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VOL. 9, ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY - MARCH 2011



# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon National Guard welcomes new Commander-in-Chief

*Governor John Kitzhaber honored during inauguration ceremony at State Capitol in Salem*



Left: Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber (left center), and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon (center right), salute the Oregon National Guard Joint Color Guard outside the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore., during Kitzhaber's inauguration ceremony, Jan. 10.

Above: Oregon Governor, John Kitzhaber is surrounded by supporters and media representatives following his military inauguration ceremony at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Jan.10. Behind him is Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon.

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

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## Three Soldiers honored during mobilization ceremony at Capitol

The trio from 3670th Maint. Co. will spend a year in Iraq helping calibrate equipment

Story by Sentinel Staff



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

Three Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard's 3670th Maintenance Company based at Camp Withycombe pose with the official party following their mobilization ceremony at Governor John Kitzhaber's ceremonial office at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 9. From left to right are: Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon; Spc. Michael Resner, from Salem; Sgt. Shawn Flynn, from McMinnville, Ore.; Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Staff Sgt. Stephen Nierengarten, from Portland, Ore.; Lt. Col. Sean T. McGann, Commander, 821 Troop Command Battalion. Resner, Flynn and Nierengarten will deploy to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

**SALEM, Ore.**—Three Oregon National Guard Soldiers participated in a mobilization ceremony in the governor's ceremonial office at the State Capitol in Salem, Ore., Feb. 9.

The three Soldiers are members of the 3670th Maintenance Company, headquartered at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore.

They are deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, where they will assist in calibrating equipment used for armament, maintenance and electronic diagnostics for units and personnel in the deployed location. They are scheduled to return in February 2012.

The Soldiers are full-time members of Oregon's Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment team, based at Withycombe.

There are seven such teams throughout the country, supported by the National Guard Bureau's Regional Calibration Reimbursable Program.

"Their technical expertise is a high demand skill, both here and overseas in support of the mission," said Lt. Col. Sean McGann, Commander, 821 Troop Command Battalion.

## The Oregon Military Department

State Commander in Chief  
Governor John A. Kitzhaber

The Adjutant General  
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees

Deputy Director Oregon Military Dept.  
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Asst. Adjutant General, Air  
Brig. Gen. Bruce W. Prunk

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Paid advertising is prohibited in the Oregon Sentinel by AR 360-1. However, announcements which benefit Oregon Guard members and their families is allowed, at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Oregon National Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit articles and story ideas. Stories from any source, military or civilian, are accepted. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All submissions must include the author's name, mailing address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication, and the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to print or reprint submissions at any time.

The Oregon Sentinel adheres to guidance found in DoD Instruction 5120.4, "Department of Defense Newspapers and Civilian Enterprise Publications."

Story files must be submitted in Microsoft Word format, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPEG files, and must be accompanied by caption information containing the following: full name, rank, and unit of person(s) depicted in the photo, along with a short description of what is happening in the photo. This caption can be a part of the overall story file. All hard-copy files submitted to the Oregon Sentinel become the property of the Oregon Military Department unless prior arrangements are made with the Public Affairs staff. Stories and photos appearing in the Oregon Sentinel may be reprinted with permission.

Electronic submissions, story ideas or questions to: [Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us](mailto:Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us). Hard copy submissions can be sent via U.S. Mail to: Oregon Sentinel Editor, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR, 97309.

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## COMMAND

## Resiliency the key to Airmen, Soldier readiness

After a few more rainy days it looks like spring is almost here. The time has changed and the days are getting longer.

After a recent visit with our troops in Iraq, it is amazing to think these Soldiers supporting Operation New Dawn will be home before the time changes in autumn.

Being able to personally see our Oregon Citizen-Soldiers carry out their federal mission is always amazing.

I have said this, and it still rings true; our Oregon National Guard members are able to accomplish any assignment or mission.

The Soldiers I met in Iraq embody the Oregon values of competence, confidence, courage and commitment, and were successful regardless of assignment. Iraq's success is truly a reflection of the individuals deployed over the past decade.

The personal sacrifices our Oregon Guard Soldiers, Airmen, families, friends and employers have made are all part of this success.

For those who have deployed to Afghanistan and elsewhere throughout the world, your contributions are also not going unnoticed.

You have, are, and continue to make a difference every day. I am proud to be your Adjutant General.

We have just sent over 80 Oregon Airmen to the Middle East in support of an important Air Forces Central (CENTAF) mission.

They spent their pre-mobilization training at Camp Rilea undergoing in-theater Battle Control Center training. Their mission highlights the skills, abilities and willingness to serve our state and nation.

Although our overseas deployments continue, we have the opportunity to reset our equipment, our training and ourselves. It is a time to look for areas in need of improvement.

Whether you have deployment experience or not we are one team, and we need to continue to succeed in the future.

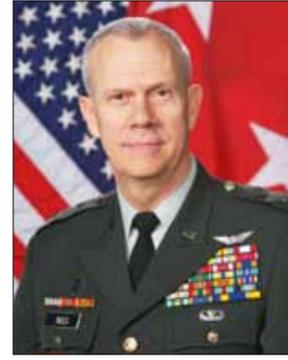
As an organization, we are problem solvers, and our quick response to support the people of Oregon is vital.

As problem solvers, resiliency training is essential to our readiness. Every Soldier and Airman needs to be well versed in resiliency.

I have confidence in all of you. Your interaction with one another will make this organization even better.

As I conduct visits around the state I will ask questions about your resiliency training programs. A thorough understanding of resiliency is not only crucial in meeting our homeland defense mission, but also for the personal and overall well-being of each guard member.

I was pleased to hear 41 percent of our Soldiers have already utilized the global assessment tool through the new Soldier



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon

fitness tracker webpage, at; [www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily](http://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily).

The GAT is a great tool that has recently become a requirement. Results of the test are private, but unit members can see who has completed it through their unit identification code. It is AKO based and can be completed with CAC or password login. The GAT is available to our Airmen and family members through a sponsored AKO account.

The Oregon Guard continues to lead from the front. As problem solvers, this is an additional tool for your resiliency toolbox.

To all the soldiers and airmen in our organization, never forget you are the best that Oregon has to offer our nation. Always Ready! Always There!

## Army Leadership Development Strategy is coming our way!

Within the next few months you will be hearing about the Army Leadership Development Strategy (ALDS) for the 21st Century.

This is a comprehensive document that addresses leadership development in the Commission Officer, Commission Warrant Officer and Non Commissioned Officer Corps. A common statement throughout is, "...leader development is out of balance..."

Annex B: The Warrant Officer states, "... Although our leaders are performing superbly in combat and are gaining invaluable field experience from demands of the operational environment (OE) our next generation of warrant officer leaders requires a balance development process that will prepare them for the complexities and hybrid threats of the future..."

The State Command Chief Warrant Officers selected to implement the ALDS within the ARNG Warrant Officer Corps are from, Texas, Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon. We will also have support for the ARNG Warrant Officer Policy Branch as well. This sub group has been given the following three tasks;

1). A draft vision of how the Army LDS can be implemented for Warrant Officers in the ARNG; 2). A draft LDS Map for ARNG Warrant Officers. (Promotion requirements and timelines); and 3). A schedule of policy changes required to implement the foregoing within an ARFORGEN construct.

In reading the ALDS for the first time Professional Military Education (PME) and civilian education requirements for the Warrant Officer will change drastically.

If you could do anything to prepare yourself for these changes I would suggest that you either complete or start on your undergraduate degree.

I will be working with our Council of CW5s in helping to write the

drafts. They in turn will seek out your input as we move forward. There are many positive aspects in this process.

One of them is that Oregon will have a strong voice in helping shape the future and current ARNG Warrant Officer.

The Officer/Warrant Officer Training Workshop was held in FEB at Newport, Ore. Once again based on the AARs it was a huge success. The quality of potential candidates has been outstanding from both the Army and Air.

Our current Warrant Officer strength is 84 percent. Based on the packets and potential Warrant Officer Candidates we will hit 90 percent. That will leave about eight positions vacant depending on retirements. Bottom-line: 100 percent is within our reach. If you feel you have the qualifications, desire and dedication please contact the Warrant Officer Strength Mgr, CW3 Rob Karnes at 503-584-2886.

We would like to say "Farewell and Job Well Done!" to CW4 Dave Willis on his retirement. Your skills and commitment to both the Oregon Guard and Warrant Officer Corps is greatly appreciated.

As of this printing we have four Warrant Officer Candidates, WOC Rob Pence, QM, WOC Virgil Cadiente, EN, WOC Stan Krupsky, MI and WOC Jeremy Andrew, AV. WO1 Logan Bass just completed WOCS at Ft. Rucker and is off to flight school. Best of Luck to all.

For the Corps!



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Zagya, Command Chief Warrant Officer, Oregon National Guard

## Oregon Air Guard Chiefs instrumental in Air Force Resiliency

Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, Senior Enlisted Advisor, JFHQ/Combat Operations Group



a few of the alarming statistics we are seeing command-wide.

Comprehensive Airman Fitness (CAF) is a methodology to focus its efforts on ensuring we take care of our Airmen and their families, providing for their physical, spiritual, mental, and social fitness.

The intent is to create and sustain communities on our installations that give Airmen and their families a sense of belonging to the Air National Guard community, in which they live, work, and play. This philosophy focuses on maximizing the development potential of our Airmen and their families.

These initiatives will help to reduce self-defeating behaviors, feelings of hopelessness and despair...and yield stronger, healthier, happier, more resilient Airmen and families who are better equipped to manage the rigors of 21st Century military life.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy spoke candidly about the repercussions of a force that fails to foster a culture of resiliency, referencing hot-button issues such as alcohol-related and ground-safety incidents, spousal and child abuse, sexual

assault and suicide.

"People matter ... lives matter," the chief said in regard to the consequences of failed resiliency. "Overall, our Airmen and families are very resilient. We have to set that tone of resiliency culture within our units, within our communities."

Our Airmen are the ultimate weapons system we have, and we need to care for them," Chief Roy said. "(Promoting) the resiliency culture is the right thing to do for our Airmen, our families and for the United States Air Force," he said.

**First-line supervisors make the difference:** The PDG states that first-line supervisors, when it comes to "taking care of Airmen and their families," can make the biggest difference when combining their leadership with their supervisory responsibilities.

"Supervision and leadership go hand-in-hand in the process of managing people and resources," the PDG states. "Supervisors must be responsible for their subordinates' actions and must evaluate them accordingly.

See **BIG AIR FORCE** on NEXT PAGE

NEWS

Rees, Conley visit Oregon Guard in Iraq



Oregon's TAG and Command Sergeant Major visited Oregon troops deployed in Iraq, Feb. 16-19. From left to right: Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon; Capt. Max Arvidson, 1st Sgt. Ted Thorne, of Fox Company, 3-116 CAV, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley.

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

**Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul Caldwell**  
3-116 Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley traveled to Iraq in mid-February to visit deployed Oregon National Guard Soldiers.

Both Oregon National Guard leaders met with the 3rd Battalion 116th Cavalry Regiment, and Alpha Company 641 Aviation Company over four days.

"The purpose of our visit was to see the Soldiers and reinforce how we are taking care of their families at home," Conley said.

The 3-116 CAV has the convoy mission throughout the country, which take anywhere from one to five hours.

The Soldiers, driving in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP), escort supply trucks driven by contractors, Iraqis or third-country nationals.

The convoys take place day or night, and while the Soldiers don't have the chance to interact with locals they often deliver bottles of water to the checkpoints.

"They are doing an amazing job," Conley added. The 3-116 CAV is knocking it out of the ball park, as are the Alpha-641. I was particularly impressed with their pre combat checks and inspections."

The Adjutant General also said he is proud of the work his soldiers are doing in Iraq.

"Our Oregon Citizen-Soldiers have shown their willingness to step up to the challenge placed before them," Rees said. "Every Oregonian and American should be proud of these Soldiers."

Both Rees and Conley talked with unit



Maj. Gen. Rees talks to Alpha Company Soldiers during his visit to Iraq in mid-February.

leadership about plans for the Soldiers' employment when they return to Oregon.

The battalion is focused on helping troops with jobs at home, and has planned an in-country job fair before their return to Oregon.

Rees and Conley also met with Soldiers of Alpha Co., 641 Aviation—currently part of 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation, for a 400-day deployment at Balad Air Base.

The visit from Oregon's leadership is important to the morale of deployed troops, Rees added.

"They want to know that their state leadership appreciates their service and the professional manner in which they are performing their duty," said Rees.

Fomer Sgt. Maj. Academy Commandant named newest Sergeant Maj. of the Army

**Name:** Raymond F. Chandler III  
**Title:** Sergeant Major of the Army  
**Job:** Top advisor to Army Chief of Staff on all enlisted matters.  
**Born:** Whittier, Calif. Age: 48  
**Family:** wife Jeanne; six adult children and stepchildren  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in public administration, Upper Iowa University, 2009.  
**Enlisted:** 1981 in Boston, Mass.  
**MOS:** Armor Crewman.  
**Combat experience:** Iraq, 2004-05, Command Sergeant Major, 1st Squad, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division.  
**Last assignment:** Commandant, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.  
Chandler was the first enlisted officer in that position and was promoted in 2009 while serving as the school's command sergeant major.



Big Air Force: Fitness more than physical

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

On the other hand, a leader demonstrates leadership by example to include the display of integrity, honesty, fairness and concern for the health and welfare of subordinates."

**View from the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff:** Fitness is often used interchangeably with the term "readiness." Are you fit, are you ready? As I see it, readiness is all about being capable of being able to accomplish something you are called to do.

A unit of troops may be ready to load onto airframes and deploy to a distant land. How many troops are leaving behind families that are falling apart? How many are flagged for unresolved drug or alcohol issues.

How many are being loaded onto these aircraft while we in leadership remain oblivious to these problems that do not show on a readiness report? I, for one, want to know not only that a unit is ready but also that it is in a state of what I would call "total fitness."

Total fitness is a state where mind and body are seen as one. It is a state where people, their families, and the organizations in which they serve are connected and thriving.

I see total fitness as a point of balance between readiness and well-being, where each of these two conditions are mutually supporting and in complete balance. A total force that has achieved total fitness is healthy, ready, and resilient; capable of meeting challenges and surviving threats. Achieving that begins with the way we treat our people.

Total force fitness is more than a physical fitness. It is the sum total of the many facets of individuals, their families, and the organizations to which they serve. It is not something someone achieves twice a year for a test. It is a state of being.

**What is the Final Vision?** Our vision is an ORANG team of balanced, healthy, self-confident Airmen and families whose resilience and total fitness enables them to thrive in an era of high opstempo and persistent conflict.

We will continuously strive to improve Airmen performance and readiness, by building their confidence to lead, courage to stand up for one's beliefs and compassion to help others. Comprehensive Airman Fitness is about maximizing one's potential.

Comprehensive Airman Fitness is not a program, but a long-term cultural approach to taking care of our people.

New Army program helps Survivors

Story by Col. Jason Schwabel, Oregon Military Department

This is a new program in the State of Oregon which provides long-term assistance, resource referrals, and information to the Survivors of Fallen Soldiers.

The Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) program provides Survivors a single point of contact for all issues and questions related to benefits, entitlements, and support services available to Survivors

The SOS program also provides referrals for financial assistance resources, mental health counseling resources, and life skills education resources.

As this is an Army-sponsored program, all services provided by the SOS program are available at no-cost.

This program serves Survivors of Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard Soldiers regardless of the Soldier's duty status at the time of death (M-Day, Active, Veteran, and Retired).

There are two Survivor Outreach Services support coordinators here in Oregon. If you live in the Northern half of Oregon, contact Tim Maciejewski at (503) 309-3334 or via e-mail at [tim.maciejewski@us.army.mil](mailto:tim.maciejewski@us.army.mil).

If you live in the Southern half of Oregon, contact James Richards at (503) 309-4251 or via e-mail at [james.richards2@us.army.mil](mailto:james.richards2@us.army.mil). You can also find the Oregon SOS Program on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/oregonsos>.

Oregon Commissary Case-Lot Sales

April 15-17, 9am-5pm

Deschutes Fair & Expo Center, Redmond, Ore.

April 15-16, 9am-5pm

LaGrande Armory, LaGrande, Ore.

June 17-18, 9am-5pm

Jackson Armory, Portland, Ore.

## NEWS

## During 20th anniversary of Gulf War, 206th ATMCT looks back at contributions, service



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel

Alisha Hamel and members of the 206th Air Terminal Movement Control Detachment in Kuwait during the Gulf War.

**Story by Alisha Hamel,**  
*Oregon Historical Outreach Foundation*

Yes, it has been 20 years since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and restarted the deployment process of Oregon National Guardsmen in support of conflicts that affect our nation.

The Oregon National Guard hadn't called up any units in the 49 years since WWII, when the call came for the 206th Air Terminal Movement Control Detachment to activate to help the efforts to send the Iraqis back into Iraq and out of Kuwait.

The 206th ATMCT was a small unit of only 35 Soldiers whose mission was to control all movement onto and off of an airport during wartime, and this was

the type of unit needed during the beginning of the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia.

A "Raging Bull" message was sent out to all members of this unit to assemble and be prepared to deploy.

1st Lt. Denise Atkinson, married just four days prior to the deployment, said, "I had a captain's position in line that I had to give up in order to deploy. I was married on August 23, called on August 24, activated on August 27, and was in Saudi Arabia on September 17, 1990."

"When we left here the temperature was in the 70s, when we arrived there it was 120 degrees." Sgt. Brian Knowles added.

"I was dating Becky Dougan (an ROTC cadet in the 206th), she called me to say that she had just received a "Raging Bull"

message. She was wondering why they would do that." Brian joined the unit shortly afterward and deployed with his now sergeant girlfriend.

The 206th arrived in country shortly after the 82nd Airborne had arrived, and set up operations at the Dhahran Air Base. The 206th provided two primary, concurrent missions. The first mission was processing arriving and departing personnel to and from aircraft. The second was theatre distribution of critical Army cargo (code named "Desert Express").

The war officially started Jan. 17, 1991, and Maj. Terry Criswell remembered how he learned of the start.

"The night the air war started, the jets were taking off one right after the other, and General Mustafa (a Saudi General) came in to our office," he said.

I asked him what was going on, and he replied, "It would be a good idea to have all your people in MOPP gear by 10pm."

Then I knew something was going on. Denise added, "I was working in the nearby ARCENT (Army Central Command) trailer and airplanes were taking off constantly, as compared to the one or two that normally took off at a time, in the months prior. We knew the war had started so we stayed at the airbase the rest of the night. In the early morning, the aircraft came back and did a victory lap over the airfield."

The 206th continued with their mission through the war. Brian Knowles tells one story:

"I was heading out to a L1011 (a big, wide-bodied airplane), and as I was heading up the stairs the air raid alarm went off. I stepped inside, shut the door, and thought of what I should do. I took the public address system and said, 'I would

like to welcome you to Saudi Arabia... MASK! MASK! MASK!'

"All the Soldiers looked at me in amazement. Then I said this is not a drill as I put on my own mask. You could only see asses and elbows as they all got their masks on."

Another story he told was about watching CNN in the back room of their trailer.

"They stopped the broadcast for a 'Special Report' so there was about 20 seconds of quiet, when all of a sudden the Patriots went off just across the airfield. 1st Lt. Darryl Wilson and I hit the floor, flat on the ground, face to face, and I stated, "Boy that is good reporting."

Sgt. Eric Schwarzkopf had a very interesting experience during Desert Storm. He had the same last name as the commanding general.

"I thought it might be possible that we might be related in some way. People kept asking me about our relationship," he said.

"I got to meet him and talk to him so it was cool, but it got monotonous after a while. I actually ended up putting "Johnson" on my nametag."

Desert Storm was successful, but the 206th still did not go home. Units were needed to send all the other Soldiers home.

Finally in May 1991, the 206th received orders to return home. The transition back to civilian life was difficult.

"I was more assertive, and I ended up getting fired from my job," Schwarzkopf said.

"My personality changed, and I was not so tolerant. Before, I considered myself a Christian, after the deployment I kind of lost my faith," he added.

## Oregon National Guard Recruiting promotes fitness in area schools



Students from Oregon City High School attempt to navigate the Oregon Army National Guard's Obstacle Course during a recent Physical Health and Adventure Training (PHAT) event.

**Story and photo by Guy Britnell,**  
*Recruiting and Retention Battalion Marketing Director*

The Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion has been busy this school year, bringing its Physical Health and Adventure Training, or PHAT, to high schools across Oregon.

The PHAT program is comprised of several components, including a giant obstacle course, rock wall, pugil pit, football throw, basketball toss and HALO jumper. The system is designed to give a demanding work-out, while at the same time providing an entertaining environment for students.

Sgt. Maj. Kevin Cutting, the Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion's Command Sergeant Major, described the role of the PHAT system as both challenging and entertaining.

"We have designed the system to show students that physical exercise can be both challenging and entertaining. Students can get a good work-out, while learning the importance of a regular physical fitness program at the same time."

The system provides a turn-key operation for schools. The battalion's Mobile Event Team provides the manpower to set-up and operate the system.

The school need only provide adequate space for the event and students eager to participate. Due to the amount of requests received, the program is only available to high schools.

If you know of a school that may be interested in having the PHAT program, please contact Staff Sgt. Bryan Smith at [bryan.k.smith1@us.army.mil](mailto:bryan.k.smith1@us.army.mil) or 503-819-2730.



ADPAAS is the Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System. It is accessed through a user-friendly website designed to help you – our Army Family Members (Soldiers, Reservists, DA civilians, OCONUS Contractors and their immediate Family members) – who are directly affected by major natural or man-made disasters (e.g., fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc.).

- ADPAAS allows you to report your current location, to update emergency personal contact information, and to request assistance (especially if you had to evacuate far away from your home or place of work).

- Your reporting assists the Army to know where you are, how you are doing, and to coordinate with applicable agencies in responding to your needs.

- ADPAAS allows your commanders and supervisors to account accurately for all assigned personnel and their family members.

- Your reporting assists the Army leadership and authorities to make better decisions in supporting you and your family, to maintain military readiness, and to preserve National Security during a disaster.

- ADPAAS allows case managers to contact you, to provide you with important information, and to assist you in recovering from a crisis.

LOGIN today at <https://adpaas.army.mil> (Note: "https" is required in the web address)

Other information can be found by calling your unit or:  
Army Information Hotline 1-800-833-6622  
Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

## DON'T SEE YOUR STORY IN HERE?

### Would you like to be a published author?

### Do you have really cool pictures of your fellow Soldiers or Airmen?

## Submit your story or photo to: [Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us](mailto:Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us)

## FEATURES

# Independent film sheds light on Afghanistan deployment

**'Shepherds of Helmand' opens to packed house at Hollywood Theater in Portland in February**



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

Four Oregon Soldiers featured in the independent documentary film, *Shepherds of Helmand*, conduct a question and answer forum with audience members following the premier of the film in Portland, Feb. 3. From left to right, on stage, are: Mark Browning, Jerry Glesmann, David Hagen and Paul Dyer.

**Story by Mike Allegre,**  
*Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs*

In 2008 a 17-man all volunteer unit of the Oregon Army National Guard deployed to Afghanistan to train a battalion of the Afghan National Army.

Their mission took them to the dangerous Helmand Province, center of the opium trade and a region notoriously known as the "Fallujah of Afghanistan."

On Feb. 3, an audience of 450 people filled the Hollywood Theater in northeast Portland to view the premiere of *Shepherds of Helmand*, the story of these Soldiers and the training, enemy fire and death that can befall any combat unit.

Featuring interviews, film footage and photos of the men of Team Cobra, the documentary is directed by Portland filmmaker and military historian Gary Mortensen.

His last documentary, the award winning *This is War-Memories of Iraq*, the story of Oregon's 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry has been widely heralded as one of the most authentic accounts of combat in Iraq ever made.

"My documentaries are non-political and give the Soldiers a chance to tell 'the ground truth' using their words, their photos, their war," Mortensen said.

"These men were there to train Afghan Soldiers and help their army to be able to stand up on its own.

The world of their mission was revealed with the help of video from their hand-held cameras and helmet cams. While the footage was intended to be used for reviewing their training, it also showed a Soldier's camaraderie with his unit, the landscape of Afghanistan and the cold hard facts of war."

In the film, Maj. Dominic Oto said they were sent to train the Afghan Army and then became targets.

He described a conversation with a veteran Afghan Soldier named Najeebola who had been fighting since the Soviet War in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

"Najeebola said, 'I have fought against the Russians in an eight-year war. And I've fought against the Taliban. And the past three years I've been fighting with Americans against the Taliban. So, tell me Captain, what will you tell me about war?'"

The film follows the deployment as the team is assigned a first-of-its-kind Counter Narcotics Infantry Kandak (Afghan version of a battalion) with the goal of interdicting the opium trade in the Helmand Province.

A handful of seasoned veterans led a mostly raw, illiterate group of young

teenage Afghan recruits. Communicating with and training their recruits took innovation.

Soon their patrol mission changed and the Kandak was ordered to occupy four small patrol bases along the Helmand River.

Almost all of the Oregon Soldiers had never been in a firefight prior to the deployment. On a tiny patrol base called Attal, north along the Helmand River, the Oregonians fought against daily attacks by determined Taliban fighters whose only mission was to overrun the base and kill the Americans.

The Taliban attacked the Oregon Soldiers' small base every day for three months. The film captures harrowing accounts of those hot, bloody days and features combat footage taken from the wall of patrol base. There were also moments they will never forget.

"July 15th was the first time that I shot someone," Capt. Paul Dyer said.

One Soldier assigned to Team Cobra, Capt. Bruno de Solenni, was killed in action while riding in the top turret of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle during a convoy to Khandahar.

Oto was driving the MRAP when the explosive device detonated. Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry Glesmann was the first one on the scene. For 40 minutes he administered medical treatment to try and save de Solenni's life.

"It was a gruesome situation and I tried, but he was gone. It's a very tough thing to have to accept when it happens," he said.

A month later, the team found themselves in the battle for Lashkar Gah fighting with their Afghan forces against a force of 2,000 Taliban. A year later, 19,000 Marines would be dropped into the same area.

Four of the Soldiers, Dyer, Glesmann, 1st Sgt. Dave Hagen and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Browning, along with de Solenni's sister, Pia, attended the premiere and took questions from the crowd after the movie was shown.

Former Gov. Ted Kulongoski also attended and was lauded, along with the Oregon Guard's senior leadership, for his support of Guardmembers.

"The military has needed our Soldiers since 9-11. They have answered the call and served with honor and distinction. They are the pride of Oregon and their

service tells you about the outstanding citizen Soldiers they are," Kulongoski said.

"Afghanistan has been called the Forgotten War of this generation, but for the Soldiers serving there, it is anything but forgotten," Mortensen said.

"Every day Americans, many of them Oregonians, patrol this desolate and forbidding country. Rarely do these stories get documented and almost never are they made into a documentary. For this we all owe a debt of gratitude to Benchmade Knives Company for stepping forward to make this film a reality," Mortensen added.

When the deployment was over, they would return as one of the most decorated units in Oregon Guard history.

The other members of Team Cobra included: Lt. Col. Keith Ensley, Maj. Phil Chik; Maj. (Ret.) William Krei (medically retired due to his wounds), Maj. Carter McReynolds, Maj. Eric Wunderlich, Capt. Steve Cooper, Capt. Dan Tuck, Command Sgt. Major (Ret.) Mike Campbell (medically retired), Command Sgt. Major Ken Jackola, Master Sgt. Larry Williams and Sgt. 1st Class Mike Walker.

To order *Shepherds of Helmand* on DVD, or to view the trailer for the movie, visit: [www.shepherdsofhelmand.com](http://www.shepherdsofhelmand.com).

Proceeds from the sale of the DVD will go to Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA)—a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of the returning disabled veterans whose healing and reintegration into American life can be substantially enhanced by participation in hunting and shooting sports.



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

Mark Browning (right) speaks to KOIN-TV videographer Gary Kahne before the premier of the *Shepherds of Helmand*, in Portland, Feb. 3.

## Lasting impressions in a country full of contradictions

**Story and photo**  
**by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell,**  
*3-116 Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs*

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - I didn't see the little girl until it was almost too late.

We had crossed the Tigris and come down a paved road that cut through thick lines of palm trees and dense foliage and then we slowed as the convoy entered a series of small villages.

It was my first convoy and I didn't know what to expect. IEDs, or gunfire or a hostile population casting belligerent stares at our big MRAPs. I tried to anticipate the risky scenarios waiting down a stretch of asphalt in Iraq.

But more than anything I wanted to see; to view the land of a nation that held my imagination and the ambitions of my nation for more than nine years.

Iraq held sway in our collective consciousness like a specter skirting beyond the minds' eye for almost a decade. I wanted to see this ghost, this country of contradictions.

As we drove by the first houses of the village the first thing I noticed was color. Deep maroons and ochre splashed over

stone houses that seemed straight out of the Old Testament. Then, oddly out of place, I spied television satellite antennas on the roof of almost every home.

No gunfire greeted us as we passed through the village. No hostile faces. No sullen glances or hard stares. Instead, the village teemed with people going about their business. Women in long, black gowns with covered faces walked between homes; three men worked on a tractor that appeared to have been built sometime during the Kennedy Administration. Next to what appeared to be a market a group of men toiled to unload a semi-truck.

Hardly anyone gave the MRAPs a second glance.

Except the children.

They came down from the lanes and the houses and the street and converged near the road holding out hands and staring up at the big trucks. There was no hostility there. There was instead a strange mixture of enthusiasm across their faces. The convoy slowed and with it the MRAP I was riding in began to leisurely navigate the road. There was potential danger here; going slow made the MRAP a target but there was no escaping the sensation, the

vibe that this was - at that very moment -



A convoy moves down the road after passing through the village (in the background, to the left) in central Iraq. Children met the convoy as it passed through the village.

probably the last place in Iraq we would face an enemy.

I turned in my seat and peered through the glass at the village. The adults ignored us. It was as if we had become just another piece of the overall landscape

like a stream or a canal or a line of power poles. They were, at best, disinterested.

As I peered past the adults I could see children, perhaps not as brave as other

See **ENCOUNTER** on NEXT PAGE

## NEWS

## Oregon National Guard's Army Aviation refuelers important in mission success



Aviation fuelers Pfc. Jeff Cox, of Salem, Ore., with C Company, 1-112 Aviation, Spc. Richard Brown, of Oregon City, Ore., and Spc. Jamie Kisch, of Salem, Ore., E Company, 7-158, 2-641 Aviation, Oregon Army National Guard, Salem, Ore., are staged to refuel a helicopter as it approaches Army Aviation Support Facility 1, March. 5.

Story and photos by  
Spc. Anita Vandermolen

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SALEM, Ore.** -- A hiker is lost on a mountain. Ground rescue teams are called out for the search. The missing person is found but helicopter support is needed to pull the hiker out of an isolated area.

The Oregon Army National Guard's 2-641 Aviation is called in and the rescue

is a success. Families are reunited and it is a happy ending.

When a scenarios ends like this, the overall success of the rescue has more to do than just the crew we see in the air. It all begins on the ground.

"Most people see the aircraft on the news," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark Braeme, of Sublimity, Ore., the aviation maintenance officer with Charlie Company, 7-158 Aviation. "It's all the



Soldiers of 2-641 Aviation, Oregon Army National Guard, Salem, Ore., conduct a "hot refueling" during Forward Arming and Refueling Point training at Army Aviation Support Facility 1, March 5. Hot refueling occurs at a stationary site, while only the pilots are left with the aircraft and the aircraft engines are reduced to an idle.

guys in the background that really get the job done."

The Soldiers of 2-641 Aviation in Salem make sure the equipment is safe and ready for rescue missions, fire fighting and military support operations. It takes a lot of people to get the aircraft up and going, Braeme said.

Fuelers are a part of that group. The fuelers keep the aircraft supplied with fuel throughout the missions. They conduct two different refueling techniques, hot and cold, said Staff Sgt.

Michael Paul, of Salem, an aviation fueler and noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Detachment 1, E Company, 7-158.

Hot refueling is when the helicopters fly to where the fuel truck is located, all personnel except the pilots exit the aircraft, and the engines are reduced to an idle.

Cold refueling occurs after the aircraft has been shut down, the personnel are removed from the area, then the fuel truck is moved to the aircraft, said Paul.

The hot exhaust from the engines and the explosiveness of the fuel can create a dangerous environment for the fuelers. Safety is an essential part of the job, Paul added.

Safety measures are strictly adhered to for the protection for the Soldiers and the aircraft said Paul.

The hot refueling process takes 5-10 minutes and the aircraft is back in the air. "They are top-notch," said 1st Sgt. Travis Powell, a flight medic and first sergeant for C Company, 7-158, about the refueling team.

Other support teams include the headquarters personnel, operations specialists, supply, mechanics and administration.

The Soldiers help with organization, coordination and the basic needs for a smooth running operation.

"The Soldiers are passionate about their jobs," said Powell. "Without them we would never have a mission complete," said Powell. "They are my success."

## 102 Civil Support Team participates in inter-agency exercise, 'Slanted Rain'



Above: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Rowena Simshaw assists a member of the Astoria Fire Department after a group returns from the "hot-zone" during a recent exercise at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.

Right: Members of the 102nd Civil Support Team work alongside HAZMAT and local first responders during a recent exercise at Camp Rilea. The unit regularly trains with local, state and federal agencies in scenarios involving CBRNE incidents.



Story and photos by Capt. Gregory Ramirez

102nd Civil Support Team Unit Public Affairs Representative

**WARRENTON, Ore.** -- The Oregon National Guard's 102 Civil Support Team took part in a Joint Training Exercise, "Slanted Rain", Feb. 7-11 at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

During the exercise, Oregon Soldiers and Airmen joined personnel from the FBI, local S.W.A.T., HAZMAT, Radiation Protective Services and the United States Coast Guard.

The event tested the ability of several different agencies to respond to and work together in response to a chemical, biological or radiological incident.

The exercise had the additional component of testing the 102 CST's capabilities to sustain operations for extended periods of time.

The team operated continuously over twenty hours of continues operation.

"The days were long, the weather was wet and cold, but in the end we are much more confident in our ability to integrate efforts with other agencies in the state," said Staff Sgt. Sean Gallagher, 102 CST Decontamination Team Member.

102 CST Commander Lt. Col. Lance E. Englet said the unit performed better than expected, given the complicated nature, and long duration of the exercise.

"The exercise and feedback from agencies reaffirms my belief that the 102 CST represents the best solution to difficult and complex CBRNE situations," he said.

## Encounter with Iraqi children prompts Soldier's introspective story

CONTINUED FROM  
PREVIOUS PAGE

kids, standing near fences or cars waving.

They were not running.

They were simply waving at us.

Our vehicle slowed again and we moved past what I can only describe as a driveway. At the end of the driveway was a house.

And there, standing right in front of the door with her mother turned holding a box, I spotted a little girl in a white dress. She stood staring at us for a long moment. And then, slowly at first, she raised her right hand and waved. Except she couldn't quite wave with her hand.

She was trying hard. Really hard. But she wasn't quite old enough to get it right. Instead, when she waved her little hand clinched in a fist. She seemed innocent and eager and excited as she tossed her hand up to wave at the Americans. For a long moment I stared at the little girl. I saw no fear.

I saw no hate. I saw just a little girl staring at the big trucks and waving at us.

She could have been in Vale watching a big semi-truck go by or in La Grande or Pendleton or The Dalles.

Then she brought her hand down and turned her head toward her mother and then jumped up, once, on her two feet.

I looked away then, back at one of the other kids behind a nearby wall. The MRAP picked up speed. I thought about all of the photos and all of the stories and all of the heartbreak and triumph that the name Iraq conjured up for us in America.

Then I thought of the little girl and the kids and the wave. I realized dimly that suddenly all of the rhetoric and pain and suffering somehow were channeled down a narrow conduit to this moment in time on a dusty Iraqi road in central Iraq.

I looked back up through the glass of the MRAP and tried to peer down the driveway.

But we had moved on down the road. So when I looked up, the little girl was gone.

*About the author: Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell, a La Grande native, is sending back stories from Iraq during the deployment of the 3/116.*



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- Your reporting assists the Air Force to know where you are, how you are doing, and to coordinate with applicable agencies in responding to your needs.
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- Your reporting assists the Air Force leadership and authorities to make better decisions in supporting you and your family, to maintain military readiness, and to preserve National Security during a disaster.
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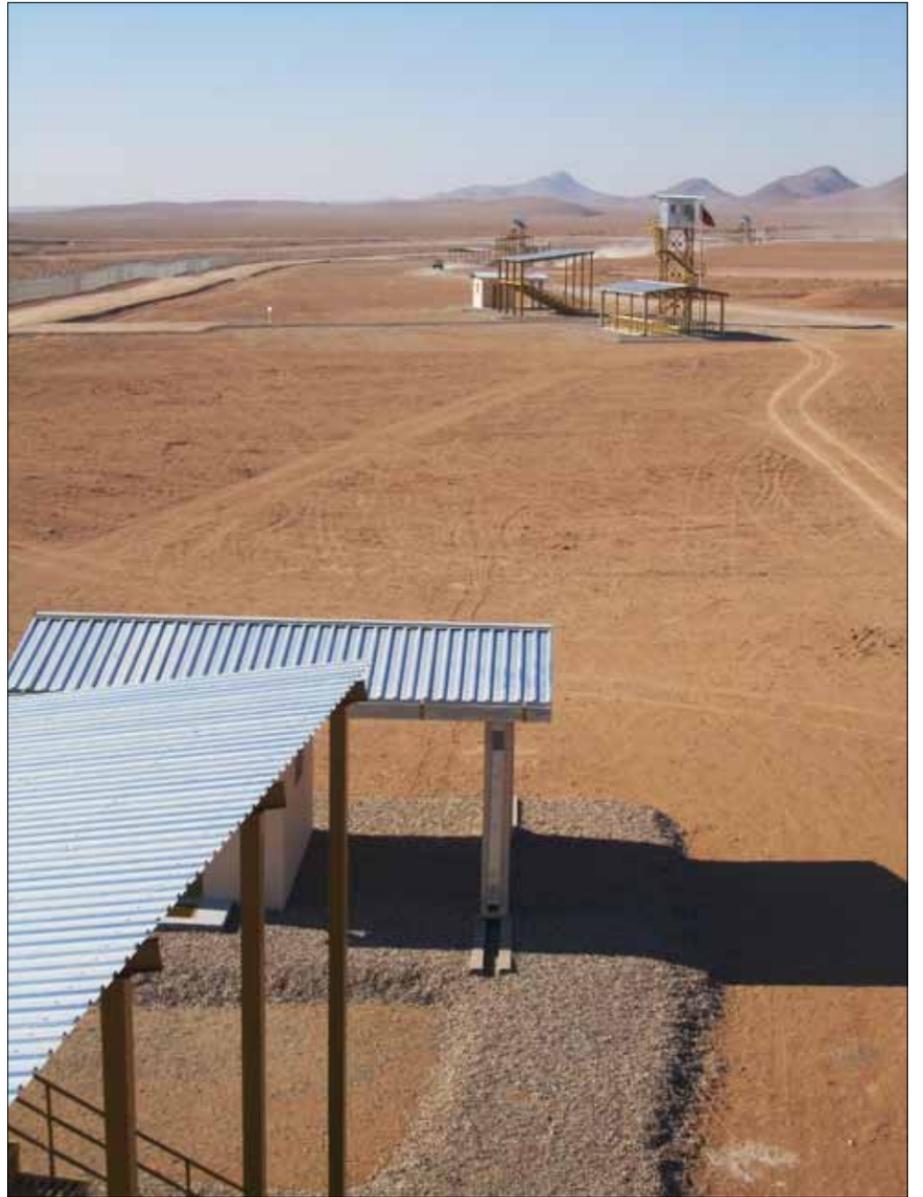
## NEWS

# Army Corps of Engineers builds infrastructure in Afghanistan



Above: The Corps of Engineers constructed facilities for the Afghan National Army 207th Corps at Camp Zafar, near Herat. The Corps of Engineer's Herat Area Office is located on the adjacent U.S. camp called Camp Stone.

Right: The training range complex for the Afghan National Army's 207th Corps includes eight specialized ranges for weapons systems within the ANA Corps. The complex, constructed by the Afghanistan Engineer District-South, is the first of five that will be constructed for the ANA throughout the country.



**Story and photos by  
Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe,  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Afghanistan**

Building the infrastructure of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) is a primary objective of the Obama Administration in Afghanistan.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a key enabler in this objective and has gone from having one district countrywide to two districts in order to more effectively support this critical task.

Currently, the Corps has Afghanistan Engineer District - North (AED-N) based in Kabul and South (AED-S) based in Kandahar.

The Corps' mission is to provide sustainable development projects for the Afghan people that employ them, build their skills, and promote the stability of Afghanistan.

As stated in the Wall Street Journal on Dec. 20, 2010,\* "the Obama Administration argues the current approach is making progress, with success defined as building up ANA and ANP forces until they can hold their own against a Taliban that is being weakened by ongoing combat.

Some officials also believe that several more years of military pressure will persuade many Taliban fighters to switch sides rather than fight.

The U.S. should channel aid to provincial leaders as well as to (and through) the government in Kabul. The U.S. should continue to train and arm friendly government and regional soldiers, but U.S. combat operations should become increasingly rare."

The infrastructure work being done by the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Air

Force Center for Engineering and the Environment, Regional Support Commands, provincial reconstruction teams, and others is changing the dynamics of the security equation.

Insurgent forces are denied their traditional maneuver advantage as roads and airfields are constructed. The ANA is growing its strength by approximately 6,500 soldiers every month through 10 basic warrior training centers throughout the country.

Similarly, the ANP has approximately 9,000 seats filled at any one time, training new Uniformed, Border, and Civil Order Police.

The Corps of Engineers is designing and constructing new facilities to house and train them, and progress is measured in part by their fielding to strategic locations around the country.

Prior to the coalition forces' support in Afghanistan, there were essentially no facilities for the ANA and the ANP. The facilities that were used for these purposes were either remnants left over from the Soviet occupation or makeshift temporary facilities. Today, there are new facilities all over the country.

The cost of building infrastructure is a small fraction of the overall cost the United States spends in Afghanistan and yet has an exponential benefit. The United States is spending more than \$100 billion annually in Afghanistan.

AED-S has a projected fiscal 2011 budget of \$680 million for 19 ANA projects to include bases, training areas and kandaks (battalion-size bases).

AED-S also has a projected fiscal 2011 budget of \$361 million for 55 ANP projects to include District headquarters, Battalion headquarters, Border Patrol headquarters, and training facilities.

Additionally, AED-S is providing roads, airfields, power, and water systems. All this is done with fewer than 300 Corps of Engineers employees.

AED-N has a slightly larger fiscal year 2011 budget and more manpower. The construction is done mostly by Afghans through the COIN (counterinsurgency) initiative, a program that uses local contractors and suppliers for these projects to build capacity and support among the people.

As the ANA and ANP become more capable through trained forces and infrastructure, the need for U.S. combat troops and operations will substantially diminish, thereby meeting the intent of the Obama Administration.

This investment will allow for the expected reduction in coalition forces and U.S. costs by an anticipated \$75 billion a year, according to the Obama administration from its third review in two years of U.S. policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan.

\*Source: Wall Street Journal, "Let's Un-Surge in Afghanistan," by Richard N. Haass, Dec. 20, 2010.

### About the author:

*Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe, is currently serving as the Herat Area Officer-In-Charge for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South. Lt. Col. Safe is on a one-year deployment with the Corps of Engineers. He manages the projects and personnel in the three Corps of Engineers offices throughout the western region of Afghanistan. The Herat Area Office has 52 U.S. military and civilian personnel and 28 Afghan engineers and covers the four western provinces of Afghanistan totaling approximately 62,000 square miles. The projects from this office include primarily Police, Army, and U.S. military construction; projects totaled more than \$250 million in 2010 and are projected at more than \$350 million for 2011. LTC Safe is a registered structural engineer and is a partner in a structural engineering firm in Portland, Oregon.*

## JAG on taxes: Be aware of allowances, deductions for Guard members

**Story by Lt. Col. Marshall Wilde,  
Oregon Air National Guard  
Judge Advocate General**

As tax time approaches, military members should be aware of a variety of special issues surrounding military service and taxation. These include issues of residency, filing deadlines, and special tax exemptions.

Some of these benefits are detailed below. You may consult IRS Publication 3, the Armed Forces' Tax Guide for questions about federal taxes and the Oregon Department of Revenue website for issues of Oregon state taxes.

With the passage of new legislation on the federal level, issues of military residency have taken on a new importance. Generally speaking, you are a resident of the state you live in and must pay taxes there.

However, certain members of the military on active duty and their spouses may maintain residence in another state while serving away from home.

Typically, members will maintain residency in a state with

no income tax. However, a few states with income taxes do tax military members residing outside the state. Be sure you are clear about your state of legal residence, as well as that of your spouse.

The tax filing deadline is April 18, 2011 this year. However, you may get an extension of six months by filing a Form 4868. However, it is important to remember that you will still owe interest on any amounts due and that the IRS will not pay interest on amounts it owes to you.

If you are serving in a combat zone on or before the deadline, you will receive an automatic extension for the length of your tour plus at least 180 days.

This extension applies to spouse and minor child tax returns as well, and interest will not be charged for any delinquencies, provided that the returns are filed within the extended deadline.

There are additional benefits for home buyers who were stationed overseas and for Oregon residents. If you were stationed overseas on active duty and purchased a home upon your return, you may qualify for the \$8000 home-

buyer's credit, even if you didn't purchase your home before April 30, 2010.

Military members stationed overseas after December 31, 2008 and before May 1, 2010 have until April 30, 2011 to purchase a home and still get the credit.

If you are an Oregon resident, you have an exemption on your state taxes for any military income earned while you were out of the state, as well as \$6000 of military income (active, IDT or AGR) earned inside the state.

Drill pay is generally taxable, but may be partially exempt if you were away from home for three continuous weeks during the year.

It can be difficult to determine which income qualifies. Check your LES's to count up the days if necessary.

In sum, Congress and the Oregon State Legislature have provided some unique benefits for military members.

Through these benefits, they seek both to make compliance with your tax obligations easier and to compensate you for serving your country. Take advantage of them and you may save yourself a significant amount of money.

## NEWS

## Global Assessment Tool useful to gauge resiliency, Soldiers say

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Nearly one million soldiers have now completed the Global Assessment Tool (GAT), a resource aimed at helping soldiers learn how to enhance their resiliency.

The results help soldier assess their core strengths and serve as a starting point through the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

Multiple deployments and the extended campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken a toll on soldier's mental health. A 2008 RAND survey showed up to 70 percent of soldiers are exposed to traumatic incidents in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Modern warfare is characterized by demanding missions, extreme climates, sleep deprivation, cultural dissonance, physical fatigue, prolonged separation from family and the ever-present threat of serious bodily injury or death," wrote Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum, PhD, MD, director of what's being called the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, in Health News Digest.

"Waiting for illness or injury to occur is not the way commanders in the U.S. Army approach high-risk actions, and it is not the way we should approach high psychological risk activities," he added.

The GAT is a 105 question survey used to assess a soldier in "four dimensions

of strength," including emotional, social, spiritual and family.

The online assessment is administered to recruits when they enter the Army and periodically throughout their military careers.

The assessment tool was developed by civilian and military psychologists, and is adapted from the basic principles developed by positive psychology pioneer Dr. Martin Seligman, who runs the University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology Center.

"The program's overall goal is to increase the number of soldiers who grow through their combat experience and return home without serious mental health problems," said Michael Matthews, PhD, a professor with the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the United States Military Academy at West Point in an interview with Health News Digest.

Results of the GAT are made available to the soldier immediately after he or she takes the assessment and remain confidential.

More specialized training in different aspects of resilience (emotional, social, family or spiritual) are offered as an option to soldiers, depending on their score on the assessment.

Timothy Merritt, a captain with the Oregon Army National Guard's 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team took the GAT.

"I think it's a helpful tool," said Merritt. "Soldiers know there is help available



Photo courtesy of Timothy X. Merritt

Timothy Merritt, (center), who was a lieutenant attached to the 41st Infantry Brigade, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006, where he served as the Brigade Commander's aide-de-camp during the deployment.

whether they use it or not is up to them," he added.

Army researchers will be studying the effectiveness of the program on

soldiers' resiliency as well as the links among physiological, neurobiological and psychological resilience factors.

## Suicide prevention begins with recruiting new Soldiers, Army says

Story By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2011 – Troubled about rising suicide rates in the military's reserve components, the top Army Reserve officer said yesterday he'd like recruiters to start identifying not only whether potential recruits qualify for military service, but also whether they're joining for the right reasons.

Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz said at a Defense Writers Group breakfast that he has deep concerns about the rising incidence of suicide within the ranks. In 2009, the Army Reserve suffered 35 suicides, and in 2010, that number rose to 50.

Suicide rates increased in the Army National Guard as well, although they dropped slightly among active-duty soldiers, from

162 in 2009 to 156 last year, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli reported last month.

"Frankly, we are still trying to understand what is going on with the suicide issues," Stultz told reporters yesterday.

One challenge, he said, is that most of the suicides within both the Army Reserve and Army National Guard occur when the soldier is in civilian, rather than military status.

And contrary to what one might expect, he added, most of the reserve-component soldiers who took their own lives had never deployed and were not about to deploy.

In fact, he said, some had not yet even attended basic training or started drilling with their reserve units.

Of those who committed suicide, Stultz said, contributing factors typically mirrored those among

civilians

who took their lives, including failed relationships, job losses and economic hardship," Stultz said.

That, he said, starts the minute a potential Army Reserve candidate walks into a recruiter's office.

"I think recruiters need to think more about being a counselor than a traditional recruiter," Stultz said. "It's great for recruiters to tick off disqualifiers that would make a candidate ineligible to join the military -- legal convictions, drug issues, lack of a high school diploma, among them -- the general said.

"But I think our recruiters need to start thinking about saying, 'Why?'" when a potential recruit expresses interest in joining the military, he added. "Why do you want to join the Army Reserve? What's going on in your head that you want to join the Army Reserve?"

Older candidates or those who appear to be joining the Army Reserve to escape problems or make money should send up a red flag, he said.

The Army Reserve can't solve their problems, Stultz said, and those soldiers ultimately will end up being problems for the Army Reserve.

In cases where recruiters don't identify potential problems, Stultz said, it's up to the Army reservist's unit to do so, as quickly as possible after a new soldier joins its formation.

"When that soldier shows up for his drill, somebody needs to sit down with him and say, 'Tell me about yourself,'" he said. In doing so, he told the group, unit leaders can help to identify marriage, relationship or career problems that could escalate over time.

As part of its suicide prevention program, the Army Reserve has joined the active Army in working to take the stigma out of seeking mental health care.

In addition, Stultz said, the Army Reserve is putting increased emphasis on "battle buddies" who check on each other and steer troubled soldiers to professional help.



Photo by Jeff Crawley, Fort Sill Public Affairs

Michelle and David Rauls hold a photograph of their son Nicholas, 13, on Dec. 1 at Knox Hall. Nick committed suicide Feb. 7, 2010, at the family's Elgin home. Since his death, the Rauls have been involved in suicide prevention awareness. Michelle works as an administrative assistant at G/3 Current Operations.

But because Army reservists spend the vast majority of their time away from their units, Stultz called family members key to the Army Reserve's suicide prevention efforts. "So part of our suicide prevention training has to include the family," he said.

Concerned as he is about suicide within the Army Reserve, Stultz said, he believes it signals even greater problems for the United States as a whole.

Although the military reports current suicide statistics, the latest national statistics on suicide date back to 2007, he noted.

"What concerns me is if we are

a mirror of society, what is going on in society?" he asked. "Are we going to look back three years from now and say, 'Holy cow, what was going on in our nation in 2010 that we really didn't realize because we were so focused on the military?'"

"I think we need to focus on this as a nation, not just as a military," he said.

For more information on the U.S. Army's Suicide Awareness campaign, visit the Military One Source website at: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

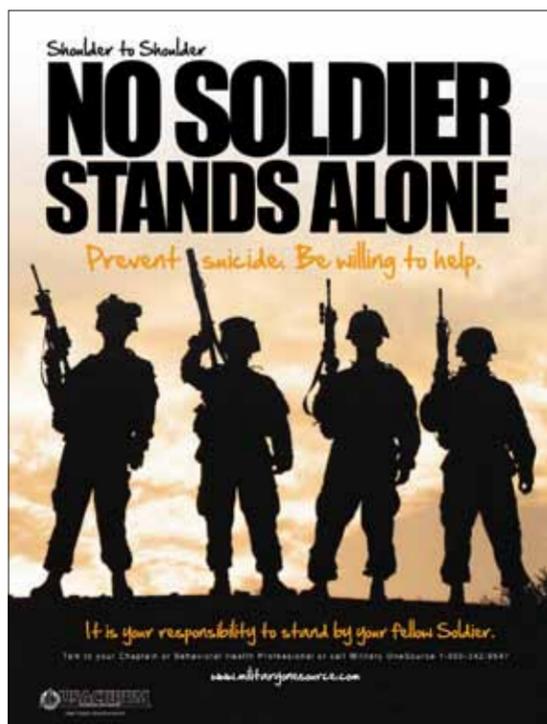


Illustration courtesy of U.S. Army

Military One Source Suicide Awareness poster designed by Ben Bunger. Military One Source serves as a one-stop shop for Soldiers with transitional concerns.

NEWS

# Oregon Guard members of 1249 EN BN assist Afghanistan village

**Story by**  
**Staff Sgt. Anna Rutherford,**  
*Task Force Gridley Public Affairs*

The proverb “Feed a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime,” is beginning to come true for a small village in Afghanistan thanks to the Soldiers of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Gridley, Oregon Army National Guard and the Soldiers of 101st Airborne Division, Task Force Red Currahee.

Members of Task Force Gridley, with air assistance from 101st Airborne Division and security elements from 1-506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Task Force Red Currahee, delivered humanitarian assistance and materials to build a dam in a small village in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

On March 9, Soldiers from Task Forces Gridley and Red Currahee hiked into the mountains of a district in Paktika Province to intercept two large nets, which had been air-dropped into a small village.

The nets contained humanitarian assistance to provide food and supplies for the impoverished villagers, whose agriculture had been devastated by the recent rough winter weather.

The other large net contained bags of concrete, which the village will use as the basis for a dam which will provide irrigation for their agricultural needs.

“It’s been a challenge to design this dam, but it’s going to be very rewarding to see it complete and functional,” said 2nd Lt. Raymond Jones of Task Force Gridley Civil Military Operations.

Also during the visit, Task Force Gridley medic, Sgt. First Class Jose Rodriguez, and Physician’s Assistant 1st Lt. Kenric Craver, were able to render first aid for minor injuries and illnesses.

Soldiers also found time to hand out toys



Above: Task Force Gridley Soldier, 2nd Lt. Raymond Jones draws a diagram of the dam project planned for a village in Paktika Province, Afghanistan on March 9. The dam is one of many projects projected to address the village’s critical agricultural needs, as well as assisting the village in becoming self-sustainable. Photo by Staff Sgt. Anna Rutherford, Task Force Gridley Public Affairs.

and candy for the village children, giving way to many smiling little faces.

Task Force Gridley Soldiers have been conducting various civil military operations throughout the province. The mission brought members of the 101st Airborne Division together with the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard, working on infrastructure and sustainability projects throughout Paktika.

Task Force Gridley also has plans for other future projects within the village to continue agricultural sustainability and aid the village in refining water storage and usage.

“We expect the village to be completely successful,” Jones said. “It’s going to be a productive partnership, which should lead to a higher level of self-sustainment for this village.”



Photo courtesy of Task Force Gridley Public Affairs.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lentz of 1249th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Gridley, Oregon Army National Guard offers a cookie to a small Afghan girl in a village in Paktika Province, Afghanistan on March 9. Females are typically not seen outside the home throughout various villages in the province.

# Oregon Guard program helps Soldiers find work, assistance



Photo by Don Weber, Oregon National Guard Reintegration Area Manger

2nd Lieutenant Jeremy Manning, and 2nd lieutenant Kyle Nemes, collaborate with Safeway representative Patrick Sagebiel, at the the Combat Leader to Corporate Leader workshop in the Embassy Suites hotel at Washington Square in Tigard, Sept 15.

**Story by Cory Grogan**  
*Oregon Military Department Public Affairs*

If you have recently returned from a deployment and you have used up all your leave, or you are looking for a job, or the tools to prepare for an interview, the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) under the Yellow Ribbon program can help.

The CTAP and Yellow Ribbon programs offer assistance to Oregon National Guard veterans, and workshops offering employment opportunities and assistance are available to units across the Oregon National Guard and Oregon Air Guard.

The Combat Leader to Corporate Leader workshop held Sept. 13-16, 2010, is an example of how the program is working to serve its’ purpose. Officers representing various units from the Oregon Army National Guard gathered in the Embassy

Suites hotel at Washington Square in Tigard for a program designed to prepare them for civilian employment.

Local employers included Safeway, FLIR Systems, Dailmer Trucks, Strategy Connection LLC, Hewlett Packard, Remax, Nike, North West Renewable Energy Institute, and Intel Corp.

Employers provided resources on how to compose a resume and prepare for interviews while looking for future employees.

41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team Electronic Warfare Officer Capt. Sean Herring, who received a job through the program with Intel Corp., said he is thankful for the program because he does not think he would have applied at Intel otherwise.

“A lot of companies are interested in hiring veterans and don’t know how to get access to them, and a lot of veterans don’t understand why their military experience

makes them desirable candidates. The program is a great way to create awareness on both sides.”

Herring said representatives from the company helped him realize that his qualifications met requirements for the job, and it was humbling to see how willing company representatives were to accommodate a schedule that only allows him to work certain shifts because of family obligations.

Don Weber, Regional Area Manager for the Yellow Ribbon program said the event assists employers in finding the right person for the positions offered.

“This is a great event; it provides tips, tricks and ideas for how to put your best foot forward in the interview and recruiting process,” Weber said.

Kandice Newton, of Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESGR), said military members can benefit from the one-on-one interaction with prospective employers.

“Under current economic conditions, Soldiers and Airmen attending these events will have an advantage on others applying for employment in a competitive environment,” Newton said.

CTAP Manager Craig Snitker said some who attended the event were offered employment on the spot.

J9 Operations Officer Maj. Maurice Marshall said Intel was one of the biggest supporters of the event. “They provided time, computers, personnel and resources to support the workshop,” he said.

Company representatives received the “Above and Beyond” award at the event.

Snitker said the award honored those who went out of their way and surpassed the requirements spelled out by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The award is provided by ESGR for outstanding service and continuing support to the national defense.

“This award is the third award given to the same company, and it is a big deal,” he said. Intel Recruiter Leon Hammer said his

company has recruited from the military for years.

“The military puts out an individual who is trained and more mature than their counterparts. They have seen things and made decisions that most people don’t even dream about.”

Many businesses are looking to give back to service members, and that doing things like dressing for success, preparing a professional resume, and attending CTAP job fairs through the Yellow Ribbon Program give guard members a great opportunity to find employment in a difficult job market, Marshall added.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program was implemented by the Secretary of Defense to establish a national combat veteran reintegration program to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families sufficient information, services, referral, and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle.

Units interested in putting together a workshop through CTAP can contact Craig Snitker at 503-584-2393. Additional resources for employment, health care, reintegration and veteran services are available on the Fort Oregon webpage at [www.fortoregon.org](http://www.fortoregon.org).

## Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(503) 584-2891 or  
 1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

E-mail/ Web:  
[ORRSO@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:ORRSO@or.ngb.army.mil)  
[www.orngretirees.info](http://www.orngretirees.info)

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

## NEWS

## Citizen-Soldiers of 2-162 Infantry honored with Presidential Unit Citation

Story by Spc. Cory Grogan,  
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

**CORVALLIS, Ore. (Jan. 10, 2011)**—Almost seven years after an intense firefight during the Battle of Fallujah, in Iraq, 30 Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard were recognized with the Presidential Unit Citation, during a ceremony at the Corvallis Armory, Jan. 8.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, received the Presidential Unit Citation—one of the highest awards given to a military unit—for their heroic actions during the Battle of Fallujah, Nov. 3 to Nov. 24, 2004.

The Soldiers were attached to the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, with guidance from the 1st Regimental Combat Team, 1st Marine Division at the time.

The Soldiers from 2nd Platoon were selected to lead the way into the Jolan District of Northwest Fallujah during some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq war.

Oregon Attorney General and former active duty Marine, John Kroger, also spoke at the event. He said he was impressed that a National Guard unit led the way with such competence and ability.

Bravo Co.'s participation in the battle was also documented in one chapter of John Bruning's book, *The Devil's Sandbox*. The book chronicled the 2-162 IN BN's participation in the Iraq War.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, said he was never proud to be a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, as he spoke to a large audience of Soldiers, family, friends and the media.

"These are your hometown heroes," Rees said.

"When our founding fathers wrote the Constitution and talked about defense of this nation, this is what they were talking about."

Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader issued a statement into Congressional record, which was also read at the ceremony.

The statement said, "The unit's rapid penetration deep into the city overwhelmed enemy positions, leading the way for further exploitation by the Marines."

The company carries a proud tradition, and as a unit, still have the best riflemen in the Army, said Sgt. Keith Dow.

"Good leadership is what we had and still have," said Dow, who is still a member of 2nd Platoon. "New Soldiers are being taught they need to live up to a standard that has been set."

The 30 Soldiers who were honored in the ceremony will be allowed to wear the award for the rest of their life.

Other members of the platoon can wear the award only while serving as a member of the unit.

Cadet Matthew Zedwick, a former Staff Sgt. in 2nd Platoon, attributed the award to brotherhood and camaraderie. He said the award is recognition for a very deserving group.

"The Presidential Unit Citation is huge



Photo Spc. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Members of Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Platoon, Bravo Co., 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, gather for a group photo after receiving the Presidential Unit Citation at the Corvallis Armory, Jan. 8. The award was bestowed on 30 Soldiers for their participation in the Battle of Fallujah while the 2-162 IN BN was deployed to Iraq in 2004. The unit was attached to 2nd Battalion; 7th Cavalry Regiment. The Oregon Soldiers saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Iraq War. The Presidential Unit Citation is one of the highest awards given to a military unit.

and this platoon is so deserving of the award," Zedwick said. "I will never find a group with that kind of discipline. We sacrificed and it feels good to be honored."

Schrader said nearly 9,000 citizen Soldiers have served in combat and counter-terrorism operations since Sept. 11, 2001.

He added that every one of them have repeatedly demonstrated their dedication to their country.

The Presidential Unit Citation shows the men from 2nd Platoon not only served, but did so to the highest military standard, he said.

## Wyden honors 'Go For Broke' veterans with Congressional Gold Medal



Photo by Setsy Larouche

World War II veteran Kennie Namba (left), speaks with Sen. Ron Wyden after the senator presented leather bound copies of Congressional law and U.S. flags flown over the nation's capitol to Oregon Japanese American (Nisei) veterans. The president will bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to all Nisei veterans later this year to honor their military service.

Story by Mike Allegrè,  
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

**MILWAUKIE, Ore.** -- Late last year, the U.S. Congress voted to award Japanese American (Nisei) veterans from the 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment and Military Intelligence Service the highest civilian honor the government can present—the Congressional Gold Medal for their exemplary service during World War II.

A long trip to Washington D.C. to officially receive the medal from the President is arduous as most Nisei are over the age of 85.

Recognizing that, Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has arranged to present leather bound replicas of Public Law 111-254, which authorizes the award of the Congressional Gold Medal, and a flag flown over the Capitol to the men of 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment who reside in Oregon.

Nisei veterans are not slated to officially receive these medals until later this Fall.

Prior to a town hall meeting on Jan. 14 at Milwaukie High School, Wyden presented three copies of the law to Portland residents Kennie Namba, Kazumi Oda, and Dr. Kenji Yaguchi. It was one of six similar presentations Wyden has made around the Portland metro area to at least 17 Nisei veterans since December.

Originally from Ontario, Ore., Yaguchi served in the 232nd Combat Engineer Company in Europe.

That company was unique. Unlike the other units in the 442nd that were primarily run by white officers, the engineers took their orders from other Japanese Americans.

"Like many Nisei, I am humbled to receive this from the Senator. We are thankful to be honored like this. We were there to fight for our country and to show we were loyal Americans," Yaguchi said. "We never retreated."

The 100th/442nd Infantry Regiment was called the "Go For Broke" regiment—the regiment's battle cry.

The regiment was awarded seven Presidential Unit Citations and 21 Congressional Medals of Honor among thousands of other collective and individual medals and citations while serving in France, Italy and Germany.

"The Nisei veterans who fought in the 'Go For Broke' regiment are the most decorated in American history," Wyden said.

"Each medal was earned through courage and bravery and awarding them the highest civilian honor is a fitting tribute to this outstanding regiment and an opportunity to ensure that history remembers these men for their great service."

## TRICARE coverage for family members extended to 26 years of age

Story by  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON D.C. (AFNS)** -- The Department of Defense announced Jan. 13 its introduction of the premium-based TRICARE Young Adult Program which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to age 26.

Expected to be in place later this spring, TYAP implements the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2011. Premium costs for TYAP are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 required civilian health plans to offer coverage to adult children until age 26. TRICARE previously met

or exceeded key tenets of national health reform, including restrictions on annual limits, lifetime maximums, "high user" cancellations, or denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions - but did not include this expanded coverage for adult children. Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students.

The fiscal 2011 NDAA now gives DOD officials the authority to offer similar benefits to young adults under TRICARE.

"We've been working hard to make sure we could put TRICARE Young Adult on a fast track," said Navy Rear. Adm. Christine Hunter, the TRICARE deputy director.

"Fortunately for our beneficiaries concerned about health care coverage for their adult children, the law signed by the

President includes opportunities for military families to elect this new premium-based plan retroactive to Jan. 1," Hunter said.

Beginning later this spring, qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase TRICARE coverage on a month-to-month basis - as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health coverage.

"This program has the potential to extend TRICARE coverage to several hundred thousand additional beneficiaries," Admiral Hunter said. "The premium allows us to provide this excellent benefit to our military families while responsibly addressing the impact of health care costs on the DOD budget."

Initially, the benefit offered will be a premium-based TRICARE standard benefit.

Eligible family members who receive health care between now and the date the program is fully implemented may want to purchase TYAP retroactively and should save their receipts. Premiums will have to be paid back to Jan. 1, 2011, in order to obtain reimbursement.

Adults who are no longer eligible for TRICARE, but need health insurance coverage, may wish to explore the Continued Health Care Benefit Program.

CHCBP is a premium-based program offering temporary transitional health coverage for 18 to 36 months. Coverage must be purchased within 60 days of loss of TRICARE eligibility.

For more information on TRICARE Young Adult Program and CHCBP visit <http://www.tricare.mil>.

## NEWS

# AZUWUR

## OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

### NOSTRA offers eye glasses to retirees

If you are retired military, and eligible for other medical services, you are authorized to receive up to three pair of standard eyeglasses per year.

If you are less than 50 miles from a military health clinic with optometry services, you should take your prescription for spectacles to them so that they may measure you for proper fit. They will order your spectacles from the appropriate facility.

If you are more than 50 miles from military health clinic with optometry services, you may follow these instructions to order your glasses;

Obtain and complete a DD Form 771. Fill out the top section with your name, "retiree" and last four, along with your shipping and contact information. Half-way down the form, indicate which standard issue frame you desire. Make sure you save the form to your computer. Print a copy of the completed form and take this with you to your eye exam.

Ensure that the examining facility writes the prescription, and includes your pupillary distance (PD) on the form.

There must be a separate DD Form 771 from each request of eyewear.

Send the following information to NOSTRA; One copy of the completed DD Form 771; a photo copy or scanned image of your military ID card; Your complete mailing address and phone number (and an e-mail address, if applicable).

You may submit your order for eyewear via e-mail or standard mail.

E-mailed requests may be sent to [NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil](mailto:NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil). Standard mail requests may be sent to; NOSTRA, 160 Main Road, Suite 350, Yorktown, VA, 23691-9984. You may also fax the documents to: 757-887-4647. Make it attention to "Retiree Order". For more information, contact NOSTRA customer service at 757-887-7611.

### 'Gray area' retirees benefits now online

Oregon Guard retirees who have completed their 20 years of qualifying service but are not yet 60 years of age are known as the "Grey Area" retirees.

Although you are not yet drawing retired pay you still have a long list of benefits available to you and your spouse.

To see the list of the benefits you can enjoy right now, visit; <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Reserve/soldierservices/retirement/grayarea.htm>

You may also contact the Retiree Service Office at 503 584-2891 or via e-mail at: [orrs@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:orrs@or.ngb.army.mil).

### Guardsmen should check on 20-yr letter

Traditional Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard become eligible to receive retired pay at age 60 after completing 20 years of qualifying service.

Retirement point summaries are usually provided annually to all Guardsmen details all creditable time towards 20 qualifying years of service.

Guard members should automatically receive a "20 Year Letter" indicating your have performed the necessary time and are qualified for retired pay at age 60.

Guardsmen who have completed their 20 good years but have not received their "20 Year Letter" should contact their unit for assistance. Getting a retirement check is not automatic: YOU MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.

Applications for retired pay are usually

submitted at age 58 or 59. All retirees should establish a "MyPay" account with Defense Finance and Accounting Service which allows for "on line" changes to your retired pay, including allotments, changes in tax with holdings, address changes and much more.

Questions about qualifying for retired pay should be directed to your unit of assignment, the Retiree Service Office (RSO) can also provide information. The RSO is located in Room 243 of the Anderson Readiness Center and is open each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The phone number is (503) 584-2891.

### ID card locations, info available online

Retirees can get their ID Cards updated at 10 different locations throughout Oregon. DEERS/RAPIDS operating facilities are located in Salem, Bend, Medford, Klamath Falls, La Grande, two locations in Portland, Springfield, Warrenton and North Bend.

Addresses, phone numbers and hours of operations for these facilities are posted on the Retiree Web site at <http://orngetirees.info>. You can also get the information by calling the Salem DEERS office at (503) 584-2387.

### Retirees need to update info with RSO

If you are retired from the Oregon Army or Air National Guard, it pays to keep your contact information updated. When you move, change phone numbers or even your e-mail address there are several offices to consider contacting, here are just a few.

The Retiree Service Office (RSO) provides the Sentinel your current mailing address so you can continue to receive your copies. To provide updates, contact the RSO at; (503) 584-2891, or via e-mail: [orrs@or.ngb.army.mil](mailto:orrs@or.ngb.army.mil).

The Defense Entitlement and Enrollment System (DEERS) can update your DEERS information at any of 10 locations in Oregon where ID cards are provided.

For more information on TRICARE, contact TriWest at 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

To contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), call: 1-800-982-8459.

### New legislation streamlines GI Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C - To bring the educational benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill closer to more Veterans and Service Members, President Obama signed legislation Jan. 4, that streamlines the 18-month-old education program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"Since the first GI Bill in 1944, this unique educational program has adapted to the needs of America's Veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists and Guardsmen," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

"Like its forbearers, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is growing to ensure the men and women who serve this nation in uniform receive valuable education benefits from a grateful nation.

"On behalf of Veterans and the many who serve them at VA, we would like to thank the president for his support, as well as members of Congress and our Veterans service organization partners for helping make this bill a reality," Shinseki added.

Among the provisions of the legislation are:

- Paying for on-the-job training, some

flight training; apprenticeship training and correspondence courses;

- Allowing reservists and Guardsmen to have their time supporting emergencies called by their state governors credited to the time needed to qualify for educational benefits;

- Providing one half of the national average for the program's housing allowance to students enrolled in distance learning;

- Pro-rating the housing allowance to exclude payments when students are not in class;

- Allowing students on active duty receive the stipend for books and supplies;

- Allowing people eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, but participating in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits to choose between the GI Bill's housing allowance or VR&E's subsistence allowance;

- Permitting reimbursement for more than one "license and certification" test;

- Reimbursing fees to take national admission tests, such as SAT, ACT, GMAT and LSAT; and

- Establishing a national cap of \$17,500 annually for tuition and fees in a private or a foreign school, not including contributions by educational institutions under the "Yellow Ribbon" program.

Information about the new provisions is available on the Internet at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

By the end of December 2010, VA issued nearly \$7.2 billion in tuition, housing, and stipends for more than 425,000 Veterans or eligible family members pursuing higher education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

### ORNG Assn to hold conference in Salem

The Oregon National Guard Association will conduct its 84th Conference at the Salem Convention Center on April 16. Officers of the Oregon National Guard will come together to consider the business of the Association, elect officers, and meet our Corporate Partners.

On Friday evening the leadership of the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon National Guard Association will celebrate with and recognize our Corporate Partners.

Their support is essential to carry out the Association's continual support of National Guard members and their families.

The conference will start at 7:00 a.m., with registration. Those who pay on line will have a receipt which will speed up the registration.

A buffet breakfast will be served at 7:15 a.m. Call to order will be given at 9:00

a.m. As of this printing, Maj. Gen. Garry Dean from 1st Air Force, (who was the former commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard), has confirmed his attendance and will be one of our speakers.

We will present six \$1,500 scholarships to National Guard members or family members during the conference. Calbag Metals Company endowment continues to allow the ORNGA to present these scholarships.

The business meeting will highlight what is happening in the legislative arena. Mr. Pete Duffy, Deputy Director of the Legislative Affairs at the National Guard Association of the United States, will be available to answer questions on what issues NGAUS is moving forward.

With shrinking budgets, now more than ever our voice on Capitol Hill needs to be strong.

The Military Ball will take place on Saturday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. The 234th Army Band will provide the musical program for this event.

There will a short oral auction before the dancing begins and instead of a silent auction there will be "Pick a Mystery Bottle".

Your pick could be an inexpensive bottle of wine or one that you want to save for a special occasion.

For \$20 you get to pick a bottle and have your name put into a drawing for two tickets to the 2012 Military Ball. With only 100 bottles of wine to be had, you have a great chance to attend next year's Ball for free.

Conference registration and the Military Ball can be paid for on line at [www.ornga.org](http://www.ornga.org).

### ESGR awards Union Pacific for support

The Oregon National Guard presented a small token of gratitude to the Union Pacific Railroad for the support of their employees who are members of the National Guard.

Special recognition went to the Union Pacific's Superintendent of the Portland Hub William P. (Pat) Meriwether at the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) award presentation at the Resort on the Mountain, Welches, Ore., held in January, 2011.

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Rouleau is employed by the Union Pacific as a Locomotive Engineer and has recently redeployed with the 1-82nd Cavalry from a tour of duty to Iraq, Victory Base Complex, Baghdad. Col. Bert Key (Ret) made the ESGR presentation of a certificate of appreciation.

### OR Military Museum nears completion on Sherman tank restoration project



Photo by Tracy Thoennes, Oregon Military Museum

The Oregon Military Museum's two year restoration project of a 1943 Ford M4A3 Sherman Medium Tank is nearing completion.

There are too many people who have helped in this process to name, but the Museum is deeply grateful to all the volunteers, staff and units who have contributed.

The goal of the museum is to display the tank alongside the circa 1940 Mitsubishi Type 95 Ha-Go Light Tank in front of the new 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, which is slated to be dedicated in September 2011.

## AIR NATIONAL GUARD NEWS

## ORANG's 116th Air Control Squadron deploys to Middle East



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

Left: Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Gregor Leist, Commander of the 116th Air Control Squadron, participates in a mobilization ceremony along with more than 80 of his Airmen, at the Portland Air Guard Base in Portland, Ore., Mar. 4.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142 FW Public Affairs

Above: Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Blaine L. Meyers, of the 116th Air Control Squadron, speaks to his son Nolan, following his unit's mobilization ceremony at the Portland Air Base Mar. 4. Meyers, who is from Vancouver, Wash., and more than 80 of his fellow Airmen will soon deploy to the Middle East in support of Air Forces Central (CENTAF), where they will perform Air Battle Management missions for four months.

## Story by

Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

## Significant contribution by

Tech. Sgt. John Hughel,

142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—More than 80 Oregon Air National Guard members took part in a mobilization ceremony on March 4.

The Airmen from the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard are deploying to the Middle East in support of Air Forces Central (CENTAF), where they will perform Air Battle Management missions for four months.

The event took place in the Rosenbaum Hangar at the Portland Air Base.

Congressman David Wu (OR-District 1), Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, along with other city, local, government, and business officials, attended the ceremony.

Governor Kitzhaber thanked the Airmen for their service and sacrifice, and thanked their families for theirs.

"I want to share with your families, and your neighbors, and with the entire State of Oregon, that we are proud of your dedication and your willingness to put service above all else," he said.

The mobilization ceremony was the first large-scale stand up of Guard members since the Governor became the Oregon

National Guard's Commander-in-Chief in mid-January.

Wu highlighted the unique role that Oregon's Citizen-Airmen will carry with them as representatives of the United States.

"You are the ambassadors of this nation," he said. "Because you are America's best and I know that you will serve us proud."

The Airmen are joined by three members of the 270th Air Control Squadron, based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., one from the 133rd Test Squadron, Iowa Air National Guard, and two from the 141st Air Control Squadron, Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

Pre-mobilization training was accomplished at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., and at Camp Adair. Airmen utilized the in-theater system, Battle Control

Center-CENTAF, or BC3, as well as other pre-deployment ancillary training to prepare them for the mission.

Lt. Col. Gregor Leist, 116th ACS Commander, said the team is excited about their opportunity to participate in coalition efforts supporting Overseas Contingency Operations.

"It is a great opportunity to apply our extensive training during support of meaningful real-world operations," Leist said.

"We deeply appreciate the sacrifices our families and employers will make during our absence, and we look forward to returning to our families and getting back to work in our civilian careers after our overseas tour is completed."

## Upcoming Commissary Case-Lot Sales in Oregon

National Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, and active duty military service members and dependents can take advantage of the great savings at the Commissary Case-Lot Sales. See the upcoming commissary sales listed below.

Customers must present an appropriate Department of Defense ID card that authorizes commissary privileges in order to shop.

Cash, checks, debit cards, and credit cards are accepted for payment. The use of coupons is highly encouraged!

**April 15-17, 9am-5pm**  
Deschutes Fair & Expo  
Center, Redmond, Ore.

**April 15-16, 9am-5pm**  
LaGrande Armory, La-  
Grande, Ore.

**June 17-18, 9am-5pm**  
Jackson Armory,  
Portland, Ore.

## Gregg assumes command of Oregon Air Guard



Photo by Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon, passes the official guidon to Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg during a change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Jan. 8. Gregg, who joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1984, also served as the 142nd Fighter Wing Commander and Director of Operations at Joint-Force Headquarters. Most recently, Gregg served as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air).