

Oregon Sentinel



OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

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Oregon Air Guard to appear on Fox Television series, page 6

Task Force Phoenix picks up Afghan Police mission

Story by 1st Lt. Amanda Straub, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

AFGHANISTAN – Task Force Phoenix V is adapting to take on the mission of training the police force in Afghanistan.

“It’s like a team sport,” said Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, task force commander. “We don’t win until all players cross the finish line, not when the ANA (Afghan National Army) finishes two years before the ANP (Afghan National Police).”

Three years ago, DynCorps International, a company that specializes in training police forces around the world, was contracted by the Department of State (DOS) to train Afghan police forces and take some of the burden off deploying Soldiers. As with the ANA, the biggest challenge has been teaching the police accountability of personnel and equipment and properly managing logistical assets.

“The military had obtained, and had in country, logistical goods that could be disbursed accountably,” Dan White, DynCorps International trainer said.

The decision was made to incorporate both ANA and police missions into one joint national campaign.

“Afghanistan is a fluid battlefield situation. DOS wanted to fit the police training to a battlefield situation that would compliment the ANA. They need to work side by side,” White said.

Pritt also said the ANA and Afghan police should compliment each other and work together to provide security in Afghanistan.

“We need a balanced Afghan National Security Force,” Pritt said. “We need both the army and police to be at approximately the same level of professionalism.”

Training and mentoring the Afghan police will create new challenges and demands in the task force, but it is vitally important to the security of Afghanistan that the

See *New Mission* on page 5



Photo by 1st Lt. Cathrin Fraker, CJTF Phoenix V Public Affairs

Afghan civil order police demonstrate riot procedure at the grand opening of the central training center in Kabul, Afghanistan. Most of the instruction at police training centers is given by senior Afghan policemen with American military and civilian contracted mentors.

Oregon loses beloved son, brother

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

MAZAR-E SHARIF, Afghanistan - Oregon Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Long N. Nguyen, 27, of Portland, Ore. died Feb. 10 of non-combat related causes in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. Nguyen was assigned to the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which is currently deployed in Afghanistan with Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V.

“Today is a sad day for Task Force Phoenix; we have suffered a tragic loss of a dedicated Warrior. Our prayers and thoughts are with the family during this difficult time,” Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, commander of CJTF Phoenix V, said in a press release from Afghanistan.

Nguyen was born in Viet Nam on June 27, 1979 and moved to Portland with his parents at age 3. He grew up in Portland with two brothers and a sister and graduated from Madison High School in 1996. Nguyen maintained close relationships with his family.

After high school Nguyen enlisted in the Army in 1998 and served as a supply specialist for the 82nd Airborne Division. During his active duty service he deployed to Kosovo

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Sgt. Long Nguyen at his work station in Mazar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. Nguyen worked as a property book specialist handling supply and equipment needs of the warriors in Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V.

Governors, adjutants general support DoD’s new 12-month mobilization policy

Story by Lt. Col. Les’ A. Melnyk, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The nation’s governors and adjutants general have expressed their universal support and appreciation for the recently announced change to Department of Defense policy that will limit total mobilization time of Guard and Reserve units to 12 months.

In a Jan. 11 conference call attended by representatives from every state, the territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of National Guard Bureau, answered questions and addressed concerns about the deployment extension in Iraq of Minnesota’s 1st Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ announcement that several Defense policies were changing.

The Guard’s leadership in the states reacted enthusiastically to several policy changes announced by Gates on Jan. 11.

Chief among these changes was, from this point forward, Guard and Reserve mobilizations will be managed on a unit basis, not an individual basis. Gates also announced that involuntary mobilizations would be for a maximum of one year. That is “in contrast to the current practice of 16 to 24 months,” he said.

The defense secretary also stated that the goal would be to have five years of demobilization following every year of mobilization. He acknowledged, however, that “today’s global demands will require a number of selected Guard and Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than this

standard.” Gates further directed the development of an incentive program to compensate individuals who are required to mobilize or deploy early or remain on duty beyond the time limits set by the new policy. Details of the program have not yet been announced.

“What it means is that Soldiers that are extended will be paid for that overtime, so to speak,” Blum said. So would Guard troops who get mobilized more than once every six years.

Governors and senior National Guard leaders have called for policy changes of this type for the last few years. Many Soldiers complained about the amount of time spent away from home in mobilization training before deploying overseas. With the announcement of the new policies limiting total mobilization time to one year, Blum stated “your Citizen-Soldiers will only be away from their families or jobs, and their hometown units for the maximum period of one year in the future, starting with the next mobilizations coming up.”

“The World War II and Cold War post-mobilization model is dead. The new model is right for an operational force of 21st century Citizen Soldiers,” Blum added.

Reducing total mobilization or remobilization time will have a dramatic impact on how Guard units train for and deploy to combat. Training conducted during inactive duty weekend drills and annual training periods will gain importance as a measure of readiness.

Unit commanders and their adjutants See *New Policy* on page 7

Oregon National Guard receives support from public and private sectors



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard

We're into our third month of the New Year, and many great things are happening for the Oregon National Guard. Our support of Governor Kulongoski's

inauguration indicates the importance he places on the ORNG and how much respect our state has for you as citizen-soldiers and airmen.

We've gone into the legislative session with high hopes and a good deal of anticipation. Our commander in chief submitted what I believe to be the best budget possible for our organization. I expect it to give us significant improvements, especially where we need it: armories, sustaining operations, and support for our troops. In addition to the governor's budget, there's an abundance of legislative activity directly related to the ORNG and military personnel. Our legislature in recent years has demonstrated strong support for us. All of this activity is focused on improving conditions for the military community in Oregon, whether it is for the Guard, reservists, active duty members or veterans. This legislative session is another opportunity for our elected officials to continue their support.

In addition to the support from our of-

ficeholders, we're on the receiving end of a great deal of community support, particularly for our veterans returning from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Companies like Platt Electric and United Rentals have provided dozens upon dozens of job opportunities for our troops.

Recently, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Oregon State Apprentice Training Council and the Oregon National Guard. This MOU will provide preference to our Soldiers and Airmen in apprentice placement and will also count military experience and training towards the apprenticeship. This could reduce the time necessary to reach the journeyman level.

These organizations are symbolic of the far-reaching grass-roots support we find in every corner of the state. We owe every organization out there that's helping our Soldiers and Airmen a great deal of gratitude.

I'm extremely gratified by the sup-

port we receive from both the public and private sectors. But we would have none of that support if wasn't for you. The people of our state are well aware that the Oregon National Guard has significant responsibilities at home and abroad, and you've commanded their respect by meeting those responsibilities.

In my travels to Afghanistan and around the state, I'm deeply heartened by the courage, commitment, competence and confidence you display. Our numbers for recruiting and retention are phenomenal. In some areas, we're manned above 100 percent, and we're gaining in other areas. People want to join our organization because they see in you what they want to achieve themselves.

I'm extremely proud of this organization. Thanks for all you've done, and all that you continue to do in service to our state and nation.

Raymond J. Rees

“Hey, Airmen” What does wearing Air Force blue mean to you?

I received an article from Chief Master Sgt. Rod McKinley a while back dealing with what it means to be an Airman. I want to share it with you, and then share a few thoughts of my own.

If you're on an Army post and shout, “Hey, Soldier” you're likely to have everyone turn around in response. However, on an Air Force or Air Guard base, if you try the similar “Hey, Airman” your only responders will likely be our youngest Airmen. Why is that? Are we not all Airmen? Or is it because we “really don't know what that means?” If you are asking yourself those questions, let me offer you a few suggestions.

I am an Airman. I act with truthfulness and honesty. As Airmen, we are entrusted with the greatest calling, protecting our country and our way of life. Because of our unique profession, we can't pencil-whip training reports, cover up tech data violations, or falsify documents. We simply can't afford to live dishonestly. Dishonesty breeds mistrust, and mistrust erodes our ability to perform the mission. In everything we do, we must intentionally

do it in truthfulness and honesty.

I am an Airman. I willingly sacrifice myself for the benefit of the team. Being part of a team requires self-sacrifice and self-sacrifice must happen at all levels. Performing as a team requires a “less of me and more of us” mindset. We have to give more than what is expected. It's amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit. Being part of a successful team requires sacrifice.

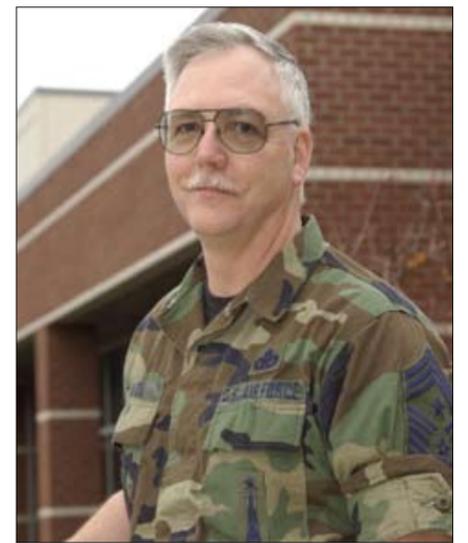
I am an Airman. I care passionately about my fellow Airmen. No other profession calls for compassion more than that of a military warrior. As warriors, we underestimate the power of a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. We must promote a culture of reliance on each other in order to accomplish the mission. Without compassion, we will lose trust in our teammates, and the mission will fail. We must care passionately for each other.

I am an Airman. I am accountable for my actions. Individually, we are responsible

for upholding the standards. We must live by the concept, “I am responsible.” Although we may not be able to prevent the worst from happening, we are responsible for our attitudes and actions. We must reject the idea that every time a standard is broken, someone else is to blame. We must live by the precept that each individual is accountable for their actions.

So I challenge you. Define who you are by your Airmanship. The next time someone calls out, “Hey, Airman,” stop, turn around and respond. We are all Airmen. Together we can solve this identity crisis.

Pride in being an Airman in the Oregon Air National Guard takes many forms – the way we wear our uniform, the effort we put into our jobs, the attitude we display, and the respect we show for our fellow Airmen. All of us, whether officer or enlisted, came into our Air Force after meeting rigid mental and physical recruiting standards, and being aligned with skills our service needed. Serving as an Airman is an honor that thousands of young Americans want, but do not attain; they are turned away for various reasons at recruiting offices. Those



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

who make it through that door train hard to develop skills that earn them the right to be called an “Airman”.

Nowhere is this transformation more

See Smith on page 6

ARNG officer moves and promotions

Having reposed special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and professional excellence of the listed officers, The Adjutant General is pleased to announce the following moves and promotions within the Oregon Army National Guard.

February 2007

- LTC Chilton, JFHQ, Director, with promotion to COL
- MAJ Safe, JFHQ, Environmental Officer with promotion to LTC
- MAJ Farley, HHC/1249, XO
- CPT Granger, 82 Troop Command, Asst S3 (DA O4 Board March 07)
- MAJ Smart, HHC/2-218, S3
- MAJ Fraser, HHC/41 IBCT, Fire Spt with promotion to LTC
- CPT Lawson vice MAJ Fraser, HHC/41 IBCT, Asst Fire Spt with promotion to MAJ
- BG Crawford MOB
- COL Tan, HHC/41 IBCT, Commander
- COL Dickenson, JFHQ, Strategic Planner
- LTC Winegar, JFHQ, COS with promotion to COL
- MAJ Shull, JFHQ, Officer Personnel Branch, Branch Chief, with promotion to LTC
- MAJ Winkler, 82 ROC, Asst Operations
- MAJ Ensley, HHC/1-186, Commander, with promotion in place to LTC
- COL Enyeart, HHC/41 IBCT, DBC
- LTC R. McCabe, JFHQ, Strategic Intel, with promotion to COL
- LTC Schutz, JFHQ, Plans and Policy Branch, Branch Chief
- MAJ S. Banks, JFHQ, Selective Service Office, with promotion to LTC
- CPT Lambert, JFHQ, Commander, with promotion to MAJ

March 2007

- MAJ McKim, Med Com XO, with promotion to LTC
- LTC Farmer, HHD/641, Commander
- MAJ Christian Rees, JFHQ, Aviation Operations, Training and Standardization Branch, Branch Chief with promotion to LTC
- CPT Doran, JFHQ, Training Manager with promotion to MAJ
- MAJ Klippert, HHD/641, Med. Operations Officer
- CPT Houston, JFHQ, Maintenance Test Flt, with promotion to MAJ
- COL Greenwood, Deputy USPFO (Technician Duty)
- LTC Farmer, JFHQ, SAO (Technician Duty)
- LTC Schutz, Deputy DCSLOG (Technician Duty)

April 2007

- COL McBride, 82 ROC, Operations Off (double-slotted)
- LTC Mouw, 82 Troop Command, DBC with promotion to COL

All listed moves and promotions subject to change at the direction of the Adjutant General.

Soldiers who dabble in drugs are gambling with their careers



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

There has been a misconception in the field that if you choose to take illegal drugs, nobody will know. As a number of Soldiers have found out recently, that is not true. We will find out, and we will take action.

How do we find out? It is really simple. A part of our organization, the Oregon Substance Abuse Program (OSAB), is conducting urinalysis (UA) testing at the unit level.

What is OSAB? It is Oregon's version of the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). It is a comprehensive program which combines prevention, treatment and disciplinary actions designed to strengthen the overall fitness and effectiveness of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to enhance the combat readiness of its personnel and units by eliminating alcohol and/or other drug abuse.

So how are we going to do that? In the past most of the UA testing was conducted during SRP's and units only tested randomly if they tested at all. That changed though. National Guard Bureau set a mission of 50 percent UA testing annually, with a goal of 60 percent unit testing annually. Oregon has a minimum requirement of 50 percent annual testing; units are to test quarterly and also at SRP's to meet the Oregon testing policy. The end goal is that every Soldier in the Oregon Guard will be tested at least once a year, either at SRP, AT or drill.

This last year Sgt. 1st Class Riverman, who manages the OSAB, spent a great deal of time training Unit Prevention Leaders (UPL) and now each unit in the state has at least one UPL to manage unit testing. In addition, Riverman also assists with conducting testing at the unit level. This testing occurs at the units during drill and also during their annual training time and SRPs.

The bottom line: If you choose to engage in the use of illegal drugs, we will eventually know about it. It will affect your job, your position, your money and the respect of your fellow Soldiers.

★ Rising Stars: Crawford and Yriarte promoted

Crawford to help oversee troops in Cuba



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Cameron Crawford is pinned with his new rank of brigadier general by his wife, Karen, and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Cameron A. Crawford of Salem was promoted to brigadier general in a formal ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center on Jan. 19.

The ceremony was attended by his family: wife, Karen; daughters, Sara and Melissa; and parents, Doug and Jeannie Crawford. Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski also attended the ceremony.

Upon being promoted, Crawford left his position as commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Tigard to accept a one year assignment as the deputy commander of Joint Task Force – Guantanamo Bay.

Crawford will help oversee nearly 2,000 service members and daily operations, to include detainee operations, of JTF – Guantanamo Bay under the command of Navy Rear Admiral Harry B. Harris.

“I’m very excited to represent the Oregon National Guard in such a high visibility environment,” said Crawford.

There are approximately 400 detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay, including suspected members of the Al Qaeda and senior leadership of the Taliban alleged to have direct knowledge of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Crawford said detaining them at Guantanamo Bay keeps them off the battlefield and provides valuable intelligence in support of the global war on terror.

“At the end of the day it’s about leadership and making sure service members there are doing the right thing; executing their mission to legally and humanely detain enemy combatants, and secondarily, collecting intelligence on the war on terror,” said Crawford.

Crawford said the promotion and new duty assignment is the culmination of 30 years of military experience, and his unique qualifications have prepared him for this type of mission.

Crawford, a West Point graduate, joined the Oregon National Guard in 1993 after serving 14 years on active duty serving in many capacities as an officer in the Military Police Corps and a six-month tour gathering intelligence in the Persian Gulf War. In addition, he has a Master of Arts in Correctional Administration from Western Oregon University, where he also served as an assistant professor of military science. Crawford speaks fluent Spanish, which he said will help him lead the many National Guardsmen from Puerto Rico who will make up a large portion of the JTF-GTMO.

Crawford and two other Oregon Army National Guardsmen, Capt. Abe Gilman of Salem and 2nd Lt. Tiffany Ramsdal of Monmouth, joined members of the Puerto Rico National Guard at Fort Lewis, Wash. for one month of training before deploying to Cuba in February.

Yriarte oversees 82 Brigade as flag officer



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Charles Yriarte is pinned with his new rank of brigadier general by his wife, Chris, and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Charles L. Yriarte, commander of 82 Brigade, Troop Command headquartered in Lake Oswego, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on Oct. 26 in a ceremony held at the St. Charles Hospital in Bend, Ore. where his father was undergoing treatment. His official federal recognition was effective on Oct. 16.

A formal promotion celebration took place Dec. 1 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem with many of his family, friends and co-workers in attendance. During the promotion celebration, Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees spoke to the gathering.

“If you look back on the things that Charlie’s done in his career to be successful and to lead our Soldiers you have to really admire an individual who has traveled the distances, put in the miles, maintained civilian employment and a family without missing a beat,” said Rees. “He’s been a great demonstration of what being a traditional Guardsman is all about.”

Rees and Yriarte’s wife, Chris, pinned the new rank on his uniform.

“I’m deeply honored, I’m also deeply humbled,” said Yriarte. “This is a great day, not just for me, but also for my family and the people I’ve worked and served with. There’s three very important parts to being a Citizen-Soldier and being successful, and that is your family, your friends and those you work with, your community and employers. It takes a lot of compromise and sacrifice to be successful, not only on your part, but on their part as well.”

Yriarte enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard in February 1971. He served nine years as an enlisted Soldier before graduating from the Idaho Military Academy in June 1980. Upon his commission as a second lieutenant, he branched as an Armored Cavalry officer and served in many positions within the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, working his way up to battalion executive officer and battalion commander.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in general studies from Eastern Oregon State University in La Grande, Ore. and a Masters Degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Before his selection as the 82 Brigade (TC) commander, Yriarte served as the director of personnel for Joint Force Headquarters in Salem from June 2004 to February 2006. Prior to that, he commanded the 82 Rear Operations Cell and was mobilized with the unit to Iraq, where he first served as the operations officer of V Corps Kuwait and then as base commander of LSA Anaconda in Balad.

Prior to commanding and deploying with the 82 ROC, Yriarte served as the 82 Brigade (TC) executive officer and operations officer.

Yriarte and his wife reside in Canyon City, Ore. They have two sons, Darren and Jamin; and a daughter, Shelesha Kelso and son-in-law David.

Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard visits Oregon units

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard A. Smith visited Oregon Air National Guard units throughout the state Nov. 29 – Dec. 3. He is the only sitting Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard to have visited Oregon.

Smith began his visit at the Portland Air Guard Base with an early morning meeting with 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Steven Gregg.

“It was wonderful to interface with the ANG command chief,” Gregg said. “It was great to sit down and talk with him and to showcase the Oregon Air Guard.”

Gregg spoke with Smith about wing concerns including how the recent outcome of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) has affected the units throughout the state. Key issues during the discussion were the impact the BRAC changes have brought about – including the 173rd Fighter Wing’s additional positions, and the ongoing shutdown and transition of the 939th Air Refueling Wing. Another important question was how to reconnect with the Active Duty Air Force during the upcoming year.

“We’re thrilled that the Air Guard is working side by side with their active duty counterparts at the staff level. It’s a positive

step,” Smith told Gregg.

While at the PANG Base, Smith visited with section personnel before attending a town hall style meeting. About 200 Airmen voiced their concerns, ranging from promotions to base facilities. Smith stressed the importance of the Air Force’s Physical Fitness program.

“If you haven’t taken part in the run, you WILL run. It’s a readiness issue,” Smith said. He also addressed other issues concerning training, including those related to the recent Air Force-driven realignments.

Throughout his visit, all eyes seemed to linger over Smith’s uniform. He was wearing one of a handful of the new Air Force prototype uniform, which is scheduled to be phased in over the next few years, starting in 2007-2008 with individuals going through Air Force basic training. Others can purchase the uniform for around \$75, or wait till their units receive their allotment.

Smith visited with various units throughout the Portland Air Base, stopping to view an engine demonstration at the “hush house”. On his third day in Oregon, Smith headed to Camp Rilea in an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk, to visit with members of the 116th Air Control Squadron. After touring the facility, he held a short question and answer session in the briefing room before heading back to Portland.

On his last day in Oregon, Smith visited



Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, Richard A. Smith, meets with Guardsmen at Portland Air National Guard Base on Nov. 29.

with the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls where he met with several Chief Master Sergeants. The group discussed administrative and promotion issues before heading to the Kingsley Theater for Klamath Fall’s town hall meeting. Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing packed the hall, and spent about an hour quizzing Chief Smith on all manner of issues related to the Air Force. Smith then enjoyed a holiday luncheon in the dining facility, and was paid a visit by 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Thomas Schiess, and 173rd Operations Group Commander, Col. John

Morawiec. Smith also met with Staff Sgt. Daniel Dierickx, who was awarded Airman of the Year in 2005.

Smith is the ninth Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, and the only Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard to have visited Oregon during their tenure. Aside from reporting to the Director of the Air National Guard at the Pentagon, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Smith is responsible for affairs related to the estimated 106,000 enlisted guardsmen in various Air Guard units throughout the world.

Oregon Guard thrust into national spotlight during search on Mt. Hood



Photo courtesy of The Oregonian

An Oregon National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk is silhouetted over the treetops on its way to search for three missing hikers on Mt. Hood. The weather provided many challenges for aviation crews to overcome during search operations.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

HOOD RIVER, Ore. - The Oregon Army National Guard flew more than 50 hours in four days during a high-profile search mission in the Mt. Hood National Park region of Oregon in mid-December.

The search for three missing climbers was a collaborative effort between the Oregon Air and Army National Guard, the 304th Rescue Squadron – an Air Force Reserve unit based in Portland, the Hood River and Clackamas County Sheriff's Offices, and several ground rescue teams.

"Whether you were Oregon Army National Guard, Portland Mountain Rescue, government official, or private volunteer, there was a single-minded focus to bring these climbers back," said Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Michael Braibish.

Braibish was a spokesperson for the Oregon National Guard in the days following the initial search, appearing on CNN, ABC and NPR News, and even in an interview with Katie Couric as this high-profile search placed a national spotlight on the Oregon Guard's search and rescue capabilities.

According to Hood River County Sheriff, Joe Wampler, three climbers had set out on a two-day hiking trip to the summit of Mt. Hood, Dec. 7. Following calls to authorities that the trio was overdue, authorities converged on the surrounding area. The 304th Rescue Squadron was the first on the scene, Dec. 11, and the following day, the Oregon Army National Guard mobilized its aviation rescue units. Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) based in Salem, and one CH-47 Chinook from Det. 1, D Company, 113th Aviation based in Pendleton, were sent to the staging area in Hood River.

Personnel from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, based at the Portland Air Base assisted with communications. The unit provided portable high-band and UHF radios which enabled the aircraft to talk to the command post and the Hood River staging area.

"That was a key piece, something we haven't done before," said Col. Dave Greenwood, Aviation Officer for the Oregon Army National Guard. "It really helped out a lot."

According to Greenwood, crews from the 1042nd encountered 50-60 mile-per-hour winds when they first arrived on the mountain, but they proceeded with an initial search to gather valuable intelligence for searchers. When the crews returned to base camp, Greenwood worked with the Sheriff's office to devise a search plan for the following day. But they would have to wait till Saturday, Dec. 16 for the weather to finally clear enough to launch the aircraft.

"We searched all day with all three aircraft," Greenwood said. "The CH-47 was successful in locating key pieces of intelligence, which was a climbing anchor about 300 feet below the summit, which led to other clues."

Greenwood said crews had concentrated their search in an area where one of the climbers, Kelly James, had made a call on his cell phone. Rescue authorities triangulated his last known position using the cell phone "ping", and the Oregon Aviation crews loaded this coordinate into their onboard Global Positioning System.

Crews searched both the Newton and Eliot Glaciers, the northeast side of the mountain, Cooper Spur, The Gullies, and the area known as the 'fall-line' – an area where the climbers would have ended up had they fallen from their climbing ropes.

"We searched that area very hard," Greenwood added.

The following day, Greenwood's crew was successful in gathering video footage of the anchor points the climbers had

used, in addition to what was believed to be two entrances to snow caves at around the 9,000-foot level on the north face of Mount Hood.

Wampler compared locating the snow cave to finding "a needle in a haystack" and praised the "excellent spot, on the part of the air crews."

Working in concert with Wampler, the 113th Aviation's CH-47 Chinook crew shuttled members of the ground rescue teams, made-up of members from Crag Rats, Portland Mountain Rescue, and a team from the 304th Rescue Squadron, to the 11,237-foot summit of Mount Hood. In the meantime, the Oregon Guard's UH-60 Blackhawks continued to search for the missing climbers, expanding their flight path to include Reed and Sandy Glaciers, Cathedral Point, and the areas below The Gullies – an avalanche-prone area with a sheer 2,500-foot drop.

Capt. Christopher Bernard, spokesperson for the Air Force Reserve's 304th Rescue Squadron said it helped that Oregon's aircrews involved in the rescue operation are experienced combat veterans who have served in the mountains of Afghanistan.

"There's a wide set of skills coming together to support this mission," he said.

At one point, a Nevada Air National Guard C-130 Hercules was called in to assist in the search. The aircraft was equipped with 'scathe view' technology which provides real-time imagery of ground activity via electro-optical and infrared sensors – the only aircraft of its kind in the Air Force.

About 90-minutes before sunset on Dec. 17, the CH-47 returned to the summit of Mt. Hood to extract the mountain rescue teams. There was a heavy mood among the rescuers. In the first snow cave, they had discovered several ice axes, a sleeping pad, and some other equipment. About 300 feet away, at about the same elevation, they discovered the body of Kelly James.

"Nobody likes a tragedy (like this)," Greenwood said. "But we try to stay focused on the mission."

And at this point, the mission was to try to locate the other two climbers – Brian Hall and Jerry Cooke, alive. An equally important task was to retrieve James' body from the mountain.

"Even though the result was not good with Kelly James, I think it's always nice to bring closure," Greenwood said.

According to Greenwood, on the morning of Monday, Dec. 18, the CH-47 was sent up to the summit with rescue crews once again with the intent to bring James back down. Because weather conditions were sketchy at best, it was decided by incident management that it was in everyone's best interest to hoist James from the mountain using a UH-60 Blackhawk. That decision would prove to be prophetic, as it would take ground rescue crews almost five hours to prepare James's body for the hoist operation and to move him 300 feet to the summit.

"At that point we brought in the Blackhawk and did the hoist operation, recovered James' body and took him to an ambulance exchange point where he could be taken by ground transportation to the funeral home," Greenwood said.

The disappointment of not finding James alive was compounded by the decision to call-off the search for the other two climbers.

"It was very difficult finding one of the climbers and not finding the other two," said Braibish. "We did everything we could."

New name, same mission; Oregon Army aviation units undergo transformation

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff

As part of the Army's Transformation program, the Oregon Army National Guard re-designated two of their aviation units in formal re-flagging ceremonies.

On Dec. 3, Detachment 2, Lima Company, 151 Aviation Maintenance, was renamed Detachment 3, Bravo Company, 351 Aviation. The unit is based in Pendleton.

Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte spoke to a crowd of about 200 Soldiers, family members and friends. Yriarte spent some time at Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Iraq while the unit was deployed there from January 2004 to February 2005, and lauded the members for their service and sacrifice.

The unit guidon was ceremoniously cased by unit commander Chief Warrant Officer Doug Walker, unit first sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class James Stanley, and 641st Medical Evacuation Battalion Commander, Maj. Thomas Lingle.

Also during the ceremony, representatives of Boeing Aircraft Corporation were presented with employer awards for their support of the Oregon Guard's aviation units. Robert L. Sobey, Deputy Director for CH-47 Chinook Programs at Boeing, presented the Oregon National Guard with limited edition, custom-framed Chinook posters as a token of gratitude for their working relationship.

On Jan. 6, the 1042nd Medical Company (Air

Ambulance) guidon was ceremoniously cased symbolizing the deactivation of the unit, and a new guidon was uncased signifying the activation of Charlie Company 7/158 Aviation.

The Salem-based unit also transferred authority in a change of command ceremony. Capt. David A. Strayer assumed command of the company from outgoing commander Maj. Mark A. Ulvin.

Every year the Oregon Army National Guard's 1042nd Med. Co. (AA) supports dozens of search and rescue operations led by civilian authorities, performs fire fighting missions, and conducts training with emergency first responders throughout the state using their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

The unit deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, including the mobilization of 35 soldiers to Afghanistan from July 2005 to March 2006, and 108 soldiers to Afghanistan from May 2002 to September 2003.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees spoke of the organizations continuity in professionalism and their capacity to get the job done as "Marvelous," not only in domestic search and rescue operations and firefighting, but also overseas.

Both aviation units, C Co. 7/158 in Salem and Det. 3, B Co. 351 in Pendleton, will continue to support their state and federal missions as they undergo reorganization.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Unit 1st Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class James Stanley (left), unit commander, Chief Warrant Officer Doug Walker (center) and 641st Medical Evacuation Battalion commander, Maj. Thomas Lingle (far right) uncased the new guidon for Det. 3, Bravo Co., 351 Aviation at the unit's re-designation ceremony in Pendleton, Ore. on Dec. 3.

New mission; Guardsmen with law enforcement experience re-assigned



U.S. Army Photo submitted by CJTF Phoenix V Public Affairs

41st IBCT Soldier, Sgt. Vann Arnold of Rochester, Wash. (left) teaches an Afghan policeman individual movement techniques in Andar province. Arnold is part of a Mobile Training Team that circulates throughout Afghanistan training, mentoring and reforming the police force.

Continued from **FRONT PAGE**

country have both a stable army and police force. Pritt insisted the added requirements stemming from incorporating the police training mission into task force objectives will not adversely affect the continuing mission of training and mentoring the ANA.

"I believe this will affect the ANA in a positive manner," Pritt said. "It will strengthen the relationship between the ANA and ANP. There will be more joint training, joint operations, and will enhance

trust. One big benefit will be the enhancement of information flow creating much better intelligence sharing."

Some task force personnel will be re-assigned completely to the police side of the task force mission, some embedded trainers currently working with the ANA will begin working with the Afghan police as well to incorporate them into joint training and operations. Pritt said the security task force, logistics task force and staff cells will see the most dramatic affects as they will be required to coordinate, plan

and support operations for both security elements.

"The ANA is progressing very well and developing professionally," Pritt said. "The police need more mentorship and training and there's been less resources for them."

Pritt said the mission to train the Afghan police is ideally suited to the strengths of a National Guard unit like the 41st Brigade Combat Team. Many of the task force warriors have previous experience in law enforcement as civilian police, military police, corrections and detention officers. These warriors are being pulled from other duties around the country to assist in mentoring and training the Afghan police using the ANA as a model.

"This is a tribute to the professionalism of the Task Force Phoenix team," Pritt said. "We would not be asked to do this mission if people weren't pleased with the job we are doing. It is a testament to the capabilities our warriors bring to Afghanistan and an exciting, rewarding opportunity to work with the police."

A new group of approximately 500 warriors will arrive in country toward the end of January helping to fill the additional requirements of training the Afghan police. The first priority will be to transition mentors to the police mission who have already been working in country and are familiar with the local customs and courtesies, but many members of the incoming group who have law enforcement backgrounds will be utilized as well. The incoming forces will be seriously needed to backfill the positions left vacant by outgoing warriors who are now working with the police.

Lt. Col. Scott W. Johnson, Task Force Police Operations Officer, says the number of task force personnel involved in training and mentoring the police directly will increase from 75 to more than 250 by the end of the tour. In addition, Task Force 76 has contributed a substantial number of its own military police force to help mentor the Afghan police.

The Afghan police forces consist of several diverse types of law enforcement all serving different functions. All of these entities will require mentoring and support enablers to be successful.

The Afghan Uniform Police is the largest group consisting of what we would consider to be police in the United States. The Afghan Auxiliary Police, General Police and Standby police fall under this category. The Border Police patrol all of Afghanistan's borders and customs checkpoints looking for insurgents, smugglers and other security threats. The Afghan National Civil Order Police are responsible for domestic disturbances and riot control.

All of these entities fall under the broad title of Afghan National Police, and the Ministry of Interior. They are all responsible for making Afghanistan safe and secure in their own way.

Over the next few months, Task Force Phoenix personnel will work diligently to assist the Afghan police in becoming a stronger, more stable, more professional organization.

"The important thing is building up the police to do their job, which is to protect and serve the people of Afghanistan," Johnson said.

Fighting corruption in Afghanistan; Police training improves professionalism



Left: Experienced Afghan police train in the Transitional Integration Program, a refresher course to review police techniques, learn justice and fairness under the law, humane treatment of suspects and prisoners, and training on the new constitution of Afghanistan. The program is one tool used to fight internal corruption and reform the Afghan police force.

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Amanda Straub, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

MAZAR-E SHARIF, Afghanistan – Reforming the Afghan police force is a difficult challenge that Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V is tackling head on in Northern Afghanistan. Six U.S. military personnel make up the Regional Police Advisory Team (RPAT) at Echo Base, a regional training center just south of Mazar-e Sharif.

The mission of the RPAT is to provide advice, counsel and guidance to the police headquarters and regional commands in order to support command and control of police operations, management of logistics, personnel and finance, and administrative functions, ultimately resulting in an independently functioning regional police headquarters.

The reformation of the police forces in the North is a model of the country-wide reformation happening all over Afghanistan. Commonly referred to as the ANP, Afghan police forces are multi-faceted and face many challenges in operating effectively to secure Afghanistan and protect its citizens.

The biggest issues faced by security forces in the north are not Taliban and Al Qaeda, they are warlords, drugs and highway robbery. The northern forces are last on the country-wide priority list to receive personnel, supplies, and facilities.

"Afghanistan is the largest, poor country in the world. Everybody needs everything," Col. Stan Shope, RPAT Commander, said. "The district headquarters are dumps. The police need a place to get warm, billeting, electricity, water, heat, uniforms, blankets. They need everything."

The extreme poverty in Afghanistan affects police officers and their families just as it affects all people in Afghanistan. Ensuring the survival of one's self and family is the most important thing in this culture of survival and it contributes directly to what Westerners view

Right: Two senior Afghan policemen demonstrate the proper use of a baton to subdue suspects. New recruits as well as policemen in the Transitional Integration Program receive instruction on the proper use of force and human rights at the regional training center.



as corruption. Policemen in Afghanistan have been known to accept bribes from criminals, charge tolls at illegal checkpoints, and sell their equipment in order to make enough money to feed their families.

Shope says the problems with the police force can not be fixed with money alone.

"We can't just give two billion dollars in equipment to the police," Shope. "We have to train them on all the equipment techniques and maintenance and ensure that they use the equipment responsibly and maintain accountability."

The Ministry of Interior, in conjunction with coalition forces, hopes to curb corruption in the police force and shape it into an organization that can be trusted to protect and defend the people of Afghanistan and combat terrorists and insurgents alongside the Afghan National Army.

"It's a challenge, but it's doable," Shope said. "Nothing in Afghanistan is easy or fast. We can not be in a hurry. It will not happen overnight."

At Echo Base, coalition forces are combating corruption through the use of a Transitional Integration Program (TIP). The regional training center trains new police recruits in the north, but the TIP is specifically geared toward police officers who have been working for 20 or 30 years.

"We built the Afghan Army from the ground up with a system of checks and balances in place," Dan White, DynCorps International trainer said. "With the police we are trying to reform old habits."

Right: New police recruits receive instruction from a senior Afghan policeman on hand-to-hand combat with a rifle. The training for new recruits is conducted at Regional Training Centers in Mazar-E Sharif. Most instruction at the centers is given by senior Afghan police with American military and civilian-contracted mentors.



White believes the best way to combat corruption is through educating the upper leadership in the police force. Over the course of the five-week TIP, policemen are exposed to training in constitutional law, use of force, penal code, responding to domestic violence, policing in a democratic society, the basics of human rights, personal hygiene, and prohibitions against torture. In addition, they receive refresher courses in marksmanship, police tactics, hand-to-hand combat and other basic policing skills.

"We can't just fire upper-level leaders because of the tribal and economic turbulence it could cause," White said. "Only time and education will fix this problem."

So far, White believes the program is working, but he emphasizes that it will take time to reform the police force.

"We can see changes," White said. "They know better now. They are educated. They know how to respond correctly. Now they need to have accountability for their actions through discipline."

The creation of an internal affairs office at the Ministry of Interior is scheduled for March 2007. White believes the formation of this entity will help tremendously.

"There's no hammer in this country," White said.

"They've got to start investigating themselves in order to stop corruption," Shope said.

Shope believes in the mission in Afghanistan and the progress he has already seen.

"You have a lot of good people here, you really do," Shope said. "Good people in bad circumstances."

Oregon's Eagles land in Hollywood



Crew chiefs from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., tow an Oregon Guard F-15 Eagle into position before filming at the Mojave Airport. The air superiority fighter will appear in an upcoming episode of Fox Television's series "24" with the commercial 747 in the distance playing the role of Air Force One.

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Larry Schneck,
U.S. Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office

LOS ANGELES — Through the clouds above a dry, remote airfield in Southern California, Col. Tom Schiess and Lt. Col. Matt Andrews punched a hole in the sky and sky and maneuvered their F-15 Air Superiority Eagles in position for landing.

A catastrophic attack on the United States had just taken place and the U.S. Air Force now filled the sky with lethal air power. The impressive flexing of muscle is breath-taking to view from the ground - and on the screen.

This is not a military mission to secure the Nation's air space, but rather a military mission to support the Fox Television series "24". The aircraft and personnel from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, as well as personnel and equipment from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. are appearing as "background extras" and "set dressing" for an episode of the Emmy award winning series.

The jets and pilots should appear in an episode airing sometime in March, but the Airmen won't know how much time their planes or faces will be on the screen until they see the episode.

Michael Klick, a producer from "24", worked closely with the Air Force Public Affairs Entertainment Liaison Office in Los Angeles to position air power in the scenes filmed in December on location at Mojave Airport in Mojave, Calif.

Mr. Klick felt the sixth season of the popular show needed the aircraft to create the "TV visuals" of a nation at war against terrorism. The Entertainment Liaison Office reviewed the request, got approval from the Pentagon, and then located available aircraft, personnel and equipment needed to make TV "magic".

The tradition of Hollywood working with the Air Force dates from the early years of American film-making. The first "Best Picture" Oscar was given to a silent film about U.S. Army Air Force pilots heading to fight the Central Powers in World War I. The motion picture titled, "Wings" launched this on-going relationship between the film industry and America's military.

The Air Force takes this cooperation seriously. Military leaders realize the value of enhancing realism in scenes on the big and small screens. By using actual fighter aircraft and Airmen, the production company gets added storytelling power and enhanced realism, something that can't be easily replicated by today's digital technology or set designers.

In exchange for appearing in TV and motion pictures, Air Force personnel and equipment are displayed for the public - many of whom only get their impressions of the military through the media, including movies and TV shows.

Twentieth Century Fox Television showed its support for the military as well, by improving morale and welfare of Airmen at Edwards AFB, and Kingsley Field. Fox donated \$1,000 to Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds at both installations.

"The money will be used to benefit the base during a function to say thank you to the troops for a job well done," said Col. Schiess, base commander at Kingsley Field.

Kingsley Field to receive new aircraft

Story by Capt. Lucas Ritter,
173rd Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. — Kingsley Field will replace its aging F-15B model aircraft with F-15C and F-15D models from Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida from now until July.

In all, the 173rd AMXS will accept 10 new aircraft and relinquish six, bringing the total aircraft on base to 25. The older models will go to a military boneyard in Arizona.

According to base commander, Col. Tom Schiess, the base also plans to hire 50 new employees to service the additional jets and instruct student pilots.

A team from the 173rd Maintenance Group traveled to Tyndall AFB in January to perform inspections on the first four F-15s slated to arrive at Kingsley Field. The team performed a routine "acceptance" inspection making sure that the aircraft are ready.

"Our job there is to make sure all of the aircraft's critical parts are configured correctly," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Elliot, inspection team chief. "The most critical systems are the weapons systems,

hydraulic systems, egress system, as well as survival equipment items."

The inspection process is critically important because it verifies that all of the systems are properly inventoried and in good working order.

"The inspection process used to be very lengthy, taking up to 30 days to complete," said Elliot. "The Air Force is trying to do lean inspections, so we will be doing the first acceptance (inspection) with only nine people instead of 21. It is a way to make the process more time and money efficient."

The Air Force has been implementing the "lean" concept used throughout the manufacturing industry. The lean process is part of Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century, an initiative to increase efficiency and productivity, while at the same time saving time and money.

According to Elliot, the Air Force developed a lean checklist because it was taking too long to transfer aircraft from one unit to another. The aircraft being transferred were fully mission capable so the lean checklist was developed for acceptance teams to inspect only the critical areas.

Smith: "Airmen take care of Airmen!"

Continued from PAGE 2

dramatic than Basic Military Training. Earning the title of "Airman" is commemorated with ceremony and the chance to don the Air Force blue uniform for the first time. This emotional event gives the trainees an identity within our organization - they are now Airmen in the greatest Air National Guard unit in the world. The sought-after title of Airman is one that each of us has worked hard to obtain. Our level of professionalism is equal to the immense responsibility each Airman carries as we continue to fight the Global War on Terror. We don't send "kids" into battle; we send highly-trained and motivated Airmen.

Today the Air Force has more than 30,000 people deployed worldwide with many more deployed in place, and more than 4,000 Airmen protecting America's skies. In addition, the Air National Guard has more than 4,500 Airmen on the ground supporting Army taskings in detainee operations, convoys and as interrogators. If you couple that with our direct combat positions, search and rescue, medical and other support roles, it's clear to see our Airmen are heavily engaged in winning this war. As Airmen, we have much to be proud of.

The level of sacrifice and risk a person must embrace in order to fulfill the mission can define the difference between an occupation and a calling. As Airmen, we understand that losing one's life is an unfortunate possibility that comes with the calling of military service. We accept this fact, and honor those who give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. All of us receive training in Safety and Risk Management annually. Clearly we possess the education and capability to make the right decisions and to look after each other.

However, training and knowledge are not enough. Today's operations tempo at home, and while deployed, can cause a great deal of stress, anxiety, and even grief for our Airmen and their families. As any senior leader knows, you have to be able to recognize when you need reinforcements. These reinforcements can come in the form of reaching out to a friend, supervisors, commander, or a trained professional such as the chaplain, family advocate, or life skills provider. That's what Airmen do for each other. We all must be vigilant and take the time to care about those around us - Airmen take

care of Airmen!

Fighting wars, deployments, force shaping and a myriad of other challenges make it more important than ever that we hone in on our people, and commit ourselves to caring for one another. To do that, we must build solid relationships between supervisors and subordinates, between co-workers, and within families. This is not a new concept; we have the tools, we just need to ensure we're using them. It comes down to basic roles and responsibilities of being good leaders. We need to start our new Airmen off right. For example, when an Airman first joins your unit, the immediate supervisor should embrace the role of sponsoring the new arrival and plan to spend time showing the Airman around the base. Find out what their interests are and give them the tools for success in their new environment. Delegating this important responsibility should be a last option. It's vital to build a strong relationship between supervisors and subordinates - that means regular face-to-face communication. Make sure your feedback sessions are not driven just by the timelines in our regulations. Feedback, both positive and corrective, is vital to understanding the needs and stresses of today's Airmen.

The leaders I respected most throughout my career were those who knew my name instead of, "Hey, Airman." They took the time to know where I was from, my hobbies and certainly my goals. They took a vested interest in me by communicating and demonstrating that I was a valued member of the team. Good leaders go even further; they involve the entire team. The best leaders find creative ways to bring everyone together, including families for fun and fellowship. We are "family" and each member makes a valuable contribution. We would not be the world's greatest Guard units without the hard work and daily sacrifice of every Airman.

I encourage each of you to return to the leadership basics - face-to-face with your fellow Airmen; know their backgrounds, families, strengths and weaknesses, what motivates them, and what they care about. The result will be relationships that encourage everyone to be a part of the team and look out for one another. You represent our state and nation and serve both well. I'm incredibly proud of your professionalism and commitment. Let's continue to respect our heritage and our future in this great Air Force by proudly calling each other "Airmen".

Boeing donates \$30K to relief fund



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Dan O'Hollaren, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (right) accepted \$30,000 on behalf of the Oregon Emergency Relief Fund from Boeing representative Jerry Thompson on Jan. 23 at the Boeing facility in Troutdale. A portion of the money was raised during the Healing Fields event held at Salem's Riverfront Park, Sept. 8 -11, 2006. At the event in Troutdale, the Flag of Honor, Flag of Heroes, and the 9-11 flag were unveiled. The Flag of Honor lists all the names of those killed on 9-11, while the Flag of Heroes lists all those who perished attempting to rescue victims trapped in the World Trade Center in New York City.

News Briefs

April is sexual assault awareness month

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

The Department of Defense takes a stand against sexual assault as it observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This year's theme is Stand up Against Sexual Assault...Make a Difference. This theme encompasses an attitude toward prevention of this crime, reminding each of us that we can make a difference through our actions.

DoD seeks to establish a climate of confidence through education and training to create an environment in which sexual assault, and the attitudes that promote it, are not tolerated; victims receive care and support they need; and offenders are held accountable for their actions.

The ORNG policy and program implement the DoD, DA, and DAF directives. Each brigade and wing has a trained Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) to provide support to victims and assist in education. Currently, we have one trained victim advocate (VA), Staff Sgt. Stacey Smith at JFHQ, other VAs will be selected at battalions/ wings. Additional information will be published, or you may contact your respective SARC, check our webpage at <http://inside.oregonguard.com> - look for the [Sexual Assault Prevention](#) link, or contact the Program Manager, Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward at 503-584-3931.

ORNG SAPR Program POCs
JFHQ - Lt. Col. M. Woodward
82 BDE - Maj. R. Gloria
41 BCT - Capt. L. Fink
142 FW - Maj. M. Mazzia
173 FW - Capt. L. Ritter

Army service can be extended with waiver

For enlisted Army National Guard Soldiers, turning 60 may not mean a mandatory retirement anymore.

The National Guard Bureau Personnel Policy and Readiness Division recently announced that Soldiers may request a waiver to stay on duty past age 60. According to the newly revised policy, state adjutants general may approve waivers for up to two years beyond age 60 for traditional Guard Soldiers. For extensions beyond age 62, and for those serving in Active Guard and Reserve positions, requests must be forwarded to NGB for approval.

Requests for a waiver must include a formal request from the Soldier. Additionally, the request needs to contain a strong recommendation from the Soldier's chain of command, including the state adjutant general, stating why the Soldier should be retained as well as a current physical, cardiovascular screening and completed DA Forms 7349, 705 and 5500. However, those Soldiers who have already submitted an application for retirement may not request a waiver.

For more information, contact the NGB Enlisted Policy Section at (703) 607-3401.

Still haven't filed your 2006 tax return?

It's not too late!

Tax deadline is midnight April 17.

Visit Military One Source today and file your taxes for **FREE!**

www.militaryonesource.com

or

1-800-342-9647

Call 24 hours a day.

Provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to all military service members and their families.

TSGLI insurance helps service members and families recover from traumatic injuries

Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) is a new insurance benefit enacted by Congress to help traumatically wounded service members and their families with a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$100,000.

The money a service member receives through TSGLI could go far toward helping their family be with them during recovery, assisting with unforeseen expenses, or giving the service member and their family a head start on life after recovery.

TSGLI helps service members from all components - Active, Reserve and National Guard. Those who are covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), are also covered by TSGLI for qualifying injuries.

A traumatic injury is an injury or loss caused by application of external force or violence. TSGLI is not just for combat-related injuries, it covers service members anytime, anywhere. Qualifying traumatic injuries incurred after December 1, 2005 are covered under TSGLI regardless of where they occurred.

TSGLI coverage is retroactive for qualifying injuries incurred October 7, 2001 through November 30, 2005, if the event occurred in theater supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom or in a Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (CZTE) area.

For more information, visit www.tsqli.army.mil or contact the Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Division at 1-800-237-1336.

New policy for mobilizations will improve unit readiness, cohesiveness

Continued from FRONT PAGE

general will be the certifying officers for individual through squad-level readiness in all areas - medical, personnel, equipment and training, with the director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, validating the readiness level.

"This will mean that governors, as commanders in chief, and their adjutants general will take on greater roles in preparing, readying and certifying their forces prior to mobilization," said Blum.

Additionally, the need to conduct certification prior to mobilization provides extra stimulus for the Department of Defense to focus on re-equipping Guard units after they return from overseas deployments.

"It will mean that resources and equipment will have to move to the National Guard pre-mobilization so that we are ready when we're called to mobilize for

that one year," Blum told the officials.

Unit readiness would be enhanced by the new policy specifying that whole units, rather than individuals, would be called up. Soldiers also complained about the tendency of cobbling mobilized units together from many sources, destroying the cohesion that was built up in peacetime.

"The new mobilization policy detailed by Secretary Gates was universally accepted and sincerely appreciated by the governors and adjutants general participating (in the teleconference)," said Blum. "This is a historic and long-anticipated policy change that has been directed by our secretary of defense. It is clear evidence that he has listened, heard and considered our input and has made courageous and tough adjustments that have been long requested by governors, adjutants general, members of Congress, and the reserve component's senior leaders."

Changes to DoD Reserve Component Force Management Policy:

- In the future deployments will be managed on a unit basis, no longer on an individual basis, allowing for greater unit cohesion and predictability for training and deployments.
- DoD will reduce the maximum mobilization timeframe to one year, no longer 18 months.
- Involuntary mobilization of Guard/ Reserve units will remain a one-year mobilized to five-year demobilized ratio. However, today's global demands will require a number of selected Guard/ Reserve units to be remobilized sooner than the current policy goal. That deployment to demobilization ratio remains the goal of DoD, as does the active component's ratio goal of one year of deployment to two years at home station.
- DoD will establish a new program to compensate individuals in both active and reserve component forces that are required to mobilize or deploy earlier than established policy goals of deployment to home station ratio times. It will also involve those service members who are required to extend beyond established rotation policy goals.
- DoD will direct commands to review their administration of the hardship waiver program, to ensure that they have properly taken into account exceptional circumstances facing military families of deployed service members.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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The Oregon Sentinel

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to ensure 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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Oregon National Guard

18th Military Ball

"Empowering the Guard"

Saturday, April 14, 2007
Salem Conference Center
200 Commercial Street



6:30 PM No-Host Cocktails
Silent Auction
7:30 PM Hors d'oeuvres
Dancing



Dress: Formal
Mess Dress/Dress Blues

Tickets: \$35 per person
After April 6 - \$50 per person



For tickets contact:
Oregon Military Department
Front Desk: 503-584-3980
Robin Sawvel: 503-584-3561
ORNGA: 503-584-3030

Oregon Guardsman dies from injuries sustained on duty as sheriff's deputy



Photo submitted by Staff Sgt. Cindy LeFore, Det. 1, 1186 MP Co.

Staff Sgt. Michael Estes prepares for physical training during drill with Det. 1, 1186 Military Police in Milton-Freewater. Estes passed away Feb. 14 from injuries sustained in a car accident while on duty for the Walla Walla County Sheriff.

Story by Spc. April L. Dustin,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

BURBANK, Wash. - Oregon Army National Guard staff sergeant and Walla Walla County Sheriff's deputy, Michael O. Estes, passed away Feb. 14 at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, Wash. Estes died from injuries suffered on Feb. 6 when a commercial flat-bed truck collided with his patrol car at the intersection of U.S. Highway 12 and State Route 124 in Burbank, Wash. At the time of the accident, Estes was responding to a 911 hang-up call.

"He was a fine officer, he represented law enforcement well. He was part of our family. He will be missed," said Walla Walla County Sheriff Mike Humphreys.

Estes was born in Hermiston, Ore. in 1963. He graduated from Valley Christian High School in Spokane Valley, Wash. in 1982. Initially he planned a future in ministry and spent two years at Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta, Canada.

His plans took a turn and he enlisted in the active duty Army in 1983 and served for 12 years as an aircraft power repairer, which took him to New York, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Germany and Egypt. A reduction in force led him to Wisconsin to become an Army recruiter. He then held a variety of jobs before becoming a correctional officer for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Estes returned to Washington in 2002 and began working as a corrections officer at the Washington State Penitentiary in 2003. He was hired as a Walla Walla County Sheriff's deputy in July 2005.

Estes joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 2003. He served in Detachment 1, 1186 Military Police, where

he became a squad leader. He was recognized as the 2004 Soldier of the Year for the 741st Corps Support Battalion. He deployed to Louisiana in September 2005 to Operation Katrina with Det. 1, 1186 MP where he served in the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans.

Staff Sgt. LaCinda L. LeFore, unit spokesperson, said, "Staff Sgt. Estes was truly one of the most loved and respected soldiers in the Detachment. He could always be counted on for his dedication to the mission and to his soldiers, for his honesty, common sense, good judgment, and his knowledge as a Non-Commissioned Officer. Staff Sgt. Estes always made time for people, he mentored many younger soldiers. He always had a positive attitude and looked at the bright side of everything in life. Staff Sgt. Estes will be greatly missed."

Memorial services were held on Feb. 21 at the INB Performing Arts Center, in Spokane, Wash., attended by hundreds of law enforcement officers, traveling from all over the northwest and even Canada to pay final respects.

"By every one of you here you've come to say to the family that Mike's life mattered, what was loved, what he did was important, it was significant," said Pastor Bob Smith.

Deputy Estes was the first member of the Walla Walla Sheriff's Office to die in the line of duty in the history of the department. His name will be added to the Spokane Law Enforcement Memorial in May alongside all other law enforcement officers who've died in the line of duty in Washington State.

Estes is survived by his father and mother, Orville and Judith Estes of Spokane, Wash., and two sisters.

Nguyen had "the heart of a citizen" serving with professionalism, pride

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in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 2001 and served as a supply specialist and property book specialist, taking care of supply and equipment needs of Soldiers and units within the 41st IBCT.

Fellow Soldiers in 141st BSB said Nguyen was outgoing, well known and well liked. The sergeant was known as a hard worker, and exceptionally motivated Soldier who excelled at every task he was assigned. Nguyen was the honor graduate at every military school he attended. He mobilized with his unit for Hurricane Katrina in September 2005 where he worked supply operations. The 141st BSB recognized him as the 2005 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Nguyen was attending Portland State University prior to the Afghanistan deployment and expressed an interest in joining the Guard Officers Leadership Development program to become a commissioned officer.

During training at Camp Shelby, Nguyen was a motivator for his friends and fellow Soldiers. In Afghanistan, Nguyen served in the Logistics Task Force as a Property Book Officer. The people he worked with during the mobilization said Nguyen was someone they could count on to get the mission accomplished. He was focused and reliable,

and took the lead whenever necessary. He was always willing to help others and often volunteered for extra duties.

Although he had many friends, Nguyen was quiet and reserved. In his spare time, Nguyen loved playing Risk, Scrabble, cards and other games with fellow Soldiers in Afghanistan. He was always concerned about his family, although he rarely shared personal details. His friends remember his sense of humor and his dedication to excellence.

A memorial service was held Feb. 24 at Lady Lavang Catholic Church in Portland and laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery. Speakers at his service included Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and Oregon Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

"Sergeant Nguyen stands as a great example of public service and giving back to America," said Rees. "Those of us who have the privilege of living in this great nation by accident of birth should look at him as an example we should never forget."

Nguyen was posthumously granted U.S. citizenship, which was presented to his family by Governor Kulongoski.

"Citizenship is not just about being born an American or being given naturalization. It is about wanting to be part of a common country, giving that country your affections,

taking pride in that country's values, and if necessary, fighting for that country's future," said Kulongoski. "Long before he officially became a citizen, Sergeant Nguyen had the heart and spirit of a citizen. His heart and spirit remains in the pride we take in him,

in the memories we keep of him, and in the meaning of citizenship that each of us has learned from him."

Nguyen was the sixteenth member of Oregon National Guard to die while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

A U.S. flag is draped over Sgt. Long Nguyen's casket by the Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team during his memorial service at Lady Lavang Catholic Church in Portland, Feb. 24. Born in Viet Nam, Nguyen was posthumously granted U.S. citizenship.

Oregon Reintegration Team receives national recognition

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - After being deployed for 18 months often the first thing on a Soldier's mind is reconnecting with family and friends. But re-adjusting to life at home may not be as easy as one may expect.

"When we come back from theater we clean our weapons and make sure they are serviceable and turn them in to the armories - are we doing that for our Soldiers also?" asked Sgt. 1st Class Vince Jacques, member of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

To help facilitate a smooth transition back to civilian life, the Oregon National Guard created the Reintegration Team, made up of Soldiers and retired servicemembers dedicated to helping returning Soldiers with everything from job placement and career counseling to referrals for emotional counseling.

"Oregon is the only state in the nation that combines not only a fully staffed reintegration program but also a fully

staffed career transition program," said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Maas, also of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

At a recent conference, nine states were brought together to discuss their respective Reintegration Teams. Maas said it was a chance to connect with others doing the same job and discuss strategies.

"Oregon is one of those states that has an exceptional program and was asked to share their success stories with the rest of the National Guard community," said Maj. Gen. Ronald Young, director of Manpower and Personnel for National Guard Bureau.

"I think the thing he liked is that Oregon brought together federal, state, and county agencies on board, and actually got them to work together," said Maas.

The conference, called the Re-entry/ Reintegration Workshop took place November 28-30 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Major General Young said members of the Oregon Reintegration Team have

been selected to help refine the best practices into a plan that will be shared nationwide in 2007.

"Oregon will have membership on the team, working group and will have significant input to the final product," said Young.

The knowledge and experience the Team gained while helping Oregon Soldiers, will now go on to help Soldiers in all states, nationwide. It's an honor members of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team don't take lightly.

"It's one of the most rewarding things I've done in my career - coming back here and helping Soldiers get back on their feet if they need it," said Jacques.

"Overall, pulling away the propaganda and truly giving a damn about a Soldier and their family goes miles...how do you put a price tag on that," said Maas.

Members of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team say there is nothing they would rather do than work to better the lives of their fellow Soldiers.

"They are not our Soldiers - they are our family," said Jacques.

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