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Combat medic trains in Romania for Saber Guardian 2016



Photo by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Brad Foster, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, out of Pendleton, Oregon, watches the night sky on top of an M113 Medical Evacuation Vehicle during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 in Cincu, Romania. See the full story on page 6.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Soldiers test their mettle to earn infantry badge

Story and photos by Capt. Leslie Reed,
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

CAMP ROBERTS, California – The heat was nearly as intense as the competition itself. More than 100 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from both 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, began the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) event during their annual training at Camp Roberts, California, July 17-21. Only six successfully completed the demanding five-day course, earning the prestigious and coveted award.

The EIB was originally started in 1944 and recognizes infantrymen who have proven themselves as professionals in their job through their proficiency in more than 45 critical infantry tasks, done to standard. Only infantry Soldiers who are in the 18 or 11-series military occupational specialties (MOS) in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard are eligible to apply to participate in an EIB event.

The Soldiers are first evaluated on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Attrition rates throughout the EIB course are extremely high and analysis of units that have been tested under the current policy and measures regulation (PAM dated January 4, 2016) conclude that more than 40 percent of candidates don't make it past



Spc. Richard Ballentine, with 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, high crawls with his M-4 rifle during the Expert Infantryman Badge event at Camp Roberts, Calif., July 20.

the APFT. Soldiers are required to score a minimum of 80-points per each event, the difficulty is doing the push-ups to standard.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, the only Soldier to go "true blue" (completing every task to standard without using his one allotted re-test) believes strongly in "making yourself better every day ... continual self-improvement."

"Back in April, I had a 230 PT score," said Ash. "That wasn't good enough for me. I wanted to be higher. I needed 80 in each event to test for EIB. So, I started training in April and just kept going and going. Focusing on push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile run and I got to the point where a

week prior to this competition I went and scored a 290."

He said seeing the concrete evidence of improvement helped motivate him to continue to better himself, "I already know that I am doing better now, how much better can I get in a month from now, a year from now? Two years from now? Continual self-improvement!"

By day three, the few remaining Soldiers who participate in the individual testing stations account for another 75 percent of candidates that wash out. Soldiers were tested on both day and night land navigation.

Then they were evaluated on weapons systems, medical/first aid, patrolling skills, a 12-mile ruck march, and a culminating event known as "Objective Bull."

After crossing the finish line of the 12-mile ruck march, candidates immediately began the 100-meter "Objective Bull" course where they had to cover, treat and stabilize a simulated casualty. The Soldiers then load the casualty onto a stretcher and move them 25-meters to a casualty collection point (CCP). Objective Bull was added to the EIB schedule beginning in December 2015, and is named after Tech.

See 41st IBCT on Page 5



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Oregon National Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit articles and story ideas. Stories and letters to the editor from any source, military or civilian, are accepted. 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 Military Department Public Affairs Office and Oregon Sentinel staff are not accountable for factual errors presented by contributing authors or photographers.

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Story files must be submitted in Microsoft Word format, with no formatting. Photos must be high-resolution color JPEG files, accompanied by caption information containing the following: full name, rank, and unit of person(s) depicted in the photo, and a short description of what is happening in the photo. All hard-copies submitted to the Oregon Sentinel become the property of the Oregon Military Department unless prior arrangements are made with the Public Affairs staff.

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COMMAND

Keeping our priorities in mind to ensure our success

For more than 170 years the Oregon Military Department (OMD) has responded to domestic emergencies and natural disasters, and has served bravely, domestically and abroad, to defend our way of life and promote peace. This legacy does not just happen – it requires dedication, sacrifice, hard work, and direction. As I have toured the OMD facilities and met our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians, I have witnessed people proud of this heritage, working daily to continue this legacy of exceptional service.

Notwithstanding the age of our facilities, limited resources and a strained, unpredictable budget environment, the OMD has successfully remained relevant within the state and in the national security setting. Our response to wildland fires and other state emergencies; the transformation of the 41st IBCT; the scheduled receipt of Strykers; upgrades to our fourth generation fighters; and ongoing deployment taskings are evidence of our relevancy.

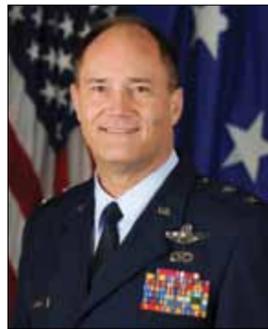
Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our past accomplishments to carry us into the future. The current environment is filled with

challenges as well as opportunities. To ensure that we are aligned to build on this proud history, we must periodically review our objectives. I have asked OMD agency leaders, both military and civilian, to review their strategic guidance and direction to ensure the OMD is headed towards a position of strength that assures our relevance well into the future, domestically and internationally.

I am committed to the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Priorities in the July 2015 OMD Strategic Planning Guidance.

To that end, I ask each of you to give extra focus on the following basic priorities to guide you in your daily activities:

- Know and model our core values;
- Empower and call on every Soldier, Airmen, and civilian to be a leader;
- Develop and maintain trained, ready, and experienced forces for our state and nation;
- Forge and maintain partnerships across our communities, state and nation;
- Invest in the OMD community – co-workers, families, and employers –



Major General Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard

fostering a resilient culture built on our core values;

- Prepare our families to be self-sufficient during a major domestic disaster;
- Provide effective stewardship of our resources.

I am proud to be part of such a professional organization. Your leadership as Citizen-Soldiers, Citizen-Airmen, and civilians continues the Oregon Military Department's legacy of honorable service to our communities, state, and nation. Thank you for your service!

State Command Sgt. Maj. Lake says farewell and thank you

I would like to take the opportunity to offer my personal appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you. I am truly humbled and honored for all of the help and support you have provided me, my family and the great State of Oregon over the last four years as the State Command Sergeant Major and Senior Enlisted Leader. Our success as an organization would not be possible without your commitment, dedication and personal sacrifices. I am blessed to have been afforded the greatest experiences, memories and amazing opportunities as a member of the Oregon National Guard over the past 26 years. I have had the privilege to serve alongside some of our nation's greatest Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen and civilians; and under the command of two Oregon governors and three adjutants' general.

You are the one percent that raised your right hand and swore allegiance to our great nation. Your experiences shape the future of our organization. Challenges and adversity build character and enable us to evolve and grow as service members and leaders. Take this experience, continue with the successes, and be a part of the improvements to make our organization even stronger. It will take your time and dedication to build the leaders of the next generation and write the next chapter in

our lineage.

You cannot buy the service members of today's ranks off the shelf. All of you are warriors forged through training, education, and experience. We are a product of our leadership and the environments of our communities. Every day you find a way to balance many priorities and still stand ready to respond domestically and globally. We stand ready to react locally for state missions like floods, fires or even an earthquake in a Cascadia Subduction event. Simultaneously, we train and prepare for our federal mission abroad to fly, fight and win in a complex world. Remember to tell your story; all of you have something to offer to the mission even if you think you are only doing what you signed up to do. All of you are the reason I get up every day and the reason I sleep easy at night. I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of you.

Our organization is in good hands with Maj. Gen. Stencel and Command Sgt. Maj. Richmond, as well as our command teams of the Oregon Military Department, Air and Army National Guard. Their competence and leadership will help ensure continued success in the next generation of the Oregon National Guard. You will continue to be an empowered,



Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, State Command Sergeant Major, Oregon National Guard

professional, well-trained and prepared fighting force that is resilient and effective stewards of our resources based on our core values. I am excited to see what the future holds for this great organization and each of you.

My family and I will miss being part of the Oregon Military Department family. Our experience will last forever in our hearts. Although I will be leaving my position this fall, I will either move out of the State of Oregon or retire by next spring. I will never forget my military heritage, our fallen heroes, and what it means to be an Oregon Guardsman. Thanks for your service and sacrifice. Every Service Member a Leader; Always Ready - Always There. Hooah!

SecDef awards Oregon employer for supporting Guard and Reserve

Story courtesy Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter presented the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office with the 2016 Employer Support Freedom Award at the Pentagon, August 26.

Fifteen employers from across the nation received the prestigious award, the nation's highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

"The extraordinary support these employers provide contributes greatly to the readiness and resilience of our Guardsmen and Reservists," said Defense Secretary Ash Carter. "Their support allows those troops to serve our nation at home and abroad knowing their civilian careers are secure, and is vitally important to the success of our national security strategy."

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office was nominated for the Freedom Award by Oregon Army National Guard 1st Sgt. John Zagyyva, who serves as a part-time Citizen-Soldier with B Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, out of Redmond, Oregon.

Highlights of the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office's support of Guardsmen and Reservists include: Leadership spearheaded a change in the Oregon Constitution that prohibited differential pay for Reserve/Guard

members, alleviating the pay difference between military duty and their civilian jobs. The organization created the Military Employee Support Program, partnering with local organizations raising money for deployed service members, and organized a "Deployed Vet Drive" which collected a half ton of needed items for deployed service members. Sheriff Craig Roberts has used his business connections to help find employment for unemployed Guardsmen and Reservists. The organization monitors the families of deployed troops and assists them with yard work and home repairs. Sheriff Roberts personally delivered Christmas presents to the families of his mobilized troops.

"We have many deputies who also serve in the military at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, and we see first-hand the sacrifice they make to protect our freedoms," said Sheriff Roberts. "I'm very proud of the efforts of our



DoD photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Tim D. Godbee

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter awards a 2016 Employer Support Freedom Award to Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts at the Pentagon, Aug. 26. Fifteen employers from across the nation received the prestigious award, the nation's highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

Military Employee Support Program which helps deployed soldiers and their families in various ways. Whether it's mowing a lawn, sending a care package, or helping buy Christmas presents, our employees go above and beyond to help each other."

COMMAND

Gen. Joseph Lengyel becomes 28th chief of National Guard Bureau

Story by Terri Moon Cronk
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Citizen-warriors and the entire National Guard family are vital to the security of the United States, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said at the National Guard Bureau change-of-responsibility ceremony at the Pentagon, Aug. 3, 2016.

The secretary also promoted Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel to general. Lengyel takes the National Guard Bureau chief reins from retiring Army National Guard Gen. Frank J. Grass. Lengyel had served as bureau vice chief, and Grass had served as the first Guard Bureau chief on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Guard essential to Total Force:

The days of the National Guard serving exclusively as a strategic reserve that was called up only in emergencies are over, Carter said.

“The post-9/11 environment has proven the Guard is an indispensable component of the Total Force, in day-to-day activities and large-scale operations, in planning and execution, and in conventional conflicts and novel threats,” he said.

The more deeply integrated the Guard becomes, the better prepared the nation becomes, the secretary said.

“The presence, skill and readiness of citizen-warriors across the country give us the agility and flexibility to handle unexpected demands, both at home and abroad. It is an essential component of our total force, and a linchpin of our readiness,” Carter said.

That critical element the Guard brings to the Total Force is one reason why the Guard Bureau chief position was elevated in 2012 to the Joint Chiefs of Staff level,

the secretary pointed out.

“General Frank Grass has led this historic transition with character and skill,” Carter said.

“He’s helped increase our rapid deployment capability to respond to any crisis,” the secretary added, “and strengthened the Guard’s partnerships at the local, state, federal and international levels. He has been a strong and steady voice at the table for the men and women of the National Guard.”

Guard responds quickly:

The Guard keeps the skies free from danger, responds to disaster with compassion and professionalism at a moment’s notice and stands watch at home and abroad, Carter said, telling Guard members, “You responded when we needed you during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan all those years.”

Those qualities have been the spirit, mission and enduring commitment of the Guard through the centuries, “and never more so than over the past 15 years,” Carter noted, adding, “Since Sept. 11 [2001], the men and women of our Army and Air National Guard, and their families, have answered the nation’s call to deploy over 787,000 times.”

Today’s Guard is battle-tested and is an agile, flexible, deployable force with combat experience and a broad range of skills gained both on the battlefield and in civilian life, and confronts the challenges of today’s complex world, the secretary said.

“As history has shown that we can never perfectly predict the strategic future, we must also be flexible and agile in preparing for unknowns that we can’t anticipate today,” Carter said.

Grass ‘seized opportunity’:

“As chief of the National Guard these past



DoD photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Tim D. Godbee

Defense Secretary Ash Carter administers the oath of office to Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, incoming chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Pentagon, Aug. 3, 2016. Lengyel assumed command from retired Army Gen. Frank J. Grass.

four years,” he told Grass, “you’ve been a courageous and skillful leader - exactly the one the nation needed, and you’ve seized every opportunity to make progress, and our Total Force is stronger as a result.”

The National Guard family will remain in the good hands of another proven strategic thinker in Grass’ vice chief and new bureau chief, Lengyel, the secretary said.

Perhaps most importantly, Carter said, Lengyel “knows what it means” to be a military family member after his military pilot father was shot down in Vietnam and became a prisoner of war in 1969, only to return to service there as just one of two former POW pilots in 1975.

Unpredictable global events:

“We cannot predict how, or when, or where, the men and women of our National Guard will be called on to serve their fellow citizens,” the secretary said, adding that because of Grass’ strong leadership, the National Guard is an indispensable force, trained and ready to respond wherever it’s needed.

“We know that General Lengyel will lead this force with certainty, clarity and the full confidence and trust of myself and the president,” Carter said, thanking both leaders and all National Guard members for remaining “Always Ready, Always There.”

Election season do’s and don’ts from the Staff Judge Advocate

Story courtesy
Oregon National Guard
Staff Judge Advocate General Office

“It’s an incredible moment for me. I can’t believe it. It’s like meeting a rock star,” Corporal Jesse Thorsen, U.S. Army Reserve, said on stage at a political rally on CNN while in uniform.

After his general officer letter of reprimand, Specialist Thorsen might regret forgetting a basic rule; never mix politics with military service.

With national, state and local elections looming, it is easy to get caught-up in the political fever. However, it is good to remember that when we chose to serve, we also chose to uphold the nation’s liberties

enshrined in the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. Defending our country’s freedoms sometimes requires not exercising these very freedoms ourselves.



The rule of thumb is to never do anything that may be viewed as directly or indirectly associating the Department of Defense (DoD) or Oregon National Guard with politics.

But what does that really mean?

If the activity or event is political, don’t participate or attend in uniform; wear civilian clothes. Political campaign events, parades, holding signs, meeting candidates, and attending open houses

are all great, but they can cause trouble if done in uniform—so don’t do it!

Be careful when talking about politics while in uniform so no one gains the impression that you are speaking in your military capacity or for the National Guard. The National Guard readily and proudly serves our government leaders and the citizens of Oregon, without regard to political affiliation. It doesn’t endorse or promote any particular elected official, candidate or issue.

It’s alright to disagree with civic leaders—like the president, governor or Congress—just don’t bad-mouth them or show disrespect, especially when actions or comments could be construed as the official position of the Oregon National

Guard. This perception typically occurs when in uniform or by stating you are a member of the Oregon National Guard.

A traditional Guardsman may run for political office, list military service as a qualification, and use pictures while in uniform. Military service and pictures may be part—but not the primary focus—of the political campaign. Full-time Guardsmen must get permission from DoD before they run for elected office.

The bottom line is to enjoy and support the political season and process. Be active and get involved. Just don’t involve the Oregon National Guard or DoD.

Do you have specific questions? Please contact OSJA at 503-584-3571.

Warrant Officer Corps birthday

Photos by
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-5 Robert Justice (right), warrant officer association president, presents a sign to Brig. Gen. William Edwards (left), commander of the Oregon Army National Guard, commemorating the 98th Birthday of the Army Warrant Officer Corps during a celebration held at the Elks Lodge #336 in Salem, Oregon, July 9, 2016.



Retired Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-5 Terry Swartwout (left), former command chief warrant officer; Brig. Gen. William Edwards, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard; and Mike Carter (right), exalted ruler of the Salem Elks Lodge, cut the cake with a saber commemorating the 98th Birthday of the Army Warrant Officer Corps during a celebration held at the Elks Lodge #336 in Salem, Oregon, July 9 2016. The official birthday of the Army Warrant Officer Corps is July 9, 1918.

Lt. Gen. Hokanson, 30-yr. medal



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents Lt. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson with the Oregon 30-Year Faithful Service Medal during a ceremony, August 6, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Hokanson, a former Oregon adjutant general, served as the deputy commander for NORTHCOM and vice commander for U.S. Element NORAD before he was most recently appointed, Sept. 15, as the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau.

NEWS

Oregon Military Department installs multi-million dollar solar array

Story and photos by
Christopher L. Ingersoll,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

PENDLETON, Oregon - U.S. Senator Ron Wyden and Oregon Senator Bill Hansell joined the Oregon Military Department in officially dedicating the new 150-kilowatt solar panel array at the Oregon Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF #2) at the airport in Pendleton, Oregon, August 4.

The Oregon Military Department partnered with Energy Trust of Oregon, the federal government and Pacific Power to bring the project to completion, working toward the larger goal of making the Oregon National Guard Net Zero by 2020. The project also benefits the State

of Oregon as it works toward complying with Executive Order 13693, which sets multiple clean energy milestones including the state to have 30-percent of its electricity produced by renewable sources.

Senator Ron Wyden, in his remarks, stated that the project was a success on a number of levels.

"I know we are calling this Net Zero, but I call it a net win for the State of Oregon," Wyden said, remarking how it not only helps with energy security goals but the panels being built in Oregon means more jobs for fellow Oregonians.

The array consists of 475 315-watt panels. To date the solar panels have already created 166,644 KWh of power equaling 13,496 gallons of gasoline, 119

tons of CO2, 2,999 trees saved or 951 60-watt light bulbs.

After the event, Wyden also commented on the outlook of the Oregon Military Department's Net Zero program.

"This is the face of Americas future," Wyden said. "It's wonderful to see the Oregon National Guard lead the way."

The solar array in Pendleton is one of several Net Zero building projects being conducted by the Oregon Military Department.



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden helps dedicate the new Oregon Military Department solar panel array outside the Oregon Army National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF #2) at the airport in Pendleton, Oregon, August 4.

Washington County SWAT trains with Guard helicopters



Photos by Christopher L. Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



Above: An Oregon Army National Guard UH-72A Lakota with Detachment 1, A Company, 1-112th Aviation, picks up the first five-man K9 team with Washington County Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) at McNary Field, in Salem, Oregon, July 13. The training helps familiarize SWAT teams with loading and unloading onto a helicopter safely and gives the K9 team members familiarization with the noise and high winds of the aircraft.

Left: A Washington County SWAT team waits to board an Oregon Army National Guard Lakota at McNary Field, in Salem, Oregon, July 13. The familiarization flight was the first time in a helicopter for K9's 'Radar' and 'Chase.'

Police test rooftop insertion



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

Members of the Portland Police Bureau's Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) disembark an Oregon Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter, from Detachment 1, Company A, 1-112th Aviation, during a joint training exercise, August 17, in Portland, Oregon. The aircraft transported police officers to the top of a high-rise building in downtown Portland.

PORTLAND, Oregon - The Oregon Army National Guard partnered with the Portland Police Bureau during a joint training exercise in downtown Portland, Oregon, August 17, 2016.

The Oregon Army National Guard provided transportation for members of the Portland Police Bureau's Special Emergency Reaction Team (SERT) utilizing UH-72 Lakota helicopters.

Oregon Army National Guard aviators, with Detachment 1, Company A, 1-112th Aviation, conducted multiple helicopter flights from Troutdale to downtown Portland,

dropping off police officers on top of a high-rise building.

"Conducting joint training helps us build stronger relationships between local law enforcement and the Oregon National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, commander of the Oregon National Guard's Joint Domestic Operations Command. "This type of training and networking is an excellent opportunity for local first responders and the National Guard to work together as a team in the event that we need to help the citizens of Oregon during an emergency."

102nd Civil Support Team puts Guams's 94th CST through the riggers

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Tom Hovie,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jamel Mercado, with the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST), sets up a simulated chemical lab for a training exercise in Guam.

Guam - Members of the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) flew to the tropical island of Guam, June 9, in order to evaluate a sister unit; Guam's 94th CST. The Oregon CST evaluators spent a week working with the Guam team in order to ready the unit for their upcoming training proficiency exam (TPE) where the stakes are much higher.

Oregon spent a good deal of time staging the training area with very realistic props like glassware and chemicals which mimicked exactly what terrorists might use to make home made explosives. The Oregon Guard even brought real, safe, radioactive props (which needed to be authorized by the airlines for travel) in order to test Guam's ability to find and analyze radioactive material. This attention to detail adds volumes to the knowledge gained during these exercises.

Oregon's team was praised by the Guam leadership for going the extra mile, by providing the 94th CST with some of the most realistic training they have seen in recent memory.

"This training will pay dividends during our upcoming events," said Major Victory Balajadia, deputy commander of the 94th



Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Paul Ederly, with the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST), evaluates two survey team members with the Guam National Guard's 94th CST as they take photos of a simulated chemical lab during a training exercise in Guam. Nine members from Oregon's 102nd CST provided set up and evaluation support to Guam's 94th CST during a training exercise in early June 2016. The exercise is designed to better prepare the 94th CST for their upcoming Training Proficiency Evaluation.

CST. "It will pay big dividends on our culminating training event in July and our TPE in August."

Major Adam Lulay, the operations liaison officer for the 102 CST, said that the learning in these sorts of training events goes both ways.

"I'm really impressed with them, I think they have learned a lot, I think we've learned a lot," said Lulay. "I think the feedback that we have provided the 94th will be very beneficial to them in their future training opportunities and vice versa."

NEWS

41st IBCT Soldiers earn coveted Expert Infantry Badges



Sgt. Glen Christensen, with 1-186th Infantry Battalion, moves a simulated casualty during the "Objective Bull" portion of the EIB event, July 21, after completing a 12-mile ruck march at Camp Roberts, Calif.

Continued from Front Page

Sgt. Walter Bull, who earned the first EIB in 1944.

All of the cadre that oversee the event are EIB recipients themselves. The Oregon Army National Guard had approximately 70 EIB recipients before the event at Camp Roberts, but now has 76 with this year's newest inductees.

As the lead plans and operations noncommissioned officer for the EIB event, Master Sgt. Geoffrey Miotke said he sees "every gamut of emotion" throughout the course of the five-day event.

"A lot of anxious, young infantrymen; then more scared infantrymen; and then a little more panicked infantrymen as they go through the process and they start receiving 'No-Gos' and can no longer compete or finish their run," Miotke said. "The excitement builds back up with those that are continuing on."

Staff Sgt. Tyler Brown, assigned to Delta Company, 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, and a 2011 EIB recipient, worked as a grader on three different individual testing stations and explains, "the really hard ones (lanes) are the ones where there were a number of

steps to do in sequence."

One of the EIB recipients to successfully complete this year's course, Capt. Ryon Skiles, Alpha Company commander, 1-186th Infantry Battalion, agreed, "The lanes with the most tasks in them, that you have to do in sequence, were the most difficult. Those are the ones you really have to memorize and get your rhythm on."

Skiles said the course certainly has no shortage of low points, "I'm not perfect, I actually double No-Go'd the first day [of individual testing]. They call that 'blade running' and that's what I did for the next 22-stations straight, either I passed or I would be out."

Not everyone participating was so lucky. Brown reflects, "I think it says something about a person when they can fail, but stay on their feet to do it again. We kept telling them, 'Hey, you made it until day two or day three of testing, you're easily more skilled than 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 percent of the Soldiers out here, so keep your head high and try again next time.'"

But the high points were unforgettable, recalls Skiles.

"The high was definitely mile eight on the ruck march," he said. "We turned

around and they (cadre) handed us a token, which was the actual EIB itself. And there's no failing from there."

In order to be successful Miotke believes, "you have to have a lot of discipline, you have to have a high degree of motivation, and you must be physically fit."

Skiles agrees, challenging other units not only for the next time the EIB course is offered, but with their regular yearly training.

"One of the biggest things that knocked people out was the APFT, so ensure that your APFT is good and you're doing it to standard," he said.

The six recipients of this year's EIB event were Sgt. Glen Christensen, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, and Capt. Ryon Skiles, all with the 1-186th Infantry Battalion; and Spc. Richard Ballentine, 1st Lt. Kevin Johnson, and 1st Lt. Matthew Shepergerdes, all with 2-162nd Infantry Battalion.



Oregon Air National Guardsmen show the meaning of heroism

Story by

Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Oregon – Two Oregon Air National Guard Airmen with the 116th Air Control Squadron were presented the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal, July 10, during an award ceremony at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Oregon.

A young toddler was struck by a van on the corner of SW 9th and Main Street in Warrenton last September. The boy ran into the road in front of a slow-moving van and was run over by the front tire. Staff Sgt. Beth Rowley and Staff Sgt. Ryan Smith had just approached the intersection in attempt to remove some young children they saw playing in the road, when the boy was hit.

"Actually seeing it was horrific," said Rowley. "But thank God he lived. We ran over and called 911 and stayed with the baby, and I comforted the mom when she came running out."

"The driver I don't think even saw the kid, there's no way," Smith explained. "We just tried keeping the boy still, talk to him, and not move him."

Rowley and Smith were awarded the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal with the Gold Service Star for their heroism. Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presented the medals to Rowley and Smith during the ceremony.

"They truly demonstrated the core values integrity, service and excellence that all of us should be aspiring to and what local Oregonians and the citizens of America expect from us," Stencel said.

For these two Airmen, it was never about recognition or awards.

"I think anyone in the Air Force in our situation would have hopefully reacted in the same way," said Rowley. "That's just our duty, and that's what we do."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal to Oregon Air National Guard Airmen, Staff Sgt. Ryan Smith and Staff Sgt. Beth Rowley, with the 116th Air Control Squadron, during an award ceremony at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Oregon. Rowley and Smith's actions in September 2015 potentially saved the life of a young toddler that was struck by a van.

Oregon Guard hosts annual Air Assault school at Camp Rilea



Soldiers rappel out of a Blackhawk helicopter during Air Assault training at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon, June 2, 2016. The Oregon National Guard hosts an Air Assault School annually. The training involves physical fitness, learning how to sling-load equipment underneath an aircraft, and learning how to rappel from a helicopter.

Story and photos by

Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin,

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Oregon - Service members are finishing a 12-mile ruck march, the final requirement to graduate from Air Assault training. Air Assault

trainee Spc. Theran Golden, with the 162nd Combat Engineers, out of Dallas, Oregon, said he's pleased with what the course provides. "This is the kind of training that I believe keeps soldiers happy with what we're doing."

Air Assault School prepares service members to conduct air mobile and air

assault helicopter operations, including rappelling from helicopters like the UH-60 Blackhawk. The almost two week course ends in a graduation where Soldiers receive their Air Assault Badge if they've met all of the requirements.

The Oregon Army National Guard's assistant operations sergeant, Master Sgt. Geoffrey Miotke, said Warrior Training Center hand-picked Camp Rilea as an ideal site for this training almost a decade ago. "Years ago, WTC contacted Oregon and said 'we like your training site. We'd like to know if you guys would be willing and able to assist in a military training team to train an Air Assault course out here,'" Miotke explained. "We got the funding for it, built it, and we've hosted it ever since 2008."

The instructors, such as Staff Sgt. Robert Rancher, who travels all over the world conducting this training, said the Oregon Coast is a great fit for this course. "Camp Rilea is an excellent training ground for the Soldiers. They're in walking distance from everything they need, and the weather is perfect for road marches and extra activities."

While the training provides an opportunity for Soldiers and Airmen from any unit in the Western U.S.,



Soldiers prepare to rappel out of an Oregon Army National Guard HH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during air assault training at Camp Rilea, Oregon on June 2nd, 2016. The Oregon National Guard hosts this training annually, involving training on a repel tower, a 12 mile march, and a rappel from a helicopter.

Miotke added that the Oregon National Guard benefits from hosting this event.

"It helps out Oregon quite a bit. We get our Soldiers loaded in the course, we get a certain seat count. So it helps us out to gain proficiency in our Soldiers to become Air Assault qualified."

But it's the Soldiers like Specialist Theran that get the most out of the training, "It's things like this that make me happy with my decision of joining the Army," he said.

FEATURES

Combat medic heals hearts and minds at Saber Guardian 16

Story and photos by
 Spc. Timothy Jackson,
 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CINCU, Romania – U.S. Army combat medics live by a creed of trust. Those who have proven their skills under fire and put their lives before others receive the title “Doc.” From the time a soon-to-be medic gives their first IV at Fort Sam Houston, to the time they hang up their aid bag, a medic will bear blood, sweat and guts to maintain that title.

One combat medic who proved he earned the right to be called “Doc” is Staff Sgt. Brad Foster, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, out of Pendleton, Oregon. Foster, along with his unit, spent three weeks training with other U.S. Army active duty units and nine participating partner nations during Exercise Saber Guardian 16, a multinational exercise designed to develop joint combat readiness.

Foster spent most of the exercise training combat medics in his platoon on how to save lives. During training and war, combat medics make the difference when working with a severe injury to prevent fatalities. Pulling from seventeen years of experience in the field and two deployments, Foster has earned the title of “Doc” within the unit.

“Doc” recalled the fateful day he tested his mettle and steady skills, and earned his title. It was in 2004, while deployed to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment during a routine mission, when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the rear vehicle in his convoy. Under the rain of enemy fire, Doc Foster ran to two Soldiers with life-threatening shrapnel wounds, dragged them to safety, and patched them up.

Not even the memory of receiving the Combat Medic Badge for his heroic acts creates the same smile on his face as when a Soldier calls out, “Hey, Doc Foster!”

Doc Foster received a call on his cell phone from one of his combat medics who’s out in the field covering live-fire training, and seamlessly transitioned from healer to leader. He answered in a joking, monotone voice, “Sergeant Foster, Leader of Soldiers.”

The opening line to all the calls he receives from his Soldiers is one way he keeps the atmosphere around his medical platoon relaxed but ready.

At the end of Exercise Saber Guardian, Soldiers are scheduled to have a cultural day where they visit local tourist stops. On this day, Foster said he most wants to sit at a local café after exploring the cities’ historical buildings.

“I volunteered to come to Romania,” he said, “I love to travel... [and] I really enjoy being a medic, any chance I can go do it, I jump on it.”

Being a medic is much more than the physical side of repairing limbs and treating sickness, it is a social game of trust. If Soldiers trust their medics to treat



Staff Sgt. Brad Foster, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team out of Pendleton, Oregon, poses for a photo in front of an M113 Medical Evacuation Vehicle during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania. Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard).

them in any situation, they will have the confidence to do higher tempo missions without worrying about the potential for serious injury. The medic is like a rock climber’s harness; it makes the Soldiers feel comfortable.

It is early in the morning, but the sun is already sucking the moisture out of the brownie-batter mud. It will be a hot, humid day and Doc Foster is already thinking about the repercussions to his Soldiers.

“Did you drink at least a liter of water since waking up?” he asked a Soldier who walked in for sick call, while handing him a two-liter bottle.

Foster supported Bravo and Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th CBCT, consisting of 140 Soldiers. There were no heat casualties or serious injuries. Soldiers walked the tighrope of their duty well: the tankers shot 120mm rounds while they maneuvered through uncharted terrain, but had safety on their minds at all times. Infantryman conducted air assault drills and balanced the rush of adrenaline with the reality of danger.

Last year, Doc Foster was at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, California, with the same unit.

“I’ve never seen so many heat casualties in my whole career,” Foster said. “I think a lot of our medics at our NTC rotation realized how viable our training is. It woke up a lot of people, making sure they’re trained up.”

According to Spc. Gaige Spencer, a combat medic, who works for Doc Foster, Foster maintains high expectations of everyone in the battalion aid station. During the NTC rotation, Soldiers were doing 14-hour missions with temperatures exceeding 115 degrees. Because of Foster’s work ethic and care for his Soldiers, there were no heat casualties in Charlie Company.

Doc Foster coyly credits junior leaders, the combat medics underneath him, or the lucky stars, for the facts that point to the influence of his leadership and medical expertise.

Doc Foster’s selfless service for Soldiers overflows to non-U.S. Soldiers as well, having served all over the world from Korea to Germany, to two tours in the Middle East. Saber Guardian saw a total of 2,800 Soldiers from 10 countries and for Foster the wealth of culture and diversity was worth more to him than a subscription to National Geographic.

“When I was in Afghanistan, I met some really great friends in the Canadian Army,” Foster said.

He played hockey with them and even started a ball hockey league. For Foster, hockey was always a door to interact with locals and experience the culture.

“When I was stationed in Korea, I got to play hockey with the locals and was invited to their homes,” he said.

“[At Saber Guardian] we are all from different countries, but military guys have similar experiences; there is camaraderie

no matter what country you are from,” Foster said. “You may not [always] speak the same language but deep down you know that you experience similar things... it’s kind of unspoken, but its great.”

On the civilian side, Foster works with Veterans Affairs as a housing support specialist for homeless veterans in Richland, Washington.

“I love to work with vets, to find homes and get them stable so they can be safe,” Foster said. “It’s the most rewarding work I’ve ever done.”

The Army prepared Foster, especially being at the NCO level where he has to problem-solve and think outside the box.

“Everyday is a different day, the scenarios are all different to get these guys taken care of,” he said.

Foster said he sympathizes with the men and women who served and now suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and was shocked when he found out how many of his neighbors had served and didn’t have homes.

“They trust me because of my experience being a veteran medic,” he said.

Foster is grateful for all the organizations that do an exceptional job at helping vets in the Tri-cities area: American Legion in Pasco, Department of Human Services of Tri-Cities, Blue Mountain Action Council in Pasco, Veteran Opportunity Center in Pasco, and a special shout out to his work, Richland VA HUD/VASH team.

Soldiers from 1-82nd Cavalry Regiment earn their spurs



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, conducted a Spur Ride during their annual training in July at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Inductees earn their silver spurs by successfully completing strenuous challenges testing their cavalry knowledge and skills throughout the multi-day event.



FEATURES

Two paths, two Soldiers, one story; 3-116 trains in Romania

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CINCU, Romania – In 2007, at 17-years old, two Central Oregon High School graduates joined the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG): one, from Madras, Oregon, became a combat engineer and the other, from Maupin, Oregon, became an infantryman. As times changed, they did too, but soon found they had more in common than most Soldiers. Though they started their careers in different units, they eventually ended up as infantrymen in the same organization.

Spc. Kyle Herbst's desires were geared more to the infantry. He transferred into 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT), in Redmond, Oregon, where he and Sgt. Sergio Calderon-Diaz (Diaz) trained together and developed a friendship.

Diaz started in the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), a delayed-entry process, until he attended basic training and advanced initial training. His former RSP instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Brain Tarvin, said he was a good, solid Soldier from the beginning.

Protecting and serving is at the heart of Diaz's character. Currently considering a profession in law enforcement, he uses the skills he has learned in the military for his civilian job as an armed security guard at the Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam.

The two Soldiers have trained for nearly ten years together. The only time the duo were separated was in 2010-2011 during the 3-116th Battalion's deployment to Iraq, where they were assigned to two different brigades.

In Bravo Company, 3-116th Bn., Diaz



Spc. Kyle Herbst (left), a grenadier with Bravo Company, 3-116th Cavalry Battalion, simulates a medical evacuation while training at Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. His platoon conducted a patrol, attack and reaction drills during the multinational military training exercise.

is a team leader and Herbst is a grenadier. Though not the grenadier's job, his background in information technology makes him the subject matter expert on most communication systems. His size and determination enables him to be point man through thick brush and trees while training in both the U.S. and in Europe.

During training at Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu,

Romania, he moved through the brush so effortlessly that his squad mates were soon calling him 'Sasquatch.'

Former platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon in Woodburn, 1st Lt. Joshua Buker said, Herbst and Diaz are dependable, smart, have a 'mission first' attitude, are multi-talented, and have with a desire to win. Diaz's leadership was instrumental in Bravo Company's success during training at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, California, in 2015.

Herbst proudly recalls, "I remember when this guy scored 26 kills on enemy [targets] at NTC. He shut down the lanes. It was great!"

Not only does Diaz's skills attract attention, so does his hair. They called him 'Chinchilla' in Iraq because his hair gets so poofy.

Joining the Oregon Army National Guard in 2007, landing in the same unit, their physical statures, sense of humor and character are not the only things these two Soldiers have in common. They were both married in 2007; Diaz in May and Herbst in September and they each have 3 children.

Herbst said, "We both managed to have two boys and a girl around the same time as the other, and in that order."

When it comes to Soldiering, Diaz and Herbst also have similar beliefs. They are confident in their ability to accomplish any mission, anywhere in the world, and are both thrilled with the opportunity to train in Romania.



Above: Sgt. Sergio Calderon-Diaz, a team leader with Bravo Company, 3-116th Cavalry Battalion, takes a knee after patrol and assault training exercise during Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise involving approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations. The objective of the exercise is to build multinational, regional and joint partnership capacity by enhancing military relationships, exchanging professional experiences, and improving interoperability between the land forces from the participating countries.

Oregon Guard trains with Canadian Forces for Maple Resolve

Photos by Staff Sgt. E. James Omelina, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Above: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Esch (left), a flight medic with Company G, 1-189th Aviation, teaches Canadian Soldiers proper litter-bearing approach to an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter prior to air ambulance evacuation training, May 31, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, in Alberta, Canada. Oregon National Guard service members spent several weeks training with the Canadian Armed Forces during their annual Maple Resolve exercise.



Left: A Soldier from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry moves out of the drop zone and prepares to provide security after performing a static line parachute drop in support of exercise Maple Resolve at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada, May 26. Maple Resolve is an annual training exercise designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Esch (center), a flight medic with Company G, 1-189th Aviation, instructs Canadian Soldiers on helicopter safety prior to air ambulance evacuation training in support of exercise Maple Resolve, May 31, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, in Alberta, Canada. The medevac unit spent several weeks providing aviation support during the annual training exercise, which is designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.



Left: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 41st Special Troops Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepare to launch an RQ-7 Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS) in support of exercise Maple Resolve, May 24, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The Oregon Guard TUAS unit spent several weeks training and supporting the 1st Canadian Division during Maple Resolve, an annual training exercise designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.

FEATURES

3-116th Cavalry Battalion trains in Romania during Saber Guardian 2016

Today we finish an exercise that brought all of us closer together as nations and partners. This exercise gave us the opportunity to prove ourselves and to anyone else that we can work together as a team. — Brig. Gen. Nicolae Tonu, deputy commander, Romanian Land Forces 4th Infantry Division

Story and photos by
Spc. Timothy Jackson,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Capt. John Farmer, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Soldiers with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, participate in a combined arms live-fire exercise during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center near Cincu, Romania, August 6. Saber Guardian 16 is a multinational military training exercise which involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S. The objectives of the exercise are to build multinational, regional and joint partnership capacity by enhancing military relationships, exchanging professional experiences, and improving interoperability between the land forces from the participating countries.

the USA) and five Partnership for Peace states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) participated in the exercise.

Among those participating were 1,700 American Soldiers with M1A2 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, more than 900 Romanian Land Forces Soldiers, and almost 50 Canadian Soldiers with Infantry Armored Vehicles. Soldiers

from the other countries participated in computer-assisted command and training exercises connected with the Training Centre in Novo Selo, Bulgaria and the Training and Peacekeeping Centre in Yavoriv, Ukraine.

Exercise Saber Guardian 16 was planned and commanded by the Romanian Land Forces Staff and NATO Integration Units. The exercise unfolded in four stages. The command stage trained commanders and staff in the development of combined planning, standard operating procedures and staff battle drills in a force-on-force environment at the brigade level. In stage two, the command post exercise (CPX) cross-trained Romanian officers with officers from Bulgaria, Ukraine and the U.S. to develop and improve communications and procedures. Soldiers worked with their Romanian counterparts in stage three, the field training exercise (FTX), using a combination of mechanized and ground engagements. In the final stage, Soldiers conducted an array of live-fire exercises with vehicles, aircraft, and weapons systems from U.S. Army, Romanian and Canadian militaries.

"During these two weeks all of us made a great effort, we understood each other, we manage all obstacles and issues and we end this exercise in outstanding conditions," Tonu said.

Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard, said the National Guard should be ready to supplement the active duty components when necessary. For major exercises like Saber Guardian, the Army has certain capability needs that can be fulfilled by National Guard Soldiers.

"The Army, as it gets smaller, is going to

need each and every Soldier in each and every unit," said Kadavy. "The 116th is a tremendous unit and they've done a great job."

The officers from both countries thanked the Soldiers, officers, civilian employees and allies, as well as all citizens for their kindness and understanding for the exercises that occurred throughout the country.

"We stand in formation as countries, but today we stand as one," Bertrand said in

closing.

The majority of Oregon Soldiers who deployed for the exercise are traditional Guardsmen who drill one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Many of them have families, are attending college, and work for civilian employers. The 3-116th Cavalry Battalion consists of Oregon Army National Guard units from Baker City, Hermiston, Hood River, La Grande, Ontario, Pendleton, The Dalles, and Woodburn, Oregon.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Soldiers with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, provide security while on patrol during training at Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. The teams scouted for simulated opposing forces and responded to simulated attacks and ambushes. Exercise Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S. The purpose of the training is to increase interoperability between partner nations.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

A Soldier with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, looks out of his M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle turret while training during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. The teams simulated scouting for opposing forces while out on patrol and responded to simulated attacks and ambushes. Exercise Saber Guardian is a multinational training exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations.

Right: Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, from Ontario, Oregon, commence a movement to contact operation during Exercise Saber Guardian 16, July 29, at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania. Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S.



Photo by Sgt. Tyler Meister, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Romanian Land Forces Soldiers salute the Romanian National Anthem as part of a ceremony for the Romanian holiday, National Anthem Day, July 29, at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, during Saber Guardian 16. National Anthem Day is a Romanian national holiday where Romanians proudly sing and recognize their National Anthem. Saber Guardian 16 is a multinational military training exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations. The objectives of the exercise are to build multinational, regional and joint partnership capacity by enhancing military relationships, exchanging professional experiences, and improving interoperability between the land forces from the participating countries.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

An M1A2 Abrams tank with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, out of Ontario, Oregon, sits in the motorpool under the stars during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania. Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Security Forces recognized for deployment efforts

*Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Shelly Davison,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

PORTLAND, Oregon - The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing, local dignitaries and family members welcomed home 39 Portland-based members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron (142 SFS), who deployed to the Middle East for six months, during a ceremony, April 14, 2016, at Portland Air National Guard Base.

"Oregon Guardsmen put themselves in harm's way to work for our security abroad," said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. "A demobilization ceremony is public recognition of the sacrifice and efforts our Airmen made on behalf of our country."

Tapping into the robust and flexible nature of the National Guard, the 142 SFS members supported ongoing and emerging global security requirements in the U.S. Air Force's Central Command region. Members of the 39-person team provided base security operations, operational logistics, anti-terrorism and training support.

"The enduring support and sacrifices made by the families and employers of all



Above: Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, welcomes home members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron during a Demobilization Ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., April 14.

Right: The Honorable Ellen Rosenblum, Attorney General for Oregon, welcomes home members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

of these Airmen is critical to the National Guard's success," said Fitzgerald.

The Honorable Ellen Rosenblum, Attorney General for Oregon, was in attendance at the ceremony on behalf of the governor. Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Oregon Air National Guard commander, also presided over the ceremony.



173rd Airmen learn to survive in the water in case of emergency ejection

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

LAKE OF THE WOODS, Oregon - Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing spent one day training in water survival skills at Lake of the Woods in Southern Oregon, July 22, 2016.

The aircrew flight equipment section worked in conjunction with a Coast Guard rescue swimmer and helicopter from North Bend to train all of the F-15 pilots stationed at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The tri-annual training covers the basic skills necessary for a pilot to survive an ejection over water. The first portion of the training focused on the skills to detach from the parachute, navigate out from underneath a water-logged parachute, and entering the life raft included with their survival gear.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Shearer, with 173rd FW Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE), explained that each pilot simulates being pulled through the water by a parachute by hauling them while attached to the flight harness from a boat for 500 feet. This gives the pilots hands on experience, "...to get the right body posture and release from their harness so they stay above water," added Shearer.

"It is a lot of fun," said Shearer. "But there's a lot of work that goes into getting the different agencies together to make this happen."

One of those agencies was the Klamath County Sheriff's Office, who provided



Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Ryan Bocchi, 114th Fighter Squadron pilot, swims to shore water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22, 2016. Aircrew Flight Equipment members helped Kingsley's F-15 pilots, providing water survival training in the event of an emergency ejection.

a dive and rescue team along with patrol boats to maintain a secure and safe training zone for the Airmen.

The final segment of the training allows the pilots the experience of a water rescue via helicopter. The Coast Guard helicopter dropped a basket into the water for their aviation survival technician Petty Officer 3rd Class Brendan Davis. Davis, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, who safely loaded the pilots into the basket where they were hoisted into the air approximately twenty feet before being lowered back into the water.

Maj. Victor Knill, 114th Fighter Squadron pilot, says he found this year's training to be eye-opening. Knill chose not to wear the anti-exposure suit for the



U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician 3rd Class Brendan Davis, Coast Guard Sector North Bend, ascends for extraction via helicopter during water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22, 2016. Aircrew Flight Equipment members joined with Klamath County Sheriff's Department agencies and members of Coast Guard Sector North Bend to provide Kingsley's F-15 pilots with water survival training in the event of an emergency ejection.

training and found that even in the July summer heat, he was extremely cold for, "six to nine hours afterwards."

"I could not imagine being in a real world situation under the stress of ejecting and then having to survive in the water, without that suit on, while waiting for an unknown amount of time to be rescued," said Knill.

Knill said this type of refresher training allows the pilots to become familiar with the equipment, thus maximizing their survival time in the event of an ejection.

After the last pilot was back on the docks, Davis signaled the helicopter to lower the last harness that lifted him out of the water, and back into the helicopter for refueling and departure.

"Our AFE shop did a fantastic job of coordinating and setting everything up, making this year's training flawless and setting the standard even higher for the next time we do this," added Knill.

The 173rd FW is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.



U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician 3rd Class Brendan Davis, Coast Guard Sector North Bend, ascends for extraction via helicopter during water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22.



Left: Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Kevin Welch, 114th Fighter Squadron pilot, pulls himself through a water-logged parachute as Capt. Mike Parsons, Klamath Sheriff Dive Rescue, supervises during water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

B-Course finale: Graduation and assignment to duty stations

The final chapter of the B-Course series follows the journey from the classroom and cockpit to graduation as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, at the 173rd Fighter Wing, become Eagle Drivers.



Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon - In some respects Class 16-ABK ended like it started — with a flurry of activity.

Maybe the best indicator of that is the fact that nearly all six graduates of this class graduated on a different day. That is unusual and it reflects a number of things: the fast pace of fighter pilot training in general, the exceptionally high need for trained pilots in the active Air Force, and the fact that these students — to one degree or another — put their personal lives on hold to successfully navigate this training. All six graduated, earning the coveted Eagle Driver patch over the last seven months.

Upon being asked to reflect on that, 1st Lt. Brock McGehee said, “Seven months ... to be honest it’s really been 14 years.”

That may be the untold story of becoming



1st Lt. Brock McGehee poses while wearing his brand new Eagle Driver patch for the first time, June 3, 2016, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

an Eagle Drive; while we see these students arrive, their training began long ago.

There is an unofficial syllabus on just getting to F-15C pilot training. For many pilots it begins with admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy which can increase their chances of getting into the cockpit of a fighter aircraft, because in the past the academy had a larger share of pilot accessions.

A quick visit to the Air Force Academy admissions website details extensive preparation beginning in grade six.

For Air National Guard accessions, they

should have a private pilot’s license in hand while competing against as many as 100 other applicants. It can be difficult to distinguish oneself, and for that reason many who pursue this training opt for the academy.

Moving past these hurdles is good training, McGehee says it’s a refining process and at each step a person grows, one hopes in proportion to the next challenge.

At Kingsley Field the challenge can be summed up as a mountain of work. Students arrive here and receive a load of manuals that would stack three feet high. In them are

all the numerous systems that comprise the jet and the rules for use of the airspace and the airfield. These students know how to absorb information quickly, but here they synthesize it and keep it ready for any eventuality — especially while flying.

As it turns out, each of the six student pilots of class 16-ABK rose to the challenge and they are headed to either RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, or to Kadena Air Base, Japan. 1st Lt. Scott McGowen, the lone Air National Guard pilot, will return to Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

Upon his graduation Capt. Alex Frank is headed to Kadena Air Base but that will follow SERE training for both he and 1st Lt. Garrett Womack. Of the last seven months at Kingsley Frank says, “It was fun ... but I’m glad it’s over.”

“It doesn’t really get any easier, the last ride is the hardest one,” said Maj. Ryan Reeves, Class 16-ABK flight lead. “There’s not really much room for a mistake; I’m happy for those guys and I think they’ll do well.”

Now that they wear the Eagle Driver patch, the attitude toward them shifts. They are no longer students, they are now part of the brotherhood.

“The feedback that we usually get is that we have a high standard here and we are proud of the product we send out to the combat units,” said Reeves.

In the meantime, the schoolhouse has more new students than at any point in its history. Many more will arrive to see if their preparation until now is adequate for the job that lies ahead. One thing is for sure, with the increasing demand for well-trained pilots, this schoolhouse will remain busy shepherding students, just like this class, through the toughest training in the Air Force.

“The feedback that we usually get is that we have a high standard here and we are proud of the product we send out to the combat units.”

- Maj. Ryan Reeves,
B-Course Flight Lead

Oregon International Air Show provides backdrop for “All Call” celebration

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HILLSBORO, Oregon - Past and present members of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) gathered for a celebration as part of a series of events highlighting 75 years of continuous service during the Oregon International Air Show.

The after-hours all-call celebration gave retired service members and current Airmen of the ORANG a chance to reminisce over dinner and music while propped by vintage and present-day mission aircraft.

“Today, we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary where we pay tribute to 75 years of honor, community and excellence,” said 1st Lt. Chelsi Spence, who served as the master of ceremonies

for the all-call celebration.

The all-call celebration was part of a series of events that began in April of this year to commemorate the 75 years of service of the Oregon Air National Guard, which was first formed while monitoring the raging wars in Europe and Asia in the early 1940’s.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Silver, ORANG commander, welcomed the nearly 400 people attending and described the history and changing mission over the years.

“When we began to organize tonight’s event, we wanted this celebration to focus on the organization both past and present.”

Fred Parrish, the last original surviving member and medic with the 123rd Observation Squadron in WWII, was in attendance, as well as past commanders and leaders from nearly every decade since the formation of the Oregon Air Guard.

With dinner provided by the USO, those attending were able to connect to the current ORANG mission F-15 Eagle aircraft to include the ‘Screamin’ Eagle specially detailed for the Diamond Anniversary year.

Silver also thanked the Oregon International Air Show and staff for their support in hosting the event.

“Given the pace with our mission and resources, we reached out to our friends with the Oregon International Air Show for support and what a party they helped us put together.”

In addition to the Eagles from both the 142nd Fighter Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing, other historic aircraft models flown by ORANG were on display: to include a P-51 Mustang and F-94 Starfire that were



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

The 173rd Fighter Wing’s F-15 Eagle fighter jet painted in honor of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 75th Anniversary flies together with seven jets of the Breitling Jet Team during the Oregon International Airshow, August 7, in Hillsboro, Oregon. The jet, painted with a screaming eagle design on the body and wings, along with the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) shield and 75th anniversary logo, were brought to life by Master Sgt. Paul Allen and his team of maintainers. The first ORANG unit was activated in 1941.

part of the air show’s flying schedule.

The all-call was the fourth in a series of events around the state this year to celebrate the 75th Anniversary. Previous events included the original anniversary of the formation of the 123rd Observation Squadron held at Portland Air National Guard Base April 18, 2016, and a Flag Day ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Portland Air National Guard Base itself held June 14, 2016. A ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the addition of the 173rd Fighter Wing was held at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, June 27, 2016.

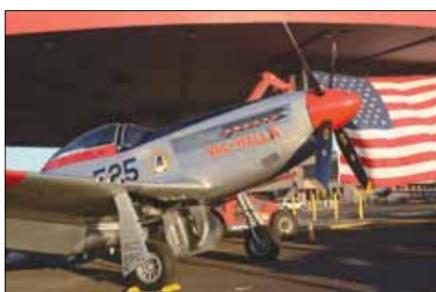


Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd FW Public Affairs

A P-51 Mustang is parked on the flightline of the Hillsboro International Airport, Ore., Aug. 6, 2016 as part of the Oregon International Air Show during the afterhours “All Call” celebration as part of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shelly Davison, 142nd Fighter Wing PA

Oregon International Air Show President Bill Braack presents posters to Maj. William Sullivan and Col. Paul Fitzgerald, Aug. 6.

STATE PARTNERSHIPS

Bangladesh and Vietnam representatives tour Special Focus Exercise



Photos by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Left: Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, showcases the facilities at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon, to Bangladeshi Army Brig. Gen. Ahmed Shahmeem and Vietnamese Senior Col. Pham Van Ty, June 9, during the Oregon Military Department's Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising. The tour showcased logistical challenges involved with a Cascadia Subduction earthquake and following tsunami and was part of the State Partnership Program between the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh, as well as Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM).



Above: Vietnamese Army Senior Col. Pham Van Ty disembarks from a UH-72 Lakota helicopter to participate in the Oregon Military Department's Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising, June 9, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.



Left: Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, commander of Joint Domestic Operations, discusses natural disaster threats with Vietnamese Senior Col. Pham Van Ty while taking part in the Oregon Military Department's Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising, June 9, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.

US-Vietnam Disaster Response Table Top Exercise kicks off in Vietnam

Story courtesy of Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)

HANOI, Vietnam – The first-ever U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Response and Civil-Military Coordination Table Top Exercise (or TTX) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, May 10-14, 2016.

The four-day event included international, regional and national disaster management organizations, militaries, and nongovernmental organizations to assist Vietnam in shaping guidelines for managing international disaster assistance through training briefs and working group sessions.

“Vietnam and the United States have mutual interests in humanitarian assistance and disaster response training and preparation,” said Deputy Chief of Mission Susan Sutton, U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Vietnam. “(Humanitarian assistance and disaster response) engagements and exchanges are a pillar of our 2011 Defense Cooperation memorandum of understanding. As such, I am delighted to see that we are making significant progress in realizing our defense cooperation commitment.”

Sponsored by the Center for Excellence

in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) and hosted by Vietnam’s National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), the TTX included participants from the Vietnam People’s Armed Forces, U.S. Embassy, U.S. Pacific Command, Oregon National Guard, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

During the event, nearly 40 U.S. participants and approximately 150 Vietnamese senior leaders and disaster response stakeholders considered whether Vietnam should request international assistance after a fictional super typhoon notionally caused severe damage to several northern and central provinces. The training scenario focused on four areas of expertise: maritime search and rescue, urban search and rescue, chemical spill response, and medical assistance and field hospital deployment.

International response efforts occur at the request of the affected nation. Simulating such a request for assistance provides the two nations an opportunity to address

Right: (From left) Deputy Chief of Mission Susan Sutton, U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Vietnam; Col. Joseph Martin, director of the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM); Col. Tuan Ton, U.S. Defense Attaché; and Jim Welsh, Training and Education Branch chief for CFE-DM, represent the U.S. delegation during the U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Response and Civil-Military Coordination Table Top Exercise in Hanoi, Vietnam, May 11.



Photos by Melissa Aaron/ CFE-DM

solutions to any interoperability issues within the respective missions sets.

“Discussion dialog, best practices and lessons learned shared between militaries and civilian organizations during this event will continue to increase mutual understanding, trust and confidence in the pursuit of rapid and effective response to save lives and mitigate suffering resulting from natural and manmade disasters,” said Col. Joseph Martin, director of CFE-DM.

In addition to the 2011 U.S.-Vietnam Defense Cooperation memorandum of understanding, the TTX supports the Comprehensive Partnership announced by U.S. President Barack Obama and Vietnam’s President Truong Tan Sang in July 2013.

Above: Sr. Col. Pham Van Ty (center), deputy chief of Vietnam’s National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue, and Peter DeFelice, U.S. senior event coordinator with the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, discuss scenario details during the first-ever U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Response and Civil-Military Coordination Table Top Exercise in Hanoi, Vietnam, May 10.

Strengthening partnerships and disaster response capabilities



Photos by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Members of the Oregon National Guard, Consulate General of Vietnam and Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pose for a group photo following their joint meeting, August 6, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The group discussed domestic emergency operations and disaster response capabilities to share techniques that can be used to save lives in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The Oregon National Guard and Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) have been partners through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program since 2012.



Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, presents his commander’s coin to members of a Vietnamese delegation, August 6, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Members of the Consulate General of Vietnam and Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the Armed Forces Readiness Center to meet and discuss domestic emergency operations programs. The Oregon National Guard has been partners with Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program since 2012.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

\$2 mil. for winter storm recovery



Story courtesy of Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon - The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that it has awarded Oregon more than \$2 million as a portion of the FEMA Public Assistance program allocation for recovery from the severe winter storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides and mudslides occurring December 6-23, 2015. This is one of several awards that are expected to be distributed as a result of the nearly month-long weather events.

FEMA's Public Assistance grants will go to more than 400 eligible projects in 14 counties covering Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.

The Public Assistance program offers supplemental financial assistance on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in designated counties. The program encourages protection of these facilities from future events by providing assistance for certain hazard mitigation measures.

Current estimate of eligible damage is approximately \$40 million. FEMA reimburses 75 percent of eligible costs and makes grant awards to the state. Oregon manages the grant awards to applicants and is accountable for their use.

Of the current grants, approximately \$1.2 million is being awarded for three large projects, and about \$1 million

for water and electric lines, equipment, roadway and trench repairs, and a host of other small projects. Reimbursements for costs of emergency measures taken during response to the storms throughout the 14 affected counties are also flowing to disaster recovery grant applicants.

"A \$425,000 award went to Lake Oswego for replacement of a collapsed storm drain and repair of a 12-foot deep sinkhole, while another went to Columbia River People's Utility District for about \$380,000," said Clint Fella, State Coordinating Officer for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. "The electric cooperative in Columbia County sustained pole, line and other damage along 113 miles of 154 different roads during the weather event."

The Port of Brookings Harbor is also scheduled to receive \$416,250 for sediment hauling and removal.

"This funding for Oregon's recovery marks a difference in the way we deliver assistance," said FEMA's Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont. "It also points to the State of Oregon's hard work in this recovery process. They help determine project eligibility."

FEMA is implementing a new business model to deliver funding for public infrastructure recovery after a disaster. The new model does not represent a change in FEMA's mission or in what it does, but is intended to improve the quality and efficiency of the recovery process for communities affected by disasters.

The disaster declaration signed by President Obama on Feb. 17, 2016, made FEMA's Public Assistance recovery program available to declared counties. The state and FEMA have been working closely with local officials since Feb. 17 to identify damage, develop project costs and to deliver funding to assist in the recovery from the December 2015 storms.

Radio test enhances media sharing



A radio captures a message on a channel developed to share information with media partners, May 27. FEMA Region X issued a test message during an emergency communications exercise to the State of Oregon and the State of Washington via 5.3305 MHz channel to test capabilities to relay information to the media via radio when all other forms of communication are down.

Story and photos by Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon - On May 27, FEMA Region X issued a test message during an emergency communications exercise to the State of Oregon and the State of Washington via 5.3305 MHz channel to test capabilities to relay information to the media via radio when all other forms of communication are down. After hearing the message, media outlets sent confirmation emails to FEMA Region X to verify the message was received.

The test took place while several state and city agencies, as well as Oregon tribes, were participating in one of the largest-ever regional disaster exercises,

called "Cascadia Rising," which tested the ability of the state to respond to a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami, June 7-10. Many communications components were tested including the ability to share critical, life saving information. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management, along with FEMA and other local and regional agencies, have been working to develop networks and best practices for working with media partners to get alerts and warnings to the public.

Media interested in learning more about how to utilize the radio channel and information during emergencies are encouraged to contact the DHS FEMA Region X News Desk: (425)487-4610; FEMA-R10-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov; Twitter: @FEMARegion10.

Port of Brookings getting dredged

Story courtesy of FEMA Region X

SALEM, Oregon - Boaters at Port of Brookings in Curry County will be navigating deeper waters thanks to a \$416,250 disaster recovery grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Damage to the harbor, the busiest recreational port in Oregon, resulted from severe weather of December 10, 2015. Soaking rains triggered heavy silt deposits shed by floodwaters from stream tributaries and a failed culvert. Thousands of cubic yards of materials settled on the harbor floor restricting boat access to the Ice House pier service area.

The federal grant will help pay for the dredging and hauling away of 9,325 cubic yards of sediment.

Federal disaster recovery funds for this event come through FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program. The program offers 75 percent — or \$416,250 in this grant — of eligible costs for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. The remaining 25 percent will come from non-federal sources such as state or local governments. The PA program also encourages protection of damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for certain hazard mitigation measures.

"This arm of FEMA's disaster assistance focuses on public infrastructure — infrastructure that residents, communities

and local governments depend upon in Oregon," said State Coordinating Officer Clint Fella of Oregon's Office of Emergency Management.

President Barack Obama signed a major disaster declaration Feb. 17, 2016, making federal dollars available to 14 Oregon counties to help them recover from severe storms of Dec. 6-23, 2015, that caused landslides, mudslides, flooding and more than 100 road closures. Eligible entities include local and state governments and agencies, and certain private nonprofit organizations.

FEMA leadership takes keen interest in Oregon's recovery; the state agreed to be the first implementation of a new Public Assistance Program delivery initiative intended to improve efficiency in delivering federal infrastructure dollars.

"Once FEMA funds are obligated for eligible projects, the state administers the program, but a robust partnership with Oregon has been in place since the disaster declaration," said Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont.

Counties included in the declaration are: Clatsop, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.

Port of Brookings was also significantly damaged in 2011 by the tsunami resulting from the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off Japan's coast.

Comms. Soldiers learn HF Radios



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Jeff Sperley, a member of the U.S. Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), instructs Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Oliver Hall (left), communications officer (S6) with 82nd Brigade (Troop Command), and Sgt. 1st Class Doug Warr (center), information/communication systems NCO for Information Management (G6) with Joint Force Headquarters, as they test a high frequency (HF) radio, July 19, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Oregon National Guard service members attended an HF radio repair class conducted by U.S. Army MARS to serve as a maintenance team that will travel throughout the state inspecting and maintaining HF radios at each armory/readiness center location. HF radios are used during emergencies in the event that regular land-line and satellite communications are down.



Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Oliver Hall (left), communications officer (S6) with 82nd Brigade (Troop Command), and Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Wilson Joa Yu (right), with 116th Air Control Squadron, prepare to test a high frequency (HF) radio, July 19, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

FEATURES

2-218th brings the boom to the 1812 Overture in Portland

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard helped kick-off the 2016-2017 season of the Oregon Symphony during the 20th annual Waterfront Concert at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in Portland, Oregon, Sept 1.

The concert was closed with a Howitzer salute during the symphony’s grand finale. Citizen-Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, fired volleys from their Howitzer cannons during the symphony’s rendition of Peter Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, written in memory of the War of 1812.

The free, public event has been a summer-ending capstone for the city of Portland for the last 20 years, and signals the start of the Oregon Symphony’s new season. More than a thousand people attended the event, and spent time mingling with Soldiers from the unit, who answered questions about the Howitzers.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, OMD Public Affairs

Above: Spectators watch as the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, fills Tom McCall Waterfront Park, in downtown Portland, with smoke and light as they fire their Howitzer cannons, Sept. 1. The battalion participates in the Oregon Symphony’s rendition of the 1812 Overture, Tchaikovsky’s classical piece about the War of 1812, during the grand finale of the Waterfront Concert every year.

Below: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, fire powder charges from their Howitzer cannons as they participate in the Oregon Symphony’s annual Waterfront Concert in downtown Portland, Oregon, Sept. 1. The cannons fire during the playing of Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, a classical piece about the War of 1812.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, OMD Public Affairs

Seattle Seahawks visit Oregon Guard members at USO in Portland



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Christine Vu (left), center manager for USO Northwest’s Center at Portland International Airport (PDX), receives a token of appreciation from Seattle Seahawks NFL football players, center Joey Hunt (second from left), offensive lineman George Fant (center), and retired receiver Ricardo Lockette (right), during a ‘Meet and Greet’ with U.S. military service members, July 15, in Portland, Oregon. The Seahawks players and Sea Gals cheerleaders visited with military service members, including members of the Oregon National Guard, at the USO in the PDX airport as part of ‘The 12 Tour.’



Seattle Seahawks NFL football players (center Joey Hunt, retired receiver Ricardo Lockette and offensive lineman George Fant) and Sea Gals cheerleaders posed for photos and signed autographs for members of the Oregon National Guard during a ‘Meet and Greet’ with U.S. military service members, July 15, at the USO Northwest’s Center at Portland International Airport (PDX), in Portland, Oregon.

Honor Guard brings the colors to KISS Freedom Rock Concert

Photos by Maj. W. Chris Clyne,
Oregon Army National Guard



Right: Members of the Oregon Army National Guard cheer for the band KISS during the “Freedom to Rock” concert at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene, Oregon, July 9, 2016. The Oregon National Guard Soldiers displayed the American flag while KISS performed the National Anthem and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance during a patriotic tribute to U.S. military and veterans at the concert.



Above: Members of the Oregon Army National Guard display the American flag on stage while the band KISS performs the National Anthem during the “Freedom to Rock” concert at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene, Oregon, July 9, 2016. The Oregon National Guard Soldiers provided a color guard for the band’s patriotic tribute to U.S. military and veterans at the concert.

SPORTS

Soldier takes Olympic silver after disqualification is overturned

Story and photos by Tim Hipps,
U.S. Army Installation
Management Command

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Spc. Paul Chelimo relied on the strength he developed as a Soldier to get through the men's 5,000-meter run at the Rio Olympic Games, where he eventually claimed the silver medal.

On the way to the medal race, Chelimo ran his personal best time of 13 minutes 19.54 seconds to win his qualifying heat on Wednesday, Aug. 17. At the finals, Saturday, Aug. 20, he pushed past that personal best by more than 15 seconds to finish runner-up to Great Britain's Mo Farah in 13:03.94.

But his greatest challenge came moments after the race, when an NBC journalist informed him that he had been disqualified for lane infringement.

"Getting the news from the television reporter that I was disqualified, that was the most heartbreaking thing in my life," said Chelimo, 25, a native of Iten, Kenya, who trains in Beaverton, Oregon, as a Soldier in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program.

The race featured a lot of pushing, shoving and stumbling by numerous runners throughout, and came down to a frenetic sprint to the finish in the final 200 meters.

"It was really tactical two or three laps into the race with two Ethiopians trying to lead," Chelimo said. "I was trying to stay in between them, but they wouldn't let me. They kept pushing me and kept blocking me the whole time because they were working as a team."

Once Farah had worked his way to the front, Chelimo knew he had to work his way out of the box or other runners could pass on the outside to collect the silver and bronze medals.

"I was the guy inside in lane one, the guy inside behind Mo Farah," Chelimo said. "I couldn't stay there the whole time. I wanted to medal, too, so I had to look for position to get out and go into contention."

During that process, track officials briefly disqualified Chelimo for stepping on the inside lane line, but the disqualification was overturned upon appeal, and Chelimo won his silver medal.

"They said it was infringement, but going back to what happened is people were pushing back and forth," Chelimo explained.

The appeal process was the longest wait of his life, Chelimo said. Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, who attended the games as a member of President Barack Obama's U.S. Delegation to Brazil, said the entire delegation was pulling for Chelimo.

"I'm only here because of these Army Soldiers," Fanning said. "That's the reason I'm part of this delegation. But it was fun for the entire delegation to have an extra reason to cheer, not just for the United



Spc. Paul Chelimo of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program finishes runner-up to Mohamed Farah of Great Britain to claim the silver medal in the men's 5,000-meter run with a personal-best time of 13 minutes, 3.90 seconds, August 20, 2016, at the Rio Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Farah won the gold in 13:03.30 and Hagos Gebrhiwet of Ethiopia took the bronze in 13:04.35.



Spc. Paul Chelimo of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program finishes runner-up to Mo Farah of Great Britain to claim the silver medal in the men's 5,000-meter run with a personal-best time of 13 minutes, 3.90 seconds, Aug. 20, 2016, at the Rio Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

States but for the Army, so they were screaming loudly for him: 'Who's your Soldier? Who's your Soldier?'"

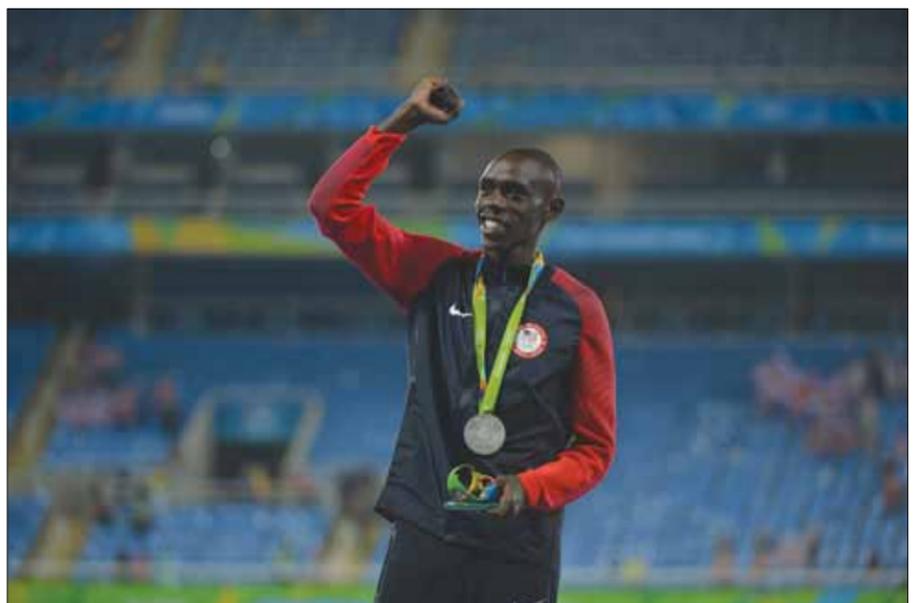
One of the delegation members, four-time Olympian and six-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, believed all along that Chelimo would be reinstated.

"Pushing and shoving is a part of the sport," Joyner-Kersey said. "That's what

you do, so I was glad to see our track and field federation was on it and got the protest in there. We prevailed, and I was glad to see him up on that podium."

For Chelimo, now that the Olympics are over, his real work begins. As a Soldier and member of the World Class Athlete Program, he will take his medal on tour throughout the U.S. as a trainer and an inspiration to America's youth.

The WCAP Soldier-Olympians, when not actively training or competing in international competitions, participate in recruiting and training missions.



Spc. Paul Chelimo of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program finishes runner-up to Mo Farah of Great Britain to claim the silver medal in the men's 5,000-meter run with a personal-best time of 13 minutes, 3.90 seconds, Aug. 20, 2016, at the Rio Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Farah won the gold in 13:03.30 and Hagos Gebrhiwet of Ethiopia took the bronze in 13:04.35. Chelimo was disqualified from the race but later reinstated and collected his silver medal at the awards ceremony, which was delayed to sort it out.

WCAP members recently visited Fort Gordon, Georgia, where they assisted with the events at the local Best Warrior Competitions.

"We're taking the skills and training that we learn in WCAP and teaching them to Soldiers," said Sgt.1st Class Keith Sanderson, who competed in the rapid fire pistol event at Rio. "We show them how they can apply the lessons we've learned in competition to their daily jobs and to the war-fighting effort."

From nutrition to weight-training to proper sleep patterns, the Soldier-Olympians remain ambassadors even after they return to their regular units and normal duties.

Liliana Ayalde, U.S. Ambassador of Brazil, said even she was impressed with Chelimo and urged him to "be a role model to let others know that that it can be done with hard work, with training, with discipline."

"Despite the obstacles, you just keep

going," Ayalde told Chelimo the morning after the race. "That takes a lot of mental preparation, and it says a lot about you."

Chelimo said he was eager to fill that role.

"Especially with all the young high school kids, that's my main focus right now," Chelimo told Ayalde. "I want to encourage and motivate all of the high school kids. I really want to motivate them and give them confidence."

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Dan Browne, coach of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program distance runners, who sweated through the disqualification and reinstatement process along with everyone else, was not surprised by the outcome.

"I believed in my heart special things were going to happen," Browne said, "and I'm so appreciative and thankful that it did come through. All the training paid off."

"Hard work and perseverance works," Chelimo agreed.



Spc. Paul Chelimo of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program finishes runner-up to Mo Farah of Great Britain to claim the silver medal in the men's 5,000-meter run with a personal-best time of 13 minutes, 3.90 seconds, Aug. 20, 2016, at the Rio Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

AZUWUR



Portland honors 75 years of Oregon Air National Guard



Photo courtesy Scott Wolff of FighterSweep.com

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon - The 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard (ANG) Base, hosted a 75th Anniversary Celebration event in which founding members of the Oregon Air National Guard were honored during a ceremony at the base, April 18.

“On April 18, 1941 - 75 years ago - the Oregon Army Air Corps was born,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. “This event is to honor the diamond anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard and celebrate 75 years of Oregon Airmen serving in the name of honor, community and excellence.”

The presiding officer for the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Oregon Air National Guard commander. The official party also consisted of Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Joint Domestic Operations commander; Col. Paul Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander; and Col. Jeffrey Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander.

Distinguished visitors for the ceremony included Fred Hill and Fred Parish - two Oregon Veterans in their 90s, who answered their nation’s call and enlisted

Oregon Air National Guard units painted two F-15 Eagle jets to commemorate the 75th Anniversary celebration this year. The 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, Oregon, used a modern-day theme, while the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, honored their past with retro decals.

in 1941. Newly-painted aircraft to commemorate the anniversary celebration were also unveiled at the ceremony.

Since Oregon’s first military deployment in 1848, the state has had a proud heritage of active military service. In 1941, Oregon’s military service expanded to include what was then known as the Army Air Corps. For the first time in history, war strategy took a technological leap and incorporated the systematic use of airpower. Airmen,

aviation and all the ingenuity required of this new dimension were born.

“The National Guard is always ready, always there,” said Fitzgerald. “Our military history in Oregon is a testament to this commitment.”

With more than 1,000 Airmen, the 142nd Fighter Wing guards the Pacific Northwest skies from northern California to the Canadian border, on 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert as part of Air Combat Command and the

North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command. Our mission is to provide unequalled, mission-ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime tasking any time, any place in service to our nation, state and community. The fighting “Redhawks” are proud to serve as a vital part of the Total Force team, defending our nation with the F-15 Eagle. The wing also stands ready to participate in state and federal contingency missions as required.

173rd Fighter Wing celebrates their heritage at Kingsley Field

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon - The Oregon Air National Guard was born 75 years ago and the fighter squadron at Kingsley Field became the 173rd Fighter Wing 20 years ago. Guardsmen from around the community, both past and present, gathered in a celebration ceremony in the main hangar, June 27, commemorating the history that laid the groundwork for today’s mission.

“The 173rd Fighter Wing is all about relationships and chronologically,” said former wing commander retired Col. Billy Cox. “It actually starts in 1963 at the Air Force Academy.”

Cox, in his remarks, mapped out how this Air National Guard wing can trace its roots to a friendship between two cadets who met at the academy and subsequently served in a secret organization called the “Misty” FAST FACs during the Vietnam Conflict. There are too many turns on that map to detail them all, but he says Maj. Gen. Don Sheppard and Gen. Ronald Fogleman played an important part in the creation of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Cox met Sheppard very randomly when he had to undergo centrifuge training before converting to the F-16 airframe in August 1988. The only available centrifuge was in Pennsylvania and upon arrival he met another traveling pilot by the name of Don Sheppard. The two shared a moment where after watching pilots pull G-forces on closed-circuit TV they agreed the G’s weren’t that scary but getting sick and vomiting in front of the troops sure was.

He leaves the story there and picks up at the point where the base was still a squadron and not a wing, and after a trip to Washington where he was told that Kingsley Field would never become a wing.



Retired Airmen, community members and current members of the 173rd Fighter Wing gathered to celebrate 75 years of the Oregon Air National Guard and 20 years as a wing during a ceremony at Kingsley Field, June 27, 2016. The ceremony featured the F-15 in the background which was repainted to commemorate that history and will remain that way for one year.

“I’m worried that it could be, in fact, the end of the organization,” says Cox of his return to Klamath Falls. “I thought hard about what I might do and I took a chance and I wrote the guy I’d stood in line with at the centrifuge a personal letter.”

That man is now Maj. Gen. Don Sheppard, commander of the Air National Guard and his old “Misty” FAST FAC squadron mate Gen. Ronald Fogleman is Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. Cox says that relationship was paying dividends making the Air National Guard more modern and more relevant.

“Old academy mates, old squadron mates from Vietnam,” said Cox who then waited to hear some word from Sheppard.

“About two weeks later a staffer of his called and said the general is working on it

... and a few months after that we became a wing,” adds Cox. That was 20 years ago to the day and it was a turning point when Kingsley Field’s future seemed bleakest. Cox’s remarks serve as a reminder that it was relationships that provided a last subtle nudge that kept the gates open.

Retired Brig. Gen. David Ward, a former Oregon Air National Guard Commander, recounted an earlier piece of Kingsley Field’s history, describing how the Oregon Air Guard began its flying mission at this small, Southern Oregon base.

“To me, this is my oak tree,” said Ward. He went on to recount a conversation he had in the late 70s when he was the chief of maintenance at Portland Air National Guard Base.

“I happened to be on the phone with

my counterpart at the Guard Bureau and at the end of the conversation he dropped a little nugget, ‘By the way we’re looking for a base to start a four-aircraft training detachment.’” Ward replied, “I think I know just the place.”

That began a period in which idle buildings were reopened for the first time in a decade and the “Land of No Slack” was born. Base historian Maj. Ryan Bartholomew relates that Retired Lt. Col. Bill Morris, a former base commander, remembers driving a bob cat tractor to remove years of accumulated bird droppings from the main hangar floor so it could house aircraft again.

“Every time I come down here, I am absolutely amazed,” said Ward of the current mission which currently has more than 30 jets on the ramp and is poised to grow further. “So you can see why I call this my oak tree, that little acorn, that nugget of information that got planted by happenstance has resulted in all of this.”

In summing up those years Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, addressed Ward and Cox saying, “I can’t tell you how much we’ve learned from what you’ve done, and how proud we are of what you’ve done.” He went on to say that he follows their example and actively markets the good things that the wing is doing. He added that one of his primary focuses lies in identifying what will keep the base viable in years to come. “As we look at this aging air frame you have to ask yourself what is next,” said Smith, “because of the foundation of excellence that these two gentlemen have given us ... we are in a position now where, if this airplane’s in jeopardy, I’m not worried about this base.” He explained that the last decades of excellence, of overcoming challenges, makes Kingsley valuable whether it be with a new aircraft, or an entirely different mission.