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THE  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

# Oregon Sentinel



OF THE  
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

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SPRING 2003

## Oregon National Guard Gears up for a ‘Hot’ Fire Season



Oregon Army National Guard aircrews practice ‘water drops’ in preparation for the upcoming Oregon fire season. Pictured is a CH-47 ‘Chinook’ helicopter.

*Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Nick Choy  
Sentinel Managing Editor,  
State Public Affairs Office*

Throughout history, fire has both served mankind as a resource, and plagued him with destruction. In Oregon, the wildfire season starts in earnest as the days grow long and temperatures rise. Fighting on the front lines of the battle to protect both lives and property are the men and women of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard.

The two Army National Guard Aviation units; the 1042<sup>nd</sup>, based in Salem, and Detachment 1-Delta 113<sup>th</sup> based in Pendleton; work alongside other National Guard units, the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Oregon Department of Forestry, as well as other state and federal agencies in order to protect lives and property from wild fires.

The Det. 1-113<sup>th</sup> utilizes CH-47 ‘Chinooks’ while the 1042<sup>nd</sup> uses UH-60 ‘Blackhawk’ helicopters, and one UH-60 ‘Firehawk’, a specially-modified Blackhawk designed specifically to help fight fires. According to aircrews, the work is challenging, and sometimes dangerous.

‘You have an 18,000-pound bucket of water under a 30,000-pound helicopter,’ says 113<sup>th</sup> helicopter instructor pilot Chief Warrant Officer Michael Bennett. ‘You’re doing all this and you’re fighting crosswinds... it’s risky business.’

Typically, after a forest fire has been detected, the Emergency Operations Center in Salem contacts the State Aviation Officer, who in turn calls the National Guard units on rotation. Air crews, who are on call throughout the fire season, always have their gear packed for field duty, and can report to the fire base within 24 hours after receiving the call.

‘We are normally the second call after the civilian agencies,’ says Bennett. ‘We provide quick response and fill-in. They call us because they need the support immediately, and since we are a local asset, a lot of the time we’re the first ones there.’

Once on scene, Aircrews are met by support personnel, aviation mechanics, and refueling personnel from their unit. Pre-flight briefings inform crews what part they will play in the mission, and to whom they will report. All ground operations are overseen by an Aviation

*See “Firefighting: A Real-World Mission” on Pg. 15*

## Letters From the Desert; Bravo Co. 52 Engineers and 82 ROC in Iraq

### Citizen Soldiers Write of Challenges and Accomplishments

*Members of the Oregon National Guard were mobilized in early 2002 — along with their full-time counterparts — and forward deployed to theaters of operations through Iraq.*

*While accounts of the campaign reported back to an eager population in the states were facilitated by “embedded journalists” working for Associated Press, United Press International, CNN, and other news agencies, some information came through less-formal, and indeed more basic avenues — letters and e-mail to family and friends sent from military troops on the ground in Iraq.*

*The Oregon Sentinel would like to share with you some of these poignant and touching letters from our citizen soldiers. Please see page 14 for the photo montage and text.*



A UH-60 Blackhawk lands near a forward base in Iraq.

# Command Focus

As we go to press with the first edition of the Oregon Sentinel, the major combat operations have officially ended in both Iraq and Afghanistan, but both theaters of operations are very dangerous environments for our military members and the civilians who are serving our nation's interests. Currently, the Oregon National Guard is represented in Southwest Asia by the soldiers in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Rear Operations Center; B Company, 52<sup>nd</sup> Engineers; and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. They are doing an outstanding job while performing very demanding missions. Please keep these soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers until they can return home safely. If you hear of any special concerns from the families or employers of our deployed soldiers, do not hesitate to let the Military Department know.

Since the commencement of hostilities with Iraq, we have been heavily involved in the missions that have been directed by our National Command Authority. We have Air Guard personnel from the 173<sup>rd</sup> and 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wings all over the world. In addition, the 641<sup>st</sup> Medical Battalion is assigned to Ft. Bragg, and the 1249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is preparing to perform force protection missions at numerous locations in the Northwest. May they all come home safely when their missions are complete.

Transformation is an overused word in our daily lexicon as members of the 21st century fighting force that is today's Air National Guard, but in Oregon, we are seeing a transformation in our daily lives. At the recent Adjutant General's Conference, Oregon, like all other states and U.S. territories,

received initial guidance from our new Director of the National Guard Bureau, Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, to begin transforming into a joint posture no later than the first day of fiscal year 2004 (Oct. 1st). In order to streamline operational excess while preserving our focus and maintaining unity of command, the plan is to create joint forces headquarters out of the Air, Army and Adjutant General Staffs that exist in most National Guard organizations. Oregon is once again ahead of the curve as we were already deep into this transition, with many Air and Army roles already mutually supportive. At the command staff in Salem, the Air Guard has received a new voice of leadership with the promotion of Brigadier General Wayne Green to the position of Joint Chief of Staff, Oregon Joint Forces Command. Green is a troop-focused leader with experience and competence that is well known throughout the Pacific Northwest. His addition to the senior staff will prove invaluable to the citizen airmen and soldiers of the Oregon National Guard.

On another note, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Wing was just recognized for its excellence in flying over 60,000 hours incident-free. This extraordinary accomplishment is the first time that any National Guard wing has reached this milestone. Not only was Oregon Air National Guard the first wing to be 100% stood up on September 11th, 2001, we continue to set the example in our unmatched safety record.

Way to go, Redhawks!

We are proud of each and every one of them.

On another note, the training requirements for the remainder of our units must still be accomplished. The annual training cycle is upon us again. I urge each of you to get as much completed to standard as you can. Our future depends on maintaining a well-trained force. But always remember safety must be first and foremost in your minds at all times. I look forward to visiting as many training sites as possible.

In the next few years, you will see and hear about the many events designed to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As the bicentennial of their Oregon explorations approach, we will be directly involved in educating the public on the accomplishments of their journey.

The future holds many challenges for our Armed Forces as a whole. The concept of Homeland Security will dictate a somewhat different approach to defending our nation than we have witnessed in the past. We may see a few new organizations formed, but the basic missions of the National Guard will not change. We will train to Air Force and Army standards in order to effectively respond to any contingency.

At the state level, we are on a course to develop a true joint headquarters. The long-term vision includes a



Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin,  
The Adjutant General

headquarters that will include members from the Army Reserve, Coast Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, as well as other elements from the Department of Homeland Security. The end result will make us a better organization to serve the needs of our citizens.

Regardless of the unique deployments we have experienced or the future mission requirements and expectations, our strength lies not in our equipment or in our facilities, but in the professional men and women who fill our ranks. The service they provide to our state and nation, and the sacrifices made by their families, could never be praised enough. I am proud to serve with all of you. Thank you for your dedication and patriotism.



Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart,  
Command Chief Master Sergeant

It's Summer, and already we've received tragic news of citizen-soldiers allowing their standards of safety to slacken. Two soldiers were killed recently in a single-vehicle traffic accident just outside an armory in North Portland

Meanwhile in the Persian Gulf, a member of Bravo Company, 52<sup>nd</sup> Engineers was seriously injured in a traffic incident while the convoy tried to avoid deadly sniper fire. Regardless of the location or circumstances, safety must be our number one concern. It is not a matter of adding a 'Safety' paragraph to our orders process, nor is it an issue that can be summarized in a column of this paper. It is a process that must be integrated into the way we view our roles as citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oregon National Guard and as the fighting arm of the National Command Authority. Think and plan before you get behind the wheel so that we all might avoid making a terrible mistake.

Not since the Second World War have we seen this kind of military operations tempo. Oregon National Guard members are securing the ports of Kuwait, escorting convoys in and out of Baghdad, maintaining the flow of logistical support into the Iraqi theater, rebuilding infrastructure in a war-torn land, and managing and executing medical evacuation tasking at Fort Bragg.

Closer to home, we are keeping the skies and bases of the Pacific Northwest secure by supporting the Homeland Security mission, Noble Eagle II, and we're preparing for another potentially brutal fire season with fire-suppression training for our helicopter crews and fire fighter training for our soldiers on the ground.

The new State Readiness Center is now open for business unifying our assets in order to provide the Governor a centralized control platform for directing emergency operations. Oregon has met the call to serve and is performing far beyond expectations. We are living up to our motto, "When we are needed, we are there." Let's continue to do so through a mindset of safety.



Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F.  
Newman, State Command Sergeant  
Major

## From the Editor

Welcome to the premiere issue of *The Oregon Sentinel*. We have instituted several design changes, as well as unveil a brand new masthead. As always, we strive to bring you the most up-to-date news, stories, and feature articles from your National Guard units across the state, nation, and world. I personally invite you to help us to make the *The Sentinel* the best military news publication; by giving us your feedback, letters, story ideas, and submissions. This is *your* newsletter, and we need your help to make it the best ever.

ó Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief

## The Oregon Sentinel

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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. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 1st of each month.

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# Overdue Kayakers Thankful for National Guard Lifesavers

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff  
Photos contributed by Aida Parkinson

Members of the Oregon National Guard spend countless hours training for "the call", but secretly hope that it never comes. Most of the time, rescue crews arrive on scene to find injured or missing persons, and at times, worse.

So it's no surprise that when a distress call or missing persons report ends on a happy note, there comes a feeling of celebration and gratitude. But like many rescuers, Oregon's Search And Rescue teams remain unsung heroes, knowing that a job well-done is thanks enough.

Recently, a 1042nd search and rescue crew were dispatched to locate an overdue boating party on the Illinois River in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area of the Siskiyou Mountains located in Southwest Oregon. What follows is a letter of appreciation from a member of that group.



A 1042nd Air Ambulance flight medic is winched back onboard after checking on the boaters.

"We were safe and well when the Blackhawk crew found us at approximately 1300 hours just downstream of the mouth of the Collier Creek on the Curry County side of the Illinois River. We were scheduled to reach the Oak Flat take-out on Friday, April 25, but several days of rain had raised the river levels. Because of high water combined with cold weather, we elected to remain camped at Deadman Bar about four miles above the Green Wall section of the Illinois River until the weather improved or the river level dropped. The Del Norte County (California) Search and Rescue was notified that we were overdue on Saturday, and initiated the search that eventually brought the Oregon Guard helicopter.

The Green Wall is the largest rapid on the Illinois River and has the potential to flip a raft. Below the Green Wall are several other rapids that are also difficult to negotiate when the river is flowing heavily. Although we had six kayakers in the party in addition to the single raft, the success of the trip depends on the ability to get all members in the party safely through all the rapids. Even though the water level on Monday was as high or slightly higher than on Friday, the weather was considerably better, which improved our ability to get the raft down the Green Wall.

We were fairly sure someone would be dispatched to look for us after we were several days late. We were essentially out of food, and would have



An Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk prepares to drop off a crewmember to check on an overdue boating party in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area of Southwest Oregon.

been in real need of supplies had we not been able to travel out on Monday.

We would like to thank the National Guard for their efforts. It was truly a wonderful sight to watch the skilled pilot and crew perform their jobs. When we asked the sergeant who dropped down to us where they had come from, he said Salem, but that they had been in Afghanistan on Friday. We were astounded and honored to be able to talk to someone who had been in harm's way so recently and who had come home safely. He assured us there was no place in Afghanistan as beautiful as an Oregon river in springtime.

We did not get the name of the sergeant with whom we spoke, nor the names of the rest of the crew but we hope you will express our deepest gratitude to them and our pride in the Oregon National Guard."

Sincerely,  
Aida Parkinson  
McKinleyville, California

Copies of this letter were also sent by Ms. Parkinson to the State Public Affairs Officer, Maj. Arnold Strong, State Rep. Mike Thompson (D), 1st District, Calif., and Congressman Peter DeFazio, (D), 4th District, Ore.

Members of the rescue crew that day included; Chief Warrant Officers 3rd Class Bill Wilkins and Earl Poole as the pilot and co-pilot team, Crew Chief Sgt. Mark Carter, and flight medic Sgt. Troy Waddell on the hoist.

I am sure that I speak for the pilots and crew in telling you that the honor was theirs as they are men and women that truly love doing their jobs.

And although we know that 'getting the job done' is always thanks enough, when someone writes a heart-felt letter like this, it's like... well, icing on the cake. Awesome job guys... keep up the great work.

6 Ed.

## "Singing Patriot" Answers Important Call to Society and Country

By Spc. Luke Elliot

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**Lake Oswego, Ore.**—Serving the community is not a new concept for Sgt. Daniel I. Johnson, of the 82nd Rear Operation Cell (ROC). During the normal workweek, Johnson serves as a state trooper for the Oregon State Police. Each evening he goes home and devotes time to his wife and eight children. On Sundays, he is active in his church, and also attends drills as a



Sgt. Daniel I. Johnson sings the Star-Spangled Banner at 82nd ROC Activation Ceremony.

soldier in the Oregon National Guard. Nearly every aspect of Johnson's life involves service to others, but in February, Johnson began a new era of service; marked by his voice, and the singing of the national anthem at the activation ceremony of the 82nd ROC.

Like many others in the National Guard, Johnson has been called to serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Singing the Star Spangled Banner was just the beginning of what could be up to a one year tour for Johnson and the rest of his peers from the ROC. He doesn't take his duty lightly and he knows the freedoms echoed in Francis Scott Key's words don't come without sacrifice.

"It's not a light thing when you're asked to render the Star Spangled Banner to your peers," said Johnson. "So, I took it seriously, like raising the flag or saluting a senior officer or it was a service for the families and the troops to encourage and motivate them to do their jobs to the best of their ability while reminding us all, including myself, that we have a great nation and should never abuse our freedoms, because they didn't come without sacrifice."

Johnson, an advocate of homeland defense, views Operation Enduring Freedom as a civic responsibility he wants to live up to.

"We've been attacked at home, and I believe that our families, friends and coworkers deserve protection," said Johnson. "They deserve to be represented well in the effort to deal with an aggressive force of terrorism."

Johnson and the 82nd ROC, left Oregon in February for Ft. Lewis, Washington. Despite future uncertainties, Johnson maintains a positive attitude and finds comfort in the knowledge that he'll be in good company.

"We've been called and activated," said Johnson. "I'm honored to go wherever I'm needed or especially with the troops I'm with."

Johnson, like many other soldiers, was transferred from a different unit to join the 82nd ROC for the deployment. The adjustment wasn't as difficult as he first envisioned; many of the soldiers in the 82nd ROC, already knew him.

Capt. Scott D. Farish, a planning officer for the 82nd ROC, felt Johnson and his "can-do" attitude was a positive addition to the unit.

"It's his nature to serve or he is the type of person who is always trying to help people," Farish said.

Though service and caring for people are at the forefront of Johnson's core values, he doesn't feel they conflict with the idea of defense or his involvement with the National Guard. Instead, he

believes they are analogous to each other.

"Just because you're a peaceful and caring person, doesn't mean you can't defend against forces that would or could disrupt that peace," Johnson said.

Johnson likens the desire for peace and his warrior spirit to the definition of meekness.

"Some people think the word meekness means weakness, but meekness means something different or meekness is to have your mind and physical ability ready and waiting for a lawful order," says Johnson. "That's what being in the National Guard is all about or being well-trained, prepared and willing to act when the lawful order comes."

The lawful order came for Johnson just as it has for many other citizen-soldiers throughout Oregon. With the United States involved in conflict in the Middle East, soldiers continue to step up to the plate, putting on a uniform that represents social responsibility or a responsibility Johnson and his peers take seriously.

"This is our Country. This is our backyard. Somebody comes in my backyard that's not welcome, I'm gonna have to ask them to leave," said Johnson. "That's essentially what we're doing here."

# Oregonians Support Troops During Iraqi Campaign



Oregon citizens, including retired military personnel, gather at the State Capital in Salem, Ore. last March to show their support for American troops fighting for freedom and democracy in Iraq.

## Community Joins Forces to Rally Support for Troops and Families

Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns  
41st Brigade Public Affairs

**Salem, Ore.** — Masses swarmed the streets of the Capitol last March with jutting placards as shouts and poignant cries filled the cool Oregon air. No, it was not an anti-war protest. Instead, people from around the state gathered for a growing movement known as "Support Our Troops."

In a rally that assembled nearly 2,000 citizens, shouts of "Support our Troops" and "Liberate Iraq," were

heard throughout an infectious and colossal crowd of people on the steps of the State's capitol in Salem, Ore. just following the start of the Iraq campaign in March.

The movement, intended to avert a possible backlash similar to the ones experienced during the Vietnam era, was created to show troops that American citizens stand behind them during their campaign in Iraq. The movement swept across the country just before the onset of the war, as committed supporters showed servicemen and women they were anxious to offer their assistance in any way they can.

Despite the overall success and popular support of the rally, there were other citizens who showed up to voice their dissent of war and U.S. policy. Gathering outside the robust crowd of supporters, anti-war protesters brought

signs with proclamations such as, "Not in my name," and "Peace is patriotic."

Confrontations arose between the two crowds but ended in small groups of general discussions with both sides giving argument for their choices.

"They have a right to their opinion, but they need to realize they are putting soldiers at risk," said Phillip Ramsdell, an organizer of the Salem event. "Anti-war protests make Saddam feel that if he holds out, they will change policy instead of complying with disarmament."

When Ramsdell discovered the 1249th

Engineer Battalion, an Oregon Army National Guard battalion approximately 450 strong headquartered in Salem, Ore., was being activated and deployed to an undisclosed location in support of the Global War on Terror, he made it his mission to ensure the unit's well-being. He plans to help the community support the deployment in a meaningful way.

"A lot of people say they support our troops but supporting our troops does not mean just waving the flag," said Ramsdell. "It means supporting them financially, supporting them with our hearts and supporting them with our prayers."

Realizing there can sometimes be a large disparity between a service member's income from the civilian sector and their military pay, citizens donated over \$2,800 in an effort to help soldiers and their families with possible looming financial problems. The money, which is intended to ease financial burdens for deployed service members so they can focus their attention on the war effort without distraction, will become part of an emergency relief fund and will be administered by the 1249th Engineer Battalion Family Program.

"We have not established a limit to

what the family can get out of this fund," said Ramsdell. "It is based on need and there is flexibility unlike the state fund cap of \$150."

"When they hear their families are being taken care of, they are going to know there's real commitment and sacrifice behind this and that it's not just the flag going up."

Oregon citizens have offered other types of assistance as well. Child care, home repairs, telephone cards and letters are just a few of the ways our citizens are helping.

One local businessman sends anonymous checks weekly to a family of a deployed soldier. These monies come in part from donations from his customers, which he matches. A different family is chosen each week.



An unidentified woman supports US military personnel by wrapping herself in a US flag.



Supporters wave US flags, showing support for troops deployed to Iraq.

# Guard Members on Target at Adjutant General's Match

*Combat-Oriented Training Helps Service Members Sharpen Skills*

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Rebekah-Mae N. Bruns  
Public Affairs Office, 41st Brigade

**Camp Rilea, Ore.**—Shots rang out across Camp Rilea as the Adjutant Generals Match began its annual competition ó and what has become a nerve cell for the National Guard's finest shooters.

Master Sgt. Jeff Arnst, an organizer of the event, sees the little-publicized match as a gold mine for fast paced, combat oriented training.

“You're doing the type of firing that you would do in combat,” said Arnst. “It's snap exposure where an individual needs to fire a few quick shots.”

The competition is comprised of three main categories, the machine gun, 9mm pistol and the rifle. Subsequently, each Battalion in the state is allotted a group consisting of four members each for the pistol and rifle competitions, and two members for the machine gun team. Fifty-

percent of the aforementioned elements must be new attendees to the Adjutant's Match.

“This is how we keep new shooters coming to the match,” said Arnst.

The annual state competition is just the beginning for some. Top shooters are asked to advance to the national level to compete at the Winston P. Wilson match held in Little Rock, Arkansas, and may move on to the international level to compete on the *All Guard Team*.

As the United States continues to carry out its mission on the Global War on Terror, marksman skills for soldiers like Staff Sgt. Kevin Maries, carry even greater importance.

“You are introduced to new shooting techniques and positions that are not practiced for the yearly qualification,” said Maries. “If I were activated I would hope the guy next to me would possess the type of advanced



A shooter takes aim on the M-16 firing range.



Staff Sgt. Alan Ezelle takes aim in the 9mm category at the Adjutant Generals Match. Ezelle, a member of the the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry placed 3rd in the match.

marksmanship skills that this competition teaches.”

Some of those techniques include shooting at varying distances with different types of multiple targets, targets that are realistic interpretations of enemy soldiers. Moreover, shooters get the opportunity to fire at moving targets from the kneeling, sitting and prone positions, all of which are meant to create a more realistic setting for the soldier.

In a world of advanced technology, Arnst recognizes that not all battle can be conducted by computers or high tech systems of weaponry. In the end, Arnst feels battle still comes down to the service member and his or her marksmanship skills.

“A skilled marksman would have a higher probability of a first time hit,” said Arnst. “The final element of any decisive engagement is the ability of soldiers to put accurate and deadly small arms fire on target.”



Shooters line up on the 9mm course.

**Editor's Note:** For more information about the Small Arms Readiness Training (SARTS) Program, go to [www.mil.state.or.us/sarts](http://www.mil.state.or.us/sarts)

## Talk to Your Boss About Being a Unit Public Affairs Representative

By Spc. Luke Elliot  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Imagine showing up for your weekend drill. You grab a copy of the Oregon Sentinel, and you see a story, complete with photos and cutlines, on something you recently took part in, or better yet ó something your unit recently completed.

As public affairs personnel, we strive to tell the soldiers' stories, but the fact of the matter is there are too many events and guardmembers for us to cover. With just a handful of public affairs personnel and nearly 9,000 soldiers and airmen living across the state, we are in need of assistance from the units.

The adjutant general is endorsing a program to encourage each unit to pick a responsible, dedicated guardmember to represent each unit.

Some mistakenly believe the roles and responsibilities of a public affairs representative in their unit, or UPAR, would be too much work on top of an already full lists of duties.

A fully operating UPAR position can

be very demanding, but the plan is to start training and encouraging UPARs to write internal stories about their units and the soldiers and airmen within them. As the program develops across the state, UPARs can seek additional training to enhance other missions.

“The UPAR's primary responsibility is to feed content and issues up to the public affairs office at the state headquarters,” said Maj. Arnold Strong, state public affairs officer. “The key is that we in the state public affairs office receive so little input from the units that our publication often comes across looking like a “Flagpole” edition, focusing too much on issues affecting the command and headquarters while not accurately reflecting the hard work of soldiers in the field.”

Other skills UPAR personnel will learn about in the future are crafting press releases for the units, communicating the successes of commands and interacting with the media, according to the National Guard UPAR Handbook.

Enlisted soldiers are exactly what the command needs for the UPAR program, according to an Oregon training

video, “Unit PA Training: Setting up a PA Program.” Other suggestions for picking a UPAR are to choose someone willing to dedicate two to three years to the program and pick someone who is mature and responsible.

Perhaps some feel that having a public affairs representative would not benefit their unit.

Over time the benefits will become clear as you realize you can't avoid public affairs. Whether dealing with members of your unit or the community, public affairs is all around you. It's an all-encompassing effort with a principle goal of ensuring your unit is well accepted and supported in the community, according to the handbook.

Having an effective UPAR program will help establish and maintain good will and public acceptance ó essential for your unit to be combat ready and successful.

Having a UPAR in a unit also provides the unit some internal benefits. “Unit Public Affairs representatives make a vital difference to the units they serve by enabling their commanders to highlight the success of their organiza-

tions while remaining operationally focused,” said Strong. “The UPAR also serves as a link between the command and the community.”

Every guardmember should understand the importance of handling internal and external information and the importance of getting this information out to our audiences. This is the reason public affairs is organizing the UPAR program and is requesting at least one person per unit to attend training to become their unit's public affairs representative. This representative could be you.

It has been said that the pen is mightier than sword. However, as long as you're uniform, you will never permanently turn in this proverbial sword for pen, but if you join the UPAR program, you might experience the power of wielding both.

*If you are interested in helping to tell your units' story, bring it up with your chain of command and let them know you would like to be a part of the Unit Public Affairs Representative Program.*

# Messecar First Female Col. in ORANG

## Sets Milestone, Example for Other Female Members



Photo by Senior Airman Tim Warren

Col. Deborah C. Messecar, first female colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard, meets with MSgt. Bill Ford in her office at the 142 Medical Group clinic.

By Maj. Mike Allegre  
Public Affairs Officer, HQ, ORANG

**PORTLAND, Ore.** It was the first promotion of its kind in the Oregon Air National Guard. On March 6, 2003, Deborah C. Messecar became the first female promoted to the rank of colonel in the history of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Messecar, commander of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Medical Group, has been an ORANG member and assigned to the unit since October 1982 when she joined as a nurse. She later became the unit's chief nurse. She accepted command in June 2002, overseeing over 70 members including four fulltime personnel.

Accepting the command of the 142 Medical Group has been the biggest challenge I have ever accepted in my professional life. Said Col. Messecar.

A professor at Oregon Health Sciences University in the Department of Nursing, Messecar looks forward to being the first ORANG female officer to attain the rank of O-6.

The support I have received from the 142 Wing and ORANG command leadership has been phenomenal. She said. I look forward to the work ahead and hope to live up to the trust placed in me.

Major Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, Oregon's Adjutant General, took part in the ceremony. ORANG Commander, Brig. Gen. James C. Cunningham and Col. Garry Dean, 142<sup>nd</sup> FW commander, also attended. Burgin and Dean did the honor of promoting Messecar by placing the eagle rank insignia on her uniform. Burgin hailed the promotion calling it an historical event for the Oregon Air Guard.

We can all be very proud of Col. Messecar's career and accomplishments, Burgin said. Being the first female to reach the rank of colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard is certainly a milestone. I commend her for paving the way and setting a standard for other female officers.

# 142nd FW Wins Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Prepared by HQ, ORANG Staff

The 142nd Fighter Wing is among only 29 Air National Guard units named to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA). The award period covers October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2002. The last time the Wing was awarded the AFOUA was 1991. Current Guardmembers assigned during the period covered will be eligible to wear the award. In Fiscal Year 2001 the unit flew 2921 sorties for 4113 hours, far exceeding all other ANG F-15 units. The unit responded to the September 11th terrorist attacks by generating 14 fully combat-configured aircraft in 20 hours, setting a timeline never before seen by the National Guard Bureau. Elements conducted 46 deployments involving 1,125 personnel to 15 exercises and operations within the United States and nine foreign countries. The Wing continued to support Operation Noble Eagle exceeding all mission capability rate standards.

# Total Force Found Effective

## Airmen Work Together to Complete Mission

By Airman 1st Class David Jackson  
40th Air Expeditionary Wing, Public Affairs Office

The six-person 40th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's (CES) Explosive Ordnance Disposal team proves every day that the Air Force's Total Force Concept does work. Comprised of two Air Force Reservists, two active-duty members and two Air National Guardsmen, the team has been working since May 28 at an operating location in support of the U.S. Central Command execution of Operation Enduring Freedom. However, having worked together at Holloman AFB, N.M. before the deployment, they weren't strangers to each other.

Staff Sgts. Tod Peterson and Ralph Godfrey, both members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing, arrived at Holloman to help the understaffed 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's EOD flight. And with an upcoming unit compliance inspection, the two staff sergeants had to do it quick.

When Staff Sgt. Peterson and I arrived at Holloman, they were down to a skeleton crew of people, said Godfrey. Peterson and I went to work right away, fitting ourselves into their operations. There was very little time to figure out what was different about them and us. We had a job to do and we did it.

Staff Sgts. Guy Heard and Luana Krueger, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz., arrived later to provide even more help.

The reservists had even less time and were huge assets at inspection time, Godfrey continued. We did great, especially considering we had a crew that had worked together for less than three weeks.

After assisting at Holloman, the reservists, guardsmen, and Master Sgt. Kenney Wessels and Staff Sgt. Ronald Wilson, both members of the 49th CES, deployed overseas. Since their arrival, the EOD team has responded to several munitions calls, demonstrating how the Total Force concept works. This proves that guardsmen, reservists and active duty people can come together and support the mission, said Peterson.

The Air Force built this concept a long time ago and we are proof it can work, Godfrey said. We are doing the same job, to the same standards that every EOD unit around the world is doing.

# Korean War Remembered

## Pilots Reminisce War, Catch up on History

By Capt. Misti Mazzia  
142nd Fighter Wing,  
Public Affairs Officer

**PORTLAND, Ore.** The Portland Air National Guard honored Korean War Veterans on May 24th, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and dedication ceremony at the Memorial Garden.

The ceremony opened with an invocation by Father Alfred Williams and was hosted by Col. Garry Dean, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin spoke about the history of the Korean War and the lessons learned. He then introduced Ernie Wakehouse, a former Redhawk and one of only nine pilots from the Portland Air Base deployed to Korea. Wakehouse spoke about his combat missions, and related how he narrowly cheated death several times. Wakehouse flew 100 sorties in the P-51 Mustang providing close air support for ground forces from September to December 1951, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and six Air Medals for his courage and skill.

Chief Master Sgt. Jack Klein, formerly with the 142<sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron deployed to Alaska during the Korean Conflict, referenced some of the conditions and challenges of being deployed there. Approximately 230 people from the 142<sup>nd</sup> AC&W Squadron served in Alaska's remote outposts in the western Arctic region for up to two years, many helping construct critically needed radar surveillance sites.

Dignitaries and veterans helped unveil and dedicate a memorial stone weighing almost 3 tons. The Camas gray basalt stands 4 feet tall, and is 4 feet wide at the base. The memorial stone resembles the contour of Mt. Hood and was shaped and polished by local artist Mark McLean. A four-ship F-15 flyover salute was a fitting conclusion to the service. A reunion and luncheon following the ceremony was held at the Columbia Pointe Club, where Korean War veterans and their families had an opportunity to reminisce and catch up with each other.



## 142nd FW Flies 60,000 Mishap-Free Hours; Achieves Milestone Through Teamwork

By Capt. Misti Mazzi

Public Affairs Officer, 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing

**PORTLAND, Ore.** óThe 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, also known as Oregon's Red Hawks, recently attained an impressive safety milestone of 60,000 mishap-free flying hours. The unit has been flying F-15s for 14 years and has the oldest fleet in the Air Force's inventory.

“This (safety) milestone is a testament to the amount of flying we do,” said Col. Garry Dean, 142 FW commander. “It's also a tribute to the professionalism and passion our people have for their military mission, here and abroad.”

Each year, fighter pilots from the 142 FW fly 3000+ training sorties and log more than 4200 flight hours. Many of these same pilots and jets have also flown patrol missions in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch, both of which are NATO-based military campaigns used to provide aerial surveillance and defense of the no-fly zones in Iraq.

According to 142 FW Safety Officer Lt. Col. Kyle Hook, an impeccable safety record like the one set by the 142 FW doesn't just happen. It takes a strong work ethic and many people working toward the same goal to achieve this degree of success.

“Every individual here, since day one,

has been doing the right thing everyday, the right way,” said Hook. “This achievement is a team effort.”

This team, he added, consists not only of first-rate fighter pilots, but also of aircraft maintainers and a host of support personnel throughout the organization.

Given the age of the F-15 fleet at the Portland Air Base (the oldest aircraft is 30 years old), it's no doubt aircraft maintenance personnel have their daily work cut out for them. But, according to Lt. Col. Gary Eckert (142 FW logistics group commander), it's a challenge the maintainers have lived up to with overwhelming success.

“Our logistics group is home to over 525 talented professionals achieving

monumental results in maintenance,” commented Eckert. “Our fully mission capable rate is over 80% while the ANG standard is 66%.”

“Without a doubt, it's a record the 142 FW can be proud of.” He added.



Chris Corich, general manager of operations at PDX congratulates 142nd fighter pilot Capt. Tim Ebner.

## Air National Guard Banquet Honors, Recognizes Top Airmen, Leaders

By Maj. Donna Prigmore

Public Affairs Officer, HQ, ORANG

The largest crowd to ever to attend the annual Oregon Air National Guard Awards and Recognition Banquet on March 29, 2003, watched as three 2002 Airmen of The Year recipients and the Maj. Gen. Chester E. McCarty Award winner for superior performance were announced.



This year's turnout was significant, considering many of the award nominees and recipients are currently deployed throughout the world in support of one of several military operations.

The ORANG's 2002 Outstanding Airman of the Year awards are divided into three categories; Category I (E-4 and below), Category II (E-5 to E-6), and Category III (E-7 to E-9). Thirty-nine ORANG airmen who retired in 2002 were recognized. Airmen of the year from all unit levels were also presented awards.

Senior Airman Melody Hanna, a member of the 142<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing's Financial Management Office was the recipient of this year's Category I award, but was unable to attend due to her deployment overseas. “Melody's a hard working, detail oriented, dedicated, professional who jumped in and learned her duties quickly,” said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Phillips, FM Office Superintendent.



Senior Airman Melody Hanna



Staff Sgt. Scott Luetke

Staff Sgt. Scott Luetke, 270<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control Squadron, received the Category II award. A member of one of the most deployed units in the ORANG, Luetke has been assigned to the 270<sup>th</sup> for more than two years. He deployed in Feb. 2002 for more than six months to Afghanistan.

“I'm proud to have been chosen,” Luetke said, “but I don't think I did my job any better than anyone else. We accomplished the mission as a team.”

Another Kingsley Field NCO, Master Sgt. Richard Vieira, 173<sup>rd</sup> FW, received the Category III award for Airman of the Year. Vieira is a fulltime AGR employee at Kingsley Field in the unit's Logistics Readiness Squadron. He spent 40 days in Kuwait last year on a TDY assignment. He volunteers as a youth basketball coach in Klamath Falls, is a member

of the Klamath Youth Development Council, and has been a member of the Honor Guard for five years. “I was shocked to receive something that prestigious,” Vieira said.

The most significant award ó the Major General Chester E. McCarty Superior Performer Award ñ was presented to Staff Sgt. Scott Ferre, of the 272<sup>nd</sup>

Combat Communications Squadron.

Ferre is a crew chief in the satellite wideband shop. He has served lengthy TDY's during four of the past five years in the Middle East and spent six months in Qatar in 2002. A graduating senior at Oregon State University, Ferre will soon enter graduate school to study civil engineering. As a student in Corvallis,

Ferre volunteers his time, speaking to middle school students about life in the Middle East, while encouraging them to continue their education.

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Greene, 142<sup>nd</sup> Communications Flight, was honored as the Unit Career Advisor of the Year. “This is the first time I've ever been to a military awards banquet and I was impressed at how well it was presented,” he said. “The time I have spent in the Oregon Air National Guard has been a great experience, and I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful people.” Greene added.

The 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron was selected as the ORANG's Outstanding Unit of the Year. The commander, Lt. Col. Tim Olson, accepted the award on behalf of the unit.

The Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year award was given to Master Sgt. Gary Stroh, 142<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Squadron. Stroh began his military service in the Navy. In 1967 he was deployed to Vietnam, and in 1969 he served on the Attack Aircraft Carrier USS Ticonderoga, where he participated in a nine-month tour of duty in the Gulf of Tonkin. After being discharged from the Navy in 1974, he worked as a Civil Service employee with the Air Force in North Dakota and joined the Air Guard in 1985. He transferred to the Oregon Guard in 1989, where he was assigned to the propulsion section, and was selected as the 1st Sgt. in 2000.

“It humbles me to be selected as First Sergeant of the Year when there are so many other first shirts that are doing a fantastic job,” Stroh said. “We have without a doubt the finest people in the Air National Guard. I care so much about the people in our unit.”

Oregon's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, and Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Assistant Adjutant General for Air and the Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, presented the awards.

Cunningham said, “The professionalism of the NCOs and airmen in the Oregon Air National Guard continues to make me proud. We are aware that our optempo continues to increase. Your abilities to meet and exceed the challenges of those mission requirements have been outstanding. Due to your sacrifices and mission readiness, we continue to be an active and relevant component of our nation's defense. You are the strength and backbone of that mission and I'm proud to be your commander.”

Since 1973, the McCarty award has been presented to ORANG enlisted members who have performed their military duties and support functions in the most consistently superior manner throughout the previous year.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Dyer  
Staff Sgt. Scott Ferre receives the Maj. Gen. Chester E. McCarty Superior Performer Award.



Master Sgt. Gary Stroh



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Dyer  
Brig. Gen. Cunningham presents the Airman of the Year Award (Category III) to Master Sgt. Richard Vieira.

# 1042 Medical Company Support



Sgt. John Phelps and Staff Sgt. Jim Brown of Team Ulvin working in Saudi Arabia unfolding main rotor blades at Prince Sultan Air Base.

By Maj. Arnold V. Strong, State Public Affairs Officer, Sentinel Editor-in-Chief  
 Photos by members of the 1042nd Medical Company

**Kandahar, Afghanistan and Salem, Ore.** - They came from almost the exact opposite side of the planet and represented all walks of American life: students, paramedics, civil servants, postal workers, but when the citizen soldiers of the 1042d Medical Company (Air Ambulance) received the order to deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom in April of 2002, the unit deployed at 100% strength and immediately into harm's way in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the first elements of the 1042d to return from the combatant theater touched down at their home base of Salem, Ore., to the cheers, hugs and jubilation of an ecstatic audience of family members, friends, and community leaders. They were finally home.

Their journey was hardly a swift one. After serving in Bosnia for almost a year of continuous operation involving routine medical evacuation and search and rescue missions, the unit was again activated less than 18 months later to reinforce the efforts of the 44<sup>th</sup> Medical Command from Fort Bragg, NC. The 1042nd, within three weeks of performing a valiant rescue of several stranded climbers and the crew of a downed Air Force Reserve Pavehawk helicopter. Once certified for combatant operations, the crews of the 1042nd took up their positions in Kandahar Air Field, and Bagram Air Base,



Chief Warrant Officer Mike Cataldo at the ready during deployment validation at Ft. Bragg, NC.

Afghanistan. Additional crews flew to Camp Doha, Kuwait, and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. The Headquarters Detachment, responsible to track all logistical support for the deployed elements while supporting Fort Bragg air ambulance requirements, remained there throughout the deployment.

So I think the hardest thing I've had to do in Afghanistan, they served in numerous locations but were based out of Bagram and Kandahar. Between the two major cities of the country, the unit forward deployed two UH-60L Black Hawks to Forward Operating Base Salerno (FOB). During the time the unit was stationed at Salerno, the 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. McNeil, deployed a Combat Team of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne to the area. At the time of deployment, there was little left of the former academic center than thugs with guns ruling the streets," according to McNeil.

Within a month of their deployment, the 82<sup>nd</sup> had confiscated all weapons in the Kowst Bowl Region and helped to reopen two elementary schools. Within two months, commerce had returned to the streets and women and children were allowed free passage without harassment. By the third month, the unit had helped to initiate the re-opening of two centers of higher learning, trade was there was an almost drop cessation of crime in the streets. During this same period of 1042nd performed more than 90 missions saving in excess of 130 patients to include civilians.

The unit maintained an Operational Readiness rate of 97% during the entire deployment. The unit performed a live hoist mission in that combat zone. Medics all qualified and were certified in Basic Life Support (BTL) and Advanced Cardio Life Support (ACLS) classes. Three of the unit were certified enough to become instructors in ACLS. They also volunteered in the hospital when needed. Both teams worked closely with CJSOTF (Special Forces Operations Task Force) in providing fast and quality medical support to all SFODA (Special Forces Operational Detachments).

The effort in Afghanistan had lasting effects on Scott Anderson, a paramedic, from Salem, Ore. Anderson describes his deployment as very challenging and very somber. "I'm Catholic, 31 years old, non-commissioned officer explained. "So I've had to do out here was read Sgt. Steven Cheek, a Catholic, also. That was pretty hard. We did our best once we arrived that there was little we could do. Sgt. Bagram, was shot and killed by an Afghan fighter."

The unit's exceptional performance was not limited to air operations providing the unit with numerous support to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Center at the Ft. Bragg area and the U.S. Army Ranger School. The team at Ft. Bragg over the course of the deployment provided coverage by the team at Ft. Bragg over the course of the deployment.

In Kuwait, the team under the leadership of Capt. Mark ODS (Operation Desert Spring) and OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) United States Marines ambushed on the beach in Kuwait.

American soldier apparently threw a hand grenade into an Operations Center tent during the deployment. The team was evacuated to the hospital ship in the Persian Gulf and numerous life saving rescue operations for both the unit and the host nation.

In Saudi Arabia, Capt. Mark Ulvin has led his team with the mission of Force Protection. The team has maintained both its aircraft fully operational and the unit's readiness for deployment.



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hoggard, flight medic, inflight during mission in Kuwait.



Maj. Matt Brady, SFC John Esch, CW2 Gregory Lund and SPC Anthony Quesada flew into Forward Operating Base near Salerno to provide emergency medical care and transport to an Afghani child. This type of mission was a part of their normal routine during the deployment.

MEDEVAC crew for AFCENT," Brady continued. "They are still very involved in the fight but looking forward to joining the the rest of the unit back in the United States."

Surviving in austere aviation environments came as routine to some members of the unit. Staff Sgt. John C. Keo, a thirty year veteran of the Army and Oregon National Guard, who served in the Cambodian Army Air Corps in the late sixties before emigrating to the United States. "I was shot down three times, but they never caught me," he said, explaining that the Communist rebels that had shot his aircraft from the sky on three occasions never discovered the pilot of the craft.





# ing Operation Enduring Freedom



Members of the 1042nd Medical Company worked with Task Force (TF) Pegasus of the 82nd Aviation Brigade to deliver rice, clothing, shoes and school supplies to Bamian locals. Here Maj. Matt Brady, Company commander is shown working with Maj. Mike Pyatt of TF Pegasus and local civilians.

flowing in the streets and of war in Afghanistan, the both coalition and local

ent and was the first unit to on their Basic Trauma Life its Medics qualified high ver they were not out on a F (Combined Joint Special ified medical support pos- Detachment iA Teams)



Team Houston trains on hoist operations with special forces soldiers over the desert in Kuwait.

n the crew members. Sgt. described his responsibility- holic, the bright eyed, 23 o I think the hardest thing ckov's Last Rites. He was est, but it was pretty clear o keep that great soldier alive. Checkov, a sergeant with the 82nd Airborne based in in a firefight.

ited to its role in Afghanistan. At Ft. Bragg, NC, a team of the 1042nd supported scores erous MEDEVAC missions from injuries to paratroopers. Additionally, the unit provided y Special Warfare Center and School throughout several special operations schools in nool's Mountain and Jungle phases of training in Georgia and Florida, providing 24/7 e of the year.

ot. Brian Houston flew more than 200 missions saving more than 280 patients during on Iraqi Freedom). Some of the unit's extraordinary highlights include the rescue of October of 2002; the transport of several service members wounded when a Muslim ng Operation Iraqi Freedom; transporting several rescued American Prisoners of War oth local civilians and military personnel.

ion. They have performed their mission flawlessly, said Brady. While flying daily Mission Capable for the duration and provided a 100% Fully Mission Capable

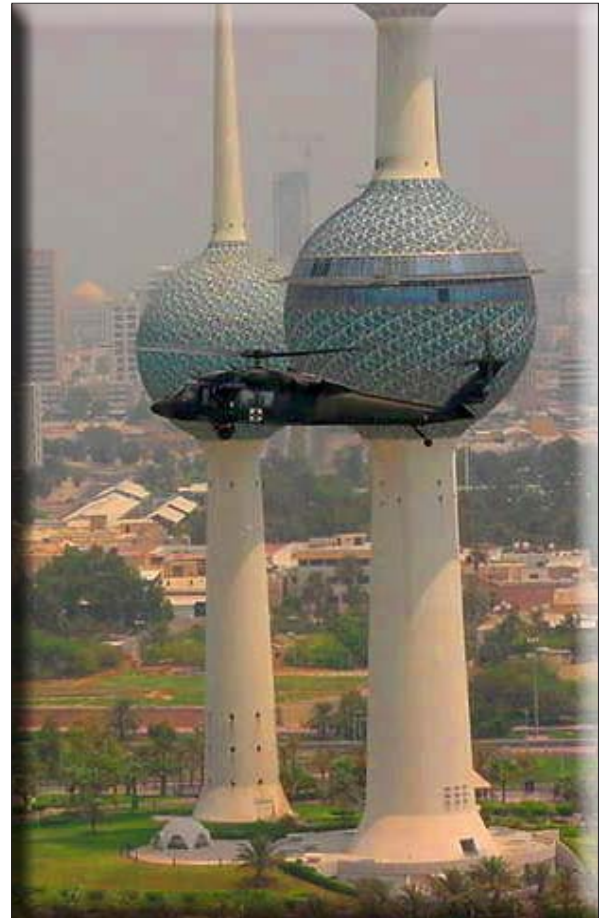


Sgt. Ryan Estill, Spc. Carl Gabba and Sgt. 1st Class John Esch check radios as part of daily preflight duties at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

because he was right amongst them. I always wore my black pajamas under my flight suit, he happily explained in quieted Lao accent. I'd put a straw hat on my head and walk right back across the border. No Problem.

Fortunately, many of the Afghani people learned from first hand experience that the Americans flying above their heads in Black Hawk helicopters were among the most committed, experienced and caring people they would ever meet. Sgt. Anderson, in addition to volunteering like many of his peers for additional duty in the operating room once the air ambulances had delivered the injured, often volunteered to perform magic for the children in the mobile hospital ward. A long-time student of slight of hand, Anderson would entertain the hospital patients for hours, confusing some, occasionally astonishing others, but delighting all who would witness his tricks and queries.

It was clear from each member of this unit that they are committed to excellence. Maj. Mathew Brady, commander of the 1042nd, also a helicopter pilot based in Bagram, but responsible for the units performance at all of its locations in four countries stated, We may not take ourselves seriously, but we take our jobs very seriously. I can't think of any better way that the men and women of my unit can demonstrate their excellence, than by the deeds they have performed continuously for the past year, he said.



Members of Team Houston are seen here flying near the towers in Kuwait.

Brady's comments proved truer than he would realize on the barren tarmac of Kandahar Air Base. In April, 2003, the 1042nd was named the National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year by the Army Aviation Association of America. The prestigious award was presented by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ellis D. Parker and Col. (Ret.) John Stanko, considered by many to be the father of Army Aviation in the National Guard.

All said, the 1042nd was presented with the AAAA iNG unit of the year for 2002. The unit has maintained the aircraft at 96.8% for the entire year, flown more than 2,500 hours of accident/incident free flight hours in all modes of flight (day, night, and NVG) and maintained its ground vehicles and equipment at 98%, Brady said. The unit thus far has been presented with 9 Bronze Star Medals, 32 Air Medals, 14 Army Commendation Medals, and 8 Army Achievement Medals. This does not include those awards pending from Operation Iraqi Freedom nor those awards submitted for in Ft. Bragg, Brady continued.

On May 9, 2003, the main body of the unit returned to Salem, Ore. After a delay in their final approach and a temporary grounding due to typical Oregon weather, four helicopters and their crews returned to a proud assembly of families, friends, veterans, local dignitaries and fellow citizen soldiers.



The 1042nd returns to a heroic welcome in Salem, Ore.

Special thanks to the various members of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) who helped make this article possible.

# Retiree Corner

## TRICARE Enhances Dental Benefits

Dental benefits for uniformed services retirees and family members enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have been enhanced. Effective May 1, 2003, the mandatory enrollment period is reduced from 24 to 12 months. The annual maximum benefit per enrollee and lifetime maximum benefit for orthodontic care has been increased from \$1000 to \$100.

After the mandatory enrollment period ends, eligible enrollees which include uniformed services retirees and their family members, Medal of Honor recipients and their family members; survivors and family members of deceased retirees or active duty sponsors who served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, may continue their enrollment in the TRDP on a month-to-month basis. During the mandatory 12 month enrollment period, TRDP enrollees are covered for basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and dental emergencies. After 12 months of continuous enrollment, TRDP enrollees are covered for cast crowns, cast restorations, full and partial dentures and orthodontics for adults and children. A directory of participating Delta Dental providers is available online at <http://www.ddpdelta.org>.

Retirees and family members may also request a provider directory by calling the Delta Dental Customer Service number at (888) 838-8737. Log onto <http://military.com/> for additional information.

## Retirees Ask for Better Health Care

According to the Army News Service, the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide. The council also urged the chief of staff to support:

- (a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation;
- (b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan;
- (c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and
- (d) continued full-funding of TRICARE for Life.

For more details on the council and its report, visit [http://www.military.com/NewsContent?file=usa2\\_041603](http://www.military.com/NewsContent?file=usa2_041603)

## TRICARE Complies With Stricter Rules on Health Care Information

American Forces Press Service reports that TRICARE, like all other health care providers nationwide, is working under stricter rules when it comes to protecting patients rights and the privacy of their health information. Like its civilian counterparts, the TRICARE Management Activity implemented the privacy portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) by the April 14 compliance deadline. The act, which Congress passed in 1994 and became public law 104-191 was designed to combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve portability of health insurance coverage and simplify administration of health care, according to a TRICARE brochure issued in January. Laws that were already on the books, such as the Privacy Act, have always protected patients' medical information, but HIPAA informs individuals of what their rights are and TRICARE's responsibilities to protect health information, which hasn't been done in the past. TRICARE mailed more than five million notices to beneficiaries homes between December 2002 and March 2003. The notices are also available at military treatment facilities. Besides explaining the patients rights under HIPAA and TRICARE's responsibilities, the notice tells beneficiaries how to file a complaint if they feel their health information has been inappropriately used. Patients should contact the military treatment facility privacy officers or the TRICARE privacy officer. They can also go directly to the Department of Health and Human Services office of Civil Rights Website and follow the complaint and inquiry process at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipa/> Log onto <http://www.military.com/> for general information on TRICARE.

## Who Qualifies as a Veteran?

A veteran must have served on active duty for a minimum of 180 consecutive days (active + duty for training in National Guard or Reserves does not count), and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

A veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.

Others who qualify for veteran status are members of a Reserve or National Guard component who served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

## Government Grave Marker Requests Easier

The Department of Veterans Affairs has revised its application form to make requesting a VA grave marker easier. The new form, Application For Standard Government Headstone or Marker (VA Form 40-1330), includes updated information about changes that expand eligibility for a government marker. The VA has also introduced a toll-free fax service for submitting applications, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more, see <http://www.cem.va.gov>. The application form on the website can be filled in and printed for submitting by mail or fax. Questions about a headstone or marker application can be directed to VA's Memorial Programs Service applicant assistance unit at 1-800-697-6947. For more on death and burial, log onto <http://www.military.com/>

## Legislation to Assist Military Retirees

Air Force Retiree News has presented brief overviews of legislation currently under consideration in both houses of government, as being of possible interest to members of the military community. Legislation includes a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, a Retired Pay Retention Act, and a Reservists Retirement and Retention Act. For the full list, see [http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/Legislat\\_key.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire/Legislat_key.htm).

### Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10am to 2pm

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

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

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

### Change of Address

Retiree Services Office  
PO Box 14350  
Salem, Oregon 97309

- New Retiree     Change  
 Stop             Deceased

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Army NG     Air NG  
 Federal      State

## DID YOU KNOW you can purchase life insurance through payroll deduction THAT YOU CAN take with you if/when you leave the National Guard?

**State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI)** is provided to enhance Servicemans Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Specific program benefits include:

- Benefit payment within 24 hours up to \$10,000, with remaining benefits within ten days.
- Spouse and dependent coverage
- No WAR, suicide, or aviation exclusions
- No cost 20% automatic increase after one year off of base plan.
- Accelerated death benefit (50% of coverage) in event of terminal illness
- As part of this program, all ONG members have \$1,000 free coverage automatically.
- SSLI can be taken with you upon departure from the National Guard and benefits and premiums remain the same to age 60.
- A **Supplemental SSLI coverage** can be added to the basic program to provide:
  - \$50,000 to \$250,000 coverage
  - Premiums better than SGLI to age 50
  - Member and/or spouse additional coverage of \$100,000 for \$7.50
  - Requires basic SSLI coverage
  - Some limitations may apply

In 1998, The Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations created an umbrella organization, Oregon National Guard Benefits INC., to help to identify and provide benefits for all ONG Soldiers/Airmen and association members. The following describes the program available to you.

### Payroll Deducted Group Benefits for Members of the National Guard STATE SPONSORED LIFE INSURANCE

Unit SSLI Benefit Briefings are being provided throughout the year. Check to find out when the briefings are being made to your unit. Questions and/or interest in the program should be directed to the benefits coordinator.

LTC (Ret) Mike Fielding, SSLI Benefits Coordinator  
PO Box 4262, Salem, OR 97302  
1-800-810-7754 (SSLI), Cell 503-510-473

# Oregon Guard Team Wins Lincoln Marathon 2nd Consecutive Year



Spec. Mike Dudley of the 1249th Engineering Battalion crosses the finish line.

**By Col. Larry Studer**

*Deputy Brigade Commander  
82nd Brigade (Troop Command)*

Spec. Mike Dudley takes first place at the Lincoln Marathon. Dudley from Alpha Company, 1249 Engineer Battalion, finished with a time of 2:29:36. He led the Oregon Running Team to a second straight first place finish at the 26<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Marathon.

The normal 7 a.m. start time for the May 4, 2003 event experienced a severe weather delay. Lincoln, Nebr. was on the northern edge of the weather system that reeked havoc on the Midwest. Baseball sized hail, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms pummeled southeastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas, and western Missouri while race officials decided whether to officially start the race.

As officials studied the weather, runners huddled in and around the University of Nebraska Football Stadium and Coliseum. At 7:15 a.m. race officials started over 2600 runners on the wet cold run through the streets of Lincoln. The runners battled periods of heavy downpours,

15 mile per hour winds, 50 degree temperatures, and soaking wet feet through the 26.2-mile course.

Due to the weather, finish times were slower than normal for the elite runners. Even though Dudley won the race with a very respectable time he was well off his personal record of 2:14:37. The weather coupled with the fact he missed eight weeks of training during January and February due to a stress fracture to his foot, prevented this elite runner from performing at peak level.

Dudley, who has been a member of the Guard since 1999 trained and ran with the Army's World Class Athlete Program. He commented that ifor the first couple of miles I was cold because they delayed the start, but at about mile five I got into a rhythm and felt more comfortable. This was quit evident as he beat the second place finisher by more than five minutes.

Oregon's three fastest runners: Spec. Mike Dudley 2:29:37, 2nd Lt. Sean Nixon 2:53:34, and 2nd Lt. Peter Pritchett 2:55:48, had a combined time of 8:18:59. This bested second place Indiana by 6 minutes and 56 seconds. Also running on the Oregon team was Senior Master Sgt. Max White (Oregon Air National Guard) running in his 15th Lincoln Marathon with a time of 3:16:43 and Col. Larry Studer 4:26:26. Spec. Bill Raitter, last year's top guard finisher, pulled out of the race at about the eight mile mark due to injury.

The Oregon runners staved off the other states' teams that have been gunning for Oregon through friendly rivalry over the years. A second place Indiana team runner said Oregon's got

some big dogs, so I figured second was the best we could do. We worked hard and performed well, maybe next year we can beat Oregon. Other states have been fielding faster teams and each year the competition gets stronger. Oregon's Max White stated our performance was great today. We defended our team title and I think we can do it again next year.

Oregon runners earned individual honors as well as the National Guard team championship. As the overall race winner Dudley was also the National Guard Champion and named to the 2003 National Guard Marathon Team. Also named to the 2003 National Guard Marathon Team were Nixon, third in his age group among the guard runners, and Pritchett. White finished third in his age group and was named to the 2003 National Guard Masters Marathon Team. Studer finished second in his age group, but did not qualify for the Masters Team.

Members of the all Guard Team represent the National Guard at running events throughout the United States and overseas during the coming year. Several of these events include the Air Force Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon, and the Navy's Blue Angels Marathon. The four runners are proud of being selected to represent both the

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) recognizes the importance both physical conditioning and a good physical appearance play in recruiting young men and women into the Guard. Therefore, NGB along with the Nebraska National Guard conducted their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NGB Marathon Trials and Recruiting Workshop in conjunction with the Lincoln Marathon.



Spec. Mike Dudley

This event is an excellent venue for enhancing the visibility of the National Guard and for sharing recruiting information. It also allows guard athletes to compete against excellent athletes and for friendly bragging rights among the states. Bringing guard athletes together shows the communities the quality of soldiers and airmen we are looking for in our ranks.

The marathon is fun and a great recruiting tool for young people. The Guard offers many opportunities not



Spec. Mike Dudley takes the title of National Guard Marathon Man, while Senior Master Sgt. Max White is named to the National Guard Masters Marathon Team. Dudley, Lt. Nixon and Lt. Pritchett also qualified for the 2003 National Guard Marathon Team.

National Guard and Oregon in these prestigious events.

When the team presented the First Place Trophy to The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin thanked and congratulated the team members on their great performance. Burgin stated The dedication and professionalism these runners display truly sets the standard for others to emulate, not only in physical activities but in day-to-day business. Running a marathon requires a focus, good work ethic, training, physical and mental strength, preparation and dedication to a long-term goal. These are all attributes we look for in our soldiers, airmen, and civilian employees. The effort paid off for these runners and brings great pride to the Oregon National Guard.

everyone knows about. This is one of the activities more soldiers would participate in, if they just knew about it. There is a great sense of camaraderie among all of the runners. This is important, because over 26.2 miles everyone needs some encouragement along the route.

***The Oregon National Guard Running Team is looking for additional members. If you are interested in learning more about the Oregon Running Team call Col. Larry Studer at 503-557-5963, or you can email me at: larry.studer@or.ngb.army.mil.***

## World Class Athlete Program (WCAP)

**Bring up this regulation and check out the many opportunities.**

AR 215-1 addresses the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). This program offers world class caliber athletes the opportunity to train for national and international sports competitions leading to selection to United States national teams. The WCAP participation is limited to athletes who have attained a high national ranking in a sport or are otherwise recognized to have world class potential.

The following are minimum standards for consideration in running events.

Event	Time	
5,000 meter run	14:46 (men)	17:52 (women)
10,000 meter run	31:00	
Marathon	2:30.0	3:00.0

Interested athletes must complete an application and submit with supporting documents verifying dates and times through their chain of command.

# Oregon Air Guard Teams With Evergreen Aviation to Transport SR-71

By Maj. Donna Prigmore  
HQ, ORANG, Public Affairs Officer

Almost 30 years ago, Lockheed's SR-71 "Blackbird" set the world air speed record, flying from New York to London a distance of almost 3,500 miles in just under two hours.

Recently, an SR-71 made a 950 mile trip from Southern California to McMinnville, Oregon in 96 hours. But this time, it wasn't flying, and it wasn't all in one piece.

In late May, seven members from the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) headed to Edwards Air Force Base to load and haul the final segments (mainly the fuselage) of an SR-71 that is now officially on loan to Del Smith's Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

The fuselage, which arrived at the museum on May 4 after a four-night driving excursion led by ORANG volunteers, California Highway Patrol, and Oregon Incident Response personnel, met up with its original wings and engines, both of which were transported via the I-5 corridor last fall.

According to CMSgt. John Rasmussen, a member of the ORANG's 142nd Logistics Group (LG), the SR-71 logistical feat was an all-volunteer project involving members from the 142 LG and 142nd Communications Flight and heavy equipment donations from local businesses.

"The trucks were donated by the Diesel Service Unit and the trailers were donated by Extra Lease, both Portland-based companies," Rasmussen said.

"We work with both of these companies in our military jobs so we asked them to be involved," he continued.

Over the past few months, four trips were made (involving six truckloads) from Southern California to Oregon in order to move the SR-71 to McMinnville. The latest trip involved a tractor-trailer load that was 124 feet long (from the front of the truck to the end of the trailer), 23 feet wide, and weighing 22,000 pounds.

According to Rasmussen, this aviation-related logistics project was the fourth of its kind to be undertaken by volunteers of the 142 LG. He quickly admits, however, that this one was the longest load they've ever transported and the most complex to plan.

"The coordination was the hardest part since we were considered a 'superload,'" he explained. "We had to get permits in two states detailing when we would travel, where we would fuel, when and where we would pull over to sleep, etc."

Due to the size of the load, travel was only permitted along the I-5 corridor overnight; from 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. To expedite the journey, the haul was transported at an average speed of 60 mph.

"This was indeed a team project," Rasmussen said. "Everyone who participated brought something to it."

No one could have been happier with the ORANG's involvement than the people at Evergreen Aviation and their supporters, all of whom were on-hand to witness the tractor-trailer load as it participated in a special parade the day the SR-71 fuselage arrived in



Photo by SRA Ricky Best, 142CF/Multi-Media

Tech. Sgt. Leonard Pilger of the 142nd FW gives work crews a thumbs-up as the SR-71 fuselage is prepared for transport from Edwards AFB, Calif. to McMinnville, Ore.

McMinnville.

"We can't say thank you enough to the Air Guard," said Nicole Wahlberg, director of marketing and public relations at Evergreen Aviation. "The SR-71 is the 45th airplane in our inventory and we're very excited."

The museum houses the world's largest aircraft, the Spruce Goose. Made famous by Howard Hughes, the balsa wood behemoth has a wingspan the length of a football field including the end zones. The World War II-vintage aircraft was designed to transport troops and tanks overseas but only officially flew one time in November 1947.

"With the SR-71 soon to be unveiled, our museum will be home to the biggest and the fastest aircraft ever made

in the world," said Wahlberg. A special fundraiser was held on June 6, where the fully assembled SR-71 was unveiled. The airplane is now open to viewing by the general public. For more information, please call 503-434-4272, or visit the museum online at [www.sprucegoose.com](http://www.sprucegoose.com).

*This article was written with the support of the following Oregon Air National Guard members: CMSgt. John Rasmussen, MSgt. Rick Gravette, MSgt. Scotty Carpenter, MSgt. Cal Smith, TSgt. Leonard Pilger, SSgt. Maynard Hanson, SSgt. Michael Angst, MSgt. Laura Looney, SSgt. Greg Neuleib, SSgt. Nick Choy, SrA Ricky Best.*

## Victory Challenge Offers ARNG Referral Incentives

The Army National Guard recently unveiled a program designed to assist in making its FY03 end strength. This exciting program rewards unit members who refer leads that result in an enlistment into the Army National Guard between June 18, and November 30, 2003. There are two award levels - silver and gold - depending on the number of leads who enlist. Awards include a choice of Victory Challenge Coins, leather jackets, possible promotions, a US flag, which was flown over the Nation's Capitol building, plaques, and Army National Guard warm-up suits and shirts. Two big prizes, available to anyone who reaches the Gold Level by referring 5 leads, include a chance to attend Air Assault or Airborne School, and a NASCAR vacation in Las Vegas, where winners will represent the ARNG at trackside as well as attend a dinner with the race teams, and garage and pit passes. For more information on Operation Victory Challenge 2003, contact your unit Recruiting and Retention NCO.

## Governor Signs ESGR Proclamation



Photo by Major Arnold V. Strong, State Public Affairs Officer

Governor Ted Kulongoski signs a proclamation encouraging employer support for the members of the Guard and Reserves at his ceremonial office in May. Representatives from the branches of the military as well as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteers were on hand for this event.

## Normandy Paratroopers Speak at Combat Engineers' Validation Ceremony

Photo and story by  
Staff Sgt. John Driscoll  
Unit Public Affairs Representative

These paratroopers are great men not for what they did for themselves but for what they did for each other, said Capt. Shaun P. Martin, following an address given by 1st Lt. Buck Compton and Sgt. Donald Malarkey. The deeds done by Compton and Malarkey when they parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944 and during the months that followed are described in Stephen Ambrose's *Band of Brothers* and are portrayed in an HBO miniseries of the same name. Compton and Malarkey were keynote speakers at the ceremony the 1249th Engineer Battalion conducted three days prior to Memorial Day to commemorate the completion of its validation for deployment. The ceremony was organized by Lt. Col. William Schutz, commander of the 1249th engineer battalion.

It is a very special day for our soldiers to be able to complete validation for combat and to meet with



(L to R): Sgt. Donald Malarkey (Ret.), Capt. Shaun P. Martin, 1st Lt. Buck Compton (Ret.).

two American heroes of the Second World War, said Schutz. The soldiers of the 1249th sat transfixed while transfixed while Compton and Malarkey described their experiences. They spoke of the formation and training of Easy Company as well as its preparations in England prior to D-Day. After parachuting into Normandy, Easy Company fought across France, participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and then advanced into Germany where they took Hitler's Eagle's Nest Lair. By the war's end 72% of Easy Company had been severely wounded. All but four percent of the company's members were awarded purple hearts.

Malarkey has ties to Fort Lewis and the Pacific Northwest. He grew up in, and is still a resident of Astoria, Oregon. He reported to Fort Lewis after being inducted into the Army and prior to reporting for parachute training. Compton described Malarkey as the quintessential noncommissioned officer. He said that he fought the war by proxy through Malarkey and his other NCOs. They did what NCOs are supposed to do — they took charge — they never let me down — they were tough, said Compton. When the war ended Malarkey held Easy Company's record for the most consecutive days in combat. Malarkey was awarded a Bronze Star for his service alongside Compton on June 6, 1944 at Brecourt Manor.

Compton also has ties to the West Coast. Prior to World War II he was attending UCLA, where he competed in a Rose Bowl game and was also a member of the university's baseball



Sgt. Donald Malarkey (Ret.) signs a poster for Spc. 1st Class Troy Turner following the validation ceremony.

team. Malarkey described Compton as an outstanding officer. The assault lead by Compton on the guns at Brecourt Manor is still studied by military historians and professors. Compton led 13 soldiers who took out a four-gun battery of 105mm howitzers. The guns Compton destroyed were significantly interfering with the landing forces moving off Utah Beach on Causeway Number Two. Compton's 13-member team defeated 80 soldiers who were well dug in. His actions at Brecourt Manor were the subject of a recently delivered series of seven lectures at West Point on the assault. Compton said he had no recollections of his combat experience. For his deeds at Brecourt Manor, Compton was awarded a Silver Star.

When Martin met Compton and Malarkey two generations of airborne combat experience came together. Martin parachuted into Grenada with the 82nd Airborne, served in Panama,

and in Desert Storm with the 82nd Airborne.

The soldiers of the 1249th were deeply moved by Malarkey and Compton's low-key account of their experiences while serving with Easy Company. It was fantastic to see living history. It gave me a direct connection to events I had only read about — for some of our soldiers were dipping across two generations, said Maj. Alan W. Boaz, 1249th EN BN Chaplain.

What they did was extraordinary — they were so low key about it, said Sgt. Calvin Nickell, a mechanic assigned to the 1249th EN BN's headquarters company.

The 1249th Engineer Battalion, was called to federal service on March 15th, mobilized for Operation Enduring Freedom. Other Oregon Guard units are currently serving in Iraq. Last month the 1249th EN BN was reassigned to a homeland security missions as part of Operation Noble Eagle III.

## Oregon Guardmembers Help Festival Attendees Envision New Heights

Photos and Story by Spec. Luke Elliott, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Attachment

As an estimated two million people gathered over an 11-day period at Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park for the 2003 Portland Rose Festival, members of the Oregon National Guard spent that time helping people reach new heights on a Guard-sponsored rock climbing wall.

The mobile 25-foot wall in Downtown Portland, where climbers are protected by an automatic air-pressure belay, may not seem as exhilarating as free climbing the granite-faced playgrounds of Yosemite National Park, but for some this may be the first step to a new career and lifestyle with the Oregon National Guard.

It's important for today's young adults to learn about the many benefits the Guard has to offer, said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory N. Perez, recruiter and career counselor from the Oregon City Recruiting Office. It's not just about tanks and infantrymen, the Guard has a variety of other career fields that help people gain important knowledge and skills that will help them throughout life.

At least one career counselor was onsite every day at the festival to educate people interested in the Guard about the many educational and training benefits the organization offers. They spoke with interested parties, and offered assistance in designing programs that meet individuals' career goals and lifestyles. Moreover, Guardmembers like Perez can point out important benefits, be they education or training.

What we're doing out here isn't just about getting new recruits, it's about introducing the Guard and what we have to offer to the community.

Each weekday during the festival, about 300 people took the opportunity to meet the soldiers and test their own strength on the rock wall. On the weekend, these numbers jumped to about 500 people per day.

While only some of the climbers are interested in joining the Guard, we are helping the community get to know us and see we are people-friendly, said Perez. It's important for people to learn that Guard members are a part of their communities.



Sgt. Karl O. Wickstrom, cannon gunner for the 2nd Battalion, assists on the rock wall at Portland's 2003 Rose Festival in Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

According to Perez, most of these soldiers don't work fulltime for the Guard. Instead, they work in civilian jobs throughout the community. That's how they get the name *'Citizen Soldiers'*.

Pfc. Jenne R. Wagner, who attended the festival, is a member of the 241st Military Intelligence Company. Wagner, who works during the week as a waitress in the Portland area, is an example of this *'Citizen Soldier'*.

I think it's important to have the Guard out here at Rose Festival, said Wagner. If we don't make a conscious effort to show the public that we exist, then they will never know the sacrifices we make to protect our state and country.

# Letters From The Front



## ORARNG in Iraq

We are now in Mosul, Iraq. It was a quiet convoy from Kuwait, all the way to the northern part of Iraq. Driving through Bagdad, we saw some buildings that had been bombed and lots of Iraqi tanks that had been destroyed. Overcoming issues with the equipment was the largest task.



Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.



The mail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

**Capt. Marcus Williams**  
Commander, B-52 Engineers



It is very hot here and the temperatures will continue to climb for the next two months. The camp we are at in Iraq is not a safe place with gunfire outside the wire nightly. Fortunately, many of the rounds are fired in the air. We are always getting information that we will be attacked, so must be prepared. Convoy's are frequently engaged by sniper fire so this



is not a safe place and probably won't be for sometime yet. So far all 82 ROC personnel are doing fine and have a great attitude.

Tell all hello for me and know I'm looking forward to the day we come home (hopefully by December). Believe me, the USA is the greatest country on earth!

**Col. Charlie Yriarte**  
Commander, 82 ROC



## Oregon Air Guard Salutes Salem-Based Employer

By Maj. Donna Prigmore, Public Affairs Officer, HQ, ORANG

UPS Aviation Technologies (UPSAT), a subsidiary of United Parcel Service (UPS), received the Oregon Air National Guard's 2002 Employer of the Year Award on March 29 in Portland. The award was presented to John Macnabb, UPSAT's general manager, and Steve VanArsdale, director of manufacturing, during the ORANG's annual awards banquet.

Each year, drill status Guard or Reserve members in each state nominate civilian employers for this prestigious award for extra support their employers provide to citizen-soldiers' employees.

Master Sgt. Steve Fetters, a service technician for UPSAT and a member of the ORANG's 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, Ore., nominated his employer due to the tremendous support provided to him since being called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

According to Fetters, his entire chain of supervisors and many employees at UPSAT have gone to great lengths to demonstrate their support and have shown an overwhelmingly positive and understanding attitude toward his military commitments.

UPS Aviation Technologies has maintained my health insurance at no charge, offered financial assistance and

extended offers of support and help to my family as circumstances have arisen," explained Fetters. "I have received care packages during the holidays and Christmas cards signed by all the employees."

Fetters, who is UPSAT's only employee in the ORANG admits having his employer's full support is extremely important to him as it helps ease the worry factor. According to Fetters, he has been assured time and time again that he is missed and his job will be waiting for him when he returns from active duty.

"We are very anxious to get him (Fetters) back but we are also very patient," admitted Steve VanArsdale of UPSAT. "We all have things to do that we don't have control over, so we try to be as supportive as we can of him and his family."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Dyer

(L to R): Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Steve VanArsdale, John Macnab, MSgt. Steve Fetters (116 Air Control Squadron), and Brig. Gen. Wayne Green.

## 2-218th Fields New Knight Vehicle; Army's Newest Targeting System

By Maj. Robert C. Fraser, Jr.  
Public Affairs Officer, 2nd Battery, 218th Field Artillery

The Fire Support REDLEGS of the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion (2-218th FA) are training with the artillery's new fire support system, the M707 Knight System. The Battalion Commander of the 2-218th FA, Lt. Col. Donnilla McBride noted "This is a tremendous combat vehicle and the fire support soldiers are very excited about working with the new equipment."

Recently the 2-218th FA fielded the Knight System, one of the most modern targeting vehicles to support the combined arms commander of the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade (Enhanced). According to the National Guard Association of the US legislative fact sheet dated April 19, 2002; "The KNIGHT is a HMMWV-based targeting platform that acquires targets out to 10km with sufficient accuracy for Artillery fire missions; and designates moving targets to 3km and stationary targets to 5km for laser guided munitions."

The 2-218th field artillery 13F soldiers assigned to the teams are refining their fire support skills and getting used to the new Mission Training Plans (MTPs). KNIGHT Team Chiefs, Sgts. Don Ryan and Andrew Philpott have been spending their free time working out the bugs in the new system.

"We are working hard to ensure this system will do what Brigade Commander needs it to do," said Philpott. All members of the Fire Support Teams (FIST) will have the opportunity to get to work with and understand how the equipment works.

The Mission of the Knight System is to perform 24-hour surveillance, target acquisition and location, mission execution to support brigade operations, designate targets for Laser Guided Ordnance, coordinate and execute timely, accurate fires for units in contact. Several technological upgrades to this formidable targeting system will insure that the KNIGHT system has the mobility, survivability and signature equal or superior to the maneuver units it will support. This is a system that is here to stay.



HMMWV-based Knight targeting system provides US Army with lethal firepower and support.

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# Tactical Communications Prove Difficult

## ORANG Members Overcome Numerous Challenges in a Foreign Land

By Maj. Ken Barker and  
Tech. Sgt. Kirk Clear  
Squadron Public Affairs Office  
244th Combat Communications

Setting up secure tactical communications is normally a walk in the park for Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgts. Bruce Anderson and John Schmuhl. That is except when the air base is in desolate Afghanistan, where even simple tasks can be fraught with unwanted adventure.

Take laying cable in the ground, for example. Both said that they found bones from the Soviet-Afghan war every time they dug a hole or a trench. Such was life at Bagram Air Base in March, where a one-week mission can take a month. But if not for the skills and ingenuity of Anderson and Schmuhl, communications might have taken longer to establish.

The two are from the 224th Combat Communications Squadron. They were with the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at another deployed location in March when the 74th and its A-10 Thunderbolt IIs were sent to Bagram to provide close air support. Anderson

and Schmuhl were responsible for networking, phones and ground radio at the departing base. They were hand picked to set up communications for A-10s at Bagram but had no real picture of conditions there.

However, the adventure began before they even set foot in Afghanistan. Since their departing base couldn't support further forward deployment, especially communications support, Anderson and Schmuhl were forced to quickly improvise. "We had to beg, borrow and steal the networking and tactical phone equipment from other locations," said Schmuhl, the ground radio technician. "We had to take one radio from another location, scrounge the antennas, and repair another." They expected the original set-up would take just three to five days, but the mission lasted a month when delays and requests piled up.

Their first week included non-communications work, such as leveling ground, building wooden platforms for tents and setting up tents. Communications equipment then arrived six days late because pallets



Tech. Sgts. Bruce Anderson and Kirk Clear pose next to an Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram AFB.

onboard a transport plane were unloaded at a stopover point to make room for higher-priority equipment. Additional requests for radios, computer drops and phone lines for several other locations then added to the workload. Once communications equipment arrived, however, they filled initial requests within 48 hours.

Anderson and Schmuhl mapped-out a detailed communications plan for the

compound and used every bit of the equipment they brought with them. Other communications personnel from the 74th now maintain the equipment on a two-week rotational basis. Two-thirds of the communications unit includes Air Guardsmen from California, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington.

## Firefighting: A Real-World Mission

Continued from Pg. 1

Manager, while air operations are directed by an "Air Attack" Manager, who is normally a civilian. This person gives coordinates for "dip sites" where aircrews will fill their buckets and "drop sites" where the water will be dumped. Ground crews can also direct aircraft to drop sites.

The helicopters shuttle back and forth between the dip and drop sites until directed to change locations, or until fuel runs low. All refueling is done at the heli-base, where ground crews stand by to check the aircraft and do any needed maintenance. Aircrews take a short break, and fill up on some much needed drinking water, which is essential in the hot, dry climate.

"We normally go out early in the morning," adds Bennett. "Then we take a break mid-day, and go out again from 3 in the afternoon till around 8 at night."

Since flight operations only take place during the day, all aerial fire containment must happen before nightfall. Post-flight briefings are held at the end of every day, where crews can voice concerns or feedback about the day's operations. Aircrews then get a hot meal, a shower (if they're lucky), and some much needed rest. The following morning, an aviation briefing covers the previous day's events, along with feedback on any issues brought up during the previous day. Crews then report to their aircraft for another day of fighting fires.

Most aircrews work a 6-on, 1-off schedule until directed to another fire



Sgt. Rayna Quinn contemplates the beauty of the John Day Forest during a forest firefighting training mission.

base, or told to report back to their home base, normally after two weeks during a normal fire season, and sometimes after longer periods of time during a particularly busy season. However, all crews on rotation remain in a constant state of readiness throughout the entire fire season.

"It's a real-world mission," says Bennett. "It's something that leaves you with a feeling of accomplishment. It's very exciting, and it leads to some pretty good camaraderie among the crews."

But the toughest question to answer, according to Bennett?

"When will the fires end?" He says chuckling.

Special thanks to Capt. Sean Pierce of Det. 1-113th for his contribution to this article.

## Personnel Profile



## Pilot Reaches Milestone Flight

By Chief Warrant Officer Pete Davis  
HQ STARC, ORANG

December 23, 2002 will always be a special day for Chief Warrant Officer Michael C. Cataldo.

While flying over the skies of Saudi Arabia during TD Mission 126, "Mr. C" officially logged over 1000 flight hours in the UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter. Not bad for a flying career of 25 years and a total of over 8000 accident free hours flight time to date.

Accompanying him on the milestone flight were crewmembers Chief Warrant Officer Jacob Weber, and Sgt. Raymond Paterson. Passengers on board the helicopter were: Cpt. Leo Manahl, Staff Sgt. Chris Bill, Tech. Sgt.

Mike Serricchio, 2nd Lt. Dave Johnson, Saud Al-huraish (RSAF) and Lt. Col. Tom Walker (ER Doc).

It was a great late afternoon flight with light winds and visibility of fifteen miles. As the aircraft landed the sun was setting in the west ó the perfect time of the day to fly.

A ceremony at the operations trailer that marked the occasion included a card and a coin, lots of hand shakes and congratulations, a Budweiser (non-alcoholic) beer, and a lots of laughs.

Cataldo was among the last element of the 1042nd Medical Company to return from their deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Desert Spring and Iraqi Freedom.

# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Soldiers from the 1-162nd conduct an early-morning assault exercise at the Pinyon Canyon Training area near Fort Carson, CO. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Hovie



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Choy

## Oregon National Guard Invades Capitol

Onlookers flock to view the 1042nd's UH-60 "Firehawk", which was on display for the First Annual National Guard Appreciation Day, held at the state capitol in Salem, Ore., on June 27, 2003. Members of Oregon's Army and Air National Guard were on hand, displaying hardware, equipment, and answering questions. Legislators and officials were treated to a Bar-B-Que salmon luncheon on the capitol steps. Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, Brig. Gen. James Cunningham and other military dignitaries were in attendance.

## Guardmember "Hot" in Chili Cook-Off

Staff Sgt. Sean Wilson placed first in the Rogue Beer Chili Cook-Off with his entry, "Sean's Beer-Blazing Elk Chili", made with none other than...elk-meat. The contest was held on May 17, 2003 in downtown Portland's Pearl District, where Wilson competed against other contestants from throughout the state. Proceeds from the event went to the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund, which provides financial aid to families of deployed soldiers. "I had a blast," said Wilson. "It's not your ordinary thing you do for your country, but it was definitely fun." Wilson's involvement with the competition stems from an ongoing relationship with area businesses who promote the National Guard's involvement in community events such as the cook-off.



Photo by Staff Maj. Arnold Strong

## Win a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle

The Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund will raffle off a customized 2002 FLHTC Electra Glide Classic motorcycle. Some stock parts for the motorcycle, as well as some leather accessories will also be given to the winner along with the bike. Only 5000 tickets will be sold at \$5 each. Tickets can be purchased through KTVL-TV in Medford, D & S Cycles in Phoenix, Ore., or Sgt. Martha Garcia at Joint Headquarters (503-584-3939). Checks should be made payable to the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (ONGERF). The drawing will be held Aug. 30, 2003 at 4 p.m. at D & S Cycles where the bike is currently on display. KTVL-TV, Channel 10 (CBS affiliate in Medford) will broadcast the promotion.

The bike was donated by a Roseburg couple who wish to remain anonymous.

## Businesses Offer Military Discounts

The following are just a few area businesses and merchants that offer discounts to military members and their families. Valid military or dependent's ID is required to receive discounts.

Schuck's Auto Supply, Sears (10%, check your local store), Baxter's Auto, Thrifty Auto Supply, Kinko's (Free internet access), The RingSide Restaurant (Glendoveer), Dress Barn (15% at Woodburn & Mall 205), Eddie Bauer Apparel, Home or Outlet Stores; 20%, and BorderBooks (July 11-13; 20% off book purchases only).

If you know of other businesses offering discounts, or changes or corrections to the list, please contact Patti Helzer at the Family Center at (503) 557-5339, or via e-mail at:

[Patti.Helzer@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Patti.Helzer@or.ngb.army.mil)

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