

In this issue...

National Guard Soldiers find GOLD in Central Oregon, pg. 4

Oregon Sentinel

OF THE
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

ChalleNGing Oregon's Youth

Oregon National Guard helps build a better Oregon one youth at a time

REDMOND, Ore. – On a brisk, snow-covered winter morning in Central Oregon there was a lot to celebrate. The Oregon Youth Challenge Program graduated 114 cadets in a ceremony on Dec. 14.

Hundreds of proud family and friends armed with cameras and video recorders gathered under one roof at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds for the graduation of Class 30. The ceremony was complete with drill team entertainment and a video screen plugging testimonials and success stories of the award winning program.

The Youth Challenge Program is a public alternative high school run by the Oregon National Guard, where teens who are at risk of failing high school can achieve academic success. The program is guided by military principles, structure and discipline.

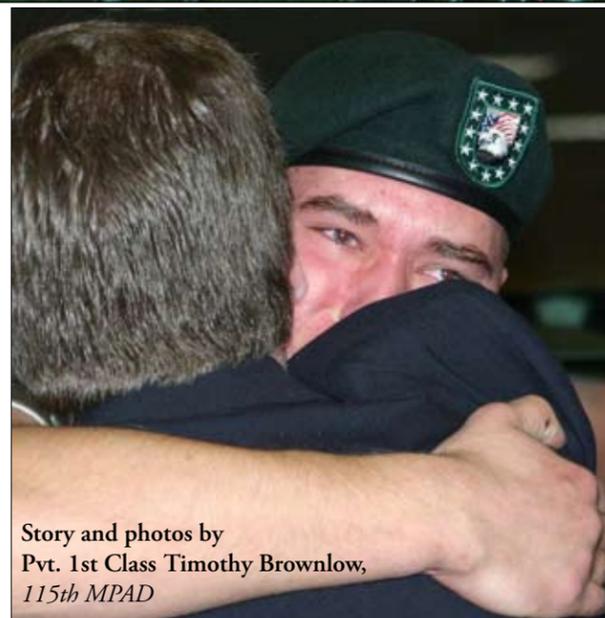
Students enrolled in the program have usually been suspended from high school, dropped out of high school, or have special education needs. Typical grade point averages between program enrollees is about 1.18. The cadets range in age from 16 to 18, and come from 51 high schools throughout 22 counties within Oregon. Although the cadets have very different backgrounds, they have one thing in common — according to their families they are not acting like themselves.

“She lost herself, and I couldn’t find her,” explained Carmen Drake,

See **Program** on page 6

Above: Cadets from the Oregon Youth Challenge Program Class 30 bow their heads in a moment of silence for class valedictorian Gwendolyn Lindsay-Bradley, who was killed in an auto accident just two weeks before the graduation ceremony.

Right: An Oregon Youth Challenge Program graduate embraces a family member after the graduation ceremony. Founded in 1993, the Oregon Youth Challenge Program, offers troubled teens the opportunity to get their lives back on track and to achieve academic success. For many Oregon teens, the program is seen as their last chance to set things right.



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

3-116 Soldiers assist civilians during Tacoma Mall shoot-out

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

TACOMA, Wash. – Staff Sgt. John Palmer had not even been back from Iraq for a week when he found himself diving for cover amidst the crack of small weapons fire.

The fact that he was he was in a suburban shopping mall made the scene all the more surreal.

“I was probably 150 feet from where the shooter was when I first heard the gunshots,” said Palmer.

Palmer had just returned to the Northwest, after having been deployed to Iraq with the Oregon National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry. The unit had seen some intense firefighting with insurgents, and braved IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) while stationed in Kirkuk in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Palmer had resigned from a full-time AGR position in early 2005 in order to volunteer for the Iraq mission.

But Palmer was no longer in a war zone. He was, in fact, enjoying his day off with other holiday shoppers at the Tacoma Mall on Nov. 20.

“I remember hitting the floor, then listening to what I thought was a rifle — but I remembered that I was in a mall. It didn’t make sense — that’s what was so crazy about it.”

What Palmer, and most of the other shop-



Staff Sgt. John Palmer near Kirkuk in Iraq.

pers in the mall that morning weren’t aware of, was that Dominick S. Maldonado, 20, of Pierce County, Wash., was on a shooting spree.

Court records later showed Maldonado had an extensive juvenile criminal history dating back to 1998. He had been convicted of burglary, theft and possession of burglary tools. Furthermore, records indicated he had been ordered by a judge not to possess any weapons.

People would later learn about a chilling warning Maldonado would leave with 9-1-1 dispatchers, telling them he was about to start shooting. When asked by officials where he was, he responded, “Just follow

See **Palmer** on page 5

Oregon Guard wins Governor’s Gold Award

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, State Public Affairs Office

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon National Guard received a Governor’s Gold Award on Dec. 1 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Hotel in recognition for extraordinary public service and achievement to the state.

The Gold Awards event is an annual dinner hosted by the Oregon Governor to benefit Special Olympics of Oregon. Every year the Governor awards businesses, public and civic leaders, organizations, communities, and citizens who have contributed to the state.

“Tonight is about honoring Oregon’s best, brightest, and most honorable citizens who give back to our communities each and every day and who are an inspiration to us all,” said Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, and 20 representatives from the Oregon National Guard were welcomed to the stage with a thunderous standing ovation from the audience. General Rees accepted the Gold Award from Governor Kulongoski on behalf of more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen that are currently serving in Oregon’s militia.

“On behalf of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard, please accept our sincere appreciation for our recognition through your Gold Award,” said Rees.

This year, Kulongoski chose the Oregon Guard as one of the Gold Award recipients for the category of individuals serving in the public sector. The Guard met the criteria for this award by having an overall honorable reputation, being well-respected as a public servant, having a large impact on Oregon through contributions and service, and achieving extraordinary accomplishments.

Kulongoski cited the Oregon Guard fighting forest fires in Central Oregon and the mobilization of nearly 2,000 troops within 72 hours for hurricane relief efforts as exemplary service to the state and nation.

“These Oregonians step forward and serve our country wherever and whenever they are asked,” said Kulongoski. “Their role in our national defense system and our natural disaster response system has only grown more important over the last several years, and those who represent Oregon in the National Guard represent some of the best that not only our state, but that our nation has to offer.”

The Guard was one of five recipients of the 2005 Governor’s Gold Awards along with Intel Corporation; Gert Boyle, CEO of Columbia Sportswear; Sue Shafer, Chair of Cow Creek Tribes; and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival. All of the award recipients were given a bronze replica of the Oregon Pioneer statue standing atop the Oregon Capitol Building and the Governor’s 24 karate solid gold medallion.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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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, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the Oregon Sentinel staff members listed below.

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Governor Kulongoski's Holiday Message

The holiday season is a time to reflect on our blessings and give thanks for what we have. When I reflect on our state, I know that I am very proud you — the men and women of the Armed Forces -- and I am truly thankful for the work that you are doing.

Whether serving abroad or helping to keep us safe at home, Oregonians depend on you, appreciate your hard work and the sacrifices you are making... and so do I.

On behalf of the Adjutant General of Oregon, Raymond Rees, and Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis, I would like to wish each of you a very happy holiday season. All Oregonians join me in saying... may you be safe, healthy and happy, and may you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Happy Holidays!




Governor and Adjutant General of Louisiana thankful to Oregon Guard

Dear Governor Kulongoski,

Thank you! I thank you, and the citizens of Louisiana thank you and the members of your Guard for the extraordinary response to the largest natural disaster this nation has ever experienced.

As the stories are all sorted out, and truth prevails over fiction, the National Guard response will stand tall. As part of our first responders, thousands of Soldiers and Airmen of the Guard were at work saving lives, feeding and evacuating people, and creating a strong local law presence. They worked side by side with our state and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, wildlife and fisheries agents, the Coast Guard, emergency medical personnel, and ordinary citizen rescuers.

We received outstanding people from Oregon. Our citizens love them and respect them all. We recognized that they left families and jobs behind to come to our assistance and we deeply appreciate their sacrifices.

On behalf of a grateful state, I thank you for being there in our time of need. We deeply appreciate the service you are giving to Louisiana and its citizens.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco,
Governor of Louisiana

Dear General Rees,

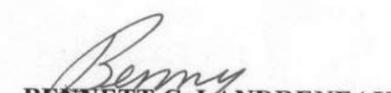
As we draw to the close of one of the most historic years in our National Guard's history, we are reminded that the holiday season brings a message of hope and is a time of reflection and joyous celebration that brings together communities, families and friends.

There are communities around Louisiana who have suffered great losses in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and this holiday season will be quite different for them. However, because of the unselfish service and sacrifice of all our Soldiers and Airmen, the citizens of Louisiana have begun to rebuild their lives.

On behalf of the citizens of Louisiana and the members of the Louisiana National Guard, I would like to thank you for your support and extend our best wishes for a holiday season filled with peace and happiness.

God Bless America!

Sincerely,



BENNETT C. LANDRENEAU
Major General, LAARNG
The Adjutant General

Oregon Guard's banner year sets new standard of excellence for 2006



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

The New Year is a time for reflection and renewal. I had that opportunity on December 1, 2005, when I received the Governor's Gold Award on your behalf. There was a spontaneous five-minute standing ovation by 600 people for your service. As I look at the events and accomplishments of 2005, I am proud of what we've achieved. I am also very optimistic about what 2006 holds in store for us.

Last year was one of the busiest in our history. At the peak of our deployments, we had more than 1,600 Soldiers and Airmen on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, or at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This is the highest deployment level for the Oregon National Guard since World War II. You performed your duty superbly and conducted yourselves with the highest degree of professionalism at every turn. I am proud of what you accomplished overseas.

I am equally proud of what we accomplished here on the home front. Nearly 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen deployed to New Orleans, rescuing hundreds and assisting the evacuation of thousands in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Thanks to the diligence and commitment of our Airmen, the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland survived the efforts of the DoD to shut down the F-15 alert mission under Base Realignment and Closure. Dozens of people were rescued by the unsung heroes of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance).

Even with all this going on, we somehow managed to begin our work to reorganize and realign our Army resources for the Transformation process.

Indeed, we have much to be proud of in 2005. Next year holds even more opportunities for us. As many of our Soldiers return to the state, we will simultaneously deploy the 41st Brigade Combat Team for the Afghan National Army mission. This critical duty will develop the professional corps of the fledgling army in Afghanistan, enabling them to take greater responsibility for the security of their nation and to prevent it from ever again serving as a safe haven for terrorists.

Furthermore, we will continue our Army Transformation. Though there are challenges to overcome. Transformation also gives us new missions and opportunities. There are new MOS positions that will bring skills and benefits to both Soldiers and the state. There are expanding opportunities for women.

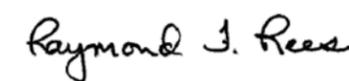
To capitalize on these new opportunities, it's essential we bring in the right people. We are known throughout the world for the high-caliber and professionalism of our ranks. We must sustain that reputation, not for the sake of ego, but for the sake of readi-

ness. When we are needed we are there, and we get the job done right. I am very pleased with the success of our recruiters. Both the Army and the Air have dramatically exceeded retention and recruiting missions. But at the heart of getting it right, the only way we fill the ranks with the people we want is through you.

To ensure we sustain our professional force, we are implementing a new program called 2-STAR (Strength Target Assistance Recognition). Through the 2-STAR program, we will recognize Army and Air Guard members, both uniformed and civilian, who refer leads to a recruiter. If that lead enlists, the person who found the lead will receive the Basic Award and letter of appreciation from the Recruiting and Retention Commander. A second referral that enlists earns the Senior Award and a letter from the Chief of Staff. A third referral enlisting earns the Master Award, the recruiting ribbon and letter from me.

I encourage you all to be an active participant in the 2-STAR program. After all, if you want to work with the best, we need you to help us find them.

Last year was a banner year for the Oregon National Guard. At every turn you faced adversity with courage and commitment. You conquered challenges with confidence and competence. Our families and communities stood behind us with unfailing dedication. Let us continue our record of outstanding service into 2006.



Raymond F. Rees,
Major General, The Adjutant General,
Oregon National Guard

Symposium is a time to take stock of Air National Guard accomplishments, look to our future



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

The enlisted members of the Air National Guard held a Joint Enlisted Leadership Symposium in San Antonio, Texas from November 13 - 17. The symposium consisted of critical issues facing the future of our great organization. I attended this meeting, along with Chief Master Sgt. Peter Gleason (173rd FW/CCM); Chief Master Sgt. Erin Parks (142FW/CCM); Master Sgt. Marsha Beardslee (173rd FW/HRA); and Senior Airman John Lockheed (270th ATCS).

Previous symposiums have focused on BRAC, VANGUARD, transformation and relevance — all issues we were going to face in the near future. Well, these issues are now here — so the symposium theme this year was “The Future is Here”. We focused on the leadership needed in the challenges to balance our Federal and State missions and ensure that the Air National Guard continues to be Ready, Reliable, and Relevant. This Joint Symposium included Command Chief Master Sergeants, Human Resource Advisors, First Sergeants and Enlisted members from Airman Basic through Chief Master Sergeants. Approximately 750 enlisted members throughout the United States attended this symposium.

This symposium was very educational and informative. It was based on leadership and how as leaders today, we are paving the way for our future leaders. We had some outstanding speakers this year (I would have loved to bring them all back to Oregon so you all could share in the experience we

had). They consisted of Brig. Gen. Charles Ickes, Deputy Director, ANG; Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, CCM, Ohio ANG; Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, Eric W. Benken, 12th Command Chief of the Air Force; Mr. Clebe McClary, Marine Purple Heart recipient; Mr. Tim Dannelly; Mr. Dale Henry; and Mr. Dave Pelzer. All were excellent speakers and told of their leadership experiences and how we could become better leaders and what we need to do to mentor the future leaders of the Air National Guard.

At full strength the Air National Guard is comprised of 106,800 members. Over 80 percent of these members are enlisted. With these kinds of numbers, we definitely do have a voice in the way we structure the future of the Air National Guard. As ANG leaders, we are setting the future in motion for our junior enlisted. We are paving the way for our future leaders, and now it is our responsibility that they get the proper education and guidance to take them in to future leadership roles.

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Gadd, HRA, Ohio ANG, talked about the new mentoring program being established by the Air National Guard. Mentoring does not mean just getting your replacement ready to take over your position. Mentoring is helping those that want to go that extra mile to succeed in their future plans or goals in the guard. It could be as small as helping a subordinate write a paper for a class, or as big as helping someone succeed in our current or future leadership roles.

I want to emphasize how important Leadership Symposiums like this are. I know the group of individuals that went with me got a lot out of this session. We develop our leaders with the help of training like this and I encourage you to get with your commanders and stress the importance of this kind of training. For our junior enlisted I encourage you to seek out a mentor to help you seek those leadership roles that will take you and the Air National Guard into the future. As senior leaders, you should be encouraging your junior enlisted to further educate themselves through, College courses, PME, and educational training symposiums. We are in positions to mentor our junior force into leadership roles, take some time out of your busy week and help someone seeking to improve themselves. Remember, they are the future leaders of the Air National

Guard.

While at the symposium we had the pleasure of recognizing the outstanding Airmen of the Year. Our own Senior Airman John A. Lockheed from the 270th ATCS in Klamath Falls, Ore. was awarded the ANG Airman of the Year and the United States Air Force 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year.

Master Sgt. Frank W. Cook from the 184th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas ANG, was the ANG Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Ellen D. Osborne from the 145th Operations Group, South Carolina ANG, was the ANG Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year; Master Sgt. Daniel E. Rebstock, Sr., from the Southeast Air Defense Sector, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., was the ANG First Sergeant of the Year; Master Sgt. Donald G. Newlin, Sr., from the 108th Air Refueling Wing, New Jersey ANG, was the ANG Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year; and Tech. Sgt. Carmen K. Beck, of the 110th Communications Flight, Michigan ANG, was the ANG Honor Guard Member of the Year. All of these individuals have formed quite a bond with one another and have been representing the Air National Guard at many public and military functions throughout the year.

We finished the symposium with the Order of the Sword for Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. This award is given to individuals that have been nominated by the enlisted force for their contributions to the enlisted force throughout their career. If you have never been to such an event, and you have the opportunity to attend an Order of the Sword (and this was my first) it is an awesome ceremony. This award went to a very deserving individual. If any of you have had the opportunity to meet Lt. Gen. James, you know that he very much respects and supports the enlisted force of the Air National Guard.

I am going to take a wild guess that most of the enlisted force (and the officer force) have never seen or read the Creed of the Enlisted Corps. Considering the message that this year's symposium sent out I thought this was appropriate to put into this article. So I am going to close with the creed. I wish you all the best in your leadership roles and your future roles as leaders in the Oregon National Guard.

Creed of the Enlisted Corps

No one is more professional than I. I am a member of the Enlisted Corps, a leader. As an Enlisted Member, I realize that I am a member of a time-honored corps, which is known as “The Backbone of the Armed Forces”.

I am proud of the Corps of Enlisted Members and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my Country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my word-accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my people. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as an Enlisted member. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All guard members are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my fellow enlisted members and I will always place needs above my own I will communicate consistently with those appointed under me and to those I report to and never leave them uniformed. I will be fair and impartial when tasked with recommending both rewards and punishments.

Officers of my unit have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of enlisted members in my unit. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve, seniors, peers and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity or my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, we are leaders, we are the National Guard Enlisted Corps.

To all members of the Oregon National Guard, I hope your holidays were safe and joyous. There are a lot of challenges facing us this year. All of our organizations throughout the state are going to be extremely busy, and they all need your help and cooperation to make it a successful year. Thanks for all your help and dedication this past year. It was greatly appreciated. Your ‘can-do’ attitude brought us through last year and it will take us into and through this New Year. We will not fail; we are the Oregon National Guard.

Soldiers responsible for updating their records with Army's new electronic system



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

Tis the season...

No, I'm not talking about the holidays — beginning the first of the year, the NCO promotion board cycle will begin.

There are some things that have changed regarding NCO promotions, and all NCOs considering promotion to the next rank need to be aware of what is required of them. What has changed? All Soldiers' 201 files have been converted to an electronic format called iPERMS. The Army's intention was to stop filing and storing mountains of paper and give the Soldier the opportunity and responsibility to monitor their own records. The Army will e-file it, give a paper copy to the Soldier so he or she can check to see if it was filed. This is much better than the Soldier finding out much later that a docu-

ment never went in the file.

Anything that was part of your official record was supposed to be entered — your insurance form, orders, 1059s, NCOERs, awards, electronic version of the 2-1, legal actions, and a few other things. The conversion process eliminated a number of documents that had been stored in the individual 201 files. Letters of recognition, miscellaneous training records, unofficial awards (non military), and a lot of stuff that accumulated over time were not recorded in the new electronic format. All the hard copy items will eventually be returned to the Soldier — even items that were not filed. Unfortunately, the process was and is not perfect and there are instances of important records not crossing over to the electronic format.

What Soldiers need to do now, is log onto AKO, follow the iPERMS link, and check to make sure your individual records are complete. Make sure the following are included in your file: your basic contract/oath of enlistment, MOS orders, and 1059s from any schools you have been to, promotion and transfer orders, insurance form, awards and decorations, and a 2-1. If you have been an NCO for over one year, you should also have an NCOER for every year you have been an NCO.

Why is this important? Because the promotion boards will no longer have a paper copy of your file. They will only have what is in the electronic copy. Since it is now the Soldier's responsibility to monitor their own records, if your file doesn't have all the records it should, your chances of getting promoted may be compromised.

What do you need to do if the records

are not all there? Contact your unit and let them know. Everyone should keep a personal copy of any promotion orders, course completions, awards and decorations, MOS awards, transfers, enlistments. Be prepared to resubmit them through your unit and then check to make sure they get to iPERMS.

When do you need to have this done by?

If you are eligible for E-8 or E-9 you need to have checked your records and updated any missing items by the first week in January. If you are eligible for E-6 or E-7 you need to have it done by the first week in February. E-3 through E-5 should check now for completeness, and review regularly though the year.

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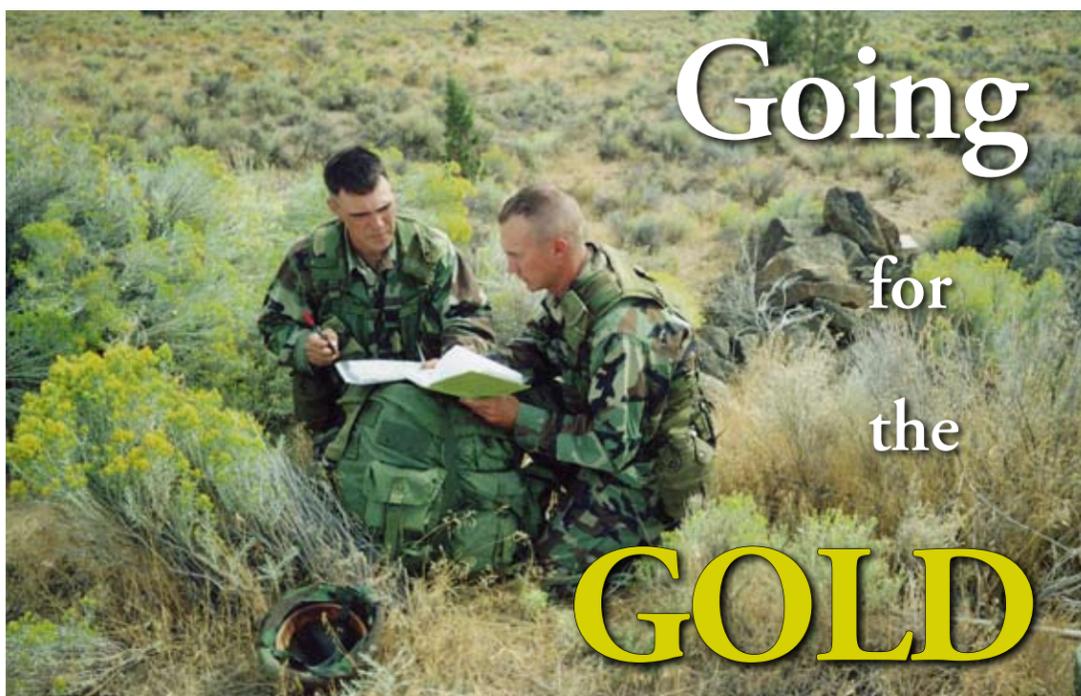
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The Oregon Sentinel

c/o: Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy: nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us

Stories must be submitted in Microsoft Word files, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPG files, and must have an accompanying caption (also in MS Word) explaining what is happening in the picture, as well as the rank, full name, and unit of the person(s) depicted. Submissions for Letters to the Editor and Letters From The Front are preferred.

Unique National Guard program offers Officer Candidates with an alternative



Going for the GOLD

Left: Officer Candidates (OCs) Steven Housden (l.) and Jamie Roscoe (r.) plan their next mission during a Field Leadership Exercise at the Biak Training Center.

Right: Officer Candidates at the GOLD program tackle the ROPES course during their October drill.

Below right: Officer Candidate Roscoe receives some 'reinforcement training' during his stint at the Cascade GOLD Program.

Below left: An Officer Candidate at the GOLD program defies gravity during the ROPES course.

Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Scott Haynes.



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

For Oregon National Guard Soldiers in Central Oregon thinking about becoming an officer, Lt. Col. Scott Haynes has the perfect program in mind.

The Cascade GOLD (Guard Officer Leadership Development) Program, based at the Oregon State University Cascade Campus in Bend, Ore., is the newest addition to the Oregon National Guard's statewide GOLD Program.

"It combines all the benefits of the Guard with the ability to pursue a college degree," said Haynes. "It's like a one-stop shop for students looking to advance their military and civilian life."

Haynes, a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, and a professor of military science for the Cascade GOLD Program feels Oregon leads the way in training their officer corps.

"We absolutely lead the way," Haynes says. "Soldiers today are extremely busy with their careers, family, school, and this is another opportunity to pursue a commission. While the traditional program is great, the GOLD Program offers greater flexibility for those who are going to school, juggling a job and family and everything else."

Maj. Laura Garren, executive officer for the Regional Training Institute's (RTI) Oregon Military Academy, agreed that Oregon is a pioneer when it comes to officer candidate training.

"Oregon is the only state out all 54 states and territories that has a GOLD Program," said Garren.

Garren said the GOLD Program was originally designed as an alternative to the traditional Officer Candidate School for members of the Oregon National Guard.

The GOLD Program differs from traditional Officer Candidate School, not so much in what is taught, but how it is taught, where it is taught, and by whom.

Traditional OCS programs are taught at the RTI in Monmouth, Ore. through a curriculum dictated by the Infantry School in Fort Benning, Ga. The RTI resides on the campus of Western Oregon State University, and is part of the Oregon Military Academy. Classes are held there on drill weekends.

The GOLD Program students receive the same instruction, but they attend these Military Science classes during the regular school week, much like the way ROTC is taught in universities.

"In a lot of ways, the GOLD Program not only offers greater flexibility, but it's also a matter of proximity," says Haynes. "The Soldiers get better training because they don't have to spend time traveling across the state to get that training."

The Cascade Program in Bend is now one of four locations throughout the state offering GOLD Programs. There are GOLD Programs at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, and Portland State University.

"It's a great program with great instructors and mentors," Officer Candidate Jamie J. Roscoe says. "I would encourage all my Soldiers to attend if they're interested."

During their freshman year in college, students can take a 100-level Military Science class known as MS100. The following year, an MS200 course is offered. Both the 100 and 200-level courses are offered to all students, regardless if they are in the National Guard or not. The program attracts not only current members of the National Guard and civilians alike, but former Active Duty Soldiers as well.

Officer Candidate Steven L. Housden served just under three years as a member of the 1st Airborne Division. According to Housden, several of his fellow Active Duty Soldiers recommended he attend OCS. After initially looking into the OCS



program, a conversation with an Oregon Guard recruiter helped steer him toward the GOLD Program.

"This program builds on everything I learned as an enlisted Soldier," Housden says. "I think it develops better Soldiers in the long run, and teaches us everything we need to know to be great leaders."

Toward the end of their sophomore year, civilian students must decide if they want to stick with the program, as only guardsmen may enroll in 300-level courses and above. Students who decide to enlist in the Oregon Army National Guard not only advance to MS300 during their junior year, but also attend Phase I of the Officer Candidate School during the summer between their sophomore and junior year. This instruction takes place at Fort Mead, South Dakota, and is attended by students from across the country.

"There's so many aspects of daily military command and operations taught in the program," Roscoe says. "It's an intensive program which is much better than a traditional commissioning program."

Junior year is known as Phase II, and is taught back in Bend, Ore. The 300-level courses focus on areas such as Tactics, Combat Service Support, Leadership, Military Intelligence, and a myriad of other courses which prepares the students for leadership roles in the military. What's more, according to students who have gone through the program, the curriculum applies mentorship — a fundamental of military training — in every day instruction, in, and out of the classroom.

"We're at the campus at least twice a week in uniform, maintaining our military appearance and standards," Housden says.

"We try to instill these values in the students coming up behind us."

Phase III is conducted during the summer between students' junior and senior terms at Fort Lewis, Wash., over a two-week period. Upon completing this phase, candidates become eligible to become commissioned officers in the Oregon Army National Guard. The final step in their process to becoming officers in the Oregon Army National Guard is a graduation/commissioning ceremony held at the RTI in Monmouth, Ore., on the Western Oregon State University campus. All officer candidates, regardless of having attended the GOLD or traditional programs, go through Phases I and III, and graduation together.

According to those who attend the program, the effects are life-altering and far-reaching.

"This program effects your civilian life as well as your military life," says Housden. "You seem to take better care of your appearance, you watch your language a little closer. I've even noticed I press my uniforms a bit better and get hair cuts every two weeks instead of every month."

"The GOLD Program gives us the ability to teach, coach, and mentor these students," says Haynes. "These guys are here almost on a daily basis. That's a luxury that the traditional program doesn't have."

"Like any investment, you need some kind of return," adds Roscoe. "But with this program, the payback is as much as you want it to be."

For more information on becoming a commissioned officer contact a local recruiter or the RTI at 503-838-8585 to identify a training program that works best for you.



The Other Side of War

ORANG Chaplain spends four months offering solace to Soldiers wounded in Iraq



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Ron Prorise

Lt. Col. Ron Prorise, far left, comforts a wounded soldier at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Story by Paul Fattig,
Mail Tribune
Reprinted with permission

Iraq war veteran Ron Prorise never saw bloody combat during his short tour in the Middle East in 2003. But he now knows firsthand the faces of wounded young Soldiers grimacing in physical and mental anguish.

For the past four months, the Oregon Air National Guard chaplain from Medford, Ore. counseled severely wounded American soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near the Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He returned home Dec. 1.

"It was the other side of war for me," said Lt. Col. Prorise, 47, chaplain with the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing based in Klamath Falls.

"To be there in Iraq was one thing, then to see our wounded soldiers coming back was another," he said.

Consider the young National Guard sol-

dier from Texas named Andy.

His military truck hit a roadside bomb, known in military parlance as an improvised explosive device.

"The female soldier with him, her head was blown off," Prorise said. "Andy had shrapnel in his legs and in his groin. He had wounds to both body and soul, primarily the latter.

"He had these vivid memories in his mind of the people he knew and worked with," he added. "In an instant, to have them taken away like that was tough."

Then there is the indelible memory of Jamie, a young guardsman from Tennessee.

"He was three feet away from a car bomb when it went off," Prorise said.

"He said it was God that protected him. He had some superficial burns to his face and other injuries."

But Jamie told Prorise one of the greatest fears he had faced in Iraq was that one day, he might be forced to choose between his life and that of a child carrying a grenade. Insurgents have been paying children to

lob grenades at American troops, Prorise explained.

"They are faced with a difficult decision whether they should take down this child, shoot this child," he said. "He said he was so thankful he never faced that. It is one of the huge moral issues our troops are going through."

Others include shooting a car bomber who may not know his vehicle contains a bomb, he said. Insurgents also have forced suicide car bombers into service by threatening their families.

"There are horrific decisions they have to make over there," he said.

Prorise is no stranger to counseling Iraq war veterans. When members of the local Guard contingent returned from Iraq earlier this year, he was there for them.

"It's tricky because they just want to be back home — they don't want to go through it again by talking about it," he said. "We found it was good to give a little counseling on re-entry, then follow that up about 30 days later, then 60 days or so."

A combat veteran doesn't leave the other side of the war behind when he leaves the battlefield, Prorise said.

"I was talking with one sergeant from here who said they are dealing with not being able to sleep, with drinking problems, with nightmares," he said.

Prorise served three months in Iraq beginning in spring 2003. He was initially scheduled to serve as a chaplain, but ended up working as the deputy senior adviser for the ministry of public education.

Although he saw no combat, he took numerous trips into hostile territory to distribute salaries to Iraqi teachers and administrators, providing oversight on the educational staff. He also served as a chaplain at the joint operations center in Baghdad.

For his work, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious performance.

At the hospital in Landstuhl, Prorise was one of two Guard chaplains, including a fellow Protestant and a Catholic. Chaplains for the other military services were also on hand.

The chaplains would greet the wounded as they were brought in from the airport after having been flown from the war zone.

"We greeted them by first name," he said. "I would introduce myself, tell them we



Photo courtesy of 173rd Fighter Wing Multimedia Lt. Col. Ron Prorise.

were going to take good care of them here and that I was praying for them."

The point, he said, was to reassure them they weren't a nameless face.

"Typically, our soldiers are experiencing tremendous guilt," he said.

"They have guilt for being spared, guilt that they couldn't have done more to save their buddies. And they had guilt that they weren't back there in Iraq.

"As chaplains, it was our jobs to help them work through that unreasonable guilt. We let them know it was a normal reaction to a very unusual circumstance."

From his perspective, morale is still relatively high.

"Agree or disagree with the war, they see this as their mission," he said. "They see this as their job."

In essence, they feel they are responsible for watching out for their buddies, he said.

Prorise knows about the pride that builds up in a military unit. From 1984 through 1987, he was an enlisted soldier with the Army's 82nd Airborne Division stateside.

The second to the last week he was at Landstuhl, he saw soldiers with burns covering 75 percent of their bodies.

"You can get compassion fatigue — it takes a toll on staff, the doctors, the nurses, everyone," he said. "It was hard on all of us."

Palmer: Being a Soldier doesn't just happen on the battlefield

Continued from FRONT PAGE

the screams."

Before the day was over, he would wound six people, face 12 separate felonies, and bring the city of Tacoma to the brutal realization that their town was now a statistic.

Palmer, 28, a resident of Grants Pass, Ore., who, at the time of the incident was staying at Fort Lewis, Wash. undergoing standard demobilization and SRP, worked his way toward the sound of the gunfire, all the while instructing civilians to take cover and to exit the mall toward the direction he had just come from.

"I moved out into the center section of the mall where some people were hiding," Palmer said. "I told them to move in my direction, as it was a safe area."

Palmer then moved down the main corridor in the mall — a distance of about 60 feet. He made his way to a kiosk (see inset), where he recognized two other Soldiers who were from the 116th Brigade Combat Team, Idaho Army National Guard — Spc. Christopher G. Trout, and Spc. Jason T. Mittleider.

"He [Palmer] gave us a brief SITREP (situational report), and we decided to stay in the mall and help guide civilians out of the 'kill zone'," Mittleider said.

The Soldiers moved east, helping guide about a dozen shoppers out of the mall, all the while conducting sweeps to find other civilians who were hiding in storefronts. The trio soon spotted a civilian carrying a Glock-45 handgun. They took cover in a nearby storefront, thinking this may be the shooter. The man soon identified himself as an off-duty Bellview Police Officer. A mall

security guard also appeared, and the pair told the Soldiers to evacuate the mall.

The Soldiers moved west — back in the direction they had come from, finding terrified civilians hiding in corners and in storefronts along the way. They came across two men standing in the middle of the mall.

"I yelled at them to get out of the middle of the walkway and to get the women and kids out," Trout said.

The three Soldiers worked their way back toward the mall's west entrance, and came across an elderly man laying face-down on the floor.

"His leather jacket had an entry and exit hole," Palmer said. "So we picked him up and moved him to a safe area."

The man they found was Frank Stiles, age 68, who is a retired air traffic controller. Minutes before, Stiles was minding his own business, strolling through the mall.

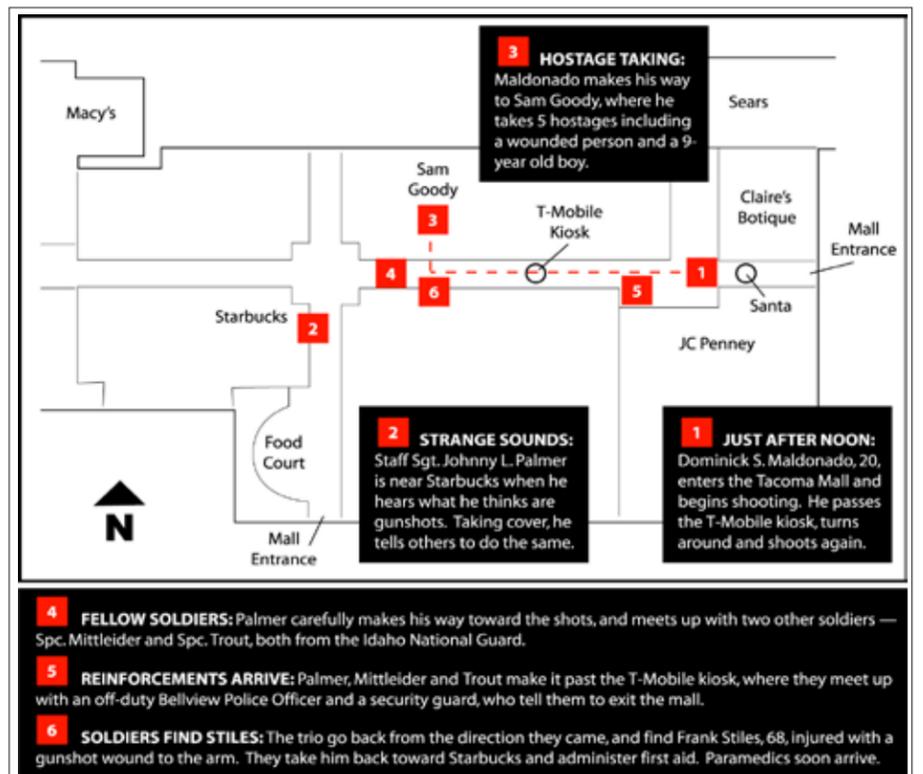
"Once the shooting started, I recognized it for what it was," said Stiles, a former hunter and one-time military member. "I started for the deck, and I was hit in the upper arm as I went down."

"I told the other Soldiers to grab a chair... we put him in it, and removed his jacket and cut his shirt to expose the wound," Palmer said. "It was a clean exit wound with minimal blood so we started administering first aid, and asked him his name, and tried to calm him down."

"I ran to a nearby athletic store and made the clerk pass me a t-shirt through the drop gate," said Mittleider. "We used it as a dressing for the man's wound," he said.

Paramedics soon arrived, and took over where the Soldiers left off.

The Soldiers soon left the mall, and Palmer followed the ambulance to Allen-



more Hospital, where Stiles was treated and released. Palmer exchanged phone numbers with Stiles, and was introduced to his wife Diane.

"It was good to see him up and moving around," Palmer said of Stiles.

"That man did himself proud," Stiles responded, referring to Palmer's actions at the mall earlier that day.

In light of all the praise, Palmer remains humble, deferring instead to his two fellow Soldiers.

"I'd love to see these two Soldiers [Mittleider and Trout] get some kind of recognition," Palmer says. "They ran all the way from the other end of the mall, put themselves in danger, and helped in getting civilians out of the mall. These Soldiers were not armed, and performed with little concern for themselves, but full concern for civilians."

"It's actions like this that makes being called an Army National Guardsman a proud title," Palmer added.

Program graduates leave with 'education, relationships and common sense'



Photo by Pvt 1st Class Timothy Brownlow, 115th MPAD

Oregon Youth Challenge Program Class 30 graduates celebrate at their graduation ceremony. The cadets completed a military structured 22 week program aimed at helping troubled teens become positive contributing members of school and society.

Continued from **FRONT PAGE**

mother of 16-year-old Tassi Drake.

Drake said prior to getting into trouble, Tassi was an accomplished young lady. She was respectful, caring, family-oriented, and a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Drake said Tassi started making poor decisions that concerned her deeply. She felt a mix of emotions caused by her daughter's behavior and she knew something had to be done.

"She was becoming the child I didn't want my children around," Drake said.

Drake learned of the program through

a friend, and immediately started taking steps to enroll Tassi into the hard knocks program.

Drake said upon arriving at the school she started having second thoughts, but Tassi insisted on going through the program. Tassi said she didn't like what she had become, and knew the program was what she needed.

Sixteen-year-old Richard began getting into a lot of trouble. His parents, Ron and Peggy Kvinge said it first started when his attitude changed, then his grade point average dropped to 1.3. The last straw came when he was suspended from school for fighting

The Kvinges desperately searched for help. They, like the Drakes, also found out about the Challenge Program from a friend.

"At first I didn't want to go," Richard said of learning what his parents had in store for him. "But once I went to [the] orientation I agreed."

The Oregon program of the National Guard Youth Challenge was founded in 1993 by Col. Mike Caldwell, deputy director of state affairs. The school is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities, and is approved by the Oregon Department of Education. Students are eligible to earn a high school diploma, General Education Diploma or recovery of eight certified credits when the required class work is completed.

Cadets live at the school in Bend, Ore. for nearly five months. During that time, the students experience a two-week mandatory "pre-challenge" period consisting of military indoctrination, physical development, discipline and structure. The pre-challenge is followed by the 20 week academic classroom instruction phase. The final phase is a 12-month active mentor period where students return to the community to implement goals, objectives, placement, and post residential activities.

In order to graduate, cadets must successfully complete eight core components, including academic excellence, life coping skills, job skills, health, physical fitness, leadership, responsible citizenship, and service to the community.

This year's class of cadets performed more than 11,400 hours of community service, averaging 92 hours per cadet, and equaling \$83,000 worth of public service. They achieved this in just 20 weeks by working with groups such as Special Olympics, Bend Police Department, Oregon State Parks, and

Alzheimers Walk-A-Thon. Members of the class assisted grade schools with the Smart Reader Program and held workshops to teach children the negative affects of bullying. The class also assisted Hurricane Katrina relief efforts by gathering 1,500 pounds of food and donating 87 units of blood.

During the graduation, a series of awards were given to individuals who stood out for their achievement in each of the core component categories. Eleven cadets of the graduating class were awarded with scholarships, including Noelle Rayo, who was deemed the outstanding overall cadet of the company. Her \$500 scholarship was donated by the family memorial fund for Gwendolyn Fern Rose Lindsay-Bradley, the class valedictorian who was killed in a car accident Nov. 27, just two weeks before graduation.

Upon graduating, 36 cadets earned their high school diploma, 24 earned a GED, and 72 earned required high school credits to re-enroll in their school districts.

According to many graduates, they are moving on with their lives, and a few of them agreed the thing they will miss the most is the discipline they received while at the program.

Tassi tearfully added that she will also miss the "education, relationships, and the common sense."

Richard responded with a new outlook on life saying, "I feel like can do anything I want."

For additional information regarding the Oregon Youth Challenge Program go to www.oycp.com.

For enrollment information call David Medina at 541-317-9623 ext. 223.

If you would like to assist the program by becoming a youth mentor for cadets in your local area visit the OYCP website or call Kim Coleman at 541-317-9623 ext. 224.

Oregon Army Guard members' son finds direction, discipline at OYCP

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

"An annoying turd."

That's how Sgt. Deannie Darrow, 35 of Turner, Ore., described her son, Alex, before he graduated from the Oregon National Guard's Youth Challenge Program, in Bend, Ore. on Dec. 14.

"Now he's a very respectful, polite, courteous, and bright young man," Darrow said, beaming.

Alex Darrow, 16, was on the fast track to becoming another statistic of Oregon's judicial system.

"He got in trouble with the law, and was failing school," said Darrow, who works in Recruiting & Retention at Joint Forces Headquarters. "He had a cumulative GPA of 0.75-percent in high school, and ended up on probation."

That's when Darrow and her husband, Sgt. 1st Class David Darrow, Acting First Sergeant for the 1042nd Medical Company, who is currently serving at Baghram, Air Base in Afghanistan, decided to do something.

"We talked to Alex's probation officer and looked into the OYCP program," Darrow said.

Alex knew he needed structure in his life, and the program offered to at-risk youth seemed to be a great avenue for finding direction and discipline. He wrote a stellar application, and completed two weeks of community service as ordered by the court. On July 4, 2005, the Darrow family was contacted by OYCP officials telling them Alex was accepted into the program.

"We were very happy," Darrow said. "I've always heard it [OYCP] was an awesome program."

Alex arrived in Bend in mid-July, and would not see another member of his family until the Labor Day weekend, when OYCP attendees were released for the holiday weekend. But because Deannie Darrow would be deployed to Louisiana to assist with cleanup, security and rescue efforts following Hurricane Katrina, she would only see her son for five hours.

"I was in Louisiana for over a week, and by the time I got back to Oregon, Alex had

gone back to Bend," she said.

The Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program is described on their website as a mentor-active, cost and drug-free coed, residential/ post-residential program conducted at the Central Oregon Training and Education Facility (COTEF), in Bend, Ore.

The 20-week program helps at-risk youth, under and unemployed teens ages 16-18, who have dropped out of school, or are struggling with their academics. Two programs are offered each year, with one starting Jan. 15, and the other on Aug. 15.

The program's mission is to provide work skills and alternative learning opportunities and increase positive behavioral and academic skills.

The boot-camp style program teaches attendees discipline, structure, mutual respect — and most importantly — self-confidence.

"That's pretty typical of these graduates," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Wilcox, recruiter in Bend, Ore. "These kids come out of this program realizing they can accomplish anything they put their mind to. A lot of them who enter the military come back from basic training saying it was way too easy."

The military basic training model applied to a high school academic environment provides the basis for the program's success. It allows cadets to focus on their school work, and at the same time learn discipline, respect, and courtesy.

"They'll surprise you when you meet them," Wilcox said. "They don't act like any kid their age would when you meet them. They're very respectful. They answer you with 'yes sir' and 'no sir'."

Alex came home again for Thanksgiving.

He showed up in his uniform, BDUs with the OYCP patch embroidered on the front pocket. According to Darrow, Alex wore more than his uniform. Along with a smile, his entire body dripped with pride.

"I couldn't believe it was the same kid," Darrow said.

Alex returned with a renewed sense of direction and purpose. He also showed Darrow his OYCP report card — boasting a 3.29 GPA on 8.5 credits, and a completed



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Deannie Darrow, JFHQ Recruiting & Marketing

Alex Darrow (center), demonstrates a physical training exercise he endured while attending the Oregon Youth Challenge Program while his grandmother, Karen Fleshman (l.), and little brother, Adam Barber-Darrow (r.), proudly observe.

GED. According to Alex, even though he passed his GED during his stint at OYCP, he wanted to return to his high school and attain his regular diploma.

"In regular school they don't help you out as much if you don't understand something," Alex said. "But in the program, you get help from everyone in your platoon. Even the people that don't like you much."

Aside from the academic achievements, Alex benefited from the physical training all cadets are required to go through.

"Now I'm really active in school. I'm running in cross-country," Alex added.

"This program has put Alex's head back on straight," Darrow said. "He's respectful and courteous now. And when he went back to visit his high school, they couldn't believe it was the same Alex."

Motivated by his experience at OYCP, Alex is looking into joining the Oregon Army National Guard. He has spoken to Master Sgt. Brian O'Kelley — the same recruiter who brought both Deannie and David into the military in 1999 and 1989,

respectively.

"That'll be a first for me, and I've been recruiting 18 years now," O'Kelley said. "I've recruited five or six dads and sons, but I've never recruited a husband, wife and child."

When asked what he thought about starting out his recruiting career with the elder Darrow, and ending his career with recruiting Alex, O'Kelley pondered the depth of the question.

"I doubt anyone's ever done that before," O'Kelley said. It's definitely noteworthy."

"The OYCP program is very impressive," O'Kelley continued. "Those kids are so respectful and polite compared to what you see on the sidewalk nowadays, it'll bring tears to your eyes. I was impressed — really impressed."

"I wish there were more programs like it," Darrow said. "There's certain things you just can't seem to get through to your kids. But this program has done it."

"I'm proud of Alex. Very proud," Darrow added.

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

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

E-mail:
Randall.Witt@or.ngb.army.mil

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

Your Letters

A heartfelt thanks to the Oregon Guard

Please add my heartfelt thanks and well-wishes to all our units this holiday season, with particular emphasis on those currently in the sandbox and recently returned. They and their families are remembered by more than a few of us civilians. Also, pass on my appreciation to the Red Falcons of the 142nd [Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard] here in Portland. I've noticed more activity lately, particularly a more aggressive approach to training (full afterburner climbouts at steep angles). Please be assured any noise complaints are more than offset by the thousands of us that understand what such activity means.

Mark Whiteman,
Portland

Gregg family grateful to Oregon Guard

Reprinted from *Back Fence*
at *OregonLive.com*

On Nov. 6, 2005, we experienced a parent's worst nightmare: Our son, Sgt. Matthew D. Gregg, was killed in a tragic accident while he was returning an Army National Guard truck to his unit in Medford.

From the arrival of the Army officers who notified us of Matthew's death through the full military funeral on Nov. 14, to the wonderful 'missing man' ceremony held Nov. 16 at his celebration of life in Medford, the Army and all the wonderful men and women who belong to it have done everything they could to ease and comfort us. To them, a big thank-you.

The Marriott hotel chain embraced us as part of their Marriott family. Matthew's older brother works for them, and they stepped up immediately to help.

From neighbors and friends to complete strangers, everyone has tried to comfort and embrace us. There are so many people to thank that our family thought *Back Fence* would be a perfect place to let everyone know how much this has all meant to our family.

Matthew was a son, brother, husband and, as any who knew him would say, a great dad. He and his son Travis had a special bond.

However, he always felt his military career as a guardsman was very important. At the time of his death, he was volunteering to go to Afghanistan. As the saying goes, life happens while you are making plans.

Please, everyone, continue to care for and support all the military families who have loved ones in harm's way.

With deep gratitude,
The Gregg Family

Oregon military gets discounted ski tickets

Ski Bowl is offering a 50 percent discount on lift tickets to all those holding a Military ID card, and their family members this ski season.

Mt. Hood Meadows and Timberline Lodge are offering a 10 percent discount to all military and their families.

Discounted tickets for Ski Bowl and Mt. Hood Meadows are only available at the ticket booths.

Lake Tahoe's Northstar and Sierra are inviting military members to ski free every Sunday during the 2005-2006 season. Just show a valid CAC card at the season pass office. Discounted tickets are also available for family members.

The offer is subject to blackout dates. For more information call Northstar at 1-800-GO-NORTH or Sierra at 1-530-659-7453.

Property tax exemption offered for those who deploy under Title-10

Oregon National Guard Soldiers who are serving under Title 10 status may now be eligible for a \$60,000 property tax exemption from their home's assessed value for tax years in which they are deployed more than 178 days. The Oregon House of Representatives passed House Bill 2945 which provides tax relief for deployed soldiers retroactively for tax years beginning July 1, 2005. Active-duty soldiers may file for this exemption every year for which they qualify. This is not the same exemption as the "Veteran's or Surviving Spouse's Property Tax Exemption," which is different property tax exemption for disabled war veterans or surviving spouses of war veterans.

If you are a qualified Soldier, you may claim this exemption for 2005-2006 by completing and filing an "Oregon Active Military Service Member's Exemption Claim" form on or before July 3, 2006. You must attach one of the following to the claim form: military orders, DD214, a letter on military letterhead, or other military-issued report. File the form and attachment with the assessor's office in the county where your home is located. To claim the exemption for the 2006-2007 tax year, you must file the form and attachment on or before April 1, 2006.

An active-duty Soldier may qualify if he or she was initially ordered to federal active duty (Title 10) on or after January 1, 2005; and is an Oregon resident serving in the Oregon National Guard, military reserve, or other organized militia; and served under Title 10 status for more than 178 consecutive days during the tax year for which the exemption is claimed, after a change in status from serving under Title 32.

If the qualified service member was killed in action, the lawful occupant of the service member's home may file for the exemption. The lawful occupant must file the completed form along with one of the following: military orders, DD214, a letter on military letterhead, or other military-issued report and one of the following: driver's license, passport, election registration card, or property tax statement. You must file with the county assessor's office at any time during the tax year following the year the qualified soldier was killed in action.

The Oregon Active Military Service Member's Exemption Claim form can be found at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DOR/PTD/docs/303-084.pdf>

\$1,000 scholarships for Guard members and dependant children

Soldiers and Airmen: The Oregon National Guard Association will present three scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2006-2007 academic year.

The awards will be presented at the ORNGA Conference on April 29, 2006, in Salem, Ore.

Scholarships will be awarded for demonstrated leadership qualities, civic action and academic achievement. The application deadline is March 15, 2006. Prior year recipients are not eligible.

Scholarship applications and rules are available online at www.mil.state.or.us/ORNGA/Index.html under Programs select Scholarship Application 2006, or call the ORNGA office at 503-584-3030, ext. 3931.

Dependant children: The Military Officer Association of America will award 25 Base/ Post Scholarships of \$1,000 each for the 2006-2007 academic year to dependent children of any branch of military service.

Scholarship winners will be randomly selected from applicants with representation given to each of the uniformed services, including Reserves and National Guard.

Applicants must be the dependant child of a military service member, under the age of 24, and planning to attend an accredited college/ university as a full-time student in the fall of 2006.

Membership in MOAA is not required to be eligible for the Base/ Post Scholarship, however members of MOAA qualify for many other loans, grants and scholarships.

Applications can only be made online at www.moaa.org/serv/serv_education/index.html by clicking on the New Students link. The application deadline is March 1, 2006.

Oregon Guard helps Santa deliver toys



Story and photo by Maj. Kevin Dial, Executive Officer 1249th Engineer Bn.

Above: Spc. Tony Brassfield, B Co. 1249th Eng., picks up another load of toys from a local Bi-Mart store. This scene was repeated around the state, benefitting hundreds of military families in need.

KXL Radio 750 AM, Bi-Mart stores, Portland Housing Authority and local Oregon National Guard units pulled together to make the holiday season a lot happier for children of deployed Oregon Guard Soldiers. Because of the incredible out-pouring of generosity, there were toys enough for deployed Soldiers' families and hundreds left over that went to families of Guard members who were struggling financially during the holidays.

Because there were so many toys donated state-wide, we will never know a total of how many children were blessed by this effort, but the goodwill and stories from the families we touched will have a return that lasts for years. Thanks go out to all the individuals that made this great work possible.

ORANG's O'Hollaren promoted to Brig. Gen.



Photo by Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro, JFHQ

Col. Daniel B. O'Hollaren was promoted to Brigadier General on Dec. 6, 2005 at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Ore.

O'Hollaren is a traditional guardsman serving as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Oregon Air National Guard. He has responsibility for staff oversight within the state headquarters and ensures support to the commander and over 2,100 Air National Guard personnel within the state of Oregon.

Above: Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presents O'Hollaren with his one-star flag, as Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard (left, seated), and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., (seated, right), look on.

Safety News Briefs

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

DoD Sexual Assault Prevention training begins

Department of Defense initiated the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program in FY-05. The National Guard is now beginning this awareness training at the unit level. A short presentation will be distributed to your units soon, if not already — both to Army and Air.

This mandatory presentation concerns the new DOD definition of sexual assault, prevention measures and response as it relates to National Guard Title-32 members. The program sets long overdue guidance for individuals and commanders.

There are differences in response programs for NG versus Active Duty, Title 10. General DOD information is located at www.sapr.mil, and Army specific guidance can be found at www.sexualassault.army.mil. There is also some valuable information at www.airforceonesource.com.

Lt. Col. Woodward is the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) for Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard. She can be reached at 503-584-3931.

Guard members have a duty to drive responsibly

It is difficult to take ownership of general statistics. However, when they relate to ourselves and our own Guard members they take on new meaning.

Over the past four months, the ORARNG has lost two Soldiers — one fatality and one permanent total disability to vehicle roll-over accidents.

Both Soldiers were not wearing proper seatbelts (1 without, 1 modified). Our off-duty Soldier would be well today if he had worn his seatbelt properly.

Vehicle restraints are designed to be worn in a prescribed manner in order to function as intended. A third Soldier went off the road and hit a tree, but had only minor injuries as he wore his seatbelt properly. Another Soldier sustained minor injuries during a rear-end collision by a POV as he was also belted in.

If you want to continue to live life with zest, you have to take control and manage the risks so you can continue to have fun and "Own the Edge".

Oregon Soldier dies while on duty serving his State and Nation

Story prepared by Sentinel Staff

MEDFORD, Ore. — An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier died in a vehicle accident Nov. 6 while heading southbound on Interstate 5 two miles north of Sunny Valley, Ore.

Sgt. Matthew D. Gregg, age 30, of Det. 1, HHC 141st Support Bn., was pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident after being ejected from the 5-ton utility truck he was driving.

Gregg was driving in an 11 vehicle convoy from Portland to Medford during a rain storm. The convoy was rounding a downhill curve when the truck lost control, spun

four times and rolled off the shoulder, coming to rest about 25 feet off the highway. While rounding the same corner, a second vehicle in the convoy spun three times, left the highway and stopped in a ditch, but it did not roll or result in any injuries.

Maj. Chester Cary, executive officer for 1st Bn. 186th Infantry, said the drivers of both vehicles lost control due to a patch of standing water on the freeway. He said the Soldiers in the convoy were returning vehicles from a rail shipment back to the Medford armory after being used for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in the Gulf Coast.

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulon-

goski ordered all flags to fly at half-staff on Nov. 10 to honor Gregg.

"Sp. Gregg died honorably performing his duty to the Guard and to the state of Oregon," said Kulongoski. "This tragic loss serves to remind us of the critical work thousands of Soldiers contribute daily here at home."

Gregg joined the National Guard in March 1997. He served in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt from 2002-03. He was assigned to the Medford detachment of the 141st Spt. Bn. where he helped transport troops and equipment for the 1st Bn. 186th Infantry throughout Southern Oregon. Gregg was posthumously promoted to the rank of

sergeant.

"He was an outstanding, dedicated Soldier whose loss will be felt deeply by his unit," said Cpt. Sylvia Arvizu, detachment commander for HHC 141st Spt. "He had a lot to give his unit and his community."

Funeral services for Gregg were held at Willamette National Cemetery Nov. 14, attended by both Governor Kulongoski and Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Raymond F. Rees. A Celebration of Life ceremony was held in Medford on Nov. 16 at Table Rock Fellowship.

Gregg is survived by his wife, Jill, and son, Travis, of Medford, and parents, Doug and Judy Gregg, of Portland.

Oregon National Guard's F Troop, 82nd CAV works to get shoes for Iraqi children

Story by Sgt. Lauran Robinson,
29th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

LSAANACONDA, Iraq — The heart of one soldier from 1st Platoon, F Troop, 82nd Cavalry, has led the way in a humanitarian mission for children living in the nearby villages around the Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq.

The soldiers of 1st Platoon are part of the quick reaction force ensuring base security around LSA Anaconda. On Sept. 29, they conducted a routine patrol outside the post through an area where they were no strangers. One soldier called over the internal radio "We've picked up a small parade here", as Iraqi children came running towards the humvees in mass to greet them. As the vehicles drove slowly down a narrow dirt road, the children ran alongside the vehicles waving to the soldiers through the windows.

The patrol stopped inside a village and the soldiers became magnets for the children as

they got out of their vehicles, surrounded by kids asking for anything and everything. The soldiers did not disappoint them. They passed out soccer balls and t-shirts to the children.

The humanitarian missions began in March when Sgt. Joseph Coon, of Portland Ore., a member of 1st Platoon discovered that Iraqi children lacked shoes to protect their feet.

"When we first got here, we were treating a lot of foot injuries," said Coon.

He coordinated with his family members back home to get shoes for the local children. They sent out flyers, put ads in newspapers, started school drives, and set up donation boxes and the shoes started coming in. A total of 77 boxes filled with donated shoes traveled half way around the world and into the hands or onto the feet of Iraqi children around LSA Anaconda.

"I really like kids. I try to talk to them and get to know them" said Coon.

Coon also produced a website which

asked for donations. He posted photos of the soldiers' humanitarian efforts.

"[Donators] get to see where the donations are going. It's an ongoing story, and they always ask about the kids," said Coon.

The website has been visited by over 22,000 people, and has brought in more donations nationally and even from Canada. The soldiers of 1st Plt., F Troop, 82nd Cavalry, have passed out over 2,000 pairs of shoes and 300 pounds of clothes to the children.

"All the credit goes out to the families for their donations. We've got the fun job of passing it out" said Coon.

The humanitarian aid led by Coon has been winning the hearts of the children around LSA Anaconda.

"It fosters a better relationship with the populous. And seeing the kids smile gives us the warm and fuzzies," said Sgt. 1st Class Jarred Morgan, who misses his own children at home.



Photo by Sgt. Lauran Robinson, 29th BCT

A local Iraqi boy helps Sgt. 1st Class Jarred Morgan of F Troop, 82nd CAV pass out donated soccer balls and t-shirts.

Oregon Army National Guard shuffles command to meet Army transformation needs

The Oregon National Guard is facing challenging times with the Global War on Terror, training the Afghanistan National Army (ANA), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Army transformation.

To successfully meet these challenges, the Oregon Army National Guard is restructuring and realigning several key positions to ensure continuity of day to day operations.

Effective Dec. 15, 2005, Col. Ernest Smith replaced Col. Beverly Herard as Director of J6 (Info Systems).

Effective Jan. 1, 2006, Col. Donald Bond replaced Col. Larry Studer as Joint Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters.

Effective February 1, 2006, Capt. Maurice Marshall will become the Adjutant General's Executive Officer.

Effective March 1, 2006, Maj. William Cole will replace Lt. Col. Clifford McCabe as Commander of 3-116 CAV, and be promoted to Lt. Col. Maj. Kevin Sheehy will replace Maj. William Cole as the Executive Officer of 3-116 CAV.

Also in March, 2006, Maj. William Coultas will move to the XO position in the 641st Medical Battalion.

Lt. Col. David Stuckey will be promoted to Col., and take over for Col. Bond as the DC-SOPS (M-Day position), and during the week, will serve as the State Training Officer.

Maj. Brian James will take over for Lt. Col. Stuckey as the Comptroller, with a promotion to Lt. Col. Maj. Lance Englet will replace James as the Recruiting & Retention O&T Officer.

Maj. Darren Hoschouer will become the new S1 for the 41st Brigade Combat Team,

replacing Maj. Donald Zimmerman.

Col. David Enyeart will replace Col. Stanley Shope as the DCSINT, and Lt. Col. Steven Dickenson will become the new Chief of Staff (M-Day), with a promotion to colonel.

Col. Gale Sears will become the new DCSLOG, with duties as the CSMS Superintendent, Lt. Col. William Schutz will replace Lt. Col. Fredric Podhora as Branch Chief of DCSLOG (FTUS), as Assistant Surface Maintenance Mgr.

Maj. Kevin Peterman will be promoted to Lt. Col., and replace Lt. Col. James Weaver as the Branch Chief, Maj. William Prendergast will replace Peterman as the XO for 1-82nd RSTA, while Maj. Peter Emerson will become the new Public Affairs Officer for JFHQ (M-Day).

Col. Simsundareth Tan will take over as the new Strategic Planner, JFHQ, replacing Col. James Caldwell, who is slated to retire on Feb. 1, 2006 after 30 years of service. Lt. Col. Joseph Cramer will take over as Deputy Brigade Commander, 82nd BDE, and be promoted to the rank of colonel.

Lt. Col. Donll McBride will take over as Branch Chief, DCSOPS, and Lt. Col. Robert Mow becomes the new XO for the 82nd BDE. Maj. Douglas Kuhl will replace Mow as the new S3 for the brigade, and be promoted to the rank of Lt. Col.

Col. Timothy Kelly, who is now the State Safety Officer, will assume the position of Director (J4-Inst Mgr.) (M-Day) and Director DSCOPS (FTUS), and Lt. Col. Daniel Hokanson will replace Kelly as the DCSSAV, with a promotion to the rank of colonel (M-Day). Maj. Todd Farmer will become the new Branch Chief, DCSSAV, with promotion to Lt. Col. (M-Day), and FTUS as Surface Maint. Mgr., Deputy DCSLOG).

Oregon Guard helps deliver holiday help to needy families in Portland

Story prepared by Sentinel Staff

The Oregon Air and Army National Guard once again this year participated in a holiday food basket donation/drive to help Portland area families and individuals make their holiday celebration a bit brighter.

Held every December, the joint-agency event, organized by the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division, assists deserving families and individuals in having a more enjoyable holiday season. Food items donated by area businesses like Franz Bakery, Fred Meyer, and others, are boxed into holiday "baskets", with help from the Oregon Air National Guard's Civil Air Patrol, and delivered by members of the Portland Police, Oregon Air and Army National Guard, and community volunteers.

According to Southeast Precinct coordinator, Portland Police Officer Bob Clevenger, more than 1,600 holiday food baskets were delivered around the Portland Metro area. Other donations included toys and stuffed animals. The Oregon Army National Guard also brought a number of Christmas trees donated by local vendors. Personnel from the 41st Brigade showed up in several HMMWVs to deliver the food baskets and donated items.



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

Above: Sgt. Rod Widows, (r.) of the 41st Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, takes direction from Eric Vosler, President of the Portland Police Bureau Precinct Advisory Council (l.) before heading out into the surrounding southeast Portland neighborhoods to deliver donated holiday food baskets on Dec. 17.

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