

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team • 142 Fighter Wing • 82 Brigade • 173 Fighter Wing • Joint-Force Headquarters • Combat Operations Group

Deployed Wing prepares for return to Klamath Falls

173rd Fighter Wing has moved flying operations to Gowen Field in Idaho pending runway renovation in Klamath Falls in Southern Oregon

Story by
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

BOISE, Idaho -- Six months into a seven-month relocation of the 173rd Fighter Wing flying operations, Oregon Air Guard members are beginning to prepare for the last phase of Sentry Displacement—packing up and coming home.

As a total reconstruction of the runway at Kingsley Field rolls toward an expected completion date in early November, nearly 225 members of the displaced wing are planning their return from Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho.

“Along with our normal flying we are ramping up the process and the planning for the trip home,” said Maj. Jeffrey Edwards, the assistant director of operations.

“Getting here was an enormous amount of work,” he added. “Picking up and getting back home does involve some planning but it’s not quite as difficult as getting here in the first place.”

Although the experience is outside the norm for a training base like Kingsley Field and has required an intense effort on the



Photos by Jim Hazeltine, High-G Productions

Two A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft from the 124th Wing fly in formation with a 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle aircraft. They all flew out of Gowen Field, Idaho as part of a project to showcase the cooperation bet between the wings. Photographer Jim Hazeltine rode in the back seat of a Kingsley Field F-15 in order to capture this and other images. This image was taken over the south east foothills of the Sawtooth Mountains.

part of personnel ranging from planning and logistics to maintenance operations, it is not without positive aspects.

According to Edwards the simple process of picking up operations and reestablishing them elsewhere is an integral part of life in the “combat air force.”

Student pilot Capt. Mike Culhane echoes

that saying that many of the experiences he’s gained since he began flying from Gowen Field help him get a sense of flying in the operational air force as opposed to a strict training environment. “You get more experience flying in different airspace and talking to different air controllers which is a part of normal flying,” he added.

A sentiment prevalent among the many maintenance personnel who ensure continuous flight operations are possible at Gowen could be characterized as ‘business as usual.’

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Rempe, a maintenance troop said “It’s been without

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Domestic operations conference affects Oregon Air Guard

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

ARLINGTON, Va. -- The commander of the Oregon Air National Guard said he is committed to preparing his airmen for future domestic missions after a week-long conference participants called “hugely successful.”

Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Bruce W. Prunk said he hopes to bring a more robust domestic operations mission to his state as a result of data coming out of the Domestic Operations Essential-10 Requirements (DOERs) conference held in Arlington, Va., Sept. 21-25. The event brought together Air Guard leaders from across the country to discuss organizational requirements in order to fulfill future domestic operations missions.

“I will stay committed to keeping our folks engaged, and try to get us the best training and equipment that we can to support the domestic operations mission,” Prunk said.

Prunk, who is vice chairman of the Strategic Planning System’s western region, said input from all 54 states and territories was instrumental in formulating the Air Guard’s future plan for domestic emergencies and helped to identify shortfalls in equipment and gaps in

mission capability.

The data will be compiled into a book that will be presented to congressional representatives and military leadership to lobby for increased funding, equipment, and training for the Air National Guard.

“We hope to use this information going forward when we build budgets or talk to the Senate or the House on what we need in the Oregon Air Guard, so (we can) support civilian authorities during an emergency,” Prunk said.

The DOERs book will mimic the highly successful Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Weapons and Tactics Conference or WEPTAC held each October in Tucson, Ariz.

Prunk said that conference yields important guidelines for upgrades to current Air Force weapons systems like the F-15, F-16, and C-130. “We’re trying to go that same route to build future missions, upgrades and requirements for the domestic operations support,” he said.

Conference attendees divided the DOERs requirements into several key areas. Requirements in command and control, engineering, medical, personnel, communications, transportation, security and

See **DC** on PAGE 8



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Bruce W. Prunk, vice chairman of the Strategic Planning System’s Western Region, briefs National Guard Bureau Chief, Gen. Craig R. McKinley on strategic requirements by the Air Guard in order to fulfill domestic emergency missions at the Domestic Operations Essential-10 Requirements conference in Washington D.C., Sept. 25.

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COMMAND

Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen: 'Silos of Excellence'



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

It's been yet another great year for the Oregon Guard. Fiscal year 2009 has been absolutely stellar. I can't thank each of you enough for everything you have done to make this year such a success.

As I've said repeatedly, it's a great honor to be the Adjutant General. As the Adjutant General I get to see how every facet of this great organization impacts our communities, our state and our nation.

The Oregon Military Department recently conducted its Senior Leaders Conference at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore.

I jokingly referenced each team within our organization 'being its own individual stovepipe, contributing to our overall success'. Each team performed so well this past year it's more like each team represents a silo of excellence. Whether it's recruiting, operations, emergency response, equipment, personnel, environmental

are Army or Air Guard, everything you've done to meet our requirements to get your people overseas and into the fight is fantastic. From the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, 116th Air Control Squadron, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation to the 41st IBCT (the largest deployment since World War Two) you have all performed magnificently. The many individual deployments also continue to enhance the combat power of our active services and enhance the professional experience of the Oregon National Guard.

One thing I would like to emphasize is the type of equipment we are now receiving. We have been given a huge blessing in Oregon and need to ask ourselves about the accountability and sustainment of our new equipment. We are no longer getting surplus junk, we are now getting first

rate, state-of-the-art equipment. I expect every commander and senior NCO to inspect your motor pools, supply rooms and talk to your people in the maintenance facilities. Ask yourself, your soldiers and your airmen, "what are you doing to preserve this bounty for the future good of the Oregon Guard?"

I think one of the things that stood out this year is the continuing success we have with our deployments. Whether you

are Army or Air Guard, everything you've done to meet our requirements to get your people overseas and into the fight is fantastic. From the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, 116th Air Control Squadron, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation to the 41st IBCT (the largest deployment since World War Two) you have all performed magnificently. The many individual deployments also continue to enhance the combat power of our active services and enhance the professional experience of the Oregon National Guard.

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in Florida. You have proven that you can train the best pilots in the world, and then every new F-15 pilot will experience the pride and professionalism indicative of the Oregon National Guard. We will continue to seek upgrades to communications, air control and full spectrum capabilities to provide you with the necessary tools to excel in your mission.

The Combat Operations Group is doing an amazing job maintaining their strength and honing their unique critical skills. Their readiness is paramount to success in emergencies both at home and abroad. We will continue to pursue upgrades to your gear and equipment that are needed for your mission success.

I mentioned we are in the midst of the largest mobilization and deployment since World War II. I must tell you that things are not going to slow down next year. The 41st IBCT will return sooner than you think. We are already ramping up for their return, and we are preparing other organizations to move forward. We need to continue our efforts to take care of our soldiers, airmen and their families now more than ever. I know we have and will continue to show our professionalism in everything we do. We will successfully meet our state and federal missions. Always ready, always there!

Raymond F. Rees

'Fit to Fight' body and mind requires discipline, research, work



State Command
Chief Master Sgt.
Mark D. Russell,
Oregon Air
National Guard

I recently attended the Command Chief Orientation Course at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas with 11 other command chiefs from across the Air National Guard.

Lackland AFB is the gateway to the Air Force for all enlisted airmen. As I enter the most senior enlisted rank in the Oregon Air National Guard, I must always remember WHERE I came from and WHO I truly work for...our airmen. We should be proud of the airmen we are graduating today.

We had the privilege of spending the day with trainees and witnessing the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training Site better

known as BEAST, a coining ceremony and of course, graduation.

If you are unfamiliar with the current training program at Basic Military Training (BMT); let me give you a quick snapshot of what we witnessed. The training has moved from six weeks to eight-and-a-half weeks in duration. The trainees are issued functioning M-16's (although non-firing) in week one. They are immediately taught warrior skills and in every event our Air Force core values are illustrated and reinforced.

I observed trainees in week five of training who were randomly pulled from the ranks and asked to break down the M-16. The average time that it took the four trainees to break the weapon down was 38 seconds; the average reassembly time was 47 seconds ... it was amazing!

I ate lunch with several airmen and can tell you what you already know...today's airmen are motivated, focused and best of all, WILLING to learn and be the very best in everything they do. The BEAST, performed in week six, is a complete field exercise simulating a Forward Operating Base (FOB). They are certified in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear,

and high-yield explosive (CBRNE); first aid; entry control point (ECP); survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training just like all members of the operational Air Force and many of them have it memorized.

Each of them has an Airman's Manual and they are rapidly becoming subject matter experts on everything contained on those pages.

The coining ceremony I mentioned is the day before graduation where trainees are given the privilege to be called airman. To symbolize this event, they are presented the airman's coin and welcomed into our ranks. They recite the Airman's Creed from memory and are taught to live by the creed and to embrace the Air Force core values every minute of every day that they are an airman.

When was the last time your unit recited the Airman's Creed together? Remember, it may not be the culture you were indoctrinated into, but it is now very much a part of the Air Force and your new airmen.

The bottom line; remember where you came from, have faith in our airmen, and if you are in a leadership position, do one simple thing for them ... LEAD.

Guest Column: warrant officer mentorship provides path for Jr. enlisted

Below is the article on warrant officer mentorship by CW4 Jan Martin. I appreciate her taking the time to share both her thoughts and experiences. Next Month's topic will be on the Army Wide "Path to Honor" Campaign and Project Silver Shield.

Guest commentary by
CW4 Janet Martin

I began exploring the Warrant Officer Mentorship Program long before I really knew one existed. It was on my first deployment to Afghanistan back in 2005. The curiosity was driven by the seclusion of my assignment. Although I was very busy with the mission at hand, I felt isolated being the only Warrant Officer in the command. What to do?

While attending a Quartermaster Conference in Kuwait sometime into my deployment, I came across several of my peers from Warrant

Officer Basic and Advance Courses. We were all providing logistics support at many different echelons within the two major theaters of operation. We reminisced about lighter times in our careers, asked and answered many questions and swapped war stories. I soon realized we were mentoring at its most basic level, peer-to-peer. I took this network back to Afghanistan and had a new found sense of security through mentorship.

Shortly thereafter it was time to return to Oregon only to prepare for a return engagement, this time with the 41st IBCT. What a unique experience, being assigned to a task force. There were warrant officers of all branches; Army, Navy, Marines, Active, Guard and Reserve. Not to mention all the other nationalities assigned. We would chat in the dining facility, the gym, the motor pool, the "front" line, the "rear" line, even the flight line. The similarities



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

and differences were vast, but our commonality remained, we were the Subject Matter Experts (SME) and the command relied on us. These warrant officers all being very experienced, began implementing their great plans. We found ourselves bumping into road blocks, many inadvertently put in place by fellow warrant officers. What we lacked was communication, that

See MENTORSHIP on PAGE 5

NEWS

Oregon soldier wrestles Traumatic Brain Injury

Story by Kim L. Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. -- It's been just over five years since Spc. Jeremy Weir was dealt a life-changing injury. He was serving in Iraq with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, when several rocket propelled grenades exploded near him.

"We got ambushed by an element 20 times our size, there was only 23 of us," said Weir of Stayton, Ore. "I sustained a head injury about one hour into the firefight, but I didn't know I was hurt at the time."

Weir said he felt a large impact around his body when the blast occurred. He said he refused to be medevaced out and therefore was not treated for 18 hours following the blast. It would be months before he knew the full impact of that injury.

"I didn't realize that I had traumatic brain injury until I got home and had some testing done on me," said Weir.

Weir said he began suffering from severe migraines and slurred speech. He is not alone. A study conducted at Fort Lewis found mild traumatic brain injury in 15 to 25 percent of the soldiers deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Dr. Daniel Storzbach, a research Psychologist and head of Neuropsychology for the Portland VA Medical Center said that as of May 2009, about 5,000 OIF or OEF veterans have been diagnosed with TBI.

"A very large proportion - about one half of them have psychiatric problems," said Storzbach. "Those problems include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression or substance abuse, so a lot of the treatment has to do with those issues," he added. "It's not clear if depression is caused by TBI or if it is there along with it. The other kinds of symptoms are cognitive symptoms, so for those we have cognitive rehabilitation."

Weir also has a diagnosis of PTSD, and said it can be difficult to distinguish which condition is causing the symptoms. He attributes his headaches to TBI, but at-



Photo courtesy, Marines.mil

tributes his mood swings, depression, and nightmares to PTSD.

"I take pills for the headaches and they gave me a PDA for my memory problems," said Weir.

Treatment for TBI focuses on cognitive rehabilitation. According to Storzbach TBI survivors are taught to write down important tasks and given techniques to help them remember important aspects of their day to day living.

"They are hard to get to appointments because they forget them," said Storzbach. "Many of these folks are highly capable and used to having their brain work very efficiently and they take it for granted that they can do what they could do before."

Storzbach said treatment is evolving and clinicians are able to help correct deficits they never thought possible just a decade ago.

"When your brain is disrupted by brain injury you have a loss of connections between cells within the brain and you have a use it or lose it situation," said Storzbach. "Some of it can't be corrected but we are learning some if it can be reestablished. It was not too long ago that we thought once it was gone it was gone forever."

Bob Woodruff, a journalist with ABC

News is a living example of what treatment can do. He suffered a severe traumatic brain injury on Jan. 29, 2006 while reporting in Iraq. After being in a coma for 36 days he woke up unable to recognize even his two youngest children. But through intense cognitive therapy he has regained much of his brain function.

In an interview with Peter Johnson and USA Today Feb. 27, 2007 Woodruff discussed his recovery.

"You can see the change from then to now is significant, but there's still more to do," says Woodruff, who has gone from five or six days a week of therapy down to one. "Will I get to 100 percent?" Probably unlikely, but maybe if I get to somewhere in the 90s, that would be pretty damn good."

According to Storzbach some of the new treatments are going to group therapy where veterans get social support from others with similar problems. Bob Woodruff's recovery provides inspiration to others.

"Bob Woodruff's story is quite remarkable to have that amount of recovery is just a testament to our treatment and how far we've come," said Storzbach.

Weir remains in the Oregon National Guard.

SECAF highlights Guard contributions



Photo courtesy, Air Force News Agency

Secretary of the U. S. Air Force, Michael B. Donley.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
National Guard Bureau

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Today is appropriate for the opening ceremony of the 131st National Guard Association of the United States conference, since the National Guard is the original defender of the homeland, the secretary of the Air Force said September 11, 2009.

"You were the first responders to defend America's skies," said Michael Donley, referring to the fact that Air National Guard fighters flew patrols over the Pentagon within minutes after the 9/11 attacks. "Americans live their lives without fear, because of the steadfast commitment and sacrifice of our citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen."

He thanked the Guard members and their families for not just their sacrifices, but also for balancing their jobs in the National Guard with a civilian career.

"It takes a special human being to be able to do this," Donley said. "We could not do our work without you. We have shared many successes, and we have spilled blood together."

Donley said the success of the nation's military rests on keeping up with an uncertain enemy and an evolving conflict.

"Our success tomorrow depends on versatility—and this is exemplified by the National Guard," he said.

During a brief question and answer period, Donley addressed three key issues: recapitalization of the nation's aging fighter jets; the upcoming request for proposals from contractors who will build the next generation Air Force tanker aircraft; and the emphasis by the Department of Defense on cyber warfare, which is typically an Air Force role.

DoD will focus on production of 1,763 F-35 fighter jets for both the U.S. Air Force and nine other countries throughout the world, he said, adding that this worldwide distribution of the fifth-generation fighter will mimic that of the F-16 Falcon.

Donley also said the Air Force and the DoD have put together a strong request for proposals, which they will submit to aircraft manufacturers sometime later this year.

"We are going to be fair, and we are going forward with this. Watch this space closely," he told the audience.

On the Air Force's cyber-warfare program, Donley said there may be a 'pause' in the forward progression to launch a fully operational division within the Air Force, but the DoD understands the importance of this battle space.

However, members of the National Guard, both Army and Air Force with their real-world knowledge and experience, are integral to this fight, he said.

Innovative Readiness Training fosters goodwill in Oregon

Story and photo by Spc. Catelyn Poli,
Innovative Readiness Team

SALEM, Ore. -- For many years the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program has helped foster relationships between the National Guard and communities across Oregon through a variety of civil-military projects.

IRT receives requests from schools, cities, and non-profit organizations for engineer construction projects and other missions to improve their facilities and infrastructure. Each project primarily utilizes units and soldiers from throughout the 1249th Engineer Battalion or other military service branches to execute the mission.

The 2009 training year kicked off with earth-moving operations at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area near Florence. Troops received intensive training on heavy equipment like D-7 dozers and 613 scrapers to remove unwanted beach grass and widen the shoreline to create open beach and restore habitat for the Snowy Plover Shorebird, which is on the endangered species list. IRT soldiers and troops from the 224th Engineer Company worked through the winter months and cleared nearly one square kilometer of beach.

The summer project season began in June as the 224th Engineer Company conducted its annual training in Independence, Ore. developing over 60 acres for a public athletic complex and park. More than 30 soldiers trained on scrap-

ers, graders, rollers, and a variety of rental equipment.

Elsewhere IRT crews continued earth moving operations and constructed a 1200 foot long, 17 foot high concrete black retaining wall. Det. 1 of the 224th Engineer Company also completed an IRT mission in Toledo, Ore. by excavating a hillside and creating additional space for the Toledo Cemetery Association to expand the local cemetery.

The 234th Engineer Company's annual training consisted of two projects on the north coast for the Warrenton-Hammond School District and Tillamook High School. In Tillamook, two platoons learned to assemble a steel framed building which will serve as the school's new wrestling facility, and completed some interior carpentry work as well. Another platoon completed a 500 foot by 200 foot concrete pad outside the Warrenton School District bus maintenance barn training on a variety of carpentry and masonry skills, and project management.

In August, an IRT crew began work at Faulconer-Chapman School in Sheridan,



Soldiers of the 224th Engineer Company push sand up the beach using Caterpillar D7 Bulldozers at the Oregon Dunes Innovative Readiness Training Project site. This project was commissioned in order to remove non-native European Beach Grass planted nearly 70 to 80 years ago to prevent sand from blowing over roads. Now this grass threatens protected Western Snowy Plover bird species habitat.

Ore. training on grader operations and surveying techniques to improve drainage on the school's playground.

The final mission of the training year launched in early September in Malin, Ore. where seven IRT soldiers worked to spread material along the community's airfield to raise the level of the runway and improve drainage resulting in year-round use of the air strip.

Overall, it was a very successful training year where over one-hundred Oregon Guard members improve their technical skills while building goodwill and support for the National Guard across the state.

SPORTS

Oregon National Guard members run the Hood to Coast relay



Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Danielle Delint, of the 41st Brigade, runs the fourth leg of the Hood to Coast race near Zigzag, Ore., on Aug. 28. Delint and 11 other members of her team, "Dirty Dogs & Bodacious Babes", began their race around 11:30 a.m.

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. -- Two teams from the Oregon National Guard took part in the annual Hood to Coast Relay Race, which started at Timberline Lodge, on Mount Hood, Aug. 28.

Both teams were comprised of approximately 24 citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen. The Oregon Air National Guard team was named "Blue Thunder", and the Oregon Army National Guard team was named "Dirty Dogs & Bodacious Babes".

"I do this for the camaraderie and to support my teammates," said Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Craig J. Fery.

Fery, who is the commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron in Portland, Ore., began his leg of the race just before noon. He walked to the starting line as his

fellow airmen cheered him on.

About 30 minutes prior, Sgt. Maj. James Martichuski kicked off the day for the Oregon Army National Guard team. He said later his section of the race, which started at Timberline Lodge, and ended at Government Camp—a steep downhill distance of just over five miles—was relatively easy.

"What an awesome race, with awesome people," Martichuski said.

Sgt. 1st Class Austin Robbins, of HHC 1249th Engineer Battalion, who was scheduled to run the fifth leg of the race, said he loves long-distance running.

"I like to get out and represent my fellow Guardsmen," Robbins said. "I love doing this because it boosts my morale and boosts the morale of my fellow soldiers."

Just before the Oregon Guard members started their portion of the race, they learned of the deaths of two of their fellow citizen-soldiers in Iraq. Most

members shared Robbins' idea to dedicate their race to all their fellow Guard members serving overseas, but especially to their two fallen comrades.

"Today's news gives a major significance to what we're doing here," Robbins said.

He added that last year when he ran the Portland Marathon, he wrote on his shirt the names of those Oregon National Guard members who had been killed in action.

"Had I known the names of the soldiers this morning, I would have done the same thing today," Robbins added.

About 60 Oregon Army National Guard members who are stationed in Iraq are running a similar distanced race at their bases in Iraq. Among them is the brigade chaplain, and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, Col. Dan Hokanson. For security purposes, the soldiers ran inside the perimeter fence of their base (see page 5).

Soldiers from Oregon compete at Army-wide combatives tournament

Story and photos by
Spc. Kirby Rider,

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBUS, Ga. -- For the first time in many years the Oregon Army National Guard made the trek south to compete against active duty soldiers at the Modern Army Combatives Program tournament held at Fort Benning, Ga.

Six soldiers and one coach from the Oregon Army National Guard competed in the tournament, which serves to test the skill and endurance of the Army's best fighters to determine who will take the honors of having the best individual and team program.

"This is a great tournament," said Sgt. 1st Class Dave Hagen, team coach and Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) instructor at the Regional Training Institute in Monmouth, Ore. "The format the tournament is held in tests soldiers at different skill levels."

This year, more than 330 participants from 42 teams competed to determine who the Army's best MACP fighter is and which team's program is the most dominant on the mat.

This tournament is not completely about winning, explained Capt. Craig Young, Commander of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 197th



Above: Pfc. Kyle Stimpson, from the 162nd Engineer Company, 82nd Brigade, is declared the winner of his second match during the Annual Army Combatives Championship. The Army Combatives Championship brings the best Modern Army Combatives Program fighters together in a double-elimination tournament to determine the best individual and team program in the Army.

Right: Sgt. Mike Sixel (Top), from Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, passes his opponent's guard at the Annual Army Combatives Championship on Fort Benning, Ga. Sept. 19.

Infantry Brigade, which helps oversee the Army Combatives School on Fort Benning. "It helps define the warrior ethos and assists with closing and finishing the fight, it also brings soldiers together from different levels of skill sets," he added.

The Army Combatives Championship hosts seven classes ranging from flyweight, being the lightest participants, to heavy-weight. The championship uses a graduated



set of rules. As the participant advances in the competition the more advanced the fighting becomes.

This competition has natural safety protocols that are built-in depending on the skill level of the competitors, explained Hagen.

The first day begins with standard grappling, but as soldiers advance, they may begin to strike their opponent as a means to establish dominance and end the fight.

Although the competition may be seen as a way to earn bragging rights, many military leaders use this as an important training tool for soldiers preparing to deploy overseas to combat zones.

"There are hundreds of cases in Iraq and Afghanistan where a soldier will get into a grapple with a combative," said Maj. Gen. Michael Ferriter, commander of the U.S. Army Infantry Center. "This training helps a soldier finish the fight."

Because of the success MACP has achieved since its formal inception into Army training in 2005, both in garrison and over-seas, the program has become standard in Basic Combat Training and Mobilization Training. Most active-duty installations hold monthly tournaments as a morale booster for the troops and recently Oregon followed suit, holding its first tournament to determine who to send to this tournament.

If we can get a soldier to react properly to an attack while in training, he will be able to bring the fight to the enemy while deployed, said Matt Larsen, a former soldier and current director of the Modern Army Combative Program.

The program is designed to allevi-

ate fear of combat by putting soldiers up against physical threats that may be experienced while deployed, this serves to bolster confidence and ultimately mission completion. Larsen added that he believes the training helps bring soldiers home when they are faced with a life and death battle in a deployed location.

Although MACP is standard training for each soldier, most competitors who enter the Annual Army Combative Tournament have backgrounds in other fighting styles from wrestling to mixed-martial arts.

"I expected some strong competition and wrestlers with strong grappling skills," said Sgt. Joe Seeger, a fighter for the Oregon Army National Guard team, from 162nd Engineer Company, 82nd Brigade. "It was a great experience, we're very proud to be able to compete against fighters from every active duty post in the Army."

While most active duty posts have months to train together for these events, National Guard soldiers run into problems with training due to distances between each other and many National Guard soldiers hold jobs in the civilian job market. The Oregon team had about two weeks to train with each other before the competition, however local combative schools around Oregon have contributed by giving the competitors free memberships and training to help prepare for the tournament. There is a high level of competition at this tournament. There are even some champion mixed-martial arts fighters competing here, said Hagen. "We came with a very qualified team; I would put them up against anyone in a combat zone and feel comfortable," he added.



Photo by Guy Britnell, Recruiting and Retention Command

Oregon's top recruiter honored at event

Oregon Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Commander, Col. Alaine C. Encabo and State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley present the Recruiter of the Year and Chief's 54 Award to Staff Sgt. Kristi L. Bryant at the command's annual conference in Central Oregon, Sept. 30, 2009. Bryant earned honors as the state's top recruiter by achieving 285 percent of her assigned number of accessions and shipping 97 percent of her enlistments to basic training. Later Bryant was named the Regional Recruiting Area Command VI Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year. The region consists of states Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. She will now go forward for the ORNG to compete at the national level.

NEWS

Oregon soldiers pave way for VIP visit

Story by
1st Sgt. Gavin L. McIlvenna,
Task Force Stetson, Iraq
C/1-82 Cavalry

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq -- To the world it looked as if the Vice Presidential visit to Baghdad, Iraq on Sept. 17, 2009 was a "spur of the moment" surprise. Vice President Joseph Biden, who serves as the White House's "high point of contact" for Iraq during the drawdown of forces, continues to play an active role during his "weekly check-in" with Iraqi senior officials. To the citizen-soldiers of the Klamath Falls, Ore. based Charlie Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Camp Victory it was the culmination of over ten days of detailed planning.

Charlie Troop, part of Task Force Stetson, deployed in May 2009 with the entire brigade and was assigned to the Multi-National Forces-Iraq Joint Visitors Bureau (JVB). The troop provides security, transportation, and lodging to distinguished visitors, both military and civilian, visiting the Iraq Theater of Operations. This ensures that DVs may have an uninterrupted flow of ideas and exchange of information relevant to the situation in Iraq. Since arrival to Iraq in July the troop has conducted over 210 missions from the Victory Base Complex, 110 missions in the International Zone, flown over 4,100 miles, driven over 13,000 miles, and provided lodging to over 839 distinguished visitors to include the vice president, secretary of defense, General David Petraeus, country musician Mark Chestnut, actor Joe Pantoliano, and the Spin Doctors music group.

Capt. Peter Wood, the troop commander, orchestrated the detailed unit level planning with the United States Secret Service special agents who arrived in advance of the vice president.

"The planning and coordination involved in these types of missions are extremely important to the overall success and execution of the mission," he said.

Keeping with the 82nd Cavalry's motto "Scouts Out", the troop spent countless hours conducting advance reconnaissance



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Phillip Adam Turner

Vice President Joe Biden wishes troops well as he works his way around the room making sure to speak with every individual inside the Pegasus Dining Facility, Camp Liberty, Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 17.

of possible venues, primary and alternate motorcade routes, and detailed cordon security rehearsals.

A quick movement to the International Zone in central Baghdad after arriving at Sather Air Base, was the first hurdle the troop had to plan for.

"Logistically, a visit like this is very demanding," said Maj. Michael Burghardt who is the troop senior personal security officer. "The large number of personnel, equipment and baggage that have to be moved in synchronization with the tight schedule that included several locations made the normal planning process just that much more difficult," he added.

During the visit Burghardt, of Clatskanie, Ore. worked directly with the Vice President's military aide and coordinated asset requirements through Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the troop. This involved developing the logistical synch matrix to ensure seamless movement of personnel, baggage and equipment to and from the Embassy and JVB Hotel. In addition, Burghardt assisted with the development of a contingency plan for inclement weather and acted as the

communication conduit between the vice president's civilian staff and JVB for specific requests.

Staff Sgt. Jesse Ginestar, from Klamath Falls, was the NCOIC of the motorcade portion of the operation. While the unit has been conducting small motorcade operations in Baghdad for months, this one involved over 25 different vehicles.

"I was very pleased as to how involved the secret service kept my element in the motorcade operation of moving the vice president," said Ginestar who was provided with a unique opportunity working shoulder to shoulder with the United States Secret Service. "The secret service agents kept me intimately involved throughout the planning process and the execution of the mission," he added.

While the unit provides security at the JVB hotel for all of their guests, this mission would require more detail.

With the unit first sergeant as the sergeant of the guard, two squads provided security on a continual basis for over 48-hours and met all of the secret service requirements for a dignitary of the vice president's stature.

Soldiers around the world run Hood to Coast

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq -- When Lt. Col. Jeff Mark ran the 27th annual Hood to Coast Relay last year with team 360 Goes 180, he said he did not know it could be the beginning of a tradition that highlights the sacrifices of the young men and women from the National Guard and armed forces Reserves.

Mark ran the race in Iraq and communicated with his team via satellite phone to determine when to get the relay "hand offs" from his teammates. He said he thought it would be a great way to have a personal connection with home during a deployment to a combat zone.

The race is one of the largest in the world, stretching 197 miles from Mount Hood to the Oregon coast with 12,000 runners and 3,500 volunteers. The relay teams are comprised of 12 members running three legs each, two four-mile legs and a seven mile leg.

This year, the event helped inspire more than 60 soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oregon National Guard to run in concert with 3,500 Oregonians in multiple locations across Iraq and in Colorado, Aug. 29.

Mark is once again a member of the Hood to Coast Relay team 360 Goes 180 and is joined by Maj. Christopher Reese from Albany, Ore., who is the official 360 Goes 180 team member running in Iraq this year.



Photo by Spc. Anita Vandermolen

Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat team run past the Ziggurat of Ur during a Hood to Coast simulation at Camp Adder, Iraq, Aug. 29. Over 60 members ran in various locations in Iraq, Colorado and Oregon in support of Maj. Christopher Reese who ran his legs while communicating with his team "360 Goes 180" via satellite phone from Oregon.

"This race has once again shown me that Oregonians are not only mentally and physically capable to tackle any task, anywhere, anytime, but that soldiers do this business for mainly one reason, because they don't want to let the guy or girl on their left and right down," Reese said.

The soldiers gathered for their first four-mile leg at 4:30 a.m., ran the second four-mile leg in 120 degree heat, and the final seven-mile leg in the middle of the night.

First Sgt. Michael Wentworth from Seaside, Ore., who ran the Hood to Coast Relay in Iraq at age 54, said this is a great way for soldiers to build camaraderie and fitness. "You just can't handle the environmental

stresses unless you have some sort of physical fitness," he said.

Lt. Col. Steve Beach from Newberg, Ore., who has run 14 Hood to Coast Relay races, said even at night in Iraq, it is still hotter than he likes it to be when he runs. "We did this to show we can do it, and it makes it a lot better when you have other soldiers with you working as a team," Beach said.

Although Mark did not know he was creating a tradition when he ran the relay last year, he said he is proud of the soldiers who ran this year. He said he will continue to dedicate himself to making the event a tradition as long as servicemembers are deployed.

Mentorship bolsters warrant officer ranks

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

peer-to-peer mentorship I discovered in my first deployment.

So with the blessing of command we planned, structured and implemented a weekly meeting for Task Force Warrant Officer Professional Development. Every Tuesday evening we came together as our schedules allowed and shared, aired, compared and cared. Through the strength of our united voice, we were heard across Afghanistan. This was the birth of the Phoenix Warrant Officer Mentorship Program. We mentored within our peer group and laid a foundation for mentorship across the Task Force.

We found this deployment to be a great opportunity in assisting our enlisted soldiers with their future aspirations and the possibility of becoming warrant officers themselves. We created and distributed informational CD's with application packets for Active, Reserve and Guard. Each warrant handed out business cards identifying them as WO Mentors. And as each prospective candidate began the application process they had a personal mentor guiding them through ASVAB and CLEP testing, flight physicals, and security clearance applications; anywhere there was a stumbling block we were there to help.

One of those aspects is the E4 to W4 Mentorship Program. We are in the early planning stages of developing a plan that will span the career of a soldier. Basically what this means is establishing a 10 year plan for our successors. This will keep Oregon ahead of the pack for warrant strength and ensure we always have well qualified SMEs sustaining the missions at hand. We are looking closely at the junior enlisted in Oregon with the future potential to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of senior warrant positions. My mentor has done a phenomenal job at preparing the pathway in the logistics world. We now have a two-tier warrant officer assignment in the Property Book Offices where a junior warrant officer is already being mentored for their future role as the Brigade PBO. The objective of this mentorship process is to build a cohesive team and ensure each soldier is properly prepared for the next step in their logistics career. Of course this would require these soldiers be considered for promotion in a straight line channel whether it is logistics, maintenance, administration or any of the other warrant officer career paths available.

There are many great NCO's that have a desire to climb the NCO ladder and become our next great command sergeant major and we have an exceptional process in place to take care of them. But we would propose a straight line promotion system to prepare our junior NCO's to be those subject matter experts for future consideration as warrant officers. We still have many aspects to address and work out; but we will continue mentoring our soldiers E4 to W4.

If you visit the Command Chief Warrant Officers (CCWO) website on Oregon Knowledge Online, you will see we go the extra mile for our warrant officers, past present and future. If you have a desire to learn more about the elite world of the Oregon Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps please go to our website and check out the mentorship program. If you have what it takes, we have a Mentor for you.

NEWS

Suicide prevention remains key priority

When a servicemember may be at risk of committing suicide

Story courtesy,
Military OneSource

One of the most difficult challenges you may face as a supervisor or military leader is knowing what to do if one of your servicemembers is at risk of committing suicide. Don't ignore the warning signs. If one of your servicemembers appears to be at risk of suicide, it is vital to get help immediately. Because suicide takes a heavy toll on unit readiness, preventing suicide is a high priority. Everyone -- from leaders to fellow servicemembers and friends -- must help the military member get the help he or she needs.

Most suicides and suicide attempts are reactions to intense feelings of:

Loneliness - is an emotional state in which a person experiences powerful feelings of emptiness and isolation.

Loneliness is more than just the feeling of wanting company or wanting to do something with another person.

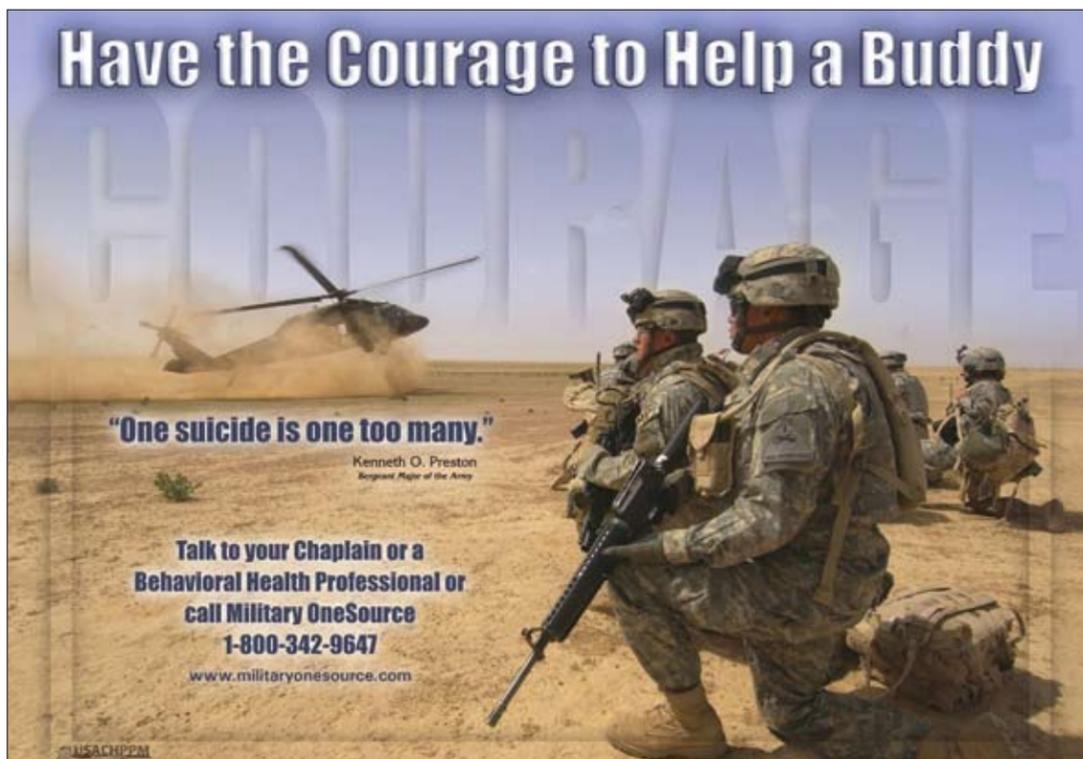
Loneliness is a feeling of being cut off, disconnected from the world, and alienated from other people.

Worthlessness - is an emotional state in which a person feels low, and they lack any feelings of being valued by others.

Hopelessness - is a spiritual/relational issue. It often stems from feeling disconnected from a higher power or other people. Connection with a higher power and other people is a key to helping individuals to withstand grief and loss. This connection allows individuals to rebound from most severe disappointments in life.

Helplessness - is a condition or event where the Soldier thinks that they have no control over their situation and whatever they do is futile such as repeated failures, receipt of a "Dear John or Dear Joan" letter, etc.

Guilt - is a primary emotion



Graphic Illustration courtesy, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

experienced by people who believe that they have done something wrong.

Depression:

Depression is considered when one of the following two elements is present for a period of at least two weeks: depressed mood or inability to experience life pleasures.

If one of these elements is identified, depression is diagnosed when five symptoms from the list below are presented over a two-week period.

Feelings of overwhelming sadness or fear, or the seeming inability to feel emotion (emptiness).

A decrease in the amount of interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, daily activities.

Changing appetite and marked weight gain or loss. Disturbed sleep patterns, such as insomnia, loss of REM sleep, or excessive sleep (Hypersomnia).

Psychomotor agitation or retardation nearly every day.

Fatigue, mental or physical, also loss of energy.

Intense feelings of guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, worth-

lessness, isolation/loneliness and/or anxiety.

Trouble concentrating, keeping focus or making decisions or a generalized slowing and memory difficulties.

Recurrent thoughts of death (not just fear of dying), desire to just "lay down and die" or "stop breathing," recurrent suicidal ideation without a specific plan, or a suicide attempt or a specific plan for committing suicide.

Feeling or fear of being abandoned by those close to the individual.

For some individuals, a combination of many factors may cause depression. For others, a single factor may trigger the illness. Depression often is related to the following:

Imbalance of brain chemicals called neurotransmitters

- Changes in these brain chemicals may cause or contribute to clinical depression.

Negative thinking patterns

- People who are pessimistic, have low self-esteem, worry excessively, or feel they have little control over life events are more likely to develop clinical

depression.

Family history of depression

- A genetic history of clinical depression can increase one's risk for developing the illness. But depression also occurs in people who have had no family members with depression.

Difficult life events - Events such as the death of a loved one, divorce, financial strains, history of trauma, moving to a new location or significant loss can contribute to the onset of clinical depression.

Frequent and excessive alcohol consumption - Drinking large amounts of alcohol on a regular basis can sometimes lead to clinical depression. Excessive alcohol consumption is also sometimes a symptom of depression.

Suicidal Risk Highest When:

The person sees no way out and fears things may get worse.

The predominant emotions are hopelessness and helplessness.

Thinking is constricted with a tendency to perceive his or her situation as all bad.

Judgment is impaired by use of alcohol or other substances.

TRICARE increases providers for Oregon military

Story courtesy,
TriWest Healthcare
Alliance

SALEM, Ore. -- Oregon is one of the few states in the nation that does not have a military installation

offering full-service medical facilities. Also, a good portion of Oregon's National Guard members and military retirees live in rural areas with small populations and even smaller numbers of medical providers and facilities.

Those two factors directly impact the way the state's National Guard members, military retirees and their families access health care through their military healthcare entitlement program, TRICARE.

In Oregon, the promise of TRICARE is delivered almost entirely by private-sector providers of care.

"The depth of access to care provided by doctors and other healthcare professionals serving active duty and retired military and their families is deeper than many Oregonians probably know," said George Cargill, TriWest Healthcare Alliance market vice president responsible for serving Oregon.

"That's because there are multiple avenues available for National Guard and military retirees and their eligible family members to receive care," he said.

Most TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries in Oregon live in TRICARE Prime Service Areas -- areas designated by the Department of Defense as requiring a robust network of healthcare professional and services -- areas that include cities like Portland, Salem, Eugene and Medford along the I-5 corridor, and in an around Coos Bay and Astoria.

The number of providers who have agreed to contract with TRICARE to become network

most claims within 15 days of receipt and virtually all claims within 30 days -- considerably faster than many civilian health care plans.

In situations where TRICARE beneficiaries are unable to find TRICARE network providers who are willing to provide their care, they are also able to see non-network and non-contracted providers, too.

Providers who are not in the TRICARE provider network, who are certified by TRICARE (all Medicare-certified providers are TRICARE-certified providers), and some providers who once were in the provider network and are still certified, can and do see TRICARE patients.

"It's this ability to see providers either in the TRICARE network or out of the network -- as long as those providers accept TRICARE reimbursement -- that allows for greater flexibility in identifying providers who will see those who serve and their families," said Cargill.

TRICARE-eligible patients are encouraged to either contact providers listed on TriWest's network provider directory at www.triwest.com, contact one of TriWest's Contact Centers (888-TRIWEST) or, to reach out to providers not on the TRICARE network list to confirm if the provider does accept TRICARE reimbursement and has appointments available.

"The number of providers ... has grown 52 percent in fewer than 4 ½ years."

-TriWest Healthcare Alliance

contracted providers has grown 52 percent in fewer than 4 ½ years - the result of the combined efforts of the Oregon Medical Association, the Oregon National Guard, the governor's office and TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers TRICARE in Oregon and 20 other western states.

Providers are joining the network to support Oregon's military families and they are promptly paid for their services, Cargill said. TRICARE processes more than 90 percent of

Suicide Prevention Resources

-Oregon National Guard
Post Deployment
Assistance
1-888-688-2264
www.ornng-vet.org

- Suicide prevention
hotline: 1-800-560-5535

-The National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

-The American
Foundation for Suicide
Prevention
1-888-333-AFSP
www.afsp.org

-The American
Association of
Suicidology
1-202-237-2280
www.suicidology.org

-The National Hopeline
Network
1-800-SUICIDE
www.hopeline.com

- VA Hospital,
Portland, Ore.:
1-800-949-1004

- VA Hospital,
Walla Walla, Wash.:
1-888-687-8863

- VA Hospital,
Boise, Idaho:
208-422-1000

- VA Hospital,
Roseburg, Ore.:
541-440-1000

- VA Hospital,
White City, Ore.:
541-826-2111
ext. 3798

- Oregon Department
of Veterans Affairs:
1-800-828-8801

- Veterans
Administration:
Suicide Hotline
1-800-273-TALK
www.va.gov

- Military One
Source: www.militaryonesource.com
or: 1-800-342-9647

- Family Readiness
Program:
1-877-881-5181
503-584-3543
or: 503-584-2393

- TriCare (TriWest):
1-888-874-9378
www.triwest.com

- Oregon Military
Department:
1-800-452-7500
503-584-3980

NEWS

AZUWUR

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon is National leader in providing veterans benefits

Story Courtesy,
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released its 2008 state rankings for benefits, and Oregon is ranked first in the nation in veteran pension benefits and sixth in the nation for veteran disability compensation benefits.

Oregon's veterans receive an average monthly pension payment of \$1,017. This is \$266 more than the national average. Additionally, Oregon veterans receive an average of \$1,016 per month in service-connected disability compensation, or \$161 more than the national average.

The VA rankings are based on the average monthly benefit amount for service-connected disability compensation and non-service connected pension.

"I am very proud of the work done by our county veterans service officers, our state veterans service officers and our national service officer in providing excellent service to Oregon veterans," said Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Director Jim Willis.

"The partnership we have is obviously one of the best in the nation because we focus on our mission of serving veterans, their survivors and dependents."

Oregon has consistently been ranked

among the top 10 states providing veterans benefits. In 2007, Oregon ranked third in pension and sixth in compensation benefits.

For more information please call the ODVA at 503-373-2386.

VA emergency education benefit payments available

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki today announced further outreach to veteran-students eligible for a special emergency payment of their education benefits. Veterans can now apply online beginning Oct. 2. Veteran-students can also request courtesy transportation to VA regional benefits offices.

"Our veterans went the extra mile for their country," Shinseki said. "One of our top priorities in transforming VA is to be, first and foremost, the advocate for veterans."

Previously Shinseki announced that Oct. 2, VA's 57 regional benefits offices began providing on-the-spot emergency payments up to \$3,000 to students who have applied for their education benefits but who have not yet received a government payment.

Citing the distance many veterans would have to travel to apply in person at a VA benefits office, Shinseki announced veterans can also apply online at www.va.gov, after Oct. 2. The online applica-

tion will guide veterans through the process to supply needed information. Shinseki noted that online applicants will receive their emergency payments through the mail after processing.

"VA is adapting to meet the financial needs of our veteran-students who are on campus," Shinseki said. "They should be focusing on their studies, not worrying about financial

difficulties."

Students without their own transportation can also request free van service, provided by volunteers, to carry them to the nearest benefits office. To obtain this service, veterans would have to call their nearest VA medical center and ask for the "Volunteer Transportation Coordinator." Transportation will be on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis. Veterans can find a map and list of medical centers at www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_fish.asp?dnum=1

Whether traveling by personal vehicle or volunteer van, VA officials suggest students check their mail boxes and banking accounts before leaving home, since some Veterans will find their checks have already arrived. VA would like to recognize the volunteers and veterans service organizations for partnering with the department to ensure that veterans' needs are met.

The emergency checks are an advance on each student's education benefits, and the amount will be deducted from future benefits payments.

Checks will be written at the regional offices for veterans who bring a photo ID and evidence of their enrollment.

VA officials emphasize that \$3,000 is the maximum payment, with many veterans receiving smaller payments based upon their likely monthly education benefits.

Nearing retirement? Important prep info.

SALEM, Ore. -- If you are a current Oregon Guardsman 58 years of age or older, you are nearing the age you can start to draw your military retirement.

Soldiers and airmen over the age of 58 and their spouses should attend a pre-retirement briefing and receive a copy of the Pre-Retirement Counseling Guide. Request your pre-retirement briefing and Guide from your unit of assignment.

To receive your retired pay you must apply in writing. Air Guard members should contact your Commander's support Staff (CSS) or Force Support Squadron (FSS), Army Guard members should contact the RPAM NCO located in Room 108 of the Oregon Military Department.

Another place to get information and assistance on your retirement is the Retiree Service Office located in Room 243 of the Anderson Readiness Center. This office is open each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The volunteers in this office can answer many questions relating to your retirement or military benefits. Feel free to give them a call at 503-584-2891.

You can also get information from the Retiree Web site at: www.orngretirees.info/

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 p.m.

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

E-mail/ Web:
ORRSO@or.ngb.army.mil
www.orngretirees.info/

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

The 41st Infantry Division Association reunion visits historic vessel

Commentary by Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel,
OR 150 Project Coordinator

VANCOUVER, Wash. -- They came with walkers, canes and wheelchairs. Their wives, children and grandchildren saw them get younger with every step they took toward the reunion check in. These are heroes that have lived to tell the story of those that didn't get the chance to tell their own story. The 41st Infantry Division, one of only four National Guard divisions that were activated prior to Japan attacking Pearl Harbor, had its 60th reunion at the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, Wash., Aug. 27-31, 2009.

Over 40 veterans and their family members met at the hotel to remember times past. A very special treat was in store when the Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum generously offered the 41sters and their families free rides aboard a DUKW, a combination boat and car, to visit the USS LCI 713, an amphibious landing craft used in landing the 41st at Zamboanga in the Philippine islands.

"It is so nice to have the reunion close to home," said Tom Lattanzi, a 41st veteran who was born in the Philippines and really wanted to get back there with the 41st, but was unable to due to being shot not once but on two separate occasions. "It was great to see who is here. It is important to remember all my acquaintances. Everyone here is a hero."

Bud Lewis, a friend of Lattanzi's, a fellow 41ster and recently elected President of the 41st Infantry Division Association this weekend said, "I love these reunions. I get to relive old memories and to recapture old friendships that I had 50-60 years ago. As I get older I find out friends are the best things to have. These friends were forged in battle and the horror of that war and are precious like a jewel in a crown, but as time goes by they slip away."

As the 41st Infantry Brigade Honor Guard brought in the colors at the beginning of the Saturday night banquet, shaky hands were brought up to render a salute. The young soldiers of the 41st Brigade are proud to be part of the heroic history that these veterans continued through WWII, and that their fellow soldiers continue even now with 41st's largest deploy-

ment since WWII to Iraq.

Edward Bartlien, President of the 41st Infantry Division Association and part of 41st Signal during WWII said, "41st has a proud history. During WWII we were the first division deployed overseas and were the longest serving overseas division with service from March 1942 through December 1945, and we fought in more campaigns. We received a Presidential citation, and we had at the time the longest continuous combat record of 76 days with 26 days on only very limited C rations." Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte, the 41st Infantry Brigade Commander (rear) addressed the assembled veterans saying, "Every person in this room has sacrificed.

I wouldn't be here today without your sacrifices. You did this country great, and I applaud you. This room is filled with heroes both past and present. I went to Iraq because I love my country. I found out that the Iraqis are good people and like everyone are looking for safety for themselves and their families. I already knew, but it was proven that American soldiers never quit. They do their job. You are this nation's greatest generation,



Below: The LCI (L) 713 was originally built at the Lawley Shipyards in Neponset, Mass. and was commissioned Sept. 18, 1944. She participated on two combat landings in Mindanao and Borneo before the end of World War II. From then on until December 1945 she transported troops around the Philippines. **Left:** The LCI 713 is currently moored at the Red Lion 'Thunderbird' Dock west of the I-5 bridge at Hayden Island along Columbia River in Portland. The 713 is open to the public Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Photos courtesy, Amphibious Forces Memorial Museum



NEWS

Sentry Displacement draws to a close, 173rd returns from Idaho

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

a hitch, it's no different than home just a different location."

Considering the magnitude of the move, which in the words of the previous deployment project officer for Sentry Displacement, Maj. Gregory Johnson, took "50 trucks worth of equipment, not to mention all the people," it is a remarkable feat.

Edwards credits the 173rd FW for astute planning and logistics and the 124th Wing for providing excellent support.

"When I think about this whole deployment we're seeing the culmination of a great plan, a great host and great people coming together to make it work-- that's what we've seen thus far," said Edwards.

Among the many elements that have helped make the trip a success, the location at Gowen provides student pilots access to the normal flying ranges as well as to range space used principally by Mountain Home Air Force Base. In addition, the airfield is able to accommodate the flight windows needed for effective F-15 training, which according to Edwards is a limiting factor for many Guard bases.

"I think it's been a win-win for both of us with Guard Bureau picking up the funding for those facilities while [the 173rd] is here," said 124th Wing Commander Col. James R. Compton, which helps the Idaho Air National Guard span the interim as they shut down their C-130 mission which was closed in April under the Base Realignment and Closer program.



"I think everybody on the installation is enjoying seeing [the 173rd] guys here, the patterns you're flying and the visibility you bring to the base."

One member of the Idaho Air National Guard who has worked most closely with the visiting Oregonians is building custodian Senior Master Sgt. Joe Stork of the 124th Wing.

"When the 173rd came in here they have been very gracious guests right from the first day of advance planning through this whole deployment, as good as any guests we've had," he said.

The aircraft are scheduled to begin returning to Kingsley Field Nov. 3 with the remaining personnel retuning to Klamath Falls by Nov. 12.

"The past seven months have been a huge effort for the wing and everyone has done a tremendous job," said Col. James Miller the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander. "We were very fortunate to have the 124th Wing host us over in Boise, but we are looking forward to being back in Klamath Falls. It will be great to have the wing back in one place."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department

Above: Tech. Sgt. Joshua Fuhrer, a structural maintenance troop, works to replace a section at the base of the vertical surface of the right tail of a Kingsley Field F-15 in a maintenance hangar provided by the 124th Wing. After removing the old section he drills and rivets a new piece in place. **Left:** Often the spaces he must inspect are too tight to peer into without the help of a mirror tool, similar to what a dentist uses to view a patient's teeth. Here his reflection is captured by his mirror tool as he drills a new hole using an air-powered drill. Fuhrer arrived at Gowen Field, Idaho at the end of August and will remain until the wing packs up and returns to Klamath Falls in early November.

Portland Air Base members deployed to Sather AB, Iraq



Chief Master Sgt. Donna Kirkpatrick (center) is the 447th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron Superintendent, Chief Enlisted Manager, and PERSCO Team Chief. Master Sgt. Randall Schumacher (left) and Tech. Sgt. Randy Johnson are Medics assigned to the 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron.

**Letter and photo courtesy,
Chief Master Sgt.
Donna Kirkpatrick
142nd Fighter Wing**

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq--

As an Expeditionary Force Support Squadron superintendent I manage 29 personnel, from 8 different bases. They are a mixture of active duty and Air National Guard.

My team and I manage the DFAC (dining facility) which serves 40,000 meals or more weekly, lodging which beds down our deployed personnel and transients, the fitness tent which manages all equipment and fitness activities, the recreation tent which is the hub of our MWR activities which includes the movie tent, and last but not least PERSCO (Personnel Support for Contingency Operations) which provides the 447th Air Expeditionary Group, the Air Force Forces Staff, Manpower and Personnel, and U.S. Air Forces Central Command,

Manpower and Personnel, 100 percent accountability!

As PERSCO Team Chief, my team and I manage 100 percent accountability for Sather Air Base and for 14 other FOBs (forward operating bases), casualty reporting, emergency leaves, deployment waivers (early/delayed reporting, grade/skill level, extension, etc.), Enlisted Performance Report/Officer Performance Report tracking for 365-day deployers, management/coordination of unfilled ULNs, create and process Authorization Change Requests changing manning and line remarks, and location specific Reporting Instruction updates.

We also provide limited personnel services such as reenlistments/extensions, promotion release notifications, and assisting with any other personnel matters.

The EFSS services over 750 personnel assigned to Sather and over 500 tenant unit and FOB personnel.

DC Conference may signal changes in Oregon ANG

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logistics support were scrutinized for existing shortcomings and gaps, which were addressed during a number of sessions throughout the week.

One area of concern for Oregon is the heavy reliance on the Oregon Army National Guard for airlift capability. With the increasing operations tempo for Oregon Army National Guard assets like the CH-47 Chinook and C-23 Sherpa aircraft, the Oregon Air Guard lacks the ability to move large amounts of cargo and equipment on its own, Prunk said. "We don't have a lot of airlift capability available in the Air Guard that would be able to help or supplement the Army during emergencies," he added.

Prunk's team also identified interoperability of communications across Oregon. Due to the size of the state, and geographical challenges, such as the mountain ranges and the high desert, troops may have trouble communicating over vast distances.

Prunk cited the ORARNG's existing Joint Information Site Communications Capability, and suggested another JISCC system as a solution to this problem.

"We definitely have a need for a second system," Prunk said.

A third area of concern is the ability to move heavy equipment around at either of the two fighter wings in Oregon. Prunk said after the Air Force Reserve closed the 939th Air Refueling Squadron at the Portland Air Guard Base, the wing lost the ability to process large cargo aircraft like the C-5, C-17 and C-130.

Having that ground equipment is important should a regional disaster occur, "We have great ramp space and great logistics people," Prunk said. "(But) we just don't have the equipment to support that sort of large-scale operation."

Prunk said the Oregon Air Guard does have the skills and ability to support the Air Force's



Stock photo by Spc. Michael Bley, 115th MPAD

Domestic operations may include fighting forest fires in concert with the U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and other agencies. Last year, Pfc. Andrea McKellen and other selected soldiers and airmen took part in training geared to make that cooperation possible, shown here.

newest missions, cyber warfare. But Oregon's citizen-airmen still need adequate training and equipment in order to fulfill this mission effectively, he said. He hopes results from the DOERs conference will help convince military and government leadership to locate one of 20 proposed FEMA cyber threat response teams in Oregon.

"I think we not only have the talent, but the ability to recruit from the cyber expertise in the area, so I'm absolutely convinced we'd be able to do a very good job," Prunk said. "I think it would make a great future mission for Oregon."

Any plan for the Oregon Air Guard will be implemented in concert with ORARNG leadership, and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, with oversight from Oregon's governor, Prunk said.

The western region includes FEMA Region 9 and 10, which encompasses states: Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, and the territory of Guam. It covers eight time zones and has unique natural challenges, such as, fires, tsunamis, and volcanoes, he said.

Other regions include Central, Midwest, Atlantic and the Northeast Region which includes the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Some of the challenges in those regions range from floods and fires to ice storms and hurricanes.