



Follow students through F-15 training: Page 13



Mechanics deploy to Europe: Page 9

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Bangladesh Army delegation observes Oregon National Guard training

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

UMATILLA, Oregon – A delegation of senior Bangladesh Army personnel paid a visit to the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI), near Umatilla, Oregon, as part of the State Partnership Program, March 14-16. Through the State Partnership relationship between Oregon and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Army hopes to enhance their non-commissioned officer (NCO) training program.

“Bangladesh has taken the lead among South Asia countries by realizing the force multiplier that is NCO professionalization,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Eilers, South Asia regional NCO for United States Army Pacific. “This visit marks an important step for NCO development in Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific region.”

Brig. Gen. Razzaque, commandant, and Lt. Col. Asaduzzaman, senior instructor, and other representatives with the Bangladesh Army’s Non-Commissioned Officers Academy at Bogra Cantonment, traveled halfway around the world to visit Oregon’s premier Non-Commissioned Officers Academy (NCOA).

“Increasing the proficiency and caliber of our non-commissioned officers is one of our top priorities,” said Razzaque. “I hope we can continue to work together to



Master Sgt. Patrick Lynch (right), chief instructor with the 249th Regional Training Institute, explains the tactical training involved with using an M240 machine gun during training maneuvers to visiting instructors from the Bangladesh Army’s Bogra Non-Commissioned Officers Academy as part of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program at Camp Umatilla, March 15. A delegation of senior members from the Bangladesh Army visited Oregon’s RTI to learn best practices to use at their own NCO academy in Bangladesh.

See **Bangladesh** on Page 4

Oregon Army National Guard changes command

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Col. William Edwards, of Albany, Oregon, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, April 2, at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Oregon. He assumed command of the Oregon Army National Guard (Land Component) from Brig. Gen. Todd A. Plimpton in a change of command ceremony, April 3, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon.

The Oregon National Guard’s Land Component Command oversees all Army operations for the State of Oregon and is responsible for more than 6,000 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers. The Land Component has oversight over the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command) and a number of other tenant units from other commands located in Oregon.

Most recently, Edwards was assigned as the Director of Operations (J3) for the Joint Domestic Operations Command, where he led the development of contingency plans, operations and exercises for the Oregon National Guard’s role in emergency response. A Citizen-Soldier for more than 29 years, he has served in the Army National Guard in Pennsylvania, New York and Oregon.

In his civilian career, Edwards is an employee of Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis,



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

Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton gives a final salute to Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, as he relinquishes command of the Oregon Army National Guard (Land Component) to Brig. Gen. William Edwards (right) in a change of command ceremony, April 3, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon. Plimpton is scheduled to retire following a 33-year military career where he served in many command positions from company, battalion to brigade level and beyond.

Oregon. In his 20 years with HP, he has contributed both individually and as an engineering project manager. He currently manages a team of engineers in HP’s Advanced Technology and Platforms Solutions organization.

“Colonel Edwards epitomizes the Citizen-

Soldier and has the kind of experience that will make him a great general officer,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. “The Oregon National Guard is proud to see Bill join the general

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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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COMMAND

Spring ushers in changes focused on strength, readiness

It is hard to believe that we are rolling into the third quarter of the 2016 training year. Many of our units will perform their annual training this quarter, while others will be participating in national, regional and state exercises to maintain and improve our readiness for natural disasters.

We will continue to improve our facilities, field new vehicles and equipment, support international exercises and overseas mobilizations, and assist first responders, all while continuing local community outreach. Every member of this amazing organization contributes to maintaining a ready force equipped and trained to respond to any contingency.

It is incredibly humbling to serve as your Adjutant General. What I have come to learn is that while it is a true honor to represent and lead this team, there is no greater honor than to serve alongside each and every member of this superb organization. Although we continue to be one of the best in the nation, I challenge each and every one of you to view yourself as a leader within our organization and to continuously seek improvement in everything you do, every day.

That task is much easier and our missions are more secure if we are fully manned. We need to keep filling our ranks with Oregon's best and brightest, while retaining those who have already demonstrated their talent and willingness to work hard. The Secretary of Defense has opened all of our positions to women, which means the talent pool from which we can draw upon has doubled. We need to embrace this opportunity to increase the diversity of our forces and reach out to enlist talented women to be Soldiers and Airmen in the Oregon National Guard!

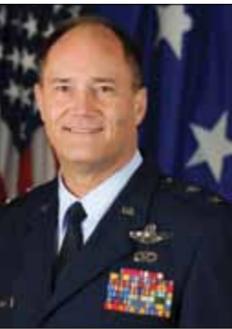
Lastly, we have had some recent leadership

changes. I would like to thank Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the Oregon Army National Guard. His list of accomplishments while serving as our first Land Component Commander is impressive. He has poised our Army Guard for success as we head toward 2020.

I welcome Brig. Gen. Bill Edwards to the challenge of ensuring the Land Component achieves even greater success. He is the right leader at the right time. His leadership and vision will continue to improve the Oregon Army National Guard in the years ahead.

On the Air side of the house, after a brief tenure as the Acting Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (Air Component Commander), Brig. Gen. Jeff Silver has been permanently assigned as the Commander. He has an extensive career in the Oregon Air National Guard, with his recent leadership as the Commander of Joint Domestic Operations, and senior leadership experience in both the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings. Additionally, his deployment experience includes serving as the Deputy Commander for 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force, Air Component Coordination Element – U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby is assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General (ATAG) – Air, for Joint Domestic Operations. He most recently served as the director of Strategic Plans and Policies/Force Structure while also serving as Oregon's State Partnership Program Director and the Commander of the Combat Operations Group. He was commissioned in 1986 and joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1998. His background includes many assignments involving domestic emergency



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

response and preparedness, as well as combat communication units.

With the dissolution of the Joint Domestic Support (JDSC), Brig. Gen. Steven Beach is now assigned as ATAG – Army, where he will continue to advise me on national issues relative to the Army National Guard. He moves from his role where he was responsible for a wide range of Oregon National Guard support agencies. He joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1989 as an Assistant Chemical Officer and had a number of successive higher responsibility assignments to include Training Site Command and Commander of 82nd Brigade (Troop Command). He deployed to Iraq with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) and attended the National Security Fellowship at Harvard University.

Congratulations to these senior officers and thank you for your continued service. Please continue to remain vigilant for potential domestic threats while conducting operations and training, and always keep safety in mind. Hold your heads high and always be proud – you serve in the Oregon National Guard!

Always Ready! Always There!

Edwards promoted, Plimpton scheduled to retire

Continued from Front Page

officer ranks.”

Edwards first enlisted as a forward observer in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1985 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry in May 1990. After completing the Infantry Officer's Basic Course, he took up graduate studies in engineering and joined the New York Army National Guard, serving as a rifle platoon leader, company executive officer and eventually commander of E Company, 1-108th Infantry, in Ithaca, NY.

Edwards moved to Oregon in 1996 and was assigned as executive officer of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, and took command of that company in September 1996. He then became the operations officer for 2-162nd Infantry Battalion in 2001, where his service included the unit's yearlong deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2005, Edwards was assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team as assistant operations officer, where his service included a month-long deployment to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts. In August 2006, Edwards returned to the 2-162nd Infantry Battalion as the executive officer and then took command of the unit in October 2007. He led the battalion through a successful mobilization and ten-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After his battalion command, Edwards began resident studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, graduating in June 2011. He then took command of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in October 2011, where he oversaw the preparation, mobilization and deployment of more than 800 Soldiers from the brigade to Afghanistan in 2014.

“I am humbled by the opportunity and I am humbled by the responsibility,” said Edwards at his promotion ceremony. “I will try to earn it every day with the Soldiers and Airmen.”

Brig. Gen. Todd A. Plimpton, of Lovelock, Nevada, is scheduled to retire following a 33-year military career. He has been serving



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, JFHQ Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. William Edwards (center) is pinned with his new “one-star” rank by his wife, Roberta Stinson, and Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, during a promotion ceremony, April 2, at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Oregon. He assumed command of the Oregon Army National Guard (Land Component), April 3, which oversees all Army operations for the state and is responsible for more than 6,000 Soldiers.

as the Land Component Commander for the Oregon Army National Guard since 2010. Plimpton is also a partner with the law firm of Belanger & Plimpton, in Lovelock, Nevada.

Plimpton began his career in the Nevada Army National Guard in 1983, where he served as the assistant operations officer in the 421st Signal Battalion after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant through Officer Candidate School in 1986. The following year, he transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard, where he has served in a number of leadership positions over the span of his career.

Plimpton served in various command positions, including battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, and brigade commander of the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command). He has previously

deployed as the 1-186th Infantry Battalion's executive officer to Egypt in 2002-2003, and again as commander of Afghan Regional Security Integration Command-Kabul in 2008. He also deployed to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts.

“It's been a hell of a run,” said Plimpton at the change of command ceremony. “There's a reason I stayed in the Oregon Guard, it's because you (Oregon Guardsmen) are the best.”

Plimpton holds a bachelor's degree in communications, an MBA in Government Business and Management from Willamette University, and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Willamette University College of Law. He also attended the Army War College, where he received his Masters of Science Degree in Strategic Studies.

COMMAND

Crosby promoted as he takes charge of Joint Domestic Operations

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark A. Crosby was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, March 11, at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon.

Crosby is assigned as Assistant Adjutant General – Air, for Joint Domestic Operations. He oversees Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) which supports and partners with civilian agencies to provide a joint domestic response team to save lives and protect property during natural or man-made emergencies. In his civilian job, Crosby is the Director of Public Safety and Security at the Portland International Airport and the Port of Portland.

He also serves as the director of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program, where he works extensively with staff in the partner nations, the Embassies, the U.S. Pacific Command, and the National Guard Bureau. The joint program seeks opportunities to share domestic emergency response techniques with Bangladesh and Vietnam, Oregon's state partner nations.

Prior to this new assignment as Joint Domestic Operations commander, Crosby most recently served as the director of Strategic Plans and Policies/Force Structure while also serving as commander of the Combat

Operations Group and as Oregon's State Partnership Program director since September 2010.

"Mark's background includes many assignments involving domestic emergency response and preparedness, as well as combat communication units. Coupled with his experience leading Oregon's State Partnership Program, he is uniquely qualified to oversee Joint Domestic Operations," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Crosby was first commissioned in May 1986 and remained in the active duty Air Force until 1993. He joined the California Air National Guard in April 1993 and served as the State Emergency Plans Officer until he transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard in June 1998.

Throughout his career in the Oregon Air National Guard, Crosby has served as State Emergency Plans officer, deputy director of Support (C4), director of Communications (J6), and the deputy commander of the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST). In these positions, he led efforts in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA), state mission planning, strategic planning, and oversight of Oregon's bioterrorism response team. Crosby has previously served as commander of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) and the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron.



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

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark Crosby, the commander of Joint Domestic Operations, stands between his wife, Noel (left), and mother, Marianne (right), as they pin on his new rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, March 11.

Oregon judge promoted to general officer, assists Air Force JAG

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. W. Daniel Bunch was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, February 19, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Bunch is serving as the Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG) of the United States Air Force and a senior member of the Judge Advocate General's ANG Council.

Bunch assists with legal oversight functions pertaining to the Air National Guard. He provides leadership and planning for all ANG legal offices, including some 440 judge advocates and paralegals throughout the nation. As the DJAG's assistant, he advises on all Air National Guard (ANG) matters and works closely with the ANG Assistant to The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) concerning the leadership and management of ANG judge advocates and paralegals worldwide.

"Dan's selection to the rank of brigadier general is a direct result to the excellence in leadership and his professional qualifications," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.



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

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Daniel Bunch, the Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG) of the United States Air Force, stands between his wife (left) and daughter (right) as they pin on his new rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, February 19.

"Colonel Bunch's work as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate General recognizes his skill and character and we, the Oregon National Guard, are proud to call him one of ours."

Bunch has served in numerous legal positions throughout his military career. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1990 to 1994, the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 1998, the reserves and then the Oregon Air National

Guard. He was the Staff Judge Advocate for the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of the Law and Order Task Force in which he commanded a joint force of military and civilian legal specialists in an effort to establish an Iraqi judicial system. Bunch has also served as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Bunch received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990.

In his civilian career, Bunch is a circuit court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Bunch has worked as a prosecutor in the state of Alaska, as a private practice attorney in Oregon, and as County Counsel of Klamath County, Oregon. Additionally, he was an adjunct professor for the Oregon Institute of Technology for several years before taking the bench. He has participated in several boards, including Citizens for Safe Schools and was a founding board member of Klamath County's first Charter school, Eagle Ridge.

173rd Fighter Wing changes command, Pierce promoted to serve in D.C.

Story courtesy
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon – Colonel Jeffrey Smith took command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in a ceremony, April 3, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Smith is now the senior officer responsible for organizing, training and equipping the largest F-15C/D wing in the Air National Guard. He exercises oversight and command of an integrated, Total Force, wing comprised of active-duty and Air National Guard Airmen, four groups, an intelligence fighter training unit, and the Top Knife program – a course that familiarizes flight surgeons with the physiological challenges of operating in a high-g environment.

Smith has more than 20 years of military experience, including ten years with the active duty component. He has been a member of the Oregon Air National Guard since 2005, where he held numerous positions within the 173rd FW as the 173rd Maintenance Group Commander, 173rd Maintenance Squadron Commander, and the 114th Fighter Squadron Director of Operations. During his career, he has seen multiple deployments, to include Operations Southern and Northern Watch.

"Colonel Smith is one of Kingsley's

own, with strong relationships at the national level. I have no doubt that he will successfully carry on the 173rd Fighter Wing's legacy of excellence as he leads the Wing forward," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver, Oregon Air National Guard Commander.

Smith replaces Col. Kirk Pierce, who was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a separate ceremony, April 3, at Kingsley Field. Pierce has been selected for a senior staff position at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. He commanded the 173rd Fighter Wing since January 2015.

"Colonel Pierce's promotion to the rank of brigadier general is directly attributable to his outstanding leadership and professional qualifications," said Maj. Gen. Mike Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. "His work during his tenure as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing is only the most recent testament to his talent."

Pierce has served in various operational and command assignments throughout his military career. He served as the commander of the 121st Fighter Squadron and 113th Operations Group at Joint Base Andrews, Md., as well as the Chief of Strategy and Analysis Division with the National Guard Bureau in Washington



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (left), the Adjutant General, Oregon, assists Col. Kirk Pierce's parents with pinning the rank of brigadier general on his shoulders during a promotion ceremony, April 3, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Pierce is heading to a senior staff position at the National Guard Bureau. He relinquished command of the 173rd Fighter Wing to Col. Jeffrey Smith in a change of command ceremony following his promotion.

D.C. Additionally, he was the Director of Air, Space, and Cyber Operations for the National Guard Bureau, as well as the Senior Military Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy - Strategy and Force Development at the

Pentagon. Before taking command of the 173rd Fighter Wing, he served as the Director for Plans and Programs for the Air National Guard. He is a command pilot with more than 4,700 flying hours and several combat tours of duty.

NEWS

116th Air Control Squadron demobilized in welcome home ceremony



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

More than 90 Citizen-Airmen with the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon National Guard, were honored during a demobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, Jan. 22, after returning from their deployment in the Middle East.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

PORTLAND, Oregon – More than 90 Citizen-Airmen from the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) were welcomed home in a formal demobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, Jan. 22.

The 116th ACS, based at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon, is a deployable air control and radar/communications unit. Members of the 116th ACS deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates from May to November 2015.

In attendance at the ceremony were Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader; Maj. Gen. Michael

Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, and many other special guests and supporters.

“I’m very proud of the example you have set, not only for the Oregon National Guard, but the entire U.S. Air Force,” said Stencel.

“Your efforts and teamwork in this mission have contributed to the continued security of a very volatile area where events have global impacts and long lasting consequences,” continued Stencel.

The Airmen operated and maintained surveillance, communications and air space management systems to support coalition air operations in and around the Arabian Gulf area of responsibility. They provided support for Operations Inherent Resolve (OIR), Resolute Support (ORS), Combined Defense of the Arabian Gulf (CDAG), and Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS).

The Airmen worked with joint service and coalition personnel to operate and maintain the world’s largest control and reporting center.

Their knowledge and manpower provided a picture of the theater of operations, ensuring the defense of seven Arabian Gulf nations, the safety of 27,000 aircraft across 13 countries, and enabling the disruption of enemy forces throughout the region.

“It’s taken nothing short of a continual focus, determination, planning and



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

Oregon Governor Kate Brown returns a commemorative plaque to Lt. Col. James Mitchell, commander of the 116th Air Control Squadron, during a demobilization ceremony, Jan. 22, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The plaque hung in the governor’s office during the unit’s recent deployment.

coordination to ensure the right people were assigned the right missions, and for this unit to accomplish the amazing things they did,” said Stencel. “They have come back to us more trained and experienced than ever before.”

Bangladesh and Oregon academies exchange NCO training techniques

Continued from Front Page

achieve an even higher level of success at our academy in Bangladesh.”

State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, Oregon National Guard, along with senior instructors of the 249th RTI’s NCO academy hosted the Bangladeshi contingent during their three-day visit. Lake also plans to visit the NCO Academy in Bangladesh in the future.

“The continued partnership of NCO professional development is an area where the enduring relationships continue to grow and expand,” said Lake. “Seeing the Bangladesh Army’s commitment to this event and the importance of the empowerment of NCOs, as well as outlining specific steps with tentative future engagements, is very encouraging to all stakeholders.”

The visit included training presentations, academy and training site tours at Camp Umatilla, and one-on-one discussions with the instructors and administrative personnel at Oregon’s NCO academy. The Bangladesh Army delegation learned training techniques and best practices to use at their own academy.

“It was a very positive event that resulted in instructor exchange agreements and we look forward to continuing our partnership,” said Maj. Timothy Merritt, second officer with the 249th RTI. He said

the RTI hopes to send instructors to the NCO Academy in Bangladesh through the State Partnership in the future.

Oregon and Bangladesh have been formal partners through the State Department’s State Partnership Program since 2008. Since the partnership began, the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh have cooperated in many disaster-response training exercises and other cooperative training programs to enhance capabilities of both partners. This new chapter in their relationship, sharing NCOA knowledge and training practices, is a first for both nations.

“This visit marks a tremendous opportunity for both the Bangladesh Army and the Oregon National Guard,” said Sgt. Major James L. Campbell Jr., senior enlisted National Guard advisor for U.S. Army Pacific. “Bangladesh is making the commitment to increasing the professionalism of their NCO corps and empower them because they see the value in it.”

Campbell also discussed the benefits of joint training objectives, such as training courses conducted at the 249th RTI that combine active duty and National Guard Soldiers.

“Oregon is showcasing that we are one Army and that the Guard is willing and capable of supporting the objectives of the combatant commander,” he said.



General Md Abdur Razzaque, Bangladesh Army Commandant of the Bogra Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, inspects a training rifle and scope used by students at the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute during a visit to Camp Umatilla, March 15. Through the State Partnership relationship between Oregon and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Army hopes to enhance their non-commissioned officer training program. Bangladesh has been a state partner with the Oregon National Guard since 2008.



General Md Abdur Razzaque, Bangladesh Army Commandant of the Bogra Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, observes a class of Washington Army National Guard Soldiers training in infantry tactics at the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI) during a visit to Camp Umatilla, March 15. Senior members of the Bangladesh Army worked with RTI leaders and learned training techniques and best practices to use at their own academy. The visit included training presentations, academy and training site tours at Camp Umatilla, and one-on-one discussions with the instructors and administrative personnel at Oregon’s NCO academy.



Lt. Col. Gazi Md Asaduzzaman, Bangladesh Army, explains how the Bangladesh Army trains its non-commissioned officers and discusses the need to enhance their training program during a visit as part of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program at Camp Umatilla, March 14. The Bangladesh Army is working to increase the proficiency of their non-commissioned officers (NCOs). The Bangladesh NCO course is 18 weeks long, with classes generally consisting of up to 100 soldiers.

NEWS

Blue Line project helps coastal communities practice tsunami safety

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

Oregon is leading innovative tsunami wayfinding enhancements on the West Coast with a project called the Tsunami Blue Line to purchase materials for local communities to mark tsunami evacuation routes and install new tsunami evacuation signs. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinated the project with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to utilize funding from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation program.

“The Tsunami Blue Line pilot project is one of several ways Oregonians are working to prepare for tsunamis,” said OEM Geologic Hazards Coordinator Althea Rizzo.

The project is one of the first of its kind in the U.S., inspired by a recent program developed in New Zealand by the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. Communities paint a blue line, with additional signage on the roadway, along the line leading to the evacuation zone. The Oregon pilot project took place in the communities of Florence, Reedsport, Coos Bay and Gold Beach, where blue line markers are installed on selected routes.

“We want to help people get to high ground safely, and Oregon has been working for several years to develop how



we mark and define tsunami evacuation routes,” added Rizzo. “Now is a good time to practice using tsunami evacuation routes to learn how far uphill and inland you will have to go, and how long it will take.”

Depending where you are on the Oregon coast, it could take from five to 30 minutes to get to high ground. There is an online tool to find tsunami routes at oregontsunami.org.

“All you have to do is type in your address, find the route and practice,” said Rizzo. “Encouraging people to practice their routes to safety is one of the best ways to save lives during a tsunami.”

OEM coordinated with city officials in coastal communities to walk across a blue line into their tsunami safety zone as part of the Tsunami WalkOut Blue Line Project, March 11, on the five year anniversary of the Tohoku subduction earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan in 2011.



From left: Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps; Florence City Council President Joshua Greene; U.S. Rep. Peter Defazio (District 4); Florence Mayor Joe Henry; and Oregon Senator Arnie Roblan (District 5) cross out of the tsunami inundation zone in Florence, Oregon, during a WalkOut drill to highlight the Tsunami Blue Line project, March 11. The Blue Line project marks routes to safety in coastal communities.

The Japanese subduction zone that led to a massive earthquake and tsunami is similar to the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the coast of Oregon.

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and OEM Director Andrew Phelps participated in the WalkOut in Florence.

“March 11 we commemorate the five-year

anniversary of the devastating subduction zone earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku, Japan,” said Phelps. “The Blue Line project is an innovative way to practice and teach tsunami safety in Oregon.”

The Blue Line Project is one of several ways the state is working to promote tsunami safety.

Weapon simulator increases proficiency, morale during drill

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Patrick Caldwell,
3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment

BAKER CITY, Oregon – Pfc. Bailey Frasch learned first-hand the considerable advantage that proper instruction on an M-2 .50-caliber machine gun can deliver on the battlefield during a training session at the Oregon Army National Guard Armory in Baker City, March 5.

Frasch, assigned to Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, spent most of her day training, firing and learning the details of the M-2, all inside a classroom at the armory.

In preparation for Fox Company’s annual training stint later this spring, Guardsmen from the unit practiced on the Un-stabilized Gunnery Trainer, or UGT-I, a simulator designed to train individual gunners in accordance with U.S. Army standards.

At first glance the mock-up – designed to simulate a turret-mounted M-2 – is a compact arrangement complete with turret ring and sling seat, manual hand-crank and a foot-powered manual traverse platform. The apparatus is powered by a small computer with the scenarios played out on

a screen where Soldiers engage simulated targets.

“It is supposed to prepare Soldiers to actually go out and fire the weapon. It is really good training,” said Spc. David



Spc. David Iveson (left) assists Pfc. Bailey Frasch during training on the M-2 .50-caliber, Unstabilized Gunnery Trainer, or UGT-I, simulator at the armory in Baker City, Oregon, March 5. Iveson and Frasch are both assigned to Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard.

Iveson, who spearheaded the training.

Iveson, of Union, Oregon, said the simulator furnishes not only needed familiarization on the big M-2 but also helps improve gunnery scores during

qualification.

“There is a dramatic increase in performance on the range. It gets everyone familiar with the weapon without the safety concerns,” he said.

Iveson said there are other programs for the simulator geared toward different weapons systems, including the Mark-19 grenade launcher and the M240 machine gun.

For Frasch, age 19, the experience proved to be great training.

“It is pretty cool!” she said. “Once you get the hang of it, it is pretty simple.”

Frasch, a resident of Parma, Idaho, who works for the City of Nyssa, Oregon, as an assistant city clerk, is still fairly new to the Guard and the 3rd Battalion. She said she was inspired to join the military by a close relative.

“When my aunt came back from her deployment to Kuwait, I told myself I wanted to be just like her. When I saw her in uniform, I knew right then and there that is what I wanted to do with my life,” she said.

Frasch said she views her experience in the Guard as a way to give back to her community.

“Anything to help benefit someone is good enough for me to do,” she said.

General Douglas MacArthur Awards to recognize Oregon Guard contributions

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guardsmen will bring home two of the Department of the Army’s General Douglas MacArthur Awards this year.

Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Thanh Vo, of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, is a recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

The national award recognizes company grade officers and warrant officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood: duty, honor, and country. The purpose of the award is to promote and sustain effective junior officer leadership in the Army.

The Chief of Staff of the Army selected six National Guard officers to receive the award for military duties and accomplishments, and contributions to their community performed within calendar year 2015.

“Captain Vo’s ideals not only reflect well upon himself, but the entire Oregon National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

In addition, the U.S. Army Cadet Command announced the University of Oregon’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program will receive a General Douglas MacArthur Award for the school year 2014-2015.

The award recognizes eight schools, selected from among the 275 senior Army ROTC units nationwide, as the top programs in the country. The award is based on a combination of the achievement of the school’s commissioning mission, its cadets’ performance and standing on the Cadet Command’s National Order of Merit List, and its cadet retention rate.

Oregon Army National Guard Col. Lance Englet, professor of military science, currently leads the University of Oregon’s Army ROTC program in Eugene, Oregon.

“This is a first in program history and reflects a strong commitment by the cadre, the university, and the community at large,” said Englet.

The Army ROTC program is celebrating 100 years on the U of O campus this year (1916-2016) and also includes an affiliate program at Southern Oregon University. More than 60 percent of second lieutenants who graduate from the program commission into the National Guard and Reserve components.

In conjunction with the 100th anniversary, the Army ROTC Department will partner with the university to recognize Veterans at the U of O ‘Salute the Troops’ spring game, April 30, at Autzen Stadium.

The General Douglas MacArthur Awards will be presented in a ceremony and associated events, hosted by the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation, in Washington D.C., May 31 to June 1.



Capt. Thanh Vo, RRB, ORARNG

FEATURES

Artillerymen celebrate heritage, induct members into Saint Barbara

Story by Lt. Col. Maurice Marshall,
Commander, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion

PORTLAND, Oregon – Despite the rain and the typical Friday-evening traffic that clogged main arterial ways, two hundred military members and their significant others converged on the city of Portland, Oregon, on December 11, 2015. Their destination was the Embassy Suites Downtown to attend the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment banquet in honor of Saint Barbara, the Patron Saint of the Field Artillery.

Men in bow ties and women in high-heels were an elegant contrast to Portlandia's usual attire of blue jeans, Birkenstocks, and hemp jewelry. A frenzy of excitement and anticipation filled the air as uniformed Soldiers began to filter through the hotel lobby. In military terms, it was an 'occupation.' Hotel guests looked upon the activities in bewilderment asking, "Who are you guys?"

Saint Barbara is the most anticipated event for all field artillerymen. This year was especially distinctive as the battalion recognized its long lineage with Alpha Battery reaching 150 years in existence. Alpha Battery was established in 1866. It is the oldest artillery unit west of the Mississippi River.

Distinguished guests included Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Col. (promotable) William Edwards; Col. (Ret.) Robert Tomasovic; Col. (Ret.) John Sneed; Col. (Ret.) Sunny Tan; Chief Warrant Officer Henry Slack, of the 5th Royal Canadian Artillery Regiment; and State Command Sergeant Major Shane Lake.

Attending his first Saint Barbara event, the adjutant general addressed the audience in jest, "Fighter pilots have a saying that there are two types of airplanes - fighters and targets. I was talking to this guy earlier, maybe some of you know



Photo courtesy 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion

The 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion inducted members into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for significant contributions to the field artillery community. The 2015 recipients were, from left: Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Ward, Capt. Robert Gruber, Maj. Jonathan Vanhorn, and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller received the Ancient Honor of Saint Barbara for conspicuous long-term and exceptional service to the artillery and for service at the brigade level.

him, he said he went by 'Frank the Tank.' He told me that there is an artilleryman corollary to this; that there are two types of people – artillerymen and targets," he said to the roar of the vivacious crowd.

Guest speaker, John R. Bruning, historian and author of the famed *Devil's Sandbox*, smartly tied together the significance of the evening's activities with eloquence. Story after story, he provided historical examples of timely and accurate fires to support besieged troops in desperate need for fire support. The importance of artillery to maneuver commanders is more critical now than it has ever been. As he espoused, artillery saves lives.

Upon completion of reorganization, the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion will gain even greater capability and range with the imminent fielding of M777A2 Howitzers. GPS-guided, one hundred

pound projectiles fired at a distance of 40-kilometers (25 miles) to strike within 20-feet of an enemy target is a game changer.

After the speeches it was time for the "Artillery Punch." The legend maintains the Artillery Punch is a substantive brew of medicinal value to cure what ails you, or at the very least, ensures that you do not care.

"Charge one!" shouted Capt. Robert Skokan, the punch master.

The audience responded in a thunderous, "Charge one," as he poured the contents of the base into the grog bowl.

This process continued as each battery commander and member of the battalion staff infused their predetermined liqueur into the grog until all charges were dispensed — one through seven. The final ingredients were a sock and engine oil.

Shortly after completion of the punch ceremony, the battalion inducted those honored by the United States Field Artillery Association and a committee of their leadership into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for significant contributions to the field artillery community. The 2015 recipients were Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller, Maj. Jonathan Vanhorn, Capt. Robert Gruber, and Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Ward. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller received the Ancient Honor of Saint Barbara for conspicuous long-term and exceptional service to the artillery and for service at the brigade level.

The festivities concluded with singing the "Caisson Song." It is a song which the Army unceremoniously plagiarized and renamed "The Army Song."

The after party commenced with a silent auction and casino night with appropriate Blackjack and Poker tables. Additionally, many attendees took a short stroll to nearby Voodoo Donuts for a literal midnight snack. One of the many iconic sightings in downtown Portland is the unicyclist wearing a Darth Vader helmet and a kilt while playing a bagpipe. Indeed, we were standing across from the "Keep Portland Weird" mural on SW 3rd Ave and SW Ankeny St. However, there was nothing weird about the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion celebrating its heritage and building upon esprit de corps with these annual traditions.

The battalion will celebrate the solemn mysteries of the traditional brotherhood of "stonehurlers, archers, catapulters, rocketeers and gunners" again next year on December 9, 2016.

Not many choose the military profession of arms as a career. Less than one-percent of Americans are currently serving our great nation. If it were easy, more people would do it. We celebrate the few and the proud that are America's military ... that are your artillerymen. "REDLEGS!"

Awards banquet recognizes achievements, 75th ORANG Anniversary

Story and photos by Capt. Heather Bashor,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Every year, members of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) come together for an awards banquet to celebrate the many achievements of Airmen, units, civilians, and supporting agencies that together make it possible to accomplish the mission of the ORANG.

This year, the 22nd Annual Awards Banquet was held in at the Salem Convention Center, March 12, in Salem, Oregon. At the event, fourteen overall awards were presented to members of the 173rd Fighter Wing, the 142nd Fighter Wing, and Joint Force Headquarters. Many squadron, group, and wing level award winners were recognized for their achievements over the past year.

Ceremony attendees included Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver, Commander of the ORANG; Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, and his wife, Diane; Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Assistant Adjutant General – Air, and his wife, Noel; as well as senior enlisted leaders State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake and ORANG Command

Chief Master Sgt. Ulana Cole and her husband, Clint.

Silver introduced the event by highlighting the many accomplishments of the ORANG and expressing his pride "in being a part of an organization with Airmen who do such amazing work day-in and day-out to get the job done."

To open the banquet, Airman 1st Class Keeley Speck sang the National Anthem followed by members of the ORANG Honor Guard performing an all-service Hat Ceremony to honor service members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard still Missing in Action and Prisoners of War.

The awards banquet also celebrated the 75th "Diamond Anniversary" of the ORANG. In honor of the 75th birthday, the newest and longest serving enlisted members of the ORANG cut the military birthday cake with sabers, symbolizing the band of warriors carrying arms so that our nation may live in peace.

The overall 2015 Category 1 Airmen of the Year went to Staff Sgt. Jared A. Boyer, assigned to the 173rd Maintenance Group. The Category 2 Airmen of the Year awardee was Tech. Sgt. Jonathan D. Johnson, of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron. The Category 3 Airmen of the Year recipient was Master Sgt. Mathew A. Jenkins, of the 123rd Weather Flight.

The Company Grade Officer of the Year went to Capt. Justin R. Schenk, of the 142nd Comptroller Flight. The Field Grade Officer of the Year was presented to Lt. Col. Victoria Habas, commander of the 116th Air Control Squadron.

Other special honors included the Honor Guard Member of the Year, Senior Airman Kanee Chocktoot, of the 173rd Fighter Wing; the First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sgt. Laduska Wright, of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron; the Recruiter of the Year, Master Sgt. Curtis Nelson, of Joint Force Headquarters; and the Unit Career Advisor of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Clinton Horton, of the 173rd Mission Support Group.

Civilian employees and civilian employers play a huge role in supporting and accomplishing the ORANG mission.



The newest and longest serving enlisted Airmen cut a birthday cake with sabers in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard during the 22nd Annual Awards Banquet, March 12, at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Oregon.

Amy Conroy, Airman and Family Readiness Manager for the 142nd Fighter Wing, was recognized as the Civilian Employee of the Year. The Veterans Affairs Roseburg Healthcare System was recognized as the Civilian Employer of the Year.

Concluding the awards ceremony was the presentation of the final three awards recognizing the highest degree of professionalism, leadership, teamwork and service before self. The overall Major Chester E. McCarty Superior Performance Award recipient was Senior Master Sgt. Brett Lundberg, of the 173rd Maintenance Group. The Wingman of the Year Award was presented to Tech. Sgt. Gary Langdon, of the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron. The ORANG Outstanding Unit of the Year went to the 116th Air Control Squadron.

Silver best summed up the achievements of the ORANG in 2015, reading a letter on behalf of Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon, saying, "the number of awards won by units of the Oregon Air National Guard in 2015 is unprecedented."



Airmen look for their names on awards during the 22nd Annual Oregon Air National Guard Awards Ceremony, March 12, at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Oregon. The event recognized Oregon Air National Guard achievements made throughout the 2015 training year.

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O R E G O N A R M Y
NATIONAL GUARD 

Why Reenlist?

Extension Bonus

Extend for 6 years and receive up to \$12,000 *
Extend for 2 years and receive up to \$4,000 *

Health, Dental and Life Insurance

The National Guard offers you and your family inexpensive healthcare, dental insurance and low-cost life insurance that pays up to \$400,000

Financial Benefits

The first \$6,000 of your military income can be deducted from your state taxes
Continue receiving a paycheck to help offset your monthly expenses

Education

Up to \$50,000 Student Loan Repayment *
Up to a four year Minuteman Scholarship *
GI Bill
Federal Tuition Assistance

Retirement

If you serve 20 years or more, you will be entitled to retirement benefits

Change Careers

Apply to be a full time AGR or FED TECH
Change your MOS and you may qualify for a conversion bonus *
Become an Officer or Warrant Officer *
All career fields are now open to women

Home Loans

Guard members may be eligible for home loans with little to no down payment

Comaraderie

Maintain those strong relationships with your peers and mentors

For More Information
Contact your Unit Readiness NCO or Retention NCO

** Restrictions may apply and figures shown are subject to change*



FEATURES

Oregon Soldiers deploy to Europe, help establish equipment sets

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

SALEM, Oregon – Nearly 60 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers mobilized to Europe to perform inspection and maintenance on equipment in support of the U.S. Army's European Activity Set (EAS).

The EAS is U.S. Army-owned, Army Materiel Command-managed, equipment that is pre-positioned in Europe to more efficiently outfit U.S. Army Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF). The equipment is used by U.S. forces to conduct multinational training exercises and other Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) activities in support of the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the collective defense of NATO allies in the region.

The U.S. Army announced in the summer of 2015 that EAS equipment would be stored in Central and Eastern Europe, enabling U.S. rotational forces to rapidly stage in allied countries and focus more time on training alongside partner nations. The strategic placement of equipment throughout Europe saves time and resources; allowing rotating U.S. forces access to equipment when and where it is needed for OAR training exercises.

In December 2015, RAF units began turning-in equipment at the first EAS storage sites in Bulgaria, Romania and Lithuania – other EAS storage sites are planned in the future. Two separate groups of Oregon Soldiers from the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command) deployed to inspect and perform maintenance on the equipment turned-in at these first, initial EAS storage sites. The first group of 17 Soldiers deployed from November 29 to December 18, 2015, and another follow-on group of 42 Soldiers deployed March 1-20, 2016.

"The Europe Activity Set is an integral part of America's promise to defend our NATO allies," said Capt. Maribel Ortega de Pacheco, commander of the 3670th Component Repair Company. "3670th CRC was the first National Guard unit to support this number one Army maintenance priority mission and we are proud of that."

The Soldiers deployed collectively under the 3670th CRC's guidon flag, but the mission was also staffed by members of the 821st Troop Command Battalion; 1249th Engineer Battalion; 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment; as well as some Montana Army National Guard Soldiers.

"3670th took the lead, but it was an excellent partnership," said Sgt. 1st Class Terry Tuggy, the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) who led the first group of Oregon Soldiers to Europe.

The first EAS rotation, in December, was a technical inspection (TI) of the three equipment sets based in Romania, Bulgaria and Lithuania. The Soldiers traveled from



Photo by Maj. Randy Ready, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

Abrams Main Battle Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles are stored in a warehouse in Mumaiciai, Lithuania as U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command established a forward storage site for equipment from the European Activity Set, Dec. 14, 2015. Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers performed inspections and maintenance on the EAS equipment in Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria.

one EAS location to another, inspecting operators' paperwork and verifying faults, inspecting the equipment, and identifying a list of parts for the EAS team to place on order. In addition, they provided operation and maintenance training to active duty Bradley crews.

"The largest success for the initial TI mission was the sheer number of equipment the team was able to process and inspect for the follow on team," said Tuggy. "The initial request was for Bradley and tank support but morphed into every vehicle on the ground, as well as COMSEC (communications security), weapons, ground support equipment, and night vision devices. The request included approximately 40 or so tracked vehicles but we completed 247 vehicles and 160 non-vehicles."

According to the U.S. Army Europe fact sheet, EAS provides enough vehicles and equipment to support a full Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT). The EAS consists of 12,000 total pieces of equipment, of which approximately 250 are tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and self-propelled Howitzers. Another 1,750 pieces are support vehicles.

The mission of the second rotation, in March, was to install parts and complete the maintenance actions that were identified by the TI team. Led by 1st Sgt. Robert Bryson and Sgt. 1st Class Jonna Maupin, Oregon mechanics performed services and repairs on tracked and wheeled vehicles,



Photo by Maj. Randy Ready, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

Sgt. Miguel Baltazor, a Bradley mechanic from the Oregon National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, inspects a M978 fueler as a part of the turn in of European Activity Set equipment at Mumaiciai, Lithuania, Dec. 13, 2015. Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers helped U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command establish forward European Activity Sets in Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria.

and worked on myriad other types of equipment. The Soldiers performed checks, installs and upgrades to various electrical and communication systems. They also inspected, serviced and gauged various weapons, performing minor repairs as needed.

"Our Soldiers' expertise was crucial to ensuring thorough maintenance operations were properly executed; ensuring combat equipment and rolling stocks were brought to standard in an extremely short time period; and meeting Army Sustainment Command's obligations to U.S. Army Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve," said Ortega de Pacheco.

The Oregon Soldiers performed 1,229 man-hours and hung 1,058 parts on equipment in Lithuania. They worked 1,032 man-hours and hung 25 parts on equipment in Bulgaria. In Romania, they hung 18 parts and put in 1,077 man-hours.

"This mission was the highest maintenance priority for the Army," said Tuggy. "I was proud that our Soldiers were able to mobilize and provide competent maintenance in the timeframe we had. We met the mission and proved again the National Guard's worth to our active duty counterparts."

Tuggy said the mission also further cemented the Oregon Army National Guard's relationship with Army Sustainment Command. That relationship began last year when the 3670th supported the maintenance needs of Logistic Readiness Centers at West Point Academy

and White Sands Missile Range, resulting in more than 6,675 pieces of equipment serviced and a savings of \$208,000.

Ortega de Pacheco said the reputation that 3670th CRC earned during those missions last year contributed to the unit being selected for the EAS mission this year.

"Soldiers of the 3670th CRC demonstrated their expertise across the nation and Army Sustainment Command and Army Materiel Command knew they could count on the Oregon Army National Guard to assist in overseas missions," she said. "It's been an honor to serve as commander for 3670th CRC during these critical missions domestically and overseas. Not only is it an opportunity to showcase the expertise of our Citizen-Soldiers as National Guardsman to those we serve with, but also drives our sustainment capabilities as a maintenance unit to demonstrate our readiness as a modern and ready operational force."

As for the Soldiers who participated in the EAS mission, Tuggy said they appreciated the chance to visit European countries and experience the history and culture.

"This was an enjoyable opportunity that we embraced," he said. "The countries we visited were beautiful."

Sgt. Miguel Baltazor, a Bradley mechanic with 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, agreed, "It's been a great experience. If I get the opportunity to come back in the future I'll definitely work to get on that roster."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Terry Tuggy, 821st Troop Command Battalion

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers inspected and serviced Abrams Main Battle Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and other vehicles and equipment to help U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command establish forward European Activity Sets in Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria. Two teams of Oregon Soldiers mobilized with the 3670th Component Repair Company in December 2015 and again in March 2016 to support the EAS mission.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon pilots fly, shoot live missiles at Combat Archer exercise

Story by Capt. Angela Walz,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – “Fly, fight, win” is exactly what a group of 142nd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle pilots, maintainers, weapons loaders, and support personnel did during a two-week weapons systems evaluation program (WSEP) known as Combat Archer at Tyndall Air Force Base, in Florida, from Jan. 25 through Feb 5.

As part of the exercise, Airmen flew the jets, loaded and shot live missiles and subsequently assessed the entire process. The WSEP evaluates weapons systems in their entirety, including aircraft, weapon delivery system, the weapon itself, aircrew, technical data, and maintenance. The intention is to gauge operational effectiveness, to verify weapons system performance, determine reliability, evaluate capability and limitations, identify deficiencies, and pursue corrective actions. It gives crews valuable practice with actual weapons.

“As a combat unit, we have to verify and validate every step of the process and every person involved in a true missile shoot,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, who participated during the first week of the exercise.

“Combat Archer provides the opportunity for people who, for the most part, train and practice in a simulated environment, where not all systems involved in an actual missile shoot are engaged,” Fitzgerald continued. “Here, we operate in a live construct, where the entire system is 100-percent engaged. This is an invaluable experience because the subsequent evaluations validate whether a weapon performs according to how its specifications say it should.”

One reason this type of training is so hard to come by is that it requires a very large area, free from both ground and air traffic, to safely conduct the training. Combat Archer is uniquely set up to afford this necessary training.

Along with Combat Archer, the 142nd Fighter Wing also conducted Combat Shield, an exercise that validates the performance of the radar warning receiver (RWR) avionics system in the aircraft. According to Senior Master Sgt. Steve Crawford, an avionics systems technician for the Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, the RWR system helps alert pilots to adversaries in their vicinity through a complex system of antennas and radar signals.

“This is a valuable experience for us as we’re able to exercise systems and processes we most



U.S. Air Force Photo by Mary McHale

Staff Sgt. Brian Boatman, a weapons loader with 142nd Maintenance Group, 142nd Fighter Wing, tightens a missile to the rail of an F-15 Eagle, Jan. 28, during Combat Archer, a two-week weapon systems evaluation program at Tyndall Air Force Base. During the program, participants load, fly and shoot live missiles and subsequently evaluate the entire process to validate whether the weapon performs according to established specifications.

often only simulate for training purposes,” said Capt. Amy Newkirk, 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron command manager. “It’s a very busy TDY [temporary duty assignment] for all parties involved, but the kind of trip that maintainers most enjoy – the real deal turn-and-burn.”

But aerial missiles and radar avionics weren’t the only activities evaluated during this TDY to Tyndall. On the maintenance side, every aircraft launch and missile load was also evaluated by a Tyndall-based weapons systems evaluation program team member.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Bradshaw, WSEP evaluator, said incoming units receive an in-brief not only in regards to local safety policies and procedures, but also about program expectations.

“We are able to track their maintenance

and flying activities through a variety of systems so we have situational awareness at all times as to when evaluation opportunities are available,” Bradshaw said.

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Conner, 142nd Maintenance Group noncommissioned officer in charge, said evaluators provided feedback daily through cross-talks and meetings, while a formal out-brief summarized the results.

Overall however, all agreed on one result of Combat Archer – the level of confidence it instills in the critical combat systems and the people who maintain and operate them.

“Combat Archer brings home the confidence about the launch systems, knowing what is supposed to happen does happen, and on that we can rely,” Conner said.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Mary McHale

Col. Adam Sittler, 142nd Operations Group commander and F-15 Eagle pilot, confers with Master Sgt. Robert Harsh, a weapons loader with 142nd Maintenance Group, about mission data following a Combat Archer sortie at Tyndall Air Force Base, Jan. 28.

125th STS Airman awarded Bronze Star

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

PORTLAND, Oregon – Senior Airman Randy Theisen, a combat controller assigned to the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (125th STS), was awarded the Bronze Star medal in a ceremony, February 22, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Oregon Air National Guard Commander, presented Theisen with the medal before an audience of his family, friends and peers.

Theisen received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement while assigned to the 21st Expeditionary Special Tactics Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan, while deployed from May 27, 2014 to November 10, 2014.

Theisen served as the primary joint terminal attack controller for a combined United States Special Forces and Afghanistan commando team. He controlled 238 air assets throughout 19 dynamic operations and provided the ground force commander accurate targeting data and full spectrum command and control capabilities.

During one attack, Theisen’s convoy struck an improvised explosive device which triggered a small arms and machine gun fire ambush, pinning down the friendly force. Despite the threat of additional roadside bombs, he left the safety of his armored truck to assist the convoy. While engaging with his M4 assault rifle, he expertly controlled attack helicopters to strike three successive enemy positions with rockets and strafing runs.

Theisen’s engagements broke the enemy assault and freed his team from the ambush. Additionally, on a following engagement, his partner team, 600-meters away, came under heavy machine gun, rocket propelled grenade, and mortar fire. He remained in harm’s way to coordinate continuous 30-millimeter gun runs with fighter aircraft, while simultaneously launching 60-millimeter mortars and also firing his own M4. His actions allowed the overwhelmed element to regroup and maneuver back into the protected compound.

The Bronze Star medal was established in 1944 and is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the U.S. Military. It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone.



Brig. Gen. Jeffery Silver, Oregon Air National Guard Commander, presents Senior Airman Randy Theisen (right), of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, with a Bronze Star medal in a ceremony at Portland Air National Guard Base, Feb. 22.

Airmen train for upcoming deployments

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Nearly 90 members of the 173rd Fighter Wing took part in pre-deployment training at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Feb. 6, 2016.

The Citizen -Airmen are preparing for a possible deployment in the next year during the Reserve Component Period Five or RCP5. This new system is a departure from the old tempo bands used for deployments in the past and part of the new program is – more deployments. In fact, this is the first time in recent history the 173rd has deployed this many support personnel at one time.

“We trained up to 100 folks with our skills rodeo, where they learned to use the new M-50 mask and their ground crew ensemble, basically their chem suit, so they can survive and defend and do their job in a contaminated environment,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Aubut, the 173rd Fighter Wing emergency services manager.

Pre-deployment training is an integral part of the overall mission, starting with the basics of self aid and buddy care, understanding the rules of engagement, basic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) response tactics and other required training. Organizers say the idea is to provide the building blocks for a successful deployment.

After completing the several hours of classroom training, affectionately referred to as mandatory ‘death by power point,’ each group had the opportunity to try on and test out the new chemical protection gear they may be issued while deployed.

“Training went great,” said Aubut. “A lot of people got some education out of it, and did something they haven’t done for a



Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Michelle Kelly

Master Sgt. Michelle Kelly, 173rd Fighter Wing logistics manager, and Chaplain (Maj.) Kraig Kroeker pose for a photo while wearing protective gear designed to let them function in a contaminated environment, Feb. 6.

number of years. One lieutenant said she had never worn chem gear, so it was really good for her.”

Once the Airmen suited up, what may at first have seemed easy proved more challenging while communicating through sealed masks and wearing thick suits, gloves and over boots. One way the training works to overcome these issues is by pairing group members up so they can assist each other with donning the gear and inspect it for proper wear, just the way it’s done in an actual contaminated environment.

Once suited up, they headed outside to practice clearing an area following a CBRNE attack. The group divided into three teams and each made a sweep of the affected area, posting tape designed to detect chemicals or biological agents in strategic places, and communicating with a base command.

The training is required. Two more AEF Skills Rodeo’s are planned for the March and May drill weekends. If you are in a UTC-tasked position please work with your unit deployment manager to make sure you attend one of them.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Fighter pilot reaches rare benchmark; 3,000 flight hours in F-15

Story by Capt. Angela Walz,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – Col. Adam “Khan” Sitler joined an elite group of fighter pilots to reach 3,000 flight hours in an F-15 Eagle, Feb. 18, at Portland Air National Guard Base. Sitler, an F-15 instructor pilot and the 142nd Operations Group (OG) commander, crossed that threshold during a routine training mission. He is the 99th pilot on record with Boeing as having achieved 3,000 flying hours in an F-15.

“Each and every sortie takes a team effort. No one reaches an aviation milestone on their own,” Sitler said. “I’m the beneficiary of countless hours of toil on the part of the most professional aircraft maintainers in the world. They deliver not just safe, but fully mission capable aircraft that I’m privileged to fly,” he said.

As the 142nd OG commander, Col. Sitler leads more than 375 personnel in the execution of the F-15 mission defending the Pacific Northwest, worldwide deployments supporting national objectives, and domestic operations activities as directed by the governor. He has flown more than 50 combat missions and 250 combat hours in Operation Allied Force and Operation Southern Watch.

“He’s a great fighter pilot, an extraordinary leader and mentor to our junior pilots, and an overall asset to the Air Force and the Oregon Air National



Photo by Master Sgt. Shelly Davison, 142nd FW Public Affairs

Col. Adam Sitler, 142nd Operations Group commander, tacks on his 3,000 flight hour patch with the help of his daughter upon returning to the Portland Air National Guard Base, Feb. 18.

Guard,” said Col. Donna Prigmore, 142nd Fighter Wing vice commander.

“Khan epitomizes the National Guard motto of ‘always on mission.’ It’s because of people like him that the Air National Guard is always ready, always there.” Prigmore continued.

Sitler speaks passionately about his Air Force job and the Air National Guard mission.

“It takes continual practice to be ready to provide air superiority at any time, at any place,” he said. “It’s not an exaggeration to say that for every hour spent in the air, at least five or more hours are spent on the



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

Col. Adam Sitler, 142nd Operations Group commander, returns to the Portland Air National Guard Base, Feb. 18, following a training mission marking 3,000 flight hours in an F-15. He is the 99th pilot on record with Boeing as having achieved this benchmark.

ground planning, preparing, briefing, and debriefing each and every sortie.

The American people expect us to be ready, and we’re ready to live up to that demand,” he said.

Sitler was commissioned in May 1996 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Upon completion of Undergraduate Pilot Training and F-15 Training, he was assigned to the 493rd Fighter Squadron at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. He served as a combat mission ready wingman, flight-lead, mission commander and instructor pilot.

In 2001, he was assigned to the 71st

Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. He served as a combat mission ready instructor pilot and weapons officer after completing the United States Air Force Weapons School in 2003. In 2004 he was assigned to the 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where he served as the chief of F-15 Projects.

Sitler separated from the active-duty Air Force in January 2007 and joined the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard. He has served as squadron and wing weapons officer, flight commander, squadron operations officer, wing consolidated unit inspection project officer, and fighter squadron commander.

142nd Fighter Wing patrols the skies with F-15s during Super Bowl

Story Capt. Angela Walz,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – When Super Bowl 50 kicked off on Feb. 7, the only airborne threats fans had to worry about were deep passes – thanks in part to the presence of pilots assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base.

While the Navy’s Blue Angels conducted the official flyover, the 142nd Fighter Wing was on alert protecting the skies.

“We work in coordination with other entities to ensure public safety during high profile events such as the Super Bowl,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. “While you watched the game, we watched the skies,” he said.

The F-15 is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter that can penetrate

enemy defense and outperform and outfight any current enemy aircraft. The weapons and flight control systems are designed so one person can safely and effectively perform air-to-air combat.

Fitzgerald, a 26-year F-15 Eagle pilot, and his team of aircrew and aircraft maintainers in Portland are well-seasoned in the area of homeland defense and can provide a rapid response force for national defense purposes.

The 142nd Fighter Wing defends our homeland with F-15 fighter jets, guarding the skies from northern California to the Canadian border as part of Air Combat Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Their 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.



Photo courtesy 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An F-15 Eagle assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing launches from the Portland Air National Guard Base.

173rd FW unveils new flagship artwork

Photos courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 173rd Fighter Wing unveiled new flagship artwork on an F-15 Eagle, April 3, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG). Master Sgt. Paul Allen and his team of maintainers brought this eagle to life on tail number 041, commemorating 1941 as the year the first ORANG unit was activated. The artwork features a screaming eagle on the nose of the aircraft; eagle feathers spanning across the top and underside of the wings; and the ORANG shield and 75th Anniversary logo on the tails.

State Command Chief change of authority

Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Left: Chief Master Sgt. Patrick “Andy” Gauntz received a letter from former President George H. W. Bush on the occasion of his retirement ceremony, March 6, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Upon his retirement, Gauntz relinquished his role as State Command Chief for the Oregon Air National Guard to Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole.

Right: Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole takes the guidon from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, signifying her new role as the State Command Chief for the Oregon Air National Guard in a ceremony, March 6, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

FEATURES

Regional Training Institute gives Soldiers a dose of battlefield medicine



Photo courtesy Maj. Timothy Merritt, 249th RTI

Sgt. 1st Class Darrin Culp, an instructor for the 249th Regional Training Institute, observes as Sgt. Ryan Warren, with Det. 1, HHC, 3-116th Cavalry Battalion, as he calls in a nine-line medevac request during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course.



Photo courtesy Maj. Timothy Merritt, 249th RTI

A medic engages 'opposing forces' using a paintball gun while his position is screened with smoke during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute. The course ensures medics remain certified in their medical skills while also preparing them for possible battlefield situations as Soldiers.

Story by
Maj. Timothy Merritt,
249th Regional Training Institute

MONMOUTH, Oregon – The patrol was assembled, and the Soldiers were conducting final equipment checks. The heavy rain had mercifully let up and now the sky was a leaden overcast whose modest precipitation could simply be ignored.

With their final inspections complete, the squad leader gave the order to move out, and almost immediately after entering the dense green wood line, the shrill screams of incoming artillery rounds cut through the normally silent forest. The members of the patrol flung themselves to the ground and took what cover they could before the deafening concussions of the simulated artillery rounds rang out.

This was not a typical infantry patrol. The members of this patrol were all Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 68W (Health Care Specialists). These medics were participating in the 68W Sustainment Course, put on by the Oregon Army National Guard's 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI), at Camp Najaf, a training center located between Corvallis and Monmouth, Oregon.

The 68W Sustainment Course is conducted primarily to ensure that medics throughout the state remain certified in their MOS by maintaining their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) basic certification. The two-week course starts with a one-week EMT refresher, which is conducted at the RTI in Monmouth, Oregon.

"The classroom time is critical, because you can't hold a 68-series MOS without also being an EMT," said Staff Sgt. Mark Dills, instructor with the 249th RTI.

In addition, the course is also designed to prepare medics for real-life scenarios that they may encounter during their military service. The course culminates in a three-day situational training exercise (STX) in which the Soldiers test their medical skills while simultaneously handling the pressure of combat situations.

After reacting to indirect fire, the patrol continued its mission and ran straight into an ambush. Paintballs hissed through the air as the squad leader called out to the patrol to take cover and return fire. During the ambush, the patrol took its first 'casualty' and the combat medics leapt into action and began performing the critical lifesaving techniques they had been training on for the last two weeks.

The simulated casualty in this scenario was a 200-pound mannequin known as a 'Sim Man.' It is a mechanical training aid that looks, moves, talks, breathes and

bleeds like an actual casualty. The Sim Man had missing limbs that required multiple tourniquets as well as a chest wound that needed treating.

As the smoke spread across the battlefield, the area was secured and the medics then had to transport the casualty several hundred meters to the casualty collection point (CCP). They avoided the second ambush, and established 360-degree security while the patrol members sent up their liquid, ammunition, casualty, and equipment (LACE) report. Meanwhile, the squad leader was busy sending up his nine-line medical evacuation request that would send vehicles to pick up the casualty. The casualty evacuation then transitioned the patrol from a dismounted phase to the mounted phase of the operation, where their convoy would encounter fierce enemy action once again.

"Its vital training because it gives these Soldiers the chance to experience the full range of the operational environment that they may potentially be working in; from the initial patrol, to emergency field treatment, and then transportation of the wounded Soldier all the way back to the Battalion Aid Station (BAS)," said Sgt. 1st Class Derek Clevenger, instructor with the 249th RTI.

At the Battalion Aid Station, the casualty was brought to the landing zone where the medics were greeted by the crew chief of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The patients were loaded onto the Blackhawk and flown away, giving the medics a realistic experience in dealing with air medevac operations. This is a task most of the medics said they have never had the opportunity to experience, and is invaluable to their training.

Oregon is home to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), and many of these medics are required to support combat units.

"This is great training for medics," said Maj. Jon Van Horn, who observed the training as a physician assistant with the 41st IBCT. "Other states don't conduct training like this. No other place gets you 14-days training and basically builds your skills up from nothing to MOS-ready."



Photo courtesy Maj. Jon Van Horn, 41st IBCT

Medics practice treating simulated wounds using mannequins to maintain their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute.



Photo courtesy Maj. Timothy Merritt, 249th RTI

Medics apply a tourniquet to stop bleeding on a simulated amputation on the 'Sim Man' mannequin during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute.



Photo courtesy Maj. Timothy Merritt, 249th RTI

Medics treat a chest wound on a simulated casualty following an ambush during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute. The mannequin, known as a 'Sim Man,' is a mechanical training aid that looks, moves, talks, breathes and bleeds like an actual casualty.

FEATURES

173rd Fighter Wing student pilots take their first real flight in an F-15

Part two of the B-Course series follows the journey from the classroom to the cockpit as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, at the 173rd Fighter Wing, take to the air for their first time at the controls of an F-15 Eagle.



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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – After a month of intensive academics and many, many trips to the simulator 1st Lt. Scott McGowen arrived at the pre-flight brief for his maiden flight in the F-15 Eagle.

He describes the journey to this point as an uphill climb, one that's lasted nearly three years.

It began for him as an enlisted member at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts, where he developed a passion for flying that has fueled his dream of one day piloting the Eagle.

The first item on the agenda was his bachelor's degree, followed by the expense and rigor of earning a private pilot's license – something nearly all Air National Guard accessions to pilot training have in common.

And today, Dec. 10, 2015, McGowen and his instructor pilot Maj. Victor Knill walk to a waiting F-15, greet the crew chief, and climb aboard the aircraft.



1st Lt. Scott McGowen (inset) sits in the cockpit of a waiting F-15 aircraft while preparing to make his first flight at the controls of an F-15 Eagle, Dec. 10, 2015. His instructor pilot, Maj. Victor Knill, will ride in the backseat to ensure safety and provide feedback upon landing.

"The only thing I was thinking about, the only thing you can think about when you climb into the cockpit, was making sure to do everything right, just the way you cover in the brief," said McGowen.

The preflight brief for this flight lasted nearly an hour and a half, and the first hour was largely devoted to checklist items that have to happen before the jet even moves an inch. Knill rapid-fired a technical litany ranging from the simple to the complex, beginning with the walk-around and progressing to preparing all of the aircraft's different systems to take flight.

One interchange sounds like this: "... with the course align we are gonna go to our HMD pitch, we are going to containerize record, we are recording on the

RMM, we are gonna hit align. When you do this the HUD is basically blanked, all you are doing with that is superimposing them on each other. 'have you done this in the SIM? You have, ok.' Then you go down long left for greater than two seconds. What you'll see is align, aligning, align ok, fine align, so deselect align here and you should be good to go, any questions?" asks Knill.

To the uninitiated, this techno-speak is nearly impossible to decrypt, but Knill says he is merely reiterating steps that the students have committed to memory over the past month since their arrival. They do this by repeated trips to the simulator, logging two to three times the number of required simulator sessions, by sitting-in while classmates do their simulator ses-

sions and by "chair flying" or practicing their procedures in a chair at home when they are off-duty.

Mentally all of these procedures are second nature, and during the entire brief McGowen does not ask a single question, but the test of the first flight is seeing if that cognition can survive contact with the real thing.

"Everything changes when you feel the power of the aircraft, when being safe isn't just something you talk about in a classroom anymore but an actual life-and-death consideration for you and others you fly with," says Knill. "For some it makes them better and for others it presents a hurdle."

On this particular day, McGowen completes his checklists and taxis to the north end of the runway. A few minutes later he engages the afterburner on both engines and rockets south, taking to the air for his first time at the controls of an F-15.

"It was a good flight; he was well prepared and confident and those can be keys to having a good first flight," said Knill.

He goes on to say that this particular juncture in the course can be the most challenging psychologically, as a student moves from a sterile academic environment to the rigors of the cockpit. Students are often surprised, when there is a break in the action, to realize they are soaked in their own perspiration – brought on by a combination of stress and exertion. And it's in that environment that an instructor pilot needs to see their preparation shine through. They need to have command of their procedures and excellent situational awareness even as they fight off task-saturation.

At this point, for this B-course, flying is primarily just that – flying – but just on the horizon is the next big challenge, which is employing the aircraft as a weapon. When that day arrives, all of this flying should be second nature as well.

Everything changes when you feel the power of the aircraft, when being safe isn't just something you talk about in a classroom anymore...

- Maj. Victor Knill,
B-Course Instructor Pilot

B-Course student takes road less traveled to become an 'Eagle Driver'

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Capt. Alexander Frank, a student pilot in Class 16-ABK, finds his way to Kingsley Field in a much more indirect route than most.

Like a river, which flows through the lowest points in the terrain, Frank says he traveled the course of least resistance through school that found him with a mediocre grade-point average (GPA) going into his junior year of high school. He believed he didn't want to pursue higher education and he was smart enough to score well on tests without doing any homework, a combination that placed him in the C-average category.

"Then I visited the University of Colorado, Boulder, and realized that I actually did want to go to college," Frank said.

He decided it wasn't just any college, but a service academy – one of the big three, as he calls them: West Point, the Naval Academy, or the Air Force Academy. He knew he needed a strong finish to be competitive for a service academy. Frank began applying himself in his studies; taking all advanced placement courses, acing them, and choosing to do homework. It culminated in a graduating GPA of 3.4. Even with

that, the big three said no thank you to his application.

Instead, Frank went to the Merchant Marine Academy in Long Island, N.Y. He continued to push hard toward an engineering degree, and a year later finally gained admission to the Air Force Academy. Another four years saw him earning a double major in mechanical engineering and engineering mechanics, as well as a lock on an undergraduate pilot program (UPT) slot.

"At that time in my career, all I wanted to do was go fly and I was really excited to be headed for what I thought was just that," said Frank.

That was up until two days before graduation when he learned he was medically disqualified from the flying program. He ended up far removed from the flying end of the Air Force in civil engineering and spent a deployment in Afghanistan designing building plans.

Several years passed by when Frank's father, an Air Force master sergeant, related a random conversation where he learned that it was an administrative error citing childhood asthma that dropped Frank from UPT, and therefore it could be appealed. Frank applied to both the Board of Corrections of Military Records and to the normal officer transfer board for reinstatement to the flying program. The corrections board found that his removal from UPT was, in fact, an error.



Capt. Alex Frank is halfway to becoming an Eagle Driver, but his road to the F-15 cockpit has been anything but typical. His mission now is to demonstrate his ability to fly in bad weather using the aircraft instruments, Jan. 27, 2016.

He made his way back to flying, albeit in the unmanned aerial vehicle program, where he was learning to pilot an aircraft from a cubicle at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. He spent just over a year in the program and had just spent his first couple hours of actual unmanned flight when he got a phone call from Air Force Personnel Command.

"I was literally walking out of the gym and I got a phone call and a

gentleman says, 'congratulations on your acceptance to UPT, how fast can you get to Laughlin?' and I said, 'I'll be there tomorrow.'"

That was nearly two years ago, and after his reinstatement he tracked to the F-15 Eagle, his first choice for an airframe.

"I would say the quality that brings me here is persistence, persistence, and ... luck," he says smiling.

SPORTS

Oregon Soldier mentors Olympic hopefuls in chasing their dreams

Story by David Vergun,
Defense Media Activity - Army

"A marathon is like a war," said Maj. Dan Browne, a 2004 U.S. Olympic runner and member of the Oregon Army National Guard.

There is a lot of planning, preparation and training, as well as qualifying races to compete in before the marathon. The amount of training is comparable to readying Soldiers for combat, Browne said.

Browne, head coach of the Army's World Class Athlete Program (WCAP), spoke just minutes before three of his runners, all Soldiers like himself – Spc. Elkanah Kibet, Spc. Paul Katam, and Sgt. Augustus Maiyo – competed in the Olympic Marathon Trials, February 13, on the streets of downtown Los Angeles.

The obvious comparison of a Soldier to an elite athlete, he said, is the high level of physical fitness required to win. But that alone is not enough. Adequate sleep and good nutrition are also important to an athlete, as well as a Soldier. The Army's Performance Triad demonstrates the importance and interconnectedness of all three: sleep, activity and nutrition, he said.

"Performance Triad is truly right on the mark," Browne said. "In order to perform, you have to have those three things completely dialed in."

His Soldiers are, in fact, "dialed in," he added, and all "understand their bodies really well."

Having all three Performance Triad dialed in will – besides getting the most out of yourself physically – also undoubtedly help the mental aspect of training and racing, he said.

This mental or psychological aspect is key to success, he said. There will be disappointments such as losing a race or getting injured. It comes with the territory.

The important thing is, "understanding that disappointments are just an opportunity to readjust and refocus your efforts. If you look at it in that sense, it takes away the negative stigma from it. Looking for the silver lining is key to developing that mindset," he said.



Photo courtesy of Maj. Dan Browne

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Dan Browne (left) coaches distance runners for the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program. His Soldier, Spc. Paul Chelimo (right), finished 7th in the world in 8:00.76 during the men's 3,000-meter race at the World Indoor Track & Field Championships in Portland, Oregon. Several Soldiers that Browne coaches, including Chelimo, will participate in the Olympic Track and Field Trials, July 1-10, in Eugene, Oregon.

expressions and how their stride looks," he continued. "Because of my experiences in running, I kind of understand this means they're tired, (or) this means they need to be worked a little bit harder."

Regarding the physical component, Browne said his runners have had high-altitude training as part of their regimen to better increase lung capacity for endurance. After high-altitude training, athletes have more red blood cells so there's more oxygen-carrying capacity and also the perceived effort is much less.

"That's why athletes often undergo high-altitude training before big events," he said.

Browne's Soldiers have good training venues. They train amongst Jerry Schumacher's Bowerman Track Club in Portland and Alberto Salazar's Nike Oregon Project in Beaverton, Oregon.

get to see some of the world's best athletes ... It breeds that mentality of 'hey, I see what these guys are doing. I can do that too.'"

Before competing in the 2004 Olympics, Browne competed in the 1996 Olympic Trials in Atlanta. The following year, he graduated from West Point. In 2013, he deployed to Afghanistan and was assigned to a special operations unit. Though no longer a professional athlete, Browne still looks fit and trim. He said he runs a little and bikes. He explained how coaching and running as a competitor are different.

As a runner, "you have a selfish mindset," he said. "Now, I'm in a natural transition to giving back and supporting others. I'm so thankful for this opportunity. I really enjoy the season of life I'm now in."

Browne added that a lot of what coaches like he and others do is provide insights and help the athletes with the small details he's picked up over the years.

"They've already developed to a very high level already," he said.

Resiliency would be important for the Soldiers at the Olympic Marathon Trials. Out of hundreds of competitors, only three men and three women would be selected for the U.S. Olympic marathon team heading to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, later this year.

Although all of the Soldiers gave it their best, none qualified. Nonetheless, their times were respectable: Maiyo, 02:18:33 (16th place); Kibet, 02:20:10 (19th place); and Katam ran for 01:56:19 but did not finish due to foot pain.

In 2015, Kibet finished seventh in the Chicago Marathon, with a time of 2:11:31. There are a lot of other competitions coming up that Kibet said he's looking forward to participating in. Despite not finishing the race, he is already focused on the 10,000-meter Olympic Trials. If he succeeds there, he'll go on to the Olympics.

Katam said his other love besides running is the Army. He intends to stay in and make a career of it.

Maiyo too thinks he might make the Army a career. Like Katam, he plans to compete in the 10,000-meter Olympic Trials and hopes to go on to Rio.

"Right now their mission is to make the U.S. Olympic team. But at the end of the day they're Soldiers first and foremost," Browne said.

In March, another one of Browne's Soldiers – Spc. Paul Chelimo, of Beaverton, Oregon – placed second in the 3,000-meter race at the U.S. Indoor Track and Field Championships in Portland, Oregon. His time was 7:39:00, just a few hair-widths behind first-place Ryan Hill's 7:38:60.

Chelimo faced a daunting field of challengers.

"This race was even more competitive than the U.S. Olympic Trials will be this summer," said Browne.

For instance, Chelimo faced Olympic silver medalists Galen Rupp and Eric Jenkins. Another, Evan Jager, is the current U.S. record holder in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Also, first place finisher Rupp was the winner of this year's Olympic Marathon Trials in Los Angeles. The other competitors were of similar caliber, Browne noted.

However, coming in second is just about as good as first because only the top two of the 12 competitors went on to the World Indoor Track and Field Championships at Portland's Oregon Convention Center, later that week.

"Oh my gosh, I was so proud. I was jumping up and down," Browne said about Chelimo advancing with Team USA.

As far as prestige goes, the World Championships are just behind the Olympics, Browne said.

As for Chelimo, "he showed a lot of character and endurance," Browne said. This race "shows he's got Army Strong in his blood."

Chelimo admitted that he was nervous the whole week prior to the race, "but being nervous helped," he said, "because you're not taking things for granted."

Besides that, he said he knew he was up against Olympians and top world athletes so he felt like the underdog.

"Being the underdog gives you a boost," said Chelimo.

That boost carried him into the World Championships, where he finished 7th in the men's 3,000-meter with a time of 8:00.76. Now his sights are set on qualifying for the Olympics.

Chelimo and other Soldiers will participate in the Olympic Track and Field Trials, July 1-10, in Eugene, Oregon. He will be trying out for the 5,000-meter event.

"Incidentally, his strongest event isn't the 3,000 but the 5,000-meters," said Browne.

"By the end of this year, I should be in top shape and ready to go for the Olympic Trials," said Chelimo. "You don't want to go into Trials inexperienced. This has been amazing for me, Nationals and Worlds. Getting through the rounds in both has been a great experience."

Browne added that Chelimo is tough mentally, physically and emotionally. That's a tribute to him and to his Army training.

"It's resilience and readiness 101, and he accomplished this tremendously difficult mission," Browne said.

For more information about the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, visit their website at www.armymwr.com/wcap.

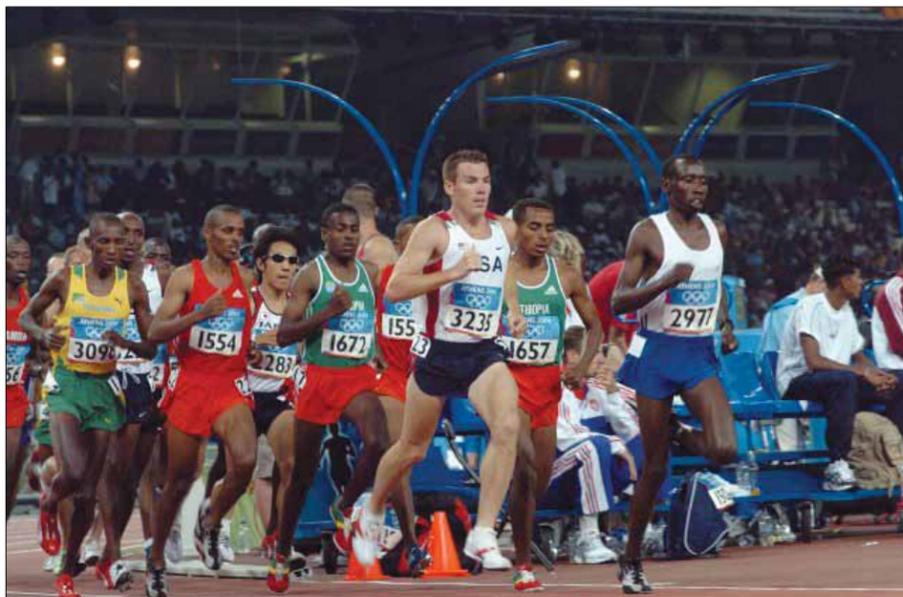


Photo by Tim Hippias, Army Installations Management Command

Dan Browne (Team USA No. 3235) dashes to the front of the pack in the 10,000-meters final of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. He finished 12th with a time of 28 minutes, 14.53 seconds. Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Browne, a graduate of West Point, is now coach of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program distance runners.

Army resiliency training is very similar to methods coaches use to get the best out of their athletes and help them "bounce back from setbacks," he said.

As a former Olympic athlete, "I know myself very well," Browne said. "But, to really help develop that peak performance mindset in each individual Soldier, I've got to know them and work with them and understand what makes them tick."

When coaching his distance runners, Browne said, "I'm very attuned each and every day to how they're feeling. This is kind of the art of coaching, so to speak."

"I notice things about their facial

"These are powerhouse programs," Browne said.

Great coaches are said to beget great coaches. Browne said his coaches and mentors were Salazar, who won the 1982 Boston Marathon, and Bob Larsen, a Hall of Fame track and field coach.

Under Salazar's tutelage, Browne made the Olympic team in 2004 and competed in Athens, placing 12th in the 10,000-meter race as the top American finisher and 65th in the marathon.

"One of the key ingredients, I believe, is that when you surround yourself with excellence, it spurs you on. These Soldiers

NEWS BRIEFS

Support units practice specialty skills for AT in Iowa



Photos by Spc. Michael Germundson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 141st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spent two weeks in February focused on practicing their individual Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) skills at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The 141st BSB used their annual training to develop the unit's medical, mechanical and logistical capabilities in a school-based environment.

Above Left: Sgt. Bobby Steward (left), a medic, assists Capt. Nicole Foster, a physician assistant, both with Charlie Company, 141st BSB, as she intubates an airway on a training mannequin at the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, February 10. Medics of the 141st BSB used their two-week annual training to meet the national Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) annual requirement of 48-hours of classroom and hands-on training.

Above Right: Pfc. Trevor Skoien, a mechanic with Bravo Company, 141st BSB, prepares an engine for removal at the Sustainment Training Center (STC) at Camp Dodge, in Johnston, Iowa, February 4. Mechanics and logisticians of the 141st BSB worked with STC instructors to increase their individual abilities in a hands-on learning environment.

Accidents increase as temperature rises

By Lt. Col. Robert Fraser, ORNG Safety

Safety has a direct correlation to unit and individual readiness. The readiness and success of the Oregon National Guard is dependent on a variety of factors such as funding, training, education, equipment, with the most important being personnel. By preventing accidental loss of our Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians, Families and vital resources through risk mitigation, we aid in the readiness and success of the force. Units and individuals should be ready for whatever event or situation will come next.

Risk mitigation is important during the upcoming spring and summer seasons. As the temperatures rise every spring, there's a corresponding increase in fatal accidents. Soldiers, Airmen and their Family members are sometimes a little too eager to get back to the fun activities warm weather can bring; motorcycles, road trips, water activities and relaxation with friends that often includes alcohol. Summer is rapidly approaching and changing weather conditions will open the door for risk. Soldiers and Airmen are undoubtedly going to enjoy their time away from the office, so it is incumbent upon leaders at all levels to ensure they're equipped to make smart decisions. Sharing safety information with your Service Members now will help them mitigate the hazards in whatever they do.

Beginning in April, the Oregon National Guard Safety Office will release separate campaigns for National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May. Get ready for the season; start planning now for a great time with friends and family. Use the tools available from the Oregon Department of Transportation Trip Check at <http://tripcheck.com/Pages/RCMap.asp> or the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) at <https://trips.safety.army.mil/>. The online assessment will guide you through filling out your TRiPS worksheet step by step. TRiPS will assist you in calculating your travel route times and distances, it will provide the risks associated with your trip, and it will automatically format your TRiPS assessment into a PDF and send it to whatever email address you specify.

Have a safe spring and summer season. Think safety at work and at home!

5k-run raises awareness for sexual assault prevention

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office partnered with community organizations to raise awareness in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

A 5-kilometer fun-run and 1-mile walk event took place, April 3, at the Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon.

Community sponsors and volunteers for the event included the Center for Hope & Safety, Marion County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Sexual Assault Response Allies (SARA), Cherry City Derby Girls, Miss Marion-Polk County Scholarship Program, Team Read White and Blue, Wells Fargo Bank, Willamette University, and members of the Oregon National Guard.

April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (#SAAPM). The month offers an opportunity to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on the importance of prevention and intervention.

With more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving, the Oregon National



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Members of the Oregon Army National Guard's Judge Advocate General legal team pose for a group photo before the start of a 5-kilometer fun-run, hosted by the ORNG Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, to raise awareness in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, April 3, at the Riverfront Park in Salem, Oregon.

Guard is a vital institution within the state. Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen possess a crucial tie between military and civilian society. As a fundamental institution the

military as a whole and the Oregon National Guard in particular, are fully committed to a cultural shift in sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Oregon Governor awards train hero



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

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Aleksander Skarlatos leans back to allow Governor Kate Brown to place the Oregon Distinguished Service medal around his neck during a ceremony at the state capitol building in Salem, Oregon, Feb. 17. Skarlatos and two of his friends subdued an armed assailant on a train in Europe in August 2015, potentially saving hundreds of lives.

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Refine cornering skills on the tight curves of an enclosed track.

Register at team-oregon.org or call 800-545-9944.

Cost of the course may be reimbursed by the Oregon Army National Guard Safety Office, call (503) 584-3320.

AZUWUR

Origins of the Portland Air Base

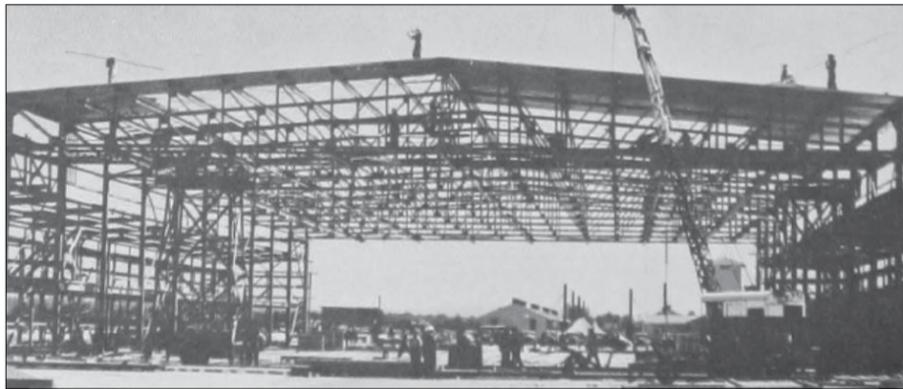


Photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District

An aircraft maintenance hangar under construction at the Portland Army Air Base in 1941. U.S. Army plans called for one hangar in order to hasten completion of new air bases.

Story by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terrence G. Popravak,
142nd Fighter Wing History Office

PORTLAND, Oregon – The clacking keys on a borrowed manual typewriter in the Army Corps of Engineers field office at the base construction site heralded the birth of the new Air Corps station as they struck the ribbon and imparted ink to a sheet of paper. The memo read, “The Portland Air Base is established effective this date and the undersigned assumes command,” dated March 13, 1941 and signed by Lt. Col. Joseph L. Stromme.

The sound of the noisy typewriter keys at the newly activated Portland Army Air Base (PAAB) was but one manifestation of the global conflict thousands of miles from Portland, Oregon, which threatened to engulf the United States.

The reasons for construction of the base were in the American response to the growing fascism in Asia and Europe. Years of minimal defense spending made America woefully unprepared for any armed conflict with the aggressive Axis powers, Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial Japan, which seemed bent on death, destruction and global domination.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt and military planners recognized the importance of air power and made development of additional base facilities a part of the national war effort. In January 1939, there were only ten air bases in the U.S. under the GHQ Air Force – the combat arm of the Army Air Corps – when the President asked Congress to appropriate \$300 million dollars for new Army aircraft. The Army planned to expand its force structure to 54 combat groups with the new aircraft, and devised an activation schedule commencing in June 1940.

Before that expansion plan could be realized and with Imperial Japan already at war in China, war broke out in Europe with the Nazi invasion of Poland in September 1939. And although it seemed at first that it might not spread, it did. Imperial Japan signed a non-aggression treaty with the Soviet Union which then invaded eastern Poland; the Soviets annexed the Baltic republics (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) and then invaded Finland. Conflict grew in April 1940, when Hitler’s Germany invaded both Denmark and Norway.

With the prospects for global war growing at a frightening pace, selection of the sites to base the 54 Air Corps combat groups began in earnest in June 1940, spurred on by the shocking Nazi victories in Western Europe in May 1940, which saw the fall



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District

The Army Corps of Engineers Portland District office at the cantonment site of Portland Army Air Base in 1941.

of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. On June 10, fascist Italy also invaded France and declared war on Great Britain.

In August, a list identifying municipal airfields deemed suitable for military operations was presented to the Army Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall; the list included Portland, Oregon. Meanwhile the epic Battle of Britain was fought between the British Royal Air Force and German Luftwaffe.

By September 18 the Army Plans Division assigned construction priority to 24 airport projects, and gave the task for construction to the Quartermaster (QM) General. Even as the order was given, Fascist Italy attacked British-held Egypt while Imperial Japan occupied northern French Indochina in late September, underlining the urgent need to develop facilities in a timely manner.

On October 12, the U.S. Army Adjutant General issued a directive to the QM General for construction of Portland Army Air Base (PAAB). And in late October, fascist Italy commenced war against Greece. The flames of war kept spreading.

The base’s official history cites three reasons for its activation: to repair transient aircraft and to repair, service and maintain aircraft based at Portland Army Air Base; to serve as an air combat training base; and to serve as a shuttle base for fighters and bombers engaged in the defense of the Pacific Coast.

But the nationwide task of air base development overwhelmed the Construction Division of the QM Corps; delays with obtaining desired leases also slowed things. In order to expedite the buildup, the Army assigned responsibility to the Corps of Engineers to supervise and control all Air Corps construction projects. By this point the QM Corps had managed to do some grading work on the base site before the Portland District of the Army Corps of Engineers took over.

In Portland, construction soon commenced. The site selected for the new base was at the recently completed (1940) Portland-Columbia Municipal Airport on the south bank of the Columbia River, just upstream from Vancouver Barracks. It was seven miles north of Portland’s business district, adjacent to U.S. Highway 30. The base area was constructed on the south side of the airport, which replaced Portland’s first municipal airport at Swan Island.

The Port of Portland had purchased land adjacent to the new airport for future expansion, protection of the aerial approaches and anticipated Army requirements. The Army obtained the land required for cantonment and flight line areas by lease from the Port for a sum of \$1.00 per year. Although most of the base cantonment site was on lands purchased by the Port in 1940-1941, the Army acquired title to another 325 acres, presumably to facilitate dispersal of assigned, transient and/or reinforcing aircraft.

The air base was originally built in two areas, with a 30-acre flight line area on the south side of the airport and the 60-acre cantonment site south of that for base support, including housing of personnel, medical and administrative offices. A

ORANG celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Oregon Air National Guard has been proudly committed to honor, community and excellence for 75 years. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we reflect on our history with stories that mark the journey from where we began to where we are today.

Our history began just prior to World War II when the United States, monitoring the war raging in Europe and China, began focusing less on neutrality and more on preparedness. Answering the call to arms was Maj. G. Robert Dodson, an Oregonian serving with the 321st Observation Squadron, U.S. Army Reserve, at Pearson Field in Vancouver, Washington. He requested the National Guard Bureau’s authorization to form an Oregon flying unit. His short, official request – “We’ve got people, we’ve got a place, and we’re ready!” – launched the 123rd Observation Squadron on April 18, 1941.

Five months later, the squadron was federally activated and deployed to Gray Field at Fort Lewis, Washington, to patrol the Pacific Northwest coast line conducting maritime surveillance. The squadron flew one of the first wartime missions from a U.S. base on December 7, 1941, after Pearl Harbor.

The squadron participated in seven campaigns during World War II as a reconnaissance squadron in the China-Burma-India theatre for the Fourteenth Air Force. Some personnel were diverted to other units and served elsewhere in the Pacific and in Europe.

The Air National Guard was established as a separate component of the U.S. Air Force in September 1947 and, as part of a larger reorganization, the 123rd was redesignated as a Fighter



Squadron under the 142nd Fighter Group at Portland Air Base.

Since then, the Oregon Air National Guard has continued to protect the skies over the Pacific Northwest and played vital roles in our nation’s conflicts ranging from the Korean War to the Cold War and beyond. On September 11, 2001, we were one of the first to respond to the terrorist attacks with increased air defense on the West Coast.

Our F-15 Eagles maintain an Aerospace Control Alert as sentinels of the sky 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We also provide the only F-15 flight training for the entire U.S. Air Force.

Today, nearly 2,300 Airmen serve in the Oregon Air Guard as part of 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, and Joint Force Headquarters in Salem.

Our Airmen maintain surveillance of the skies using ground-based radars and command, control and communications centers. Disaster response personnel train, plan and respond to emergencies throughout our state and nation. In addition, our Airmen continue to deploy in support of federal military operations throughout the world.

road and utility lines connected these two areas.

On November 21, 1940 the Army awarded three Portland companies (George H. Buckler, Hauser Construction and Natt McDougall) contracts to build a 60-acre cantonment area for the new base, designed to accommodate an Army pursuit group

– from the earliest time an air defense mission had been envisioned for Portland. The work and materials were valued at \$1,142,056.00 and the contractors placed a lumber order for three million board feet.

Actual construction at PAAB began on December 20, 1940. The first buildings started were a bachelor officers quarters, three barracks and a mess hall in the cantonment area. The base hospital and technical buildings soon followed.

The original buildings were constructed to support a garrison of 2,392 enlisted men and 275 officers. But even before the Imperial Japanese attack on U.S. forces in the Pacific in December 1941, new plans were announced for some 90 more buildings to accommodate an increase in expected strength up to around 3,600 enlisted men and 400 officers.

Army funds provided not only for the construction of new base facilities, but also for significant improvements to the existing airport as well. These enhancements became part of the overall airport infrastructure and included the widening of paved runways from 150 feet to 300 feet (better to accommodate larger four-motored bomber and transport aircraft), additional taxiway construction (helping enable simultaneous movement to/from runways and/or better dispersal of large numbers of aircraft) and the accompanying airfield lighting alongside these newly paved surfaces.

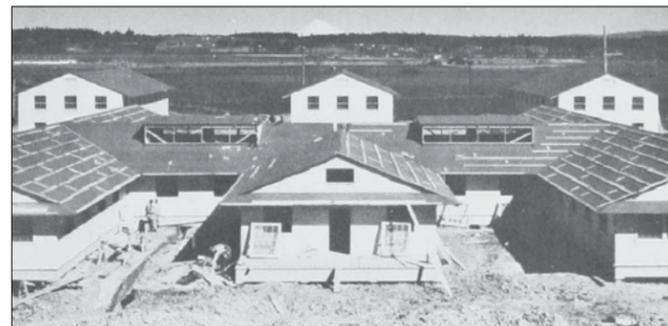


Photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District

Construction is seen underway in the cantonment area of Portland Army Air Base in 1941.

The Army also took on maintenance responsibility for this new and improved infrastructure. With all the new base facilities and improvements to the airport, Portland soon became a major air installation in the Pacific Northwest.

But before Soldiers arrived for duty at the newly activated air base, supplies began to arrive, a lot of supplies, on automatic requisition. They quickly piled up and costly demurrage began to accumulate. Stromme requested help and in response the Army sent the 255th Quartermaster to help with two officers and 20 men in the initial cadre.

Delving into the received goods, the men found a large amount of medical equipment that required checking and receipt, so Stromme requested help again and Fort Lewis sent a medical detachment. Ordnance and Signal units then arrived from McChord Field. Portland AAB was beginning to take shape!

Meanwhile, as the base began to emerge, Nazi troops landed in North Africa in February 1941 to help their Italian allies against the British. As Stromme declared Portland AAB activated on March 13, 1941, Imperial Japan was placing pressure on resource-rich European colonial territories in Southeast Asia. It was well for the United States and for the Pacific Northwest that Portland Army Air Base was being built!

To be continued...