

# Oregon Sentinel

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## ORARNG unit awarded Combat Infantry Badge

**2-162 is the second Oregon unit to be awarded the citation**

By 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs,  
Special to the Oregon Sentinel

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, currently serving in Baghdad, Iraq, recently awarded its soldiers with the battalion's first Combat Infantryman Badges (CIB). The badge, which originated in 1941, is an award reserved only for those infantrymen who have fought in battle.

"It was created as an award which would provide special recognition of the unique role of the Army infantryman, the only soldiers whose daily mission is to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold the terrain," said the battalion's senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley.

The battalion's soldiers were awarded the CIB for their role as infantrymen while engaging in active ground combat to help liberate Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

This is the second time the CIB has been awarded to Oregon soldiers. The 1-162 IN BN was awarded the CIB in 2003.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Spec. Andres Molero (right), 22, of Camas Valley, Ore., salutes Lt. Col. Dan Hendrickson (left), commander of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, of the 39th Brigade Combat Team, after being awarded the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge.

## Hooley's Congressional efforts pay off for Oregon National Guard aviation unit

By Capt. Michael Braibish,  
State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

**SALEM, Ore.** — The Oregon National Guard received a symbolic check from Congresswoman Darlene Hooley on Oct. 26, to build a new state of the art aviation facility at the Salem airport.

The funding, more than \$4.9 million, was approved by the House of Representatives on Oct. 9, and later approved by the Senate in defense spending bills. The president signed the bills into law.

Hooley, who represents the fifth Congressional District, was instrumental in getting the funds approved. She presented the symbolic check to Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., Oregon's Acting Adjutant General.

Hooley said the facility will benefit both the Salem economy and the Oregon

See **Federal Funding** PAGE 8



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

Acting Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, Jr. (l.), accepts a \$4M check from Congresswoman Darlene Hooley (r.) at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore. The ceremony was held Oct. 26.

## 142nd FW takes part in William Tell competition

Two Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles fly in a tight formation during a training mission over the Florida coast. About 40 personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing took part in the competition. Competing units were judged on their employment of tactics and use of cold/live-fire weapons. The meet also included weapons loading, maintenance and weapons' director competitions.



Photo courtesy of www2.acc.af.mil/williamtell

For complete story, turn to page 5.

## Rilea hosts Air Assault School



Air Assault students cheer on their classmates as they reach the finish line of the 12-mile road march.

By Spec. April Dustin and  
Spec. Annie Baxter,

115th MPAD, Oregon National Guard

**WARRENTON, Ore.** — Almost 80 soldiers and airmen from across the country converged on Camp Rilea on the Oregon coast to attend the Army National Guard's Air Assault School Sept. 10-22.

The Air Assault School, also known as the Warrior Training Center Mobile Training Team, is stationed in Ft. Benning, Ga., trains National Guard soldiers and airmen in air assault operations. The MTT cadre consists of 14 Air Assault and Ranger-qualified Army National Guard soldiers from many different states, including six from Oregon.

"The NCOs (non-commissioned officers) in this organization are the best the Guard has, their hard work makes all of this possible," said Capt. Shawn Gardner, MTT Commander.

See **Air Assault School** PAGE 5

## Your Letters

**This is your chance to air your thoughts about any subject! Send your thoughts, opinions and ideas on any topic, or current affair issue via e-mail to the following address: [sentinel-letters@mil.state.or.us](mailto:sentinel-letters@mil.state.or.us)**

### Soldier receives quite a scare in Baghdad



Well as you heard the other day there was an attack on the Green Zone. We were out working when all of a sudden we heard a "woosh", then something flying through the air, then a boom. That was a first. Good thing none of us got hurt. We're all doing well just getting used to working in Baghdad.

Sgt. Adan Rolando Garcia

### Guard wife proud of husband's contribution

My husband has been in the military for 17 years, and was just deployed with F troop to Fort Bliss, and is then heading to Iraq. We have five children, and I would never have planned to be a "single parent" for any length of time. However, I knew Derek was in the military when we met, and after over 12 years of marriage it is his turn to go serve our country in this way. I miss him terribly, but I support him completely, and I would never protest and complain about his going. That is who he is, and what he does. Not everyone may feel as I do these days, but I am extremely proud of him for going and doing his part. He did volunteer to be in the Army, and I was with him when he re-enlisted at the Arizona Memorial in 2001. He is fully supported by his family and we miss him.

Trena Steinmetz  
Portland, Ore.

### Families of Fallen Heroes spearheads Living History Day program

My name is Ken Buckles, a high school teacher at Milwaukie High School and for the past nine years we have held an annual Living History Day program that educates our high school students on the value and high cost of freedom. This day brings veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and now Iraq and Afghanistan into the classroom to share their experiences with the students. At the end of the day we have an assembly honoring and recognizing all who serve, have served and especially those who never came home.

This past year, we remembered Oregon's Marine Travis Bradach-Nall, Army Brandon Tobler, Marine Aaron Contreras, and Army Donnie Walters during the recreated USO show. In attendance were the parents of these fallen American heroes. Lynn Bradach spoke to the student body and pleaded with the students to never forget the incredible sacrifice that these young men and women gave for all of us. Although this was an extremely difficult and emotional day for the families, I know that I can speak for them to say that it was also a very healing day and a day they felt just had to be done. I strongly feel that their sons must be remembered and

I also want Milwaukie High School students to always remember them too.

Three of the families followed me to Pendleton and Redmond high schools to repeat this experience. I want to personally invite you to Milwaukie High School's Living History Day on Monday, November 8, 2004. You and your fallen American hero would be recognized, honored, and remembered during the assembly. The classroom sessions are strictly optional.

If you are interested in reading more about our Living History Day programs, please go to [www.rahusa.us](http://www.rahusa.us). Last year's recreated USO show website video received over 300,000 hits from around the United States including 27 different countries. This also included our military bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea (even naval ships). Please contact me if you are interested in discussing this event further. My email is [kbuckles@canby.com](mailto:kbuckles@canby.com) and my cell phone is 503-351-2632.

Sincerely,  
Ken Buckles  
Director, Families of Fallen Heroes

### Redmond Family Program revs into high gear

The Family Program in Redmond as well as the Lebanon program raised enough money to send their soldiers home for during their leave and return back to Louisiana as far as Huston, Texas. They worked really hard selling magnets, had a garage sale, and got grocery stores involved by having items in their store flagged for care packages. These items were things the soldiers will need over in Iraq. These units are F-Troop and G-Troop of the 82nd Cavalry.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternity of Eagles in Bend, Ore. started selling car magnets by getting a radio station involved

to send care packages to the troops. They have already sent two care packages with soap, shampoo, lotion, toothbrushes as well as other items the soldiers need.

Sue Felton, mother of Staff Sgt. David L. West Jr. of Shelton, Wash., was able to get the Nisqually Indian Reservation to donate 100-pounds of salmon, which she smoked, and eventually sent to the troops.

As for myself I have sent at least 12 care packages of DVDs, deodorant, candy, shampoo, and other items the soldiers couldn't get in Iraq because they're so busy doing their job.

We are very proud of our troops and wanted to let them know. Just wanted to let people know that some people do care about the troops.

Sincerely,  
Valerie West,  
The proud wife of Staff Sgt. David L. West Jr., Roseburg, Ore.

### Reader appalled by beating of guardsman

I just saw the Channel 8 news report about Gabe Sapp — our guardsman from Corvallis. I am outraged by the KGW Channel-8 report on Nov. 13, of the OSU football player who attacked he and his wife this past week.

I am very sorry for Mr. Sapp and his wife. He was home on a two-week leave and is to return to Iraq in mid-November. If you are able to wish he and his wife my best regards, please do so. I want to thank you, and guardsman Sapp for your fine service to this country. I pray and hope for his safe return.

Bob Knorr,  
Silverton, Ore.

### Central Point school shows patriotism, support for deployed Oregon soldiers



Dear Sir/Madam,

Rep. Dennis Richardson, asked me to forward the attached air photo of approximately 900 students of Scenic Middle School in Central Point. The students in the photo are showing their patriotism, and expressing support for our troops. A more detailed explanation from Principal Bob Bowers follows this message.

Is there a way the photo could be passed on to Oregon troops serving in Iraq? Rep. Richardson and Principal Bowers hope this air photo could brighten the day of those serving our state and country.

Thank you,  
Nick Smith  
Legislative Assistant  
State Rep. Dennis Richardson's office

Originally, the "Holiday Flag" was flown aboard Marine Corp Air Station El Toro, Calif. in December 1996. It was given to Patrick Elementary School later that year in support of our Old Glory flag project that promoted patriotism and awareness of our national defense.

When I moved to Scenic Middle School, I took the flag with me and we have used it at community July 4th events. We have done this flag flyover in 1999, 2001, and again in 2004. This year the design was by 7th grader, Emily Medina. The purpose was to express our extreme gratitude to our troops in the field and all those involved in our national security. Another reason was to have all the students and staff members at Scenic Middle School participate in a "moment-in-time" activity that is patriotic and unforgettable! There are over 900 people in the picture!

Rob Bowers, Principal,  
Scenic Middle School,  
Central Point, Ore.

### Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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**Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage.**

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the *Oregon Sentinel*, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the *Oregon Sentinel* staff members listed below.

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## Command Message

Over the course of my career and personal life I have had the opportunity to visit many sites where American service members have performed their duties. At each location I have reflected on the times that determined reasons why soldiers and airmen were brought to that particular location. I would like to reflect on a couple of those locations and the thoughts I had.

Valley Forge is located in eastern Pennsylvania and you are well aware of the tremendous suffering the soldiers faced during the winter of 1776. I visited the site recently, and while there is nothing today that can replicate the conditions the soldiers faced, I could sense that without the distant goal of independence and the strong and caring leadership of George Washington, it would have been very easy for the Colonial soldiers to pack up and go home.

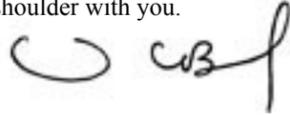
Checkpoint Charlie was located on the

border between East and West Berlin and during the Cold War was the point of departure into another world. Going through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin was not subtle and the contrast was very stark. I remember very clearly the friendly treatment I received by the soldier on duty with the cold institutional treatment on the other side of the border. While it no longer serves a material function, it does serve as a symbol to us for all those service members who served from the end of World War II until 1991.

The National Cemetery in Manila provides the final resting place for many service members who gave their lives during the Spanish American War and World War II. Oregon Guard members participated in both conflicts and members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Oregon Regiment and the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division can be found there. There are many such

cemeteries around the world, each of which is unique but very touching.

I wish to thank all Oregon National Guard men and women for their service to this great state and nation. With November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day, behind us, let's continue to honor all those who have served in our nations armed forces. Please keep in your thoughts soldiers and airmen currently deployed around the world especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan during the upcoming holiday season. Remember that when you stand in formation the spirits of those who have gone before us also stand shoulder to shoulder with you.



Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne,  
Acting Adjutant General, State of Oregon



It's the holiday season again and we're knocking on the back door of another year. Now is a good time to stop and reflect back upon 2004. This has been a busy year for both the Airmen and Soldiers of Oregon. We have put a lot of effort into our overseas and CONUS deployments. We have given our time to our units, community and country. Now during this holiday season we need to take a deep breath and give some time to yourself and your family.

Take a moment and pray for those Airmen and Soldiers that are doing duty within CONUS and overseas that will not be at home with their loved ones this year. Help support the families of those deployed so they too can enjoy the holidays as we do here at home. Give your thoughts and prayers to the Airmen and Soldiers who lost their lives fighting to defeat terrorism and the freedom of our country. Our Oregon National Guard family is large and strong. We need to watch out and take care of one another, and help out where we can.

Along with the holidays come the parties. Getting together with family and friends is some of the best therapy in the world. At these gatherings we may tend to have just a little bit to much holiday cheer. You have heard this before "if you drink don't drive". There is nothing wrong with having a good ol' time, just don't put yourself behind the



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

wheel if you have had to much cheer.

With Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years among us, think about family, friends and spending time with both. I hope all of you have had a great year. I look forward to the holidays and am very excited about the New Year. From my family to yours, we wish you the best of the holiday season and hope you have a Very Merry Christmas and the best and safest of New Years.

Over the last two issues I have emphasized the importance of knowing and doing your job. I recently had the opportunity to spend a week with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in Iraq. It was apparent that the soldiers were proud of their abilities as warriors, proud of their unit and fully understood the need for discipline and attention to detail. As the deployment continues, one of the things mentioned by soldiers that have returned — and by those still in theatre — is the need to keep those high standards, even though they have been doing the mission a long time. Complacency either at the front, or here at home is never good for a unit or individual soldiers. Recently I received an Army-wide message from Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth Preston that also speaks to those issues and I am including the entire text of his message in this edition of the *Oregon Sentinel*.



Command Sergeant Major Thomas Moe,  
State Command Sergeant Major

*In my most recent travels around the Army as the Sergeant Major of the Army, I've spoken to many leaders at all levels about the importance of standards and the impact enforcing standards has on discipline. Many of you have heard me talk about this in the past and I think it is time to revisit the basics.*

*I do this first because I was asked by senior leaders to help put some focus on standards and discipline. I am a force provider and I am here to help all of those leaders, their commanders, and their soldiers be a success in any mission they are given.*

*I also do this because I have some concerns from what I have seen in my travels over the last eight months. When a unit is traveling fast, has many missions to accomplish on the horizon and the pressure to provide results, sometimes they lose sight and don't focus on the fundamentals, the basic foundations that make us the elite Army we have become.*

*To understand how standards and discipline are related, you have to start with the basic premise of how we grow sergeants in the Army. This is a basic three step process. Step one; establish a standard.*

*Army Regulation 670-1, Wear of the Uniform, is a standard that tells us how to wear the uniform, items on the uniform, and all the accessories. It guides our uniform in the field. The items we wear on the uniform or carry with us is a standard usually IAW a unit SOP. The PMCS we perform on our HMMWV in the motor pool is done to a standard outlined in the Operator's manual. A patrol of soldiers coming off mission in Baghdad, Iraq clear their weapons upon entering their base camp IAW the standard published in the Weapons Handling Procedures developed by the Safety Center.*

*Now with an understanding of standards, step two is put someone in charge of enforcing the standards. This is where the Sergeant is now responsible for his or her piece of the Army, those three or four soldiers. It is the Sergeant who conducts daily inspections of soldier's uniforms. It is the Sergeant who conducts Pre-Conduct Checks (PCC) of his or her soldier's arms and equipment before going out on patrol. It is the Sergeant who supervises the PMCS of the HMMWV during maintenance periods, and it is the Sergeant who over-watches the soldiers coming off patrol to ensure all have cleared their weapons to standard.*

*Step three in growing our leaders is to hold the Sergeant accountable. This is where the more senior leaders above the Sergeant have their responsibility. To see what is being done to standard, senior leaders have to inspect. A soldier on patrol missing a piece of equipment means it was missed during PCCs by the Sergeant and obviously missed by a more senior leader during the Pre-combat Inspection (PCI). This same analogy extends to every standard we set for our units and our Sergeants to enforce.*

*So for the more senior leaders above the Sergeant you must always remember your role in growing Sergeants. Lead by example by demonstrating the standard in all that you do. This leading by example empowers the Sergeant to enforce standards on their small piece of the Army. We have always said when a more senior leader demonstrates a lesser standard; this demonstration now becomes the new standard.*

*The demonstration of a lesser standard goes far deeper than just setting a new standard; it circumvents the authority of the Sergeant. I have learned over the years that the two basic building blocks for a Sergeant to establish his or her authority and establish discipline in the organization begin with basic uniform and saluting standards.*

*Enforcing basic standards and holding Sergeants accountable for their soldiers is critical to developing these young leaders. In every case where a soldier has died because of an accident and the cause of death was negligence by Sergeants to enforce standards, look to the fundamental standards and how these were enforced and the discipline within the organization.*

*In every case where the Sergeant stops enforcing fundamental standards and senior leaders do not hold him accountable, the enforcement of standards in other areas begins to slip. Short cuts in performing PMCS begin to become routine, soldiers stop wearing seat belts, PCCs are not performed in detail, complacency begins to set in and Sergeants stop making on the spot corrections.*

*The importance of the Squad and Platoon leadership in establishing standards and holding Sergeants accountable is critical to the performance of the organization. When you walk into an organization as an outsider and you see everyone in the same uniform, vehicle load plans are organized, basic fundamental drills are performed as routine, you learn a lot about the unit's discipline. You know as an outsider that standards are established, everyone knows the standard, and there is a leader in charge.*

*The bottom line: be the standard, know the standard, and enforce the standard.*

### From the Editor

As you receive this issue of the Oregon Sentinel, I am serving with The Volunteers of 2-162 Infantry in Iraq for a temporary duty assignment with fellow soldiers of the Oregon National Guard stationed there. I am visiting the men and women on behalf of the Adjutant General in order to document the extraordinary work of these fine soldiers and to facilitate broad media coverage of the work our citizen-soldiers are doing in Iraq through local news organizations here in Oregon. Keep watching, listening and reading from every outlet you can access, as all networks and numerous newspapers and radio stations have agreed to share our stories across the state. **BOTTOM LINE:** Our soldiers continue to do great things for the people of Iraq and deserve to have their story told.

The pages of this issue of the Oregon Sentinel continue to highlight Oregon's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, who just earned the coveted Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), an award that was last given to the unit in WWII. When they weren't earning their combat badges, the medics of the 2-162 were doing real-world life-saving for Iraqi National Guardsmen who were injured in a surprise attack. As we all know, our military keeps their high standards by continuous real-world focused training. Soldiers and airmen converged on Camp Rilea in September for the Air Assault School. The 1-162 conducted their annual training on the Oregon coast, and pilots and support crews from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, spent two weeks in Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for the 2004 William Tell competition, representing the entire Air National Guard.

Finally, history has come full circle with the dedication of a memorial to the sacrifice Lt. David Kingsley made in Bulgaria in 1944. In late-October, a joint-force contingent comprised of members from the 142nd Fighter Wing, the 173rd Fighter Wing, and Joint Forces Headquarters Oregon met with members of the Bulgarian Army and Air Force in Suhozem, Bulgaria to remember Lt. Kingsley's sacrifice, and that of the eight innocent Bulgarian citizens who perished on the ground.

Thanks for all of your continued support and for celebrating the men and women of the Oregon National Guard.

From Baghdad,



Maj. Arnold V. Strong,  
Public Affairs Officer, Oregon National Guard



# ORARNG medics rely on training when faced with real world scenario

## Oregon's 2-162 IN BN soldiers spring into action following attack by insurgents

Story by 1st Cavalry PAO,  
Special to the Oregon Sentinel  
Photos by Sgt. Dan Purcell,  
122nd MPAD

**CAMP TAJI, Baghdad** — Amidst the noise of incoming medical evacuation helicopters, calls for stretchers could be heard as multinational forces concentrated on tending to the wounded and prepared them for transport back to Camp Taji for medical treatment.

Their helpful aid came quickly after anti-Iraqi forces launched an indiscriminate mortar attack on an Iraqi National Guard (ING) patrol base in northern Baghdad that killed six ING troops and wounded 38 more Oct. 19. The ING soldiers were from the 307th ING Battalion and were outside for their morning formation when the mortars first struck.

"Those people who attack Iraqis everyday don't care who they kill," lamented one



Troops evacuate wounded Iraqi National Guardsmen following an early morning mortar attack on a patrol base in northern Baghdad.



Staff Sgt. Gabriel Sapp, a squad leader with Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment of the 39th Brigade Combat Team, checks on the status of his Soldiers. Sgt. Karl Kligel (center) and Spec. Ryan Miller (right) are preparing to treat a wounded Iraqi National Guardsman.

Iraqi at the scene of the attack. "If they had missed us they could have hit the primary school next door. Thank God the children didn't get hurt."

During the ensuing chaos, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division who were nearby, immediately began to assess the damage, rendering first aid and calling for assistance.

Soldiers from Charlie Medical Company, 39th Support Battalion, 39th Brigade Combat Team and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry (Oregon National Guard attached) responded immediately by providing life-saving first aid and casualty evacuation.

Preempting their original mission to go to a nearby Iraqi police station to train policemen in first aid, Capt. Demian San Miguel, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, volunteered to assist in the casualty evacuation.

"We were getting ready to go out and do our mission, which is to train and mentor local Iraqi policemen, when I heard from battalion that the forward operating base was under attack, so I got my soldiers ready

and went up to the Tactical Operating Center to see how we could assist," San Miguel explained.

Charged with providing convoy security for Charlie Medical Company, Soldiers of the 2-162 played a pivotal role in treating the wounded and securing the casualty evacuation.

"As soon as we got there, our medic and all our combat lifesavers secured their rifles and began the process of helping with bandaging the wounded and transporting stretchers," San Miguel said. "I didn't have to say anything, they all grabbed their bags and went to work triaging and assessing and bandaging those in need. We even got our translators involved to help interpret the needs of the injured ING."

"The ING are fighting for their country and the way I look at it, they are just like any American soldier...fighting for a free Iraq, which is why my Soldiers took it very seriously when they heard the ING needed assistance and were there to support them 100 percent," San Miguel said.

"When I first heard what happened I

thought it was a bad joke, but when we got there and I saw what had happened, I immediately started checking the bandaged wounds of ING personnel that didn't have an attendant with them, and the only thing that goes through your head is the training," Sgt. Andrew Morey, a member of 2-162 Infantry, remembered.

"Looking back at what I saw, the first thing that came to mind was figuring out where to start and the extent of the injuries," said Spec. Ryan Miller, a medic with 2-162. "Ultimately, it all falls back on training. You don't really think about it, you just act on what you know."

San Miguel said after the casualties had been safely evacuated he went with his men to the IP station to explain why the first aid training was postponed.

"They said they understood, expressing their concern for what happened to the ING," San Miguel said. "It was good see that the IPs were concerned about the ING, because it shows that there is professional relationship starting to build between the two security forces."

## 1-162 IN BN's active duty brings together seasoned warriors with new recruits



Photo by Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD

Pvt. William Lott, Bravo Company, dives over a log obstacle on the beach assault course during 1-162 Infantry Battalion annual training at Rilea Training Site.

By Spec. April Dustin and  
Spec. Annie Baxter,  
115th MPAD, Oregon National Guard

**WARRENTON, Ore.** — The 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry designed a unique, team-building exercise at the Rilea Training Site on Oregon's coast in September, in an effort to re-unite the unit.

The unit's goal for this active duty cycle was to reorient almost 400 soldiers who recently returned from a 16-month deployment in Iraq, and to integrate them with the 151 new enlistments the unit gained while

the unit was overseas.

"We needed to have a mechanism that would restructure the Battalion and put it back together as one unit," said Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Schleining.

The staff designed a training schedule emphasizing individual soldier skills, teamwork, competition and bonding activities, which was intended to help unite the returning troops and the new enlisted soldiers.

"The objective was to bring everyone together and begin the new team bonding," said Lt. Col. Dave Stuckey, Commander, 1-162 IN BN.

"It is my belief that competition instills bonding, so that was the tool that gave us the leverage to accomplish the goal," Stuckey continued.

Throughout the two-week annual training, the Battalion was split into 27 teams who competed in events such as land navigation, hand grenades, first aid, basic rifle marksmanship, individual movement techniques, and a team-scored physical fitness tests.

Spec. Drake Lombardi, team leader for Echo Company, 1-162, said the competition aspect of the training was beneficial not only to teach soldiers how to work well under stress, but also to build teamwork.

"Training events like this are good for team building," said Lombardi. "It teaches us how to work with a group of people we've never worked with before."

Annual training was optional for the soldiers returning from deployment in Iraq, so the Battalion attached a drill weekend at the end of annual training to involve the soldiers who did not attend the training during the previous two weeks. During the drill weekend, the unit conducted a "Commander's Cup" event in which teams participated in different athletic events such as football, volleyball, soft-ball, an obstacle course and a tug-of-war competition.

"Sporting events are a great way to increase morale," said Schleining. "Infantrymen love to compete."

The event reached its culmination with an awards ceremony. The winners were determined by points they earned. Schleining said the winners were spread throughout the Battalion and every team won at least one event, but it was the Headquarters Com-

pany who won the overall "Commander's Cup".

Schleining said the team building would help the unit become better because both the returning soldiers and new enlistments have something to learn from each other. He said the new troops have an infectious drive and energy that is motivating, while the seasoned guys have the experience of a deployment and are eager to train the others.

"The best thing about this AT is the soldiers are now part of a team, they know that they can have trust and confidence in each other to accomplish a common goal together," said Stuckey.

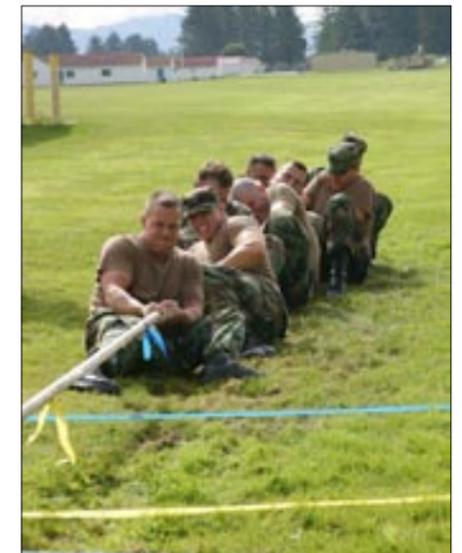


Photo by Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD

Soldiers from 1-162 Infantry Battalion compete in a tug of war match during annual training at Rilea.

## Air Assault School: Valuable tool for leaders, valuable training for soldiers, airmen

Continued from FRONT PAGE

The MTT is traveling to four pre-certified National Guard training facilities for the next two years to teach the Air Assault course. They are also conducting a Pre-Ranger course at Ft. Benning.

"Each state has its nuances that make it a good state to train in, but I think overall [Camp] Rilea has been the best facility we've conducted training at so far," said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McIlvenna, NCO in charge of the MTT.

Gardner stated that Oregon provided a great location for an Air Assault course to train soldiers from the West Coast.

"Most of the Air Assault courses in the nation lie on the East Coast or the Midwest, so Oregon was a great place to train soldiers from this side of the country," he said.

The Air Assault training is no longer exclusive to Army soldiers. The training rotation at Rilea was the first time that personnel from the Air National Guard were enrolled. The training is open to members from any branch of service, according to McIlvenna.

"My unit provides air support to infantry in the 41st Brigade all the time, so they extended an invitation for us to attend the training," said student, Senior Airman Jon Brune, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron, located in Washington State. "It's good for us to be Air Assault-qualified so

we can provide proper air support for them during missions."

During the Air Assault course, a combined class of 77 soldiers and airmen from many different states persevered through 11 days of rigorous training, including path-finding missions, sling-loading, rappelling, and physical and mental endurance tests.

The first day of training, also referred to as "zero-day," included significant physical stamina tests including a mandatory obstacle course and two-mile run.

"Zero day was challenging because the rain made the obstacle course wet and sandy" said student, Spec. Mark Pekkola, Bravo Company 1-162 Infantry Battalion.

Those students who were able to pass the zero-day trial were allowed to continue to phase one of the course, known as the Combat Assault Phase. During this phase students learned ground-to-air communications, hand and arm signals for guiding aircraft, medical evacuation operations, and were required to complete a six-mile road march.

They also learned path-finding operations, which helps determine a site's capabilities as an aircraft landing field. The students learned how to drop into a landing zone and evaluate the area for obstacles, wind direction, and calculate how many aircraft can land there, said 2nd Lt. Robert Bellomo, Executive Officer for the MTT and instructor for path-finding operations.

"Pathfinding is important because it allows us to know how many soldiers or what equipment can be off-loaded into an area by determining what size aircraft can fit into a particular drop zone," said Bellomo.

The students were given the opportunity to become familiar with many different types of aircraft, including the UH-60 "Blackhawk", and CH-47 Delta "Chinook", which were provided by 1042nd Medical Evacuation Company from Salem, and the 113th Aviation Facility from Pendleton, respectively. A HH-60J "Jayhawk" from Coast Guard Station Astoria added a splash of color to the lineup.

"This is the first time that the Coast Guard has been on board with the training," Gardner said.

Those students who pass phase one begin phase two, where they learned how to perform sling-load operations.

The training included learning how to rig, inspect and attach loads to selected aircraft. The loads are rigged using specialized hooks, ropes, cargo nets, cargo bags, or two HMMWV's strapped together, known



Photo by Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD

Two Air Assault students bound off the open side of the rappell tower at Rilea Training Site.

as a shotgun load. Students also learned the hook capacities of each type of load and the weight limits of each aircraft. At the end of the phase they had to perform a sling-load hook-up underneath the helicopters. This class was the first to use the Chinook during the sling-load phase.

"The sling-load is the bread and butter of Air Assault operations," said Staff Sgt. James Chatfield, phase two Chief Instructor. "It is the forward or lateral movement of equipment through the battlefield and can be done quickly and conveniently, even behind enemy lines."

"The purpose of the Chinook for the Air Assault School is to familiarize the students with doing external loads properly," said Sgt. Scott Duran, flight engineer, 113th Aviation Battalion. "The Chinook is the helicopter the Army uses the most for sling-loading because of its 26,000 lb. weight capacity."

Phase three of the training allows students to tie their own hip rappel seat, perform a proper rappel hook-up, and proper body positioning during rappels. The students were slowly introduced to rappelling, starting out on a 45-degree angled slant wall, progressing to the 90-degree wall of the rappell tower, and finally graduating to the open side of the tower.

"We teach this phase in a crawl, walk, run approach," said Cpl. Benjamin Widich,

phase three Rappel Instructor. "The first few rappels are done on walls because it increases the students' confidence level by having something under their feet at all times."

The students were tested on their rappelling skills from the open side of the tower. If they passed the test on the tower they were then allowed to rappel from the Blackhawk.

To graduate from the course, the students had to complete the 12-mile road march. The students navigated through wooded trails, open beach and paved roads carrying nearly 30 pounds of equipment in their rucksacks, as well as being fully combat loaded with load-bearing belts, Kevlar helmets and M16-A2 rifles.

"The Air Assault mission is a valuable tool for leaders in moving personnel and equipment great distances behind enemy lines and National Guard soldiers need to be exposed to it," said McIlvenna.

The Warrior Training Center MTT will return to Camp Rilea in April 2005 to teach the Air Assault School to a new class of students.

For more information on the Air Assault School, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Parkins, RTI liaison, at 503-838-8585, or via e-mail at michael.parkins@or.ngb.army.mil.

See other Camp Rilea related story on page 8.



Photo by Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD

Air Assault students rappel from a Blackhawk helicopter hovering 90 feet in the air.

## Oregon Air Guard takes second place in '04 William Tell competition

By Capt. Michael Braibish,  
State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

SALEM, Ore. — Oregon's 142nd Fighter Wing placed second the 2004 William Tell air-to-air competition Nov. 8 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

The 123rd Fighter Squadron, known



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.

Senior Airman Stephen Staudinger, of the 142nd FW, prepares an F-15 for a live ammunition load during Exercise William Tell 2004 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on Nov. 10.

as the Fight'n Redhawks, hails from the 142nd FW at Portland Air National Guard Base. Along with maintenance and weapons teams, the Redhawks represent the Air National Guard contingency at the competition which takes its name from the legendary archer who shot an apple from atop his son's head with a crossbow.

Whether the story of Tell's superior skills are mythical or true is subject to debate, but the competitors in William Tell 2004 vied for definite bragging rights as the best contemporary jet-borne archers of today.

In all, 40 members of the 142nd FW spent two weeks at the base in Florida. The F-15 Eagle aircraft flown by the Redhawks are the oldest in the competition, but the maintenance team has an average of seventeen years experience.

Major Garret Schmidt, the team's captain and deployment officer says it takes more than new gear and equipment to do well in the competition.

"New stuff can break down just as much as old," said Schmidt. "Our experience is our advantage. Our maturity gives us an edge."

Aircrews competed in air dominance and air sovereignty missions as evaluators judge their employment of tactics and use of cold/live-fire weapons. The meet also included weapons loading, maintenance and weapons' director competitions.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of William Tell, but it's the first time in eight years its' been held. The meet was placed

Master Sgt. Frank Stevens, 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, marshals out an F-15C from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, for a mission during Exercise William Tell at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on Nov. 10.

Photo by Master Sgt. Robert W. Valencia



on hold in 1996 due to military operations tempo and contingency requirements.

Although operations tempo remains high with Air Force members supporting the Global War on Terror, William Tell planners hope resuming the event will help foster the exchange of tactics and better prepare Airmen for combat operations, according to Lt. Col. Edward Nagler, William Tell director.

"We are very excited about re-energizing and modernizing this competition. There are scenarios incorporated into the competition to represent the wide-spectrum of Air Force operations today," said Nagler.

The new format will reflect the multifunctional role of the aircraft, added Nagler.

"This competition has left its roots as an

air intercept event to become an air superiority event," Nagler said.

In addition to the 142nd FW team, the two-week event showcased the air-to-air capabilities of F-15C units from four major commands: Air Combat Command: 71st Fighter Squadron from the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB; Air Education and Training Command: 95th Fighter Squadron from the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB; Pacific Air Forces: 19th Fighter Squadron from the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and the U.S. Air Forces in Europe: 493rd Fighter Squadron from the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England.

William Tell is sponsored by Air Combat Command, based at Langley AFB, Virginia.

**S**omewhere over the North Atlantic, Phyllis Kingsley Rolison felt overwhelmed as she journeyed toward the spot in Bulgaria where her brother gave up his life for a fellow airman.

It's been 60 years since 2nd Lt. David Richard Kingsley — for whom Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. is named — died as his B-17 bomber plowed into the ground after being mercilessly pursued and shot at by German fighters.

For Rolison, who was 18 when her brother died, memories of her older brother's kindness and compassion remain fresh.

"What he did actually doesn't surprise me because he was that kind of a person," she said.

As the crew of the B-17 was preparing to bail out of the crippled aircraft, Kingsley gave his parachute to a comrade who had none. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Rolison has been called on numerous times to tell the story of her brother's sacrifice on July 23, 1944. It's never easy, she says.

When she was invited to speak earlier this year at a World War II memorial in McMinnville, she sat and listened to other speakers, and watched a presentation on 2nd Lt. Kingsley. When it was her turn to speak, she could hardly get the words out.

"I could hardly stand up," she said. "I think I got two sentences out."

Thinking of her brother stirs priceless memories of the times when they were growing up in Portland, Ore., and the influence of a kind and deeply religious mother who raised nine children.

David Kingsley was born June 27, 1918, the second-oldest child of David and Agnes Kingsley. The elder David Kingsley, an investigator for the Portland Police Department, died in a car crash in Washington in 1928. The younger Kingsley was 10, and Phyllis was 2 years old.

As a widow, Agnes Kingsley refused to give up any of her children. She worked as a seamstress from her home to provide for them during the Depression. Rolison said Tom Kingsley, the oldest brother, entered the Navy to earn money for the family. David Kingsley stepped into the role of being the man of the house.

When Agnes Kingsley was diagnosed with cancer in 1936, David took on even more responsibility. Agnes Kingsley died in

**"What he did actually doesn't surprise me because he was that kind of person."**

— Phyllis Kingsley Rolison, sister of 2nd Lt. David Kingsley

1939, and the younger children were divided up among relatives. David, who became a fireman in Portland, stayed with an aunt and uncle, and continued to visit his seven younger brothers and sisters in the homes where they lived.

As America prepared for war, David entered the Army on April 14, 1942. He trained as a bombardier at Kirtland Field, N.M., and departed for Europe on April 11, 1944. He died less than three months later as his plane was returning from a bombing raid on oil fields at Ploesti, Romania. Phyllis remembers being in church when someone brought her the news.

Religion was such a force in the Kingsley family that when the congressional Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to David the following year, the presentation was celebrated with a high mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church. It was the first time for the award to be presented in a church in Oregon.

A few years later, when Phyllis Kingsley was working for the local phone company, she met and married a coworker, Joe Rolison. Over the years they traveled extensively around the world. But they never went to see the place where her brother died. Joe said they stopped traveling after 9-11.

At the invitation of the Oregon Air National Guard, Phyllis and Joe Rolison boarded a C-40 military jet, along with a contingent of Oregon Air and Army National Guard officers and enlisted personnel, to attend the dedication of a memorial to honor 2nd Lt. Kingsley.

The group spent a night in Limerick, Ireland, before continuing on to Bulgaria. They stayed in Plovdiv, the second-largest city in the southeastern European country, and planned to make an informal visit to the crash site two days before the formal dedication on Saturday.

"When I go that site... I just don't know what it will be like. I have imagined in my mind the place and the people," Phyllis Rolison said shortly after taking off from Portland.

Of the nine Kingsley children, only two are still alive. Rolison lives in Tualatin, and her younger sister, Sister Margaret Mary Kingsley, lives in the Convent Holy Names at Marylhurst.

Only recently did Rolison learn there were civilian casualties on the ground when Kingsley's plane crashed. Seven members of a family from the tiny village of Suhozem in central Bulgaria were killed, a fact that's rarely told in stories about Kingsley.

"All this time, I have never heard that story before. I was devastated when I heard about it," Rolison said. "I am so honored, and I know that Dave would be honored too, to have a plaque for him put beside a plaque for those Bulgarian people."

She was especially looking forward to meeting two Bulgarian citizens who witnessed the plane crash in 1944.

"I am so anxious to talk to them. They're getting an interpreter so I can talk to them, and that's so precious to me."



Photo courtesy of 173rd FW Multimedia

Second Lt. David R. Kingsley.

#### The Gift of Life

Second Lt. David R. Kingsley made his way back to the radio room, skillfully applied first aid to the wounded tail gunner, and succeeded in checking the bleeding.

Their B-17 Flying Fortress, called the "Opissonya", was struggling to maintain



Left: A U.S. Army Air Force B-24 Liberator flies a bombing mission over the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania in early 1944. Kingsley's B-17, the "Opissonya" would fly a similar, albeit ill-fated mission on June 23, 1944.

Photo courtesy of www.b17sam.com

altitude as it flew away from its bombing target at Ploesti, Romania. Only a short time ago, Kingsley and eight other members of the U.S. Army Air Force's 97th Bomb Group, 341st Squadron from Amendola Air Base in Foggia, Italy had successfully dropped its payload on an oil storage facility, but had sustained heavy damage from anti-aircraft shells. Its number-one engine was out, and the plane had become separated from the formation of other bombers, leaving it vulnerable to enemy fighters. At some point, cables giving the pilot control over the tail section

of the plane were severed.

Making matters worse, German ME-109 fighter planes scrambled from an airfield at Karlovo, Bulgaria, and pursued the crippled Opissonya.

As the fighters attacked from the rear, 20-millimeter cannon fire hit tail gunner Mike Sullivan, injuring his head and shoulder, and damaging his parachute harness.

Sullivan crawled from the tail to the mid-section of the plane, and Kingsley was asked to dress his wounds. Kingsley removed the damaged parachute from Sullivan, and managed to stem the flow of blood from his wounded arm.

In an effort to keep the faltering plane aloft, the crew began throwing out unnecessary equipment, but the damage was too severe. The pilot struggled to maintain control, but knew that if the plane began a nosedive, it would be increasingly difficult for its crew to escape. So he signaled for the crew to bail out.

With Sullivan's parachute damaged, and perhaps lost in the confusion, Kingsley took his own parachute off and strapped it on Sullivan. He then helped Sullivan to the bomb bay, and made sure Sullivan jumped out safely.

"Carrying me in his arms, Lt. Kingsley struggled to get me through the door into the bomb bay," Sullivan told the Oregonian newspaper in an interview in 1945, the same year Kingsley was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

"He told me to be sure and pull the rip cord after I had cleared the ship," Sullivan continued.

"I did, and as I was floating down I saw the bomber fall off and go into a spin. It crashed, exploded and burned.

"The last time I saw Lt. Kingsley, he was standing on the catwalk over the open bomb bay doors."

All eight crewmen who jumped from the plane made it to the ground safely. Seven were captured and held as prisoners of war, while one was hidden by Bulgarians sympathetic to the allied cause.

The B-17 crashed near the village of Suhozem, a tiny remote village about an hour's drive from Plovdiv.

A Bulgarian air commander on the ground watched the plane go down and went to the crash site. He found Kingsley's body in the cockpit.

Witnesses on the ground said the plane

# The Kingsley Story

Story by Todd Kepple,  
Herald and News, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Photos and introduction by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,  
State Public Affairs Office

## Americans and Bulgarians join in friend

**On October 24th, a group of Americans and Bulgarians gathered who lost their lives in 1944 — seven of them Bulgarian townspeople and a U.S. Army Air Corps bombardier named Lt. David Kingsley, and happenstance brought together the people of these two countries during WWII.**

**Sixty years later, on an overcast Saturday morning in late October — this time as friends — to remember the lives lost on that fateful ship between their two nations.**

circled before coming down, indicating Kingsley may have tried to save his own life by making a crash-landing in a field.

Bulgarian villagers buried Kingsley in a makeshift grave. He was later exhumed, and reburied with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Two months after the crash of the Opissonya, Russian forces captured the heavily damaged oil field at Ploesti. The captured members of the Opissonya were held as prisoners until being released on Sept. 10, 1944.

Kingsley was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on May 4, 1945. The award was presented to his brother, Navy Pharmacist's Mate First Class Thomas Kingsley, in a ceremony at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Portland. The ceremony was followed by a high mass.

The Klamath Falls municipal airport, which had served as a naval air station during World War II, was turned over to the Air Force in 1957. It was named Kingsley Field on July 3rd of that year.

The U.S. Department of Defense closed its base at Kingsley Field in 1978, but the Oregon Air National Guard reopened the facility in 1980. Today, it is home to the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Three members of the Opissonya crew gathered for a reunion at Kingsley Field in June 1995. They were pilot Edwin "Andy" Anderson, ball turret gunner Stanley Kmiec, and tail gunner Mike Sullivan, whose life was saved by Kingsley.

Kmiec is the only member of the crew still living.

Over the past 60 years, the Kingsley family cherished fond memories of a brother and the military honored him as a hero.

But there was also mourning in Bulgaria, which became a satellite nation of the Soviet Union. While the story of Kingsley's sacrifice was memorialized in America, it's rarely mentioned that the crash killed members of a Bulgarian family on the ground.

Villagers who knew the family were among those attending the dedication of the memorial in the tiny village of Suhozem, Bulgaria.



**Friendship to honor lives lost six decades ago**

Photo by Todd Kepple

erred in the village of Sunhozem, Bulgaria to remember 8 people  
people enjoying a family picnic in an open hilltop field, and one  
struggling to keep a severely wounded B-17 bomber aloft. Fate  
countries — who at the time stood opposed in the waning days of

ber, the people of these two countries would come together again  
ful day in 1944, and to ponder the possibilities for future friend-

**A Labor of Love**

The dedication of the memorial near the site where 2nd Lt. David Kingsley's plane crashed in 1944 capped a three-year effort to honor the airman and the seven local villagers who died.

It all started by a chance encounter involving two Air Force pilots who visited Bulgaria in 2001, according to Air National Guard Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William Doctor.

Lt. Col. John Alvarez and Maj. Brett Hartnett were serving as special operations pilots during the multinational Operation Cooperative Key training exercise in central Bulgaria.



Phyllis Kingsley Rolison reads the inscription on her brother's memorial prior to installation. Sunhozem Mayor, Neischo Nedelchev (Center), and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William Doctor, look on. The official party previewed the memorial two days before the formal ceremony on Oct. 23.

They asked Bulgarian officials whether any World War II plane crashes had occurred in the area. They were introduced to residents of Suhozem, who led them to a small hill about two miles outside their isolated village.

Bulgarian officials gave them the name of the American airman who perished in

the crash: David Kingsley.

Alvarez and Hartnett started researching Kingsley's record, and learned that an airfield in Klamath Falls was named in his honor. They contacted the Oregon Air National Guard to report their find in Bulgaria, and were routed to Doctor, who embarked on a project to memorialize the crash site. Assisting him was David Funk, a retired Oregon Army National Guard Master Sergeant.

"We've come over here every year since then to get this thing going," said Funk, who was in Bulgaria for his fourth time in September 2004.

The location of the crash site of Kingsley's plane came as a surprise, since military officials in Oregon had always believed Kingsley crashed in Romania, where his bombing target was. As it turned out, the B-17 has crossed into Bulgarian air space before it was brought down by German fighters.

Funk and Doctor learned that local villagers had retrieved and preserved several large pieces of debris from Kingsley's plane. The largest piece was in the possession of Maria Douraliiska, a relative of the villagers killed on the ground when the plane crashed.

Douraliiska said she had used the "tin" for decades to dry apples, plums, pears and wool. It served well, she said, because it was wide and flat, and got hot in the sun.

Doctor photographed of the 6-foot-long aluminum wing piece, and took it to the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville. The curator of the B-17 display at Evergreen confirmed the debris as indeed being from a B-17.

Funk and Doctor began raising funds to build a memorial at the site. They received \$16,500 in donations from a variety of sources, and worked closely with Maj. Nickolay Dimov of the Bulgarian Air Force to develop plans for a memorial.

Vessela Pecheva, an architect in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, was contracted to design it. She created a design using the piece of wing, and a relief image of the piece. Set beside each other, Pecheva said, the images resemble an angel's wings. The concrete memorial is set in stainless steel, with steel letters spelling out "In Memoriam" on the ground in front. American and Bulgarian flags fly beside the memorial, which are lighted at night.

Though Funk and Doctor are both retired, Funk said they plan to continue efforts to memorialize Kingsley's sacrifice. They hope to raise money to build additional memorials at Kingsley Field, at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville and at the Oregon Military Department headquarters in Salem.

**The Crash Site**

Untended grapevines and abandoned fruit trees cover the knoll in central Bulgaria where Kingsley's plane came down 60 years ago.

Villagers in the nearby village of Suhozem call it "Alla Bahir," a Turkish phrase meaning small hill. It's the spot where Kingsley paid with his life for giving up his parachute to the B-17's wounded tail gunner. And it's the place where Kingsley's sister found some closure this afternoon.

"I think this will help me put it to rest a little bit," Phyllis Kingsley Rolison said as she paced back and forth among the vines and weeds.



Photo by Todd Kepple

Phyllis Kingsley Rolison picks flowers at the site where her brother, David crashed in his crippled B-17. In the background, a group, led by her husband Joe and a metal detector, search for debris from the plane.

When Rolison, 77, arrived in the village of Suhozem shortly before noon, she met Petrov Georgiev, an elderly man who was 14 years old when he watched the plane come down.

Georgiev went to the crash site with Rolison two days before the dedication ceremony and recounted what he saw on that day when most people in the tiny village had never seen an airplane up close.

The plane came in from the north, having taken a hit from anti-aircraft fire in Romania and incurring further damage from German M-109 fighters. Georgiev watched as men bailed out of the crippled craft and parachuted to safety.

Georgiev and another witness also saw the plane make a turn after the last man had bailed out, said Nickolay Dimov, an officer in the Bulgarian Air Force who served as a translator. That's a sign that Kingsley may have helped his fellow airmen bail out, and then tried to crash-land the plane to save his own life.

"Probably, he went to the cockpit and tried to pull it up," Dimov said.

The area surrounding the crash site was heavily wooded at the time, but the small hill had a clearing on top that may have appeared to be a possible landing spot, Dimov added.

"I stand here and wonder what he was thinking in those last seconds," Rolison said. "Maybe with him being a firefighter, or he might have been thinking about what Mom always told us, to take care of people."

The Rolisons then headed back into the village of Sunhozem, a village of 200 people, about two miles from the crash site. They previewed the memorial, located in the center of town. Phyllis Rolison spent several minutes touching the memorial and bowing her head.

Maj. Nickolay Dimov, of the 39th Group, Bulgarian Air Force, talks with Stoyna Gurgiva, who lived in village in 1944 when the incident occurred, and knew the Douraliiska family well. Dimov was the primary point of contact in Bulgaria for logistical planning, acting as liaison between the local government and the Oregon National Guard.



"I can't believe you've done all this," she told officers and retired officers who have worked on the memorial project for three years. "Thank you so much."

**The Final Moments**

While David Kingsley struggled to help his crew bail out of a crippled B-17 bomber, all the while being chased by German fighters, Bulgarian citizens from the village of Sunhozem watched the action from their fields and vineyards. Among them were seven members of the Douraliiska family.

Todora, 38, was working in her family's vineyard at the top of a small hill. It was about midday. She and other members of her family had stopped to eat lunch.

It was a routine that residents of Suhozem had followed for untold generations: Rise and eat breakfast, go to the family plot outside the village for a day's work, and return at night for supper.

Douraliiska's children were there with her — Dimitar, 9, and Lalka, a 6-month-old baby girl — and four other Douraliiska relatives, Girls Chonna and Nona, both 19, Mina, 16, and a 6-year old boy named Denko.

While they were eating and resting, the American bomber floated in over hills to the north. As the plane drew closer, villagers on the ground could see the crew bailing out.

The plane was going down. It passed the spot where the Douraliiskas were, then banked and turned back north. It headed straight for them.

According to witnesses, some of the Douraliiskas got up to run, but stopped when they realized 6-month-old baby Lalka had been left behind. Someone went back to get her.

It was too late. The plane crashed, and the resulting explosion killed all seven members of the Douraliiska family.

World War II had left the village of Suhozem largely untouched until then. In a matter of moments, the B-17's crash



Rada Denkova, 92, pays her respects at the memorial in Sunhozem. Denkova is the younger sister of Chonna Douraliiska, one of the women killed when Kingsley's plane crashed.

changed that.

When villagers from Suhozem went to the crash site, they found Kingsley's body in the cockpit. He had given up his parachute to save a wounded airman, and apparently tried to crash-land the plane in a final attempt to save his own life.

One woman pulled a ring from Kingsley's finger and kept it. Others carried away pieces of wreckage. Someone made note of the name of the man found in the cockpit, whom they assumed to be the pilot.

And the seven members of the Douraliiska family were buried and mourned.

Not long afterward, Bulgaria was freed from German control by Russian troops. Bulgaria then became a satellite country behind the Soviet Union's Iron Curtain.

While Kingsley's heroism would be honored time and again in the United States, the story of the villagers killed on the ground would remain unknown in America until just over two years ago.

See **Sixty Years** on PAGE 11

## Camp Rilea could become permanent home for National Air Assault school

By Spec. April Dustin and  
Spec. Annie Baxter,

115th MPAD, Oregon National Guard

The Rilea Training Site located in Warrenton, Ore. has become the newest training facility for the Army National Guard Air Assault School. Rilea hosted the training September 10-22.

"Rilea is an ideal place to run the Air Assault Course," said Lt. Col. Steve Dickenson, Commander of the 249th Regional Training Institute. "It is a real jewel in terms of the training opportunities it provides."

The RTI unit was in charge of hosting and supporting the MTT school at Rilea. They provided medical personnel, food service, supply and logistics, as well as command and control operations.

"We know the Air Assault mission is extremely important for the 41st Brigade, so we are doing whatever we can to provide the best support," said Dickenson.

According to Dickenson, hosting the Air Assault School is a unique opportunity for the Oregon's militia. The National Guard Bureau and the United States Army Infantry School authorized the experimental program for two years, to be instructed and operated entirely by National Guard soldiers and training facilities.

"It is pretty unprecedented for the full-time military to authorize National Guard soldiers to train an Air Assault mission that provides a qualification patch," said Dickenson. "We are very proud to host the school

and we are especially proud of the fact that six of the school's instructors are from the Oregon Guard."

Months of planning and preparations took place to pre-certify Rilea as a training site for the school. The RTI was also in charge of that pre-certification process.

"Many repairs and adjustments had to be made on Rilea's equipment and training sites to meet TRADOC standards for the course," said Staff Sgt. Michael Parkins, RTI liaison.

Parkins said safety mats and cargo nets had to be ordered for the obstacle course, and the UH-1H helicopter that previously perched atop the rappel tower had to be removed. Parkins said the RTI coordinated with many institutions to make these adjustments possible, including the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Air Station in Astoria assisted with the removal of the UH-1H by providing an HH-60 "Jayhawk" helicopter to lift it off the rappel tower. The Coast Guard aircrew also provided assistance during the course by providing rehearsal flights for the instructors and aircraft orientation briefs for the students.

The Coast Guard was not the only air asset that the RTI had to coordinate. The 113th Aviation out of Pendleton provided CH-47 Delta Chinook flights and the 1042nd Medical Evacuation Company out of Salem provided UH-60 Black Hawk flights for the Air Assault training. Parkins said the pilots from the 1042nd had to be pre-certified in



Air Assault students learn to attach a sling-load full of equipment to the undercarriage of a Chinook helicopter. National Guard Bureau officials may assign the course to Rilea and the Oregon National Guard permanently, pending the outcome of a two-year trial. The Air Assault School was held at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. Sept. 10-22

Photo by Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD

Air Assault operations before they could provide support for the school.

"An instructor and rappel master from Kentucky had to be brought in to help certify the pilots," Parkins said. "Rescue helicopters are not normally used for combat rappel operations, so the Oregon Guard has re-written the book on that and we did it in a very short amount of time."

Although providing rappel operations is not the usual mission for the Blackhawk pilots and crew chiefs, the support they provided to the Air Assault School was still beneficial training for them.

"We are getting some practical training by supporting this mission because we are putting our piloting skills into practice," said CWO-4 Rick Chagnon, a pilot with the

1042nd Medical Evacuation Company.

Dickenson said making the necessary preparations to certify Rilea for the Air Assault School was an important job because its success may potentially bring future long-term benefits to the Oregon Guard. Oregon is one of only four states (along with Indiana, Massachusetts and Georgia), to be chosen to host the school. After the two-year trial period, the National Guard Bureau may consider the possibility of permanently stationing the Air Assault School in one of these four states.

"Our hope and desire is that the 249th RTI and Rilea Training Site will become a permanent home for the Air Assault Mobile Training Team, with perhaps two courses per year being taught here," said Dickenson.

## Federal Funding: Will help Oregon Guard build new aviation facility in Salem

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Army National Guard.

"The \$4.9 million to construct the new Army facility will provide an immediate boost to the Salem economy and create new jobs," said Hooley. "And the finished facility will increase our troops' productivity and boost their morale."

The current Army Aviation Support Facility, located at McNary Field, comprises several buildings, including an aging pre-fabricated building. The organization currently has operations disbursed in a number of different offices throughout the site.

The new facility will consolidate many of the essential aviation functions and management.

In addition to consolidating the structures and operations for the AASF, the new facility will include workspace and storage for the 102nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). The CST (WMD) provides unique support and capabilities to state government agencies in times of crises.

Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, commander of the 102nd CST (WMD), said that relocating from current offices at the Anderson Readiness Center to the new facility will help streamline operations. The new facility will include secure and protected storage for the CST's disaster response vehicles.

The National Guard Bureau will provide an additional \$1.5 to \$3 million to cover the cost of special requirements of the CST (WMD).

As the contract for the facility is put out for bid, the Oregon Military Department Installations Office will look for a company to design and construct the building to industry leading standards.

Lt. Col. Jason Schwabel, principal executive manager for the state installations office, said that construction of the new facility will not only focus on function, but also on efficiency. The intent is to enter a contract to update an existing design and build a facility that is not only affordable, but also easy to maintain and sustain.

There are a number of ways the facility



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

State Aviation Officer Col. Tim Kelly, (r.) speaks to Congresswoman Hooley as she visited the Oregon National Guard Aviation Facility in Oregon following a presentation ceremony on Oct. 26.

will ensure the money is spent wisely.

Through integrating the AASF and the CST, some costs can be kept down by having the organizations use common facilities such as conference rooms and break areas, according to Col. Mike Caldwell, Deputy Chief of Staff for State Affairs.

Officials also note that combining the design and build process instead of going to separate contractors will minimize some expense. Environmentally friendly processes will also reduce both the construction and maintenance of the facility.

Natural lighting through skylights and broad windows will minimize the need for electrical lighting. In addition, the contractor will install environmentally friendly appliances and plumbing fixtures. Recycled materials will also play a large part in the construction, according to Schwabel.

Even the landscaping will be designed to support the environmental friendliness of the facility. The plan is to use native plants that thrive in the Willamette Valley climate.

## Deployed soldiers and families to receive free webcams to "stay in touch"

By Kay F. Fristad,  
State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

What do computer webcams, the Salem Statesman Journal and the Oregon National Guard have in common? Everything if you're a deployed soldier or related to one.

In mid-October, Statesman Journal Metro-section editor, Mary Irby Jones struck up a conversation with Mrs. Conley whose husband, Command Sgt. Major Brunk Conley, is currently serving as the Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in Iraq. The Conleys had found the computer webcams to be an incredible asset to keeping in touch with loved ones overseas.

According to Conley, the virtual connection afforded them by the computer webcams has helped to soften the almost year-long separation.

"Children are happy because they can share their school papers with their dad, and at the same time, he can watch as the children grow," Conley said.

With previous deployments, soldiers would return home to find small children they had left as infants, now having trouble recognizing them.

"It's sad when these guys come home and their own children don't even recognize them," said Kay Fristad, Deputy Public Affairs Officer. "Even long-time family pets are hesitant to go up to these soldiers when they come home."

Inspired by the conversation, Irby-Jones coordinated with the Joint Forces Public Affairs Office, writing a column that appeared in the Salem Statesman Journal in early November. In it, Irby-Jones encouraged donations of webcams for the families of deployed soldiers, and highlighted how it had been a God-send for the Conley family.

KEX Radio reporter Robert Kennedy read the piece and contacted the Oregon National Guard for a follow-up interview, which was broadcast over several days.

The result of all the media coverage was more than anyone had bargained for.

"We have literally received hundreds of phone calls since the second week of November," Fristad said.

Then Jeannie Biermann of Digimarc, a Beaverton-based software company, got wind of the call for computer peripheral donations.

She told Fristad, "Let me talk to our upper management, there is a good possibility we may be able to donate a large number of webcams for this program,"

The following week, after receiving the nod from corporate leadership, Bierman announced that Digimarc would donate the webcams if the Oregon National Guard could arrange for the pickup, transportation, and distribution.

"I told her, you name the time and place and we'll be there," Fristad said.

The result, from both business and private donations, was almost 2,000 webcams — 1,500 of them donated by Digimarc alone.

"I think it's a wonderful gesture for Digimarc to help out families of deployed soldiers," said Spec. April Dustin of the 115th MPAD, as she helped load the boxes into the two vehicles in front of Digimarc's headquarters on November 19. "This is great."

Fristad was amazed at the response.

"This just goes to show how involved the local community is in supporting our soldiers and their families," she said. "The kindness and generosity of Oregonians for our troops never ceases to amaze me."

According to Fristad, the program would provide a free webcam to the immediate family of deployed soldiers, provided the family has a personal computer and Internet access. By providing a video link between soldiers and their families, reintegration into the family, and indeed into the community, may be easier because of the continued line of communication, Fristad said.

If you are interested in obtaining a free webcam, please contact your unit's individual Family Support Coordinator, or Diane Gooding at 503-932-2810.

## Letters From The Front



### Camp suffers accidental loss of sports bar

November 1, 2004

Hello, and greetings to all.

I have good news and bad news to report this week.

First the bad news, the sports bar is no longer. We had an electrical fire last week that totally demolished the sports bar. An electrical fire broke out and the building burned to the ground. It also took out the phone center, which was right beside it. After all of your efforts to help us decorate it and the soldier's efforts to equip it with satellite TV and furniture, it is no longer with us. We are deeply saddened at the loss. It was a place for soldiers to congregate and share some of the sports activities that kept us tied with our favorite teams. We were starting to get quite a following on Sunday nights to watch the NFL games. We also enjoyed the local teams when their games were televised. We still have the ability to watch games but no longer will it be done in the cozy confines of the sports bar. It was sad because we had invested over \$5,000 in the building and equipping of the bar. Also, all the great decorations that you all donated were totally lost. The local businessman that owned the phone center is planning on rebuilding, so we may get that back up and running soon. I don't think we will rebuild the sports bar, however.

Now for the good news. We have received over 60 replacement soldiers for the impending loss of the soldiers who went to the Sinai mission with the 1-186 Infantry. The state of Oregon was very proactive in assembling them and pushing them forward. It took just over a week for them to leave Oregon and arrive here at Patrol Base Volunteer. They were sorely needed and will be valuable members of the team we have assembled here. The commander and I are extremely pleased with the quality of these great Americans and their enthusiasm and motivation. They are just finishing up the training that we have set up for them that will prepare them for missions in our sector. The timing was perfect. They couldn't have gotten here at a better time.

I have include a picture of 2nd Lt. Ji, from the 2-218th Field Artillery, who is attached to C Company 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, handing out a book bag full of school supplies to a local child. We have handed out over 3,000 book bags to the local children, all filled with supplies the great people of the Northwest have sent over for them. It was one of the most positive experiences for our soldiers to share your selfless gifts with them. The distribution is going very smoothly and we still are looking to send another 2,000 book bags soon.

We continue to develop a plan for a move the Camp Taji. It is still up in the air as to whether we will move, and the exact time line is not fully developed. We are still hoping for the chance that we will not have to leave. We don't want to get caught short, so we are planning on moving and are putting all the pieces together to make it as easy as possible.

We just passed our seventh month in this theatre of operations, and the ninth of November will mark our seventh month in Iraq.

So far, Ramadan has not had a huge effect on our area of operations. We hope that the local populace is tired of the violence and are ready to move on to bigger and better things. Our soldiers continue to do great things and are showing that Oregon has some of the best soldiers in the world. They are truly amazing and you would still all be very proud of them. They get up every morning put on their boots and go out into a dangerous situation with the utmost pride and professionalism.

On a personal note, only two more weeks until I get to come home on leave for a much-needed reunion with my family and friends. I am looking forward to it very much. I will obviously not be writing an update during that time. I think I will be able to write one more next week and then I will be out of the net for about a month. I'll catch up in the middle of December.

Again, as always, we appreciate your support, thoughts, prayers, and help. We couldn't do this without you.

All my best to all of you.

Brunk W. Conley  
CSM 2-162 IN, 39th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
brunk.conley@us.army.mil  
Baghdad Iraq

### Shimshaw promoted to rank of Major by Afghani Brigadier General



Photo courtesy of 41st BCT

Alex Shimshaw was promoted to the rank of Major by Brig. Gen. Amanullah of the 2nd Brigade, Afghan National Army on Sept. 29. Lt. Col. David Enyeart (center) assists with the pinning. Shimshaw is part of the 41st Brigade Combat Team stationed in Afghanistan.

## Foot patrols are dangerous, but necessary work for Oregon soldiers

Story and Photos by Rebekah-Mae Bruns,  
39th Brigade Public Affairs Office  
Special to the Oregon Sentinel

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Walking in Iraq is dicey, especially if you are an American. But walking is exactly what Soldiers are doing daily in Iraq as they patrol the dubious Iraq capital looking for roadside bombs and possible enemy positions. In fact, walking is the preferred method according to Sgt. 1st Class Alan Ezelle, 36, of Springfield, Ore.

"You can hear more and see more when you are walking," Ezelle said. "When you're rolling down the road [in a Humvee] there's only one guy who can see 360-degrees and that's your gunner."



Above: Sgt. 1st Class Alan Ezelle of Springfield, Ore. and his medic Spec. Martin Miller traverse through a field of trash while patrolling the Baghdad area in Iraq. Below: Cpl. Steve Warming walks through the streets of Baghdad while on patrol with his M4 rifle and M203 grenade launcher attachment. The equipment he carries while patrolling weighs a conservative 50 pounds.

Though Humvees provide protection against improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bullets, and rocket-propelled grenades, they don't allow Soldiers to pick up the intimate details of their surroundings. The steel casing of the vehicle is a hard separation from clues on the ground that might lead to an IED or locals who want to give information on possible insurgents. So soldiers get out and walk leaving the vehicles to trail them.

"We have a more 'hands on' approach, said Cpl. Steve Warming, 26, of Eugene, Ore. "Nearly every time we go outside the wire, we dismount [walk] in the city."

One of their most common patrols is what soldiers call a deliberate route clearance. They take to the streets, generally before the morning sun comes up, and look for any IEDs, which were placed by insurgents to attack American and Iraqi convoys. They search the ground for evidence they would otherwise miss in a moving Humvee.

"There are so many things you can miss because of speed," Ezelle said.

Locals also have a tendency to approach soldiers when they are on foot whether it's just to shake hands, give concerns about events or report information of suspicious activity in their area.

"Sometimes people come up and talk," Ezelle said. "We've gotten tips on where Ali Babba's [insurgents] are at."

Walking isn't easy though. There's extra weight to be carried. Soldiers wear a ballistic vest to guard against bullets and shrapnel and they carry weapons — sometimes two or three. It adds up quickly to a conservative 50 pounds. Throw in the ammunition, water, grenades, knives and personal gadgets and the figure only goes up from there. But soldiers say what might have seemed a burden in the beginning just becomes another part of the body.

"You actually get used to it," Warming said. "There's hardly a day goes by that you're not wearing your gear for at least four hours. It's always there."

The danger is also ever present. Walking in an unpredictable city that without notice can promptly move from passive to volatile is unnerving. Though it stays in the back of their minds, soldiers say they can't always focus on it.

"It's a conflict of interest," Warming said. "You can't worry about it all the time or you'll end up crawling in the corner and sucking your thumb. You've still got a job to do."



#### Change of Address for Oregon Sentinel

Retiree Services Office  
PO Box 14350  
Salem, Oregon 97309

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Retiree  Change

Stop  Deceased

Army NG  Air NG

Federal  State

## News You Need to Know

### COLA to see increase of 2.7 percent in 2005

People receiving military or federal retired pay, including VA disability compensation, Survivor Benefit Plan annuitants, and Social Security programs will see a 2.7 percent cost of living allowance, or COLA, increase in their payment amounts starting in January.

Retirees who entered military service before Sept. 8, 1980 and retired after Dec. 31, 2003 will receive the full 2.7 percent COLA increase.

Retirees whose pay is calculated on their highest 36 months' basic pay and who entered military service on or after Sept. 8, 1980 with a retirement between Jan. 1, 2004, and Oct. 31, 2004 will receive a partial COLA increase based on the calendar year and quarter in which the retirement is effective.

The COLA increase is based on inflation data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in September, the last month of the fiscal year.

For more information, visit [www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/2005cola-pr.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/2005cola-pr.htm).

### Medicare, Social Security payments, refunds to see changes

Uniformed services beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare may see a decrease in premiums thanks to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003.

The act eliminates the Medicare Part-B Surcharges for people who were subject to a higher premium, or those people who were paying more than \$66.60 a month for enrolling from 2001 to 2004.

Under the MMA, Medicare Part-B premiums will be reduced to the regular monthly premium rate and beneficiaries will be reimbursed for any surcharges paid in 2004. Refunds will be provided in Social Security retirement checks.

The legislation also provides the opportunity for uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part-A but are not enrolled in Medicare Part-B to enroll in Part-B without a premium surcharge. These beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to enroll in Part-B during a Special Enrollment Period.

The Social Security Administration began mailing these Special Enrollment Period notices in mid-September 2004 to uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part-A but are not enrolled in Medicare Part-B.

For more information, visit [www.medicare.gov/medicarereform/default.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/medicarereform/default.asp)

### Republican bill enhances educational benefits for Guard, Reserve

On Aug. 19, 2004, President Bush announced he wanted to enhance the educational benefits for Reserve component members who have been called to service in support of the Global War on Terrorism in recognition of their sacrifices.

He reaffirmed that commitment on Sept. 14 in his speech before the National Guard Association of the United States Convention in Las Vegas. In September, the Bush Administration sent proposed legislation to Congress that creates this new educational benefit. Both Republican Representatives Bob Beauprez of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Colorado, and John Sweeney of the 20<sup>th</sup> District of New York, were credited with introducing the President's bill before Congress.

In order to qualify, the Reserve Component member must have been called to active duty (voluntarily or involuntarily) in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001. For National Guard members, authorization must be given by the President or the Secretary of Defense, for the purpose of responding to a national emergency and supported by federal funds, airport security being one example.

In order to qualify for the benefit, the

member must have served on active duty for 90 consecutive days or more. The monthly benefit level is based on a percent of the benefit level for a member who served three years on active duty. The full-time benefit is \$1,004. If the member served two years or more of continuous duty, they qualify for 80-percent, or \$803. For members who serve on year, but less than two years, the benefit level is 60-percent, or \$602 for full-time students, and 40-percent, or \$402 for those who served 90 days or more, but less than one year.

All benefits may be used for up to 36 months.

To remain eligible for the benefit, the member must continue to serve in the Selected Reserve, or the Ready Reserve (in the case of a member who was serving in the Selected or Ready Reserve when called to active duty). Those who were ordered to duty for more than 90 days, but who were disabled before reaching the minimum 90-day period are still eligible for the benefit.

The benefit terminates when the member separates either from the Selected Reserve or Ready Reserve. For those who qualify under the disabled veterans status, the benefit terminates ten years after qualification. All service members cannot use the active duty educational assistance program at the same time as the Selected Reserve education assistance programs at the same time.

The cost over ten years is projected to be about \$1 Billion.

### Feds improve TRICARE benefits

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2005, signed by the President on Oct. 27, improves significantly the overall health benefits available to guardsmen, reservists and their families and makes permanent several of the TRICARE benefits authorized "temporarily" under defense legislation last year while extending secretarial authorization for others.

"Our reservists and guardsmen who are called to duty and their families deserve these great new benefits for their service to their country," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We welcome these new TRICARE provisions as a means to improve active and reserve component force readiness and to enhance family member access to care."

For reserve component members with delayed effective date orders to serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days, the new legislation permanently authorizes TRICARE eligi-

bility for up to 90 days prior to member's activation date for eligible members and their families. It also makes permanent a 180-day transitional TRICARE health benefit after deactivation for Transitional Assistance Management Program eligible members and their families. Members must also now receive a comprehensive physical examination prior to separating from active duty service.

The legislation also authorizes waiver of the TRICARE standard and extra deductible of reserve component family members for members ordered to active duty for more than 30 days and authorizes TRICARE to pay nonparticipating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge, which enhances continuity of care for these family members with their civilian providers. In order to ensure seamless implementation of these provisions, TRICARE has extended the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project through Oct. 31, 2005. The demonstration, which began on Sept. 14, 2001, was due to end Nov. 1, 2004.

Members of the reserve component called after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, are now given the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard health care coverage for themselves and their family members after they demobilize. The member must sign an agreement to continue serving for a period of one year or more in the selected reserve after their active duty ends. For every 90 days of consecutive active duty service, the member and family member may purchase one year of TRICARE standard coverage for the same period they commit to serve in the selected reserves. Members will be able to purchase the new TRICARE standard coverage on a self-only or self and family basis. The TRICARE standard coverage under this program will begin once the member's eligibility for 180 days of transitional TRICARE coverage under the TAMP program ends. Members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 days or more on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were released from active duty before Oct. 28, 2004, or within 180 days of that date, may enter into an agreement to serve continuously in the selected reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in this program at that time. These members must enter into this agreement to serve in the selected reserve within one year of Oct. 28, 2004.

Congress requires implementation of the new TRICARE standard enrollment pro-

gram by April 26, 2005. "We have already begun working on these provisions and will implement them on time," Winkenwerder added.

For more information, visit [www.TRICARE.osd.mil](http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil).

### AFBA announces new Family Survivor Education Benefit

The Armed Forces Benefit Association Insurance Company announced recently an automatic coverage provided to National Guard Members that currently have State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) supplemental policies of \$100,000 or higher with AFBA.

Called the Family Survivor College Benefit, the program provides an undergraduate college benefits for AFBA insured members who are killed in a military combat zone in which the United States is engaged, or as a result of an act of US government recognized terrorism.

The benefit provides for a maximum of \$10,000 per family, per year for up to four years, max of \$40,000 (for tuition and fees only, for either surviving spouse or based upon the spouse's decision, may decide to send their dependent child to an accredited college or university).

The Family Survivor College Benefit requires participation in the SSLI Supplemental Program. Highlights of that program include \$50,000 to \$250,000 life insurance coverage for member and/or their spouse, premiums which are lower than SGLI, up to age 50, with \$100,000 coverage for non-smokers at \$7.00, and \$250,000 for only \$16.00 for non-smokers. Though some limitations apply, the policy can be transferred with the insured when they leave the National Guard.

The Benefits Inc Board Members highlighted some of the benefits of the basic SSLI Program. Benefit payment within 24 hours up to \$10,000, spouse and dependent coverage available, guaranteed issue coverage of \$10,000 for the guard member, \$5,000 for spouses and children with no war, suicide, or aviation exclusion. All Oregon National Guard members can receive \$1,000 free coverage automatically, and an automatic accelerated death benefit (50% of coverage) in event of terminal illness.

If you would like to request a unit briefing or have questions about this new program, contact Art Liss, at 1-888-256-5824, or via e-mail at [aelliss1@comcast.net](mailto:aelliss1@comcast.net). You may also send correspondence to: P.O. Box 12988, Salem, OR 97309-0988.

## Dan Browne sets new record in Army Ten-Miler race

*The ORARNG Captain is also an Olympic runner and Nike-endorsed athlete*



Capt. Dan Browne crosses the finish line at the Army Ten Miler, setting a new record.

Story and Photo by Sgt. Lorie Jewel,  
Army News Service

**WASHINGTON D.C. (Oct. 25, 2004)** — Rain and temperatures in the 40s did little to prevent more than 13,000 runners from finishing the annual Army Ten-Miler, including Capt. Dan Browne, who set a new record.

Three-time winner Browne, a member of the Oregon National Guard and an Olympic long-distance runner, broke through a race ribbon held by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker 47 minutes and 29 seconds after starting the race.

Browne set a pace of 4:45 per mile to beat the race record he set in 1997 of 47:44. He also ran the 10-miler in 1998, claiming

first place with a time of 48:52.

Among women runners, Casey Smith of Arlington took first this year with a time of 57:26. This is Smith's second top finish; she won in the women's division in 2002 with a time of 58:21. Susan Malloy set the women's record in 1995 at 56:20.

Fort Carson Men's A Team took first place in both the overall and active military men's divisions with members Ryan Kirkpatrick, Nate Pennington, Michael Ross, Clay Schwabe, Todd Tertling, Domink Nogie and Scott Christie. The Eighth Army Korea Men's team of Samuel Volkman, Stephen Lockridge, Paul Lancaster, Marty Muchow, Clinton Mercer, Steven Anderson and James Corliss took second place in the active military men's category.

In the overall active military women's division, Fort Bragg Women took first place. Team members included Sage Stefiuk, Rachel Springer, Michelle Lopez, Sara Watts, Julie Murray, Laura McManus, Cindy Hazel and Jenny Antigua. Second place went to the Eighth Army Korea Women's team of Janet Thompson, Noreen Roberson, Virginia Hayden, Laura Wells and Christy Martinez.

For more race results, visit [www.4army.mil/acpa/read.php?story\\_id\\_key=6481](http://www.4army.mil/acpa/read.php?story_id_key=6481).

## News You Need to Know

### Military leave accrual revised for reserve, national guard

Prior to December 21, 2000, civilian employees who had a reservist commitment, were required to take military leave for non-workdays during a period of military service. On that date, the law was changed and employees were no longer required to take leave for non-workdays — however the change was not made retroactive.

On July 24, 2003, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held in *Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice*, (336 F.3d 1332), that “agencies should not have charged military leave on non-workdays prior to Dec. 21, 2000, i.e., agencies must provide for 15 workdays of military leave, not 15 calendar days.”

In response to this ruling, the Office of Personnel Management issued a guidance to agencies regarding filing and processing employees’ administrative claims for crediting annual leave as a replacement for military leave that was charged on non-workdays. However, because leave claims against the government must be received within six (6) years after the claim accrues, the period covered is limited. Accordingly, agencies may only accept claims filed between the date six years prior to the claim filing date and Dec. 21, 2000 (the date the law changed). For example, if a claim is made on Dec. 31, 2004, leave may only be restored if it was charged between Dec. 31, 1998 (six years prior to the claim filing date) and Dec. 21, 2000.

If you believe you have a claim based on this new guidance, or have questions about your leave, please visit, [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/).

### Military gets 3.5% pay increase for 2005

Effective January 1, 2005, new pay scales for both enlisted and officer ranks go into effect.

They reflect the 3.5-percent across-the-board pay raise signed into law with the Defense Appropriations Act of 2005. The act was signed on August 5, 2004.

For more information, visit [www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,49020,00.html](http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,49020,00.html).

### New Long Term Care program offered

The Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, through the coordinated efforts of Oregon National Guard Benefits Inc, recently announced a new Group Long Term Care program.

All members of the Oregon National Guard, both current and retired, Army and Air, are eligible. Members, spouses, and immediate family members to include the member’s siblings, parents, and grandparents can be covered under the program. The program is effective immediately with full product portfolios and products not previ-

ously offered, some with cash benefits that can be used for anything.

The program is offered through the Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, with a special discount provided for guard members, retirees and their families.

“This program will add an exceptional benefit to the State Sponsored Life Insurance Program already provided by the Associations.” Said Board Treasurer Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Fielding.

“Many people don’t think about the potential of needing long-term care, and Medicare and Medicaid don’t provide the medical plans necessary to cover long-term expenses.” He continued.

According to Fielding, with current annual assisted living facility costs at about \$25,000 and nursing home care annual costs around \$44,000, some people could possibly deplete savings or investments to cover these needs. Furthermore, he recommended that people shouldn’t utilize their savings, 401k or other retirement assets to cover these expenses.

“With premium costs for long-term care insurance relatively low, the investment is worth it.” Fielding concluded.

For more information, contact the benefit coordinator, Art Liss, at 1-888-256-5824, or via email at [aellis1@comcast.net](mailto:aellis1@comcast.net). He can also be reached via mail at: P.O. Box 12988 Salem, OR 97309-0988.

### MSNBC.com incorrect about 39th Brigade extension in Iraq

The Arkansas Army National Guard’s 39th Brigade Combat Team is not currently scheduled for an extended deployment as stated in a recent internationally published news article.

The 39th was mistakenly said to be one of three brigades under the command of the 1st Cavalry Division which would “stay behind in Iraq” to fulfill the need for experienced troops. The need for experience on the ground comes with the potential for increased hostilities as a result of the approaching Iraqi elections in late January.

“The original time line to redeploy after one year in country has not changed for the 39th,” said Brig. Gen. Ron Chastain, Commander of the 39th Brigade. “Although the mission can change at any point, we are currently on track to begin the redeployment process in March 2005, as originally planned.”

Chastain confirmed the current time line with Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, following the release of the article on November 1st.

The 39th Brigade Combat Team is headquartered in Little Rock, Ark. with units located in 47 different communities around the state of Arkansas. Approximately 700 Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, 41st Infantry Brigade are deployed with the 39th in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The 39th is wrapping up its 13th month of the scheduled 18-month deployment.

## Sixty years of memories culminates in one day of honor

Continued from PAGE 7

### “Now I know what happened”

On Oct. 23, Americans and Bulgarians gathered to honor the lives of those lost, and to celebrate the finding of new friends.

The occasion was the dedication of a memorial to 2nd Lt. David Kingsley and the seven members of the Douraliiska family who died June 23, 1944. American and Bulgarian military officials cooperated in building the memorial and organizing Saturday’s dedication ceremony.

Those attending were an intriguing mix.

The guest of honor was Phyllis Kingsley Rolison, one of Kingsley’s two sisters still living.

There were also many relatives of the Douraliiskas, including 92 year old Rada Denkova. She was the sister of Chonna Douraliiska, the 19 year old girl who died.

Ivan Petrov Apostlov, a Bulgarian pilot in one of the German fighters who pursued the American bomber, attended the ceremony.



Oregon’s Acting Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, presents the U.S. flag to Phyllis Kingsley Rolison at her brother’s memorial dedication ceremony Oct. 23 in Suhozem, Bulgaria.

James Pardew, the American ambassador to Bulgaria, was the keynote speaker.

“War is a time of heroes, and a time of tragedy,” Pardew told the crowd of 200 people — about half military personnel and visitors, and half local villagers.

“Every war has its heroes, and Lt. David Kingsley is one of ours,” Pardew said. “We Americans owe our freedom to men and women of simple devotion and courage such as David Kingsley.”

Pardew also honored the Douraliiska family.

“They were caught inadvertently in a storm of international events beyond their control.”

Pardew said the ceremony signaled the warming of relations between American and Bulgaria, which joined NATO earlier this year, and is part of the allied force in Iraq.

Every aspect of the dedication ceremony involved a mix of American and Bulgarian elements. It opened with the traditional Bulgarian custom of presenting bread and salt to guests. A color guard of American and Bulgarian military personnel placed flags in their stands. Both Bulgarian and American military chaplains delivered invocations. A Bulgarian military band played the national anthems of both countries. Bulgarian soldiers placed floral wreaths in front of the memorial.

Following speeches by Pardew and local Bulgarian officials, a folded American flag was presented to Rolison, and a bouquet of flowers was presented to Suhozem Mayor Neicho Nedelchev.

After the memorial was unveiled, the crowd gathered at the village’s city hall for refreshments.

Phyllis Rolison and her husband, Joe, however, skipped the refreshments and made a second trip over jeep trails and along the edges of fields to the crash site about two miles away. Joe Rolison used a metal detector to search for additional pieces of airplane debris, while Phyllis Rolison strolled around the hilltop, looking out over the hills to trace the path her brother’s plane took.

Phyllis Rolison came away with several small pieces of twisted metal, which she turned over and over again in her hands.

With the help of a pair of Bulgarian villagers, Ivan Raychinov and George George, Rolison staked an arrangement of flowers in the middle of the hilltop crash site.

Rolison said she came away with new peace of mind.

“All my bad dreams about what happened can end,” she said. “Now I know what happened.”



Photo by Todd Kepple

Phyllis Rolison stands next to a wreath laid at her brother’s crash site.

*This article was published in the Herald and News of Klamath Falls, Ore. and was reprinted in the Oregon Sentinel by permission. Reporter/Editor Todd Kepple, accompanied the official party — made up of key figures of the Oregon National Guard, 142nd Fighter Wing, 173rd Fighter Wing, retired National Guard officials, and the sister of Lt. Kingsley, Phyllis Kingsley Rolison. Kepple’s article has been edited for space constraints, but otherwise appears as it did in the Herald and News between Wednesday, Oct. 20 and Sunday, Oct. 24. The introduction was written by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, who served as the official photographer and JFHQ Public Affairs Representative on the trip.*

### Oregon Guard soldier becomes US citizen

Framed by the U.S. Flag, Spec. Jessy Claerhout recites the Pledge of Allegiance during her swearing-in ceremony at the Immigration & Naturalization Office in Portland on Nov. 10. Claerhout, 27, who has been in the Oregon National Guard since February 2004, moved to the U.S. from Belgium in 2000. She is assigned to the 741st Corps Support Battalion Command, and will attend Officer Candidate School in January 2005.

Claerhout’s U.S. citizenship was made possible by an Executive Order signed by President George Bush in 2004, which allows immigrants serving in the U.S. military to become immediately eligible for citizenship.

She told reporters it felt great to be a U.S. citizen.

“Now I’ll go to Disneyland.” She said.



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



Photo by Tsgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

A joint, international Color Guard made up of Oregon Army and Air National Guard personnel, and a Bulgarian soldier underscored the international significance of the memorial dedication ceremony held in Sunhozem, Bulgaria on Oct. 23. From left to right: Sgt. Fernando Fernandez of JFHQ, Master Sgt. Mardi Fuhs, from the 173rd FV, and Vasil Vasillevi, a member of the Bulgarian Army. See story on page 6.

# Oregon Sentinel

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## Deployed soldier's daughter wins patriotic essay contest

Story by Winston Ross

Photos courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Gene Martin,  
*Register Guard, Special to the Oregon Sentinel*

**FLORENCE, Ore.** — Megan Connor knows a thing or two about Americanism. With her father, Sean, now on the ground in Iraq, being a patriot has a special meaning for the sixth-grader. So when she entered the American Legion Auxiliary's annual essay contest — titled "Americanism" — Megan chose the U.S. flag for a topic.

She researched its origin and retraced its journey, from the moon to Iwo Jima to the North Pole. And for that, Megan landed a national award.

"Being the daughter of an American soldier makes me very proud of our flag and the United States," Megan wrote. "My dad will soon be going overseas to Iraq, and I'm so proud of him. He believes that the most American thing to do is to risk your life to protect your country. I believe that I'm very fortunate to live in such a land with a beautiful flag."

Megan took the top prize among essayists from 49 other states in her age group, along with a \$600 check, after emerging from a field of more than 600 entrants to win the state-wide competition.

The volunteer auxiliary awards the prizes each year in five age-related categories, based on an essay of a different theme. Megan was required to keep her essay between 250 and 300 words. Megan's essay explained that the flag was designed after the United States won its independence from Britain.

"The flag is the symbol of our country," she wrote. "We should treat it with respect."

Megan says she worries about her dad, especially when she hears things on the news. Sgt. Connor is serving with a Newport-based unit of the Oregon National Guard.

"But my mom told me he's too stubborn to get shot," she said. "I think he has a lot of guts to go over there."



Megan Connor with her award.

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## Troutdale couple make large donation to Emergency Relief Fund



l. to r.: Master Sgt. (Ret.) Ray Lewallen, Karla Broomall, Kelly Broomall, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, Jr.

**SALEM, Ore.** — The Oregon National Guard received a donation from Kelly and Karla Broomall on behalf of the Emergency Relief Fund on Nov. 15.

The Broomalls met with Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Oregon's Acting Adjutant General, at the Joint Forces Headquarters Building to present the fund with a check for \$17,000.

"This donation will be very helpful to Oregon Guard families during the Christmas season, and while spouses are deployed overseas," Byrne said.

The Broomalls also organize the annual "Healing Fields", a tribute to the 9-11 attacks. The event is held at Microchip Park in Gresham, Ore., with a field of American flags — one representing each person killed in the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. This year was the third year the Broomalls have sponsored and organized the tribute.

"We are very grateful to people who make a special effort to help the families of our soldiers and airmen, and this is a clear indication that the Oregon National Guard indeed has the support of our community," Byrne added.

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

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