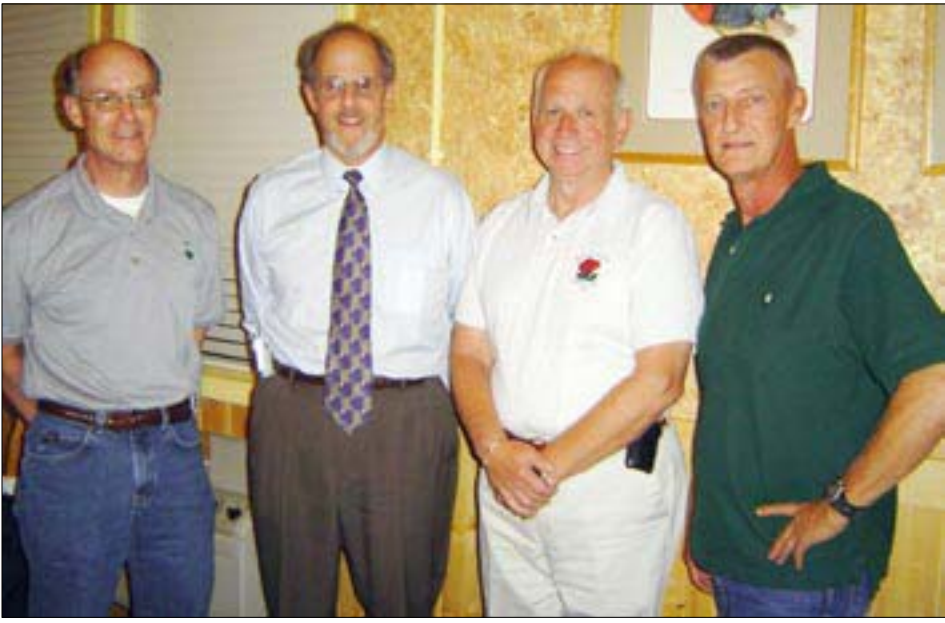


Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Fielding

Pictured from l. to r.: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Fielding, Arthur Liss, Col. (Ret.) Chuck Kuhlman and Command Sgt. Maj. Lyle Wold.

The Officer and Enlisted Associations of the Oregon National Guard proudly announce, under the direction of Oregon National Guard Benefits Inc., a non-profit organization created by the Officer and Enlisted Associations, the appointment of Arthur E. Liss, Chartered Life Underwriter, as the approved Long Term Care Insurance agent. The Group Long Term Care programs offered by Liss are available to Oregon National Guard Members, their spouses, brothers or sisters, parents and grandparents and retirees.

Liss graduated with a commission from Pennsylvania Military College in Chester, Pa., and served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970.

Upon leaving the service he entered the life insurance business in San Jose, Calif., having spent 10 years with Northwestern Mutual Life. While there, he obtained his Chartered Life Underwriter designation, qualified for the industries Million Dollar Round Table and served as President of California's fourth largest life insurance association, the San Jose Life Underwriters.

He started his own employee benefits company after NML and moved to the Northwest 1990. He continued to serve his insurance peers upon arriving in Vancouver, Wash.

Liss can be reached toll free at 1-888-256-5824, and will be available for unit/group presentations when requested.

PSU announces Eyerly Memorial Scholarship

Portland State University School of Fine & Performing Arts' Department of Art announced its intent to award a scholarship in the name of one of its students, Justin Eyerly, a sergeant with the Oregon National Guard, who was killed in Iraq on June 4. Eyerly and two other Oregonians died while coming to the aid of fellow guardsman who came under attack. The death of these citizen soldiers was the worst loss of life for the Oregon National Guard since World War II.

"We in the Department of Art were very shaken to lose a young emerging artist and thought it would be a fitting tribute to honor the service of a talented and committed artist, who had such clear plans for how he would use those talents," said Department of Art Chair, Susan Agre-Kippenhan. "Like a lot of his peers developing their skills here at PSU, Justin worked in a variety of media and applied himself in the community. He had completed an internship with the Portland Trailblazers, helping to design their website."

Planning is underway to award a scholarship to a sophomore art student this year. "Depending on contributions, we may be able to offer more than one scholarship," said Agre-Kippenhan.

"Justin talked about going to Italy to study art after his National Guard duty was done," said Sue Eyerly, Justin's mother. "I think Justin would like the idea of a scholarship for another art student."

Contributions to the Eyerly Scholarship Fund can be sent to the School of Fine & Performing Arts, P.O. Box 751 Portland, Oregon 97207-0751.

Soldiers encouraged to apply for fourth-quarter tuition reimbursement

The Education office is continuing to process all requests for Federal Tuition Assistance for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a soldier's professional and personal self-development goals. FTA is directly related to retaining quality soldiers, enhancing their career progression, increasing the combat readiness of the Army, and returning soldiers to civilian careers.

Soldiers are eligible to receive FTA funding by attending courses offered by institutions accredited by regional or national accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Education Department or by postsecondary institutions that have been formally recognized as a candidate for accreditation by an accrediting association. For all other non-degree bearing programs, secondary school accreditation or specialized accreditation – professional/occupational schools – is required.

Programs include; High School Degree, including GED; Certificate (area of specialization for undergraduate, graduate, vocational, technical or license); Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's or first professional degree, such as a Juris Doctor (J. D.), or law degree.

The FTA program is typically an "up front" program in which ARNG provides institutions payment prior to or shortly after courses begin. There will be instances during this fourth-quarter that payment will be delayed, and in some cases the applicant may have to pay the school and be reimbursed later. This inconvenience will be resolved as quickly as possible, but may cause some soldiers to make payment to the school and then later receive reimbursement.

The key is submitting their request as early as possible. Soldiers who have access to the internet must complete an online application immediately upon receipt of their course registration. Soldiers without internet access must fax a completed DA 2171-E to their education office immediately.

For more information, or to complete an online application, visit www.virtualarmory.com Look for the "EDUCATION TAB".

News You Need to Know

Centers provide services to returning vets

Vet Centers serve veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care that adds value for veterans, families, and communities. Care includes professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, the brokering of services with community agencies, and provides a key access link between veterans and other services in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In order to find specific Vet Centers, where you can obtain quality veteran's services within your state, visit www.va.gov/rcs/VetCenterDirectory.htm

TRICARE covers full-time students to age 23

Military dependents who are full-time students can be covered under the military health care system up to age 23. While all eligible students are covered until age 21, TRICARE coverage can be extended until students turn 23 or graduate, whichever comes first. Students over 21 years of age must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution and have more than 50 percent of their financial support provided by their sponsors. If a physician in the area of the dependent's college or university accepts the TRICARE prime insurance plan, which has the lowest out-of-pocket costs, a student still may be able to enroll in that option. Without such a network provider, the student would have to enroll in TRICARE standard which offers the widest array of provider choices among TRICARE options but its deductibles and co-payments cost individuals more. The TRICARE standard plan normally pays for 80 percent of covered charges and levies deductibles of \$300 per family E-5 and above and \$100 per family E-4 and below.

DoD says TRICARE coverage not automatic

Department of Defense TRICARE officials are working to inform military families that non-active duty beneficiaries must enroll in the health care system before they see a doctor. Active-duty service members are automatically registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. However, this isn't the case with family members, who must personally ensure they are properly enrolled in DEERS to be eligible for TRICARE benefits. This is a step many families forget each time they transfer or travel. Not keeping DEERS information current, though, can create extra time in the waiting room or costly out-of-pocket expenses.

To get the full story, log onto: http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=14719. To find the closest facility, search by ZIP Code at www.dmdc.osd.mil

Oregon Emergency Management courses offered in December

Oregon Emergency Management will host the Incident Command System Series course Dec. 13-17 in Oregon City. Class will be 8:00 AM - 5:00 p.m. each day. There is no registration fee for this course. There are no funds to assist with participant costs.

This 40 hour course merges six ICS courses – a total of 88 hours training – into one course by reducing and/or eliminating redundancies from the stand alone courses. At the completion of the ICS Series class, a student will have completed the major elements of Introduction to ICS, ICS: Planning, ICS: Operations, ICS: Command, ICS: Logistics, and ICS Field Operations/ECC Integration.

ICS provides a standardized management system to be utilized in handling all types of emergencies. The ICS that will be taught in this class is the National Integrated Incident Management System which is the system utilized by most response agencies

within Oregon. Federal and State OSHA regulations mandate that an Incident Command System must be established at every hazardous material incident.

The course is limited to 50 participants. Interested parties should submit a Federal Emergency Management Agency form 75-5 application to our office as soon as possible. Confirmation letters with logistical information will be sent to those applicants selected to attend.

Facilities are handicapped accessible. Special services for the hearing or visually impaired will be provided upon request. If you need special assistance, please contact Bev Hall (ext. 22223, bhall@oem.state.or.us) or Kelly Jo Craigmiles (ext. 22246, kjcraigm@oem.state.or.us) as soon as possible.

Salvation Army to help deployed soldiers families

The Salvation Army has announced a new program called The Salvation Army Home Front War Relief, which will help military families meet their immediate financial needs. The collaboration with Oregon Army National Guard's 82nd Cavalry has recently assisted its 100th Oregon military family.

"Thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Foundation, The Salvation Army has been able to help local families with nowhere else to turn make ends meet." Said Jack Clitheroe, Divisional Social Services Consultant for the Salvation Army Cascade Division.

The Salvation Army does require public support in order to continue programs such as their Home Front War Relief, because funding is limited, and available budgets are running out, according to Clitheroe.

Military families can turn to the Salvation Army for assistance with immediate financial needs, such as rent, food, utility and car payments.

For more information, please contact Tarah Nimz, at 503-872-8387, or Meredith Browning, Family Program Coordinator for the 82nd CAV, at 541-388-6270.

Argus Observer to send papers to Oregon troops in Texas

Editors at the Argus Observer in La Grande, Ore., have started a new program called "News for Troops". The newspaper plans to send issues of the Argus Observer free of charge to Oregon National Guard soldiers stationed in Ft. Bliss Texas. The only stipulation is that the soldiers receiving the newspaper must have a family member who is already an Argus Observer subscriber.

Argus Editor Pat Caldwell realized during a visit to Ft. Bliss, Texas that Oregon National Guard troops stationed there were not receiving news from their respective hometowns.

"It was painfully obvious when I visited Ft. Bliss that Oregon Soldiers desperately wanted hometown news." Said Caldwell. "It was also obvious that we weren't providing that service to them, so it became a high priority to rectify the situation."

Caldwell enlisted the help of circulation director, Tom Hooton and advertising director, John Dillon, who both agreed that something needed to be done quick. The troops presently in Ft. Bliss will only be there till the end of October before moving on to Ft. Polk, La. The solution was to send issues of the Argus Observer (covering the past five days) to Oregon Army National Guard troops in Ft. Bliss once a week.

Family members interested in having a newspaper sent to their loved one stationed in Ft. Bliss need to contact the Argus Observer to verify their subscription and give them the mailing address in Texas.

Publisher Steve Krehl said it was the best way to get these soldiers the news from their hometowns.

"It is the right thing to do." Krehl said.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the Argus Observer circulation department at 541-889-5387.

News You Need to Know

Providence receives ESGR award

This year, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was proud to present its Pro Patria Award to Providence Health System, one of Oregon's largest employers. ESGR's Pro Patria ("for the nation") is the one award that stands above all others in prestige.

It is presented annually to one employer who demonstrates exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard/Reserve. Such employers go above and beyond what is legally required. For example, Providence offered service members extra pay and health benefits, and even sent "Care packages" to members as well as their families.

ESGR helps returning Guard with jobs, medical assistance

In early February 2003, mobilization alerts necessitated a mobilization "briefing blitz." Organized to reach all affected Guard members and their families, the briefings were conducted by ESGR ombudsman chairman Jack Cronise and U.S. Department of Labor tech reps Ron Cannon and Tonja Pardo.

Cronise estimated that the group conducted over 15 hours of briefings in just two days.

Now this group is back in business. It is presenting demobilization briefings to all Guard members and their families.

Cannon, Pardo and Cronise describe the program as a mini-TAP (Transition Assistance Program) session. The scope of the briefings is comprehensive, including the following:

1) USERRA revisited: covers rights for those returning to their old jobs. Sadly, statistics show that one-fourth to one-third of returning Guard members have lost their civilian jobs for a variety of reasons.

2) To help those unemployed members, the U.S. Department of Labor, Oregon Department of Employment and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will provide employment counseling, job retraining and job-finder services. Unemployment insurance may be available, depending on the economy.

3) For those needing medical and/or mental health therapy, treatment and counseling are available. Ron Cannon says immediate family members also are able to participate in the program. Cannon, a Vietnam veteran, said that in his era, when members left the service, "We were just cut loose and had no idea what our entitlements were."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Tonja Pardo, in the first eight months of this year, "we've already opened as many cases as we averaged per year during demobilization after the first Gulf War. But it's only a fraction of employment problems reported to the ESGR."

ESGR ombudsman Cronise said that his organization receives three or four questions or complaints from employers each week. "But when we explain the law, only a handful are referred to the Labor Department," he said.

Revision, reminder about flag patch for Army Guard uniforms

There have been some changes to the regulations pertaining to the U.S. Flag sewn onto the Battle Dress Uniforms and Desert Camouflage Uniforms. The guidelines pertaining to how to wear the U.S. Flag will remain the same as outlined in the current regulation, but omits the reference to removal of the flag from the uniform once soldiers return from deployment. The mandatory wear date is Oct. 1, 2005 to allow for those units in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 and Operation Enduring Freedom 4/5 to transition after they return from the Area of Record. For most units, a wear date of June 14 (flag day and Army birthday) is achievable. The Defense Logistics Agency

has been working to get additional flags into the inventory for issue.

There were several concerns about putting the flag on the uniform and keeping the flag in its present configuration. The HQ staffed all the issues pertaining to the reverse side flag, to the purpose of the flag on the uniform. Recommendations were made and the decision has been made to go forward with the regulation to include the flag on uniforms. Command would like to avoid a lot of consternation that has been seen on uniform changes in the past. The date of June 14 is not set in concrete and is very flexible. For the 1st Cavalry, the date should be Oct. 1, 2005. It is up to the individual commanders to decide what is best for their respective units.

The U.S. Flag has been worn on utility (duty) uniforms since at least 1942 when the U.S. participated in joint operations with the French in Morocco. Today, of the 39 countries participating in OIF and OEF, almost all of them wear their flags and are very proud of their contributions to the team. For the soldiers returning from the AOR after a year long deployment, the flag means a lot more now than it did before their deployment. The flag on soldier's uniforms has been part of their life for the past year. For the immediate years ahead the US will have Soldiers deploying to other countries on a regular basis. Putting the US Flag on the BDUs/DCUs is a permanent reminder that the National Guard is a ready and relevant force with an expeditionary mindset. All components of the Army; Active, Guard, and Reserve, are alike in this execution.

Some questions have surfaced regarding the flag and its configuration. To address the issue of the flag flying in reverse, it is meant to be worn as it would appear flown from a staff. In other words, the soldier is the staff carrying the flag forward to victory.

Units have procedures for getting insignia sewn on uniforms through their respective supply sections. According to regulations, the U.S. Flag colors are red, white, and blue, and therefore the subdued US flag will not be allowed. Finally, DLA is working on getting the flag sewn onto the BDUs for future issue so they will come to your units with the flag already attached.

Oregon Military Museum awarded federal grant

On Sept. 3, the Oregon Military Museum was awarded a \$1,000 grant from the U.S. Army Historical Foundation, the maximum grant amount a museum may request each year. OMM was the only museum in the entire Army and National Guard system, which includes more than 100 museums, to be awarded the grant this year.

The award was announced, and the check presented, at the Army Museum Annual Training conference in Washington D.C., with 150 museum professionals in attendance. Per the grant request, the funds will be used to purchase and install ultra-violet filters on all the museum's florescent lights, and to purchase archival supplies such as ethafoam and acid-free interleaving paper.

Space-A privileges expanded for active duty, retired

According to the Fleet Reserve Association, the one-year test to expand space-available or "Space A" travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired personnel traveling within the Continental United States has been extended. Under the Space-A test phase, the family members of active-duty and retired military personnel are able to travel aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors. The policy was established in December 2000 as quality-of-life privilege for military service people and their families. To register for space-available travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in the status through the entire travel period. For more on Space-A travel and the latest in travel deals, visit our Travel Center at <http://www.military.com/Travel>

Retirees may get Medicare reimbursements

A collaborative effort between the Department of Defense, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration could prove beneficial to certain Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries. The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 provides a chance for Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries to enroll in Medicare Part B without having to pay higher premiums due to late enrollment.

Beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B in 2001 through 2004 will get a refund of surcharges they paid in 2004. By law, uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A, by reason of disability, end-stage renal disease or age, must also enroll in Medicare Part B in order to maintain their Tricare eligibility. Tricare, the military health benefit program, is secondary payer following Medicare for beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Parts A and B. The Part B premium is \$66.60 per month for 2004. The Part B premium will increase to \$78.20 per month for 2005. Beneficiaries are encouraged to take advantage of this limited, one-time opportunity. If beneficiaries decline enrollment in Part B, they will have to pay a premium surcharge of 10 percent for each 12-month period in which they were eligible to enroll but didn't. Nearly 35,000 retirees have been identified as eligible for the special enrollment in Medicare Part B. SSA is mailing notification to eligible beneficiaries to inform them that they have been enrolled in Medicare Part B effective Sept. 1. For more information, please visit www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2004/n09172004_2004091710.html.

TAG Honor Guard looking for new members

The Adjutant General's Select Honor Guard is currently accepting applications to join their elite team. This group is made up of soldiers and airmen from the Oregon National Guard who participate in local community service events and conduct military funeral honors for the State of Oregon, as directed by the State Command Sergeant Major.

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

One member will be selected annually as

the Adjutant General's SHG member of the Year. Members also earn retirement points and are paid for monthly training, including specialized training for performing military funeral honors.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon Military Department. For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Michael Price at 503-838-8741 (ARNG), or Senior Master Sgt. Scott O'Neal (ANG) at 503-335-4181.

NGB will offer 100% Federal tuition assistance to ARNG

The National Guard Bureau will implement 100% Federal Tuition Assistance beginning in fiscal year 2005 for members of the Army National Guard.

Limits are currently set at \$250 per semester hour, and a cap of \$4,500 per person, per fiscal year. The fiscal year begins October 1. Details of member eligibility are being incorporated into the NGB Education Policy, and will be released at a later date.

The changes will enable those states with state-funded programs some flexibility in funding, and simplify the tuition assistance processing and accounting. The changes will also, according to officials, put the Army National Guard tuition assistance program on par with the US Army Federal Tuition Assistance Programs.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ngb.army.mil/> or contact the NGB Education and Incentive Section at DSN 327-9766, or commercial 703-607-9766.

Lewis & Clark expert to lecture on expedition

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Hal Stearns, a renowned expert on the U.S. Army and the Lewis & Clark expedition, will lecture in Portland on Monday, Oct. 18. The lecture, entitled "The Leadership of Clark" is open to members of the Oregon National Guard and their families. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact the Lewis & Clark Special Projects Officer, Maj. Alisha Hamel at 503-584-3573, or via e-mail at alisha.hamel@or.ngb.army.mil.

In addition, the Lewis & Clark presentation teams are continuing their school and organization presentations on an ongoing basis. Please contact Maj. Hamel for more information or to schedule an interactive Lewis & Clark presentation for your school or organization.

Oregon Guard wins prestigious award



Photo courtesy of Oregon Association of Broadcasters

The Oregon Association of Broadcasters (OAB) recently recognized the Oregon National Guard with its highest award, the Tom McCall award. The award was in recognition for the National Guard's tireless and unselfish service in Oregon and around the world. "Governor Tom McCall was a true leader, whose footprint is seen and felt across Oregon to this very day," said Bill Johnstone, President and CEO of the OAB (pictured above, left).

"The men and women of the Oregon National Guard are cut from the same stone of patriotism, and the Oregon Association of Broadcasters and the broadcasters across our state, are proud to salute them."

The Tom McCall award is designed to honor those who have distinguished themselves in service to the State of Oregon and to our nation. This year marks the first time the award has been bestowed upon a group rather than an individual.

Accepting the award on behalf of the Oregon National Guard was Acting Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr. (center), and Assistant Adjutant General (Air), Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham (r.).

Members of the WAANG and ORANG react to a simulated road-side bomb attack on their convoy by firing on attackers and taking cover. Simulated war-time scenarios such as these were meant to hone survival and tactical skills of both states' combat communications squadrons. See story on page 9.

Photo by TSgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office



THE
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
Oregon Sentinel
OF THE
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Non-profit helps military families into their own homes

Denver, Colo., Sept. 10, 2004 – A nonprofit organization, Military Housing Assistance Fund, is offering a solution for our service men and women who want to buy a home but cannot afford the down payment and closing costs.

A concerned group of Denver and Memphis business people started MHAF this year when they realized how few military people own their own homes. The Department of Housing and Urban Development reports homeownership at an all time high, with 68.3% of all Americans owning their own homes.

Unfortunately, men and women in uniform are being left behind. In a study conducted by the Rand Corporation, researchers found only 27.3% of military families own their own homes. When military families were asked why they do not own their own homes, nearly half said it was due to cost constraints.

Military Housing Assistance Fund creates the opportunity for members of the United States Military to realize the American Dream of home ownership. It also offers private citizens the opportunity to contribute needed support to those in military uniform who protect our country's freedom every day. MHAF is one of the very few, if not the only, major charity in the United States that gives 100% of the funds it receives to the intended beneficiaries.

MHAF also assists members of guard and reserve units whose activation and deployment has caused them extreme financial hardship. Many members in the guard and reserve have had their incomes cut in half or more, and MHAF is determined that they will not lose their homes while they are defending our country. American military families can find out more information on the website <http://www.militaryhousingassistance-fund.org> or contact William Dugger at 720-946-6395.

ESGR coordinates Bosslift to Ft. Bliss, Texas



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

ESGR members Dave Raber (left, back row), Shirley Hopper (middle row, second from right) of Pendleton, and Jack Johnson, Eastern Oregon ESGR representative (r.), meet with members of G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry while visiting National Guard soldiers training at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Unit commander, Capt. Teruo Chinen is pictured in the front row, center.

Story by Art Greisser,
ESGR Public Affairs Chairman

As world-conflicts place more demand on the country's National Guard forces, citizen-soldiers are increasingly finding themselves being deployed for longer periods of time.

The new responsibilities these soldiers and airmen are facing also effect their families and employers, with many soldiers being deployed for up to 24 months within a five year period.

The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve is an organization that is tasked with helping employers understand the complexities of war-time deployments. The Bosslift program is one way the ESGR helps educate employers and community members.

"The Oregon Bosslifts are comparatively easy to organize, the aircraft availability is greater, and the employer participants enjoy the 'up-close-and-personal' ability to see their

own employees in combat training," explains Rex Newell, ESGR Bosslift Chairman.

"In as many Bosslifts as possible, we attempt to put employers in a position to watch their own employees in training," Newell adds.

"Often, we invite good employers on Lifts as a reward for their patriotism and support of their Guard member employees," says Jack Johnson, La Grande Area 6 chairman, who was a member of the Army Guard for over four decades.

Johnson has been an ESGR Committee member for 20 years, and during that time, he estimates he has organized at least 20 state Bosslifts. He is quick to give high praise to ESGR unit representatives.

"They are well-acquainted with unit personnel and the employers who participate in the lifts," he says.

Afterward, employers typically say that they had no idea what their employee did

while on duty. Most come away with a better understanding and appreciation of the training, skills and dedication of Guard and Reserve members.

Johnson points to a recent Oregon Bosslift to Camp Rilea, which featured two C-23 Sherpa aircraft carrying 38 employers and civic leaders, embarking from several airports in Eastern Oregon.

The group watched Guard members undergoing individual weapons qualification tests, shooting at pop-up targets at ranges from 50 to 500 meters.

"[What the soldiers are doing] is a significantly challenging job," said Everett Vassar, a manager at Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, Ore. "I'm very proud of what our folks are doing," he added.

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #178
Salem, OR

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