Tiger Balm: Oregon Soldiers train with Singapore, Hawaii counterparts during annual bilateral exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

WAIMANALO, Hawaii (July 20, 2012) — Outfitted in traditional Hawaiian clothing, local cultural representatives chanted and sounded a ceremonial conch shell to signify the opening of the training exercise, Tiger Balm 2012.

Tiger Balm is a bilateral training exercise between the Singapore Armed Forces and the U.S. military that covers offensive, defensive, stability and sustainment operations.

The exercise was designed to help foster professional military relations between the two countries and to increase strategic interoperability.

The Tiger Balm exercise has been held in multiple locations in the United States and Singapore, and is the longest-running bilateral training exercise in Singapore Armed Forces history, according to Col. Lee Ngan Sang, Chief of Staff, 3rd Division Singapore Armed Forces.

Participating in the exercise were members from the Oregon National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard, the Washington National Guard and the Singapore Armed Forces.

"This is a bittersweet time for the Oregon National Guard. This will be our last Tiger Balm after 10 years," said Col. William J. Prendergast, commander of... See TIGER BALM on Page 8
Oregon National Guard continues to demonstrate that when we are needed, we are there.

This summer, we mobilized three Oregon National Guard Blackhawk aircraft and approximately 30 personnel to Lakeview, Ore., to assist with containing the Black Butte fire,.mastered by the Oregon National Guard.

The 3670th Maintenance Company assisted city and county officials in several communities along the Oregon Coast with equipment repair and generator maintenance to ensure preparedness for natural disasters and emergencies.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management coordinated with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other state agencies to remove debris up a large dock that washed up on Agate Beach, in Newport Ore., this summer as a result of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As part of the Governor’s Task Force on Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris, OME will continue to monitor the coastlines as the changing winter tides bring a possible increase in Japanese tsunami debris.

The Security Forces Squadron from one of their Airmen, Maj. Cody Pemberton, was awarded the Bronze Star for designing and executing a key opening operation. The 173rd Fighter Wing also trained nearly 70 pilots this fiscal year, twice the amount of training received in previous years. It took outstanding commitment and dedication from everyone at Kingsley Field to double the training this year.

At the 142nd Fighter Wing, negotiations on a lease agreement with the Port of Portland are nearly complete. This agreement, which will enable long-term capital planning and ensure key infrastructure needs are met to continue our Aeropace Control Alert mission at the Portland Air Base well into the future.

With the active component now providing PME prior to promotions, schools quotas are at a premium. Units need to promptly work with the state schools manager to see if another ORARNG Soldier can utilize the school seat so we won’t lose the seat. Repeated instances of not filling seats will result in ORARNG and the National Guard losing precious flight time.

I want to commend all of you for your hard work and performance during our training exercises this past year. We are proud of this achievement and wish our fellow Oregonian in this new endeavor.

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U.S. Senate confirms next Chief and Vice Chief of National Guard

WASHINGTON, D.C. (7/26/12) – The U.S. Senate confirmed Army Lt. Gen. Frank Grass to be the next chief of the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Lengyel to be vice chief, July 26. Grass, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general and Lengyel will add his third star with his promotion to lieutenant general.

The action of the Senate followed Grass’ July 16 hearing in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Grass told the committee the National Guard is an operational force at a historic peak of readiness, its ranks filled with seasoned Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, and a critical partner to the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

You’re National Guard, Grass – deputy commander for operations, National Guard Bureau and vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Command – told senators, is not only capable and rapidly deployable than ever before in our nation’s history and also ready to respond to domestic incidents in the territories and the District of Columbia.

The past decade,” he said, “has also demonstrated the transformation of the National Guard as a modern and important military reserve force and an operational force at a historic peak of readiness, its ranks filled with seasoned Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, and a critical partner to the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

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As chief of National Guard Bureau, Grass told senators, “I will work to ensure the capabilities gained since 9/11 are not lost and the investment not squandered.”

As the channel of communications to the adjutants general of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, Grass will also partner with Congress, the Army and the Air Force to ensure the Guard’s readiness and availability, he said.

“To the men and women and families of the Army and the Air National Guard … you can know that I will be your strongest advocate,” Grass said.

Asked about the chief’s role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Grass said, “As chief of the Joint Chiefs, I will definitely have to bring forward the adjutants generals’ concerns, and governors’ concerns, collectively to the national level and to the Secretary of Homeland Security. … I’d also have to be able to balance that with the mission and deployment, and that’s one of the primary reasons why we get to be a critical part of the national conversation.”

Grass told senators he is an advocate of the National Guard’s 20-year-old, Oregon Citizen-Soldier Mentorship Program, which he was heavily involved to during his tenure as director, mobilization and Readiness, at U.S. European Command and at other points in his career.

“Protecting a very small amount of money, it’s been a tremendous program around the map,” Grass said, noting deployments by Oregon Guard members and the partnerships and the nature of both the partnerships themselves and individual, career-long relationships between the National Guard and these state and country counterparts. “I saw the value every day, saw the relationships that were built over the last 20 years, especially in what used to be Eastern Europe during the Cold War.”

Grass biography tells a quintessential National Guard story—a quintessential American story. In 1969, he enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard. He served as a traditional National Guard member, with family life with monthly drills at a Missouri Guard base and with a job managing a local meat market.

As a young man, Grass learned the value of the Guard to his family and community, and embraced the Guard’s work to serve the nation.

In 1990, Grass activated during Operation Desert Storm. Grass would go on to serve in Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Korea.

Grass has served in states across the nation, from California to Kentucky.

Grass will succeed Arthur D. G Tables – deputy commander for plans, U.S. Air National Guard Readiness Center at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; and vice commander, First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Oregon JAG offers rules of road for upcoming election season

As a civilian member of the Oregon Army National Guard, Oregon Army National Guard

As U.S. military personnel, Oregon National Guard members promise to uphold the Constitution and protect the security and freedoms that all Americans enjoy.

This goal, however, can only be achieved if you remain political neutral and refrains from using your military role as a platform for political advancement.

We can appreciate the importance of this neutrality by considering the notorious history of political oppression and violence fomented by military coups and dictatorships.

Thus, as American service members commit themselves to protecting liberty, they also take on the responsibility of making sure that their political activities do not undermine the military’s political neutrality.

The bottom line is that you must avoid taking actions that could give the impression that the military endorses a political candidate, party, or cause.

The Oregon JAG offers the following guidelines to help you navigate these rules:

You can:
- Register and vote
- Attend political rallies as a spectator, but not in uniform
- Attend an event and the meetings of a political party or club, but not in uniform
- Express personal political views via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), but not as a representative of the Armed Forces
- Sign a political petition
- “Liking,” “friending,” or “following” a candidate or party on a social media service is also permissible.

In order to comply with the rules, ask yourself if it is possible that your activity could give the impression that you are in a political campaign. If you are authorized to speak on behalf of the Armed Forces or that your views represent those of the military, you must be careful.

In political activity (other than voting) in your capacity as a representative of the Armed Forces, you must clearly state that the opinions are yours and not as a representative of the Armed Forces.

A safe rule of thumb is that if your Facebook page or other social media indicates that you are in the military, and you express political views or post others’ views, be sure to add a disclaimer that clearly states that the opinions are yours and not of the Armed Forces. If you are a member of the General Officers’ Association, the Army or the National Guard. “Liking,” “friending,” or “following” a political candidate or party on a social media service is also permissible.

As a military service member, you must also are allowed to, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces
- Lawfully contribute money to political parties and organizations
- Express personal political opinions, e.g., in a Letter to the Editor, but not as a representative of the Armed Forces
- Place a bumper sticker or sign on your personal vehicle
- Sign a political petition
- Remain politically neutral and refrain from using your military role as a platform for political advancement.
- Display a large political sign or banner on your personal vehicle
- Use contemptuous words against officeholders
- Use social media in a way that links one’s military affiliation with a political candidate, party, or cause.
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- You cannot:

Engage in political activity at your military/government workplace
- Use your military position or title, or government resources, to advance a political cause or candidate
- Speak to an audience at a political campaign event
- Display a large political sign or banner on your personal vehicle
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In addition, in certain, limited circumstances, a non-active duty political candidate may use a photograph of himself or herself in uniform in campaign materials.

If you intend to do so, you should first contact the ethics counselor of the Oregon National Guard at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

As National Guard members, our dual role as Citizen-Soldiers brings with it a great responsibility to the service.

As citizens, we have the right and obligation to dutifully participate in our country’s democratic self-rule.

As service members, we must also assure our fellow citizens that our military remains faithful to its tradition of noninterference in domestic politics.

With the political season kicking into high gear, we should keep these dual civic commitments in mind.

If you have any questions or concerns about engaging in political activity, please contact the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at (503) 584-3571.
"I will never leave a fallen comrade." For those working to help service members, veterans and their families from the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP), this quote from the U.S. Army Creed rings true both on and off the battlefield.

Like many service members and families across the nation—Soldiers, Airmen and families of the Oregon National Guard have sacrificed immensely with more than 10 years of multiple deployments and approximately 13,000 individual deployments following the events of 9/11. As one of the most highly deployed states in the nation, veterans advocates in Oregon began to realize there was also a battle on the home front.

In 2005, a few leaders from the Oregon National Guard started a grassroots campaign to develop a reintegration program to help with readjustment to civilian life after deployment.

Oregon led the way by establishing a Reintegration Team in 2005, becoming one of only two states in the nation to have a program, said Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques, JTAP plans and operations NCO.

Jacques and others spearheaded a model reintegration program according to retired Maj. Don Weber, who is a Joint Transition Assistance Program Regional Area Manager serving the Portland, Ore., metropolitan area.

Jacques said that when he returned from a deployment after being wounded, he spent three frustrating weeks before finally finding a doctor that could help his machine gunner and fellow Soldier, who was wounded in the same IED explosion that took the life of his driver and RTO.

Finding a doctor to help his wounded comrade inspired Jacques to find out what resources would be available in the future.

"Today, not a day goes by where we don’t find new resources, and I am proud of that," said Jacques.

We have the best access to veterans and it makes a huge difference.

-Craig Snitker, Oregon’s JTAP Program Manager

He said with the success of these programs, leadership on the reintegrations team saw the need to reach out even further.

In 2011, Oregon was one of eight states granted funding by Congress to implement additional reintegration resources for service members, veterans and their families, and the JTAP concept was created.

The team consists of 18 personnel geographically dispersed across the state with representatives from the Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. There are no active duty military installations in Oregon and the program aims to be accessible to all veterans, service members and their families.

"There is not a better feeling in the world than when you help someone by giving them a hand up and not a hand out," Jacques said. "They are taken care of because you connected them and helped them, without letting them fall into an ocean of bureaucracy. It is just awesome to see that."

Weber said the JTAP team was able to organize quickly.

"They put this all together by organizing people from different places and pulling them together giving everyone a common direction with staff meetings and showing them where resources are," Weber said.

JTAP Manager, Craig Snitker, a retired Army veteran said the program gives other advocates in the state better access to veterans and families by having closer connections to local units.

Many of the JTAP members served in the units they service.

"The goal is now to help any veteran regardless of where or not they have been deployed, where they live in the state, or what branch of the service they are in," said Snitker. "We have the best access to veterans and it makes a huge difference."

The team has developed numerous programs and partnerships that include statewide and regional reintegration summits, police department veteran issue trainings, a governor’s executive brief, joint service career and benefit fairs, career and benefits brief, joint service career and benefit fairs, regional veteran resource groups and many partnerships with community colleges and universities, and service organizations.

Snitker said that in addition to many services it has provided in the last fiscal year (which also include a 24-hour hotline, multiple suicide interventions and 287 confirmed hires) the program has played a vital role in connecting and educating communities about veterans services.

less, and serving veterans will depend on communities taking a more active role in making sure people don’t slide through the cracks.

"I believe communities are ready to do that and it just a matter of giving them some assistance," he explained. "JTAP has been out in the local communities with access to the service members and families regardless of military branch; they are all prior service."

However, he also added the program has proven to be a great value for Oregon both socially and economically.

Research from the program estimates JTAP’s employment initiatives have potentially saved more than $6 million in unemployment compensation this year with a goal of $10 million by the close of fiscal year 2012. Furthermore, the team has had more than 9,000 service member support interactions, and is projected to reach more than 17,000 by the end on Fiscal Year 2012.

Senior Policy Advisor for the Oregon Governor, Cameron Smith, made a great case for the socioeconomic impact of the program during a presentation about the current situation for veterans and their families in Oregon.

"We are facing a unique time in history with a decade of combat, multiple deployments, and less sacrifice (other than military families) on the home front," Smith said. "This is compared to conflicts the country has been involved with in the past."

He said the JTAP has saved lives with suicide and other interventions, and are directly responsible for providing many veterans in the state with employment.

"Community outreach has been a big part of what the team does to foster a wide range of partnerships, educating the public and assisting them in the support of service members and their families," Smith said.

On a recent visit to the National Guard Bureau with Oregon’s State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, Jacques met with Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, who serves as the senior enlisted advisor for Reserve Affairs to the Assistant Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C. Gipe called Oregon’s program the ‘golden egg’ for reintegration after looking at the program’s Standard Operating Procedure.

He explained that he has been trying to find a way to establish joint service teams across the nation that would fall under the governor or adjutant general, and was elated to see Oregon had already executed a model program within the U.S.

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MG Rees throws July 4th pitch

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, throws out the first pitch at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes baseball game, in Salem, Ore., July 4. Key leadership from both the Oregon Army and Air Guard were in attendance for the opening ceremony.

Hoopla 2012 hits the Capitol Mall

For the third year, the Oregon National Guard served as the Title Sponsor of Hoopla, Oregon’s largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The Oregon National Guard Hoopla is held each July on the streets surrounding the state capitol. This year, the event featured over 800 teams and 30,000 spectators.

Timbers honor Oregon Guard

An Oregon Army and Air National Guard color guard detail stands by during the singing of the U.S. National Anthem prior to a Portland Timbers Major League Soccer match at Jeld Wen Field, in Portland, Ore., July 28, for Military Appreciation Night.

Story and photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army and Air National Guard members took part in a Military Appreciation Night at Jeld Wen Field, in Portland, Ore., July 28, for a Portland Timbers Major League Soccer match.

The event included an F-15 flyover, Oregon Air and Army National Guard color guard detail, U.S. flag presentation performed by the Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, recruiting displays and giveaways, armored security and HMWWV vehicle displays, and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package search and rescue static displays.

A crowd of more than 30,000 was in attendance.

“IT’s good public relations and it shows the military cares about the public,” said Sgt. Maj. Scott Lucas, Joint Operations Center sergeant major.

“There’s been lots of positive feedback, and with all the support we’ve had going forward after 9/11 it gives the Oregon National Guard a chance to let the public know we belong to them,”

Al Gil, photo marshal for the Portland Timbers, said it is an honor to give thanks to the men and women of the military.

“There are service members sacrificing for our freedom and this is a good way to say thanks,” Gil said.

Story and photo by Cory Brown, Oregon Military Department

Sgt. Maj. Sean Mishra, of the Oregon National Guard, was honored, July 19, during the opening ceremony of the Linn County Fair.

A Texas native, Mishra and his family have lived in Albany, Ore. for four years. At the ceremony, he represented local men and women serving in all branches of the military.

County Commissioner Will Tucker emceed the program on the main stage before the start of the Three Dog Night concert.

What Mishra and the other U.S. and Canadian soldiers didn’t know is that they were outnumbered 10 to 1.

“We had about 75 men and they had from 750 to a thousand,” Mishra said. “We were running out of ammo and we were calling in air strikes from anywhere we could.”

On Sept. 4, during one of the firefight, Mishra’s vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and both he and his gunner were thrown from their truck. Mishra received a severe concussion and burns, and both men were evacuated to a hospital.

Their vehicle burned to its frame.

Mishra received the Bronze Star medal with valor and the Purple Heart.

His unit also received the Canadian Presidential Unit Citation — the first non-Canadian unit to earn the award, which has been presented to only six Canadian units. At a ceremony held in May at Fort Bragg, N.C., Lt. Gen. Stu Beare presented the unit commendation to Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group-Airborne.

Beare is commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command.

“I was very surprised,” Mishra said of the Linn County Fair ceremony. “It says a lot about Albany. This community always supports veterans, including the Veterans Day Parade. It’s great to be recognized and honored on behalf of all service men and women.”

Mishra and his wife, Earlee, have three children, Ash-Leigh, 17, Alexis, 12, and Austin, 6.

Story and photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Would you like to be a published author?

Want to see your photo in the Sentinel?

Submit your story or photo to: Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us
KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan Uniformed Police noncommissioned officers operating the City Gates recently received training from U.S. Soldiers at the City Gates headquarters to improve operations at entry points into the city.

The leaders invited to participate will take what they’ve learned in the two-day training session back to their posts and teach their subordinate officers. The City Gates Kandak is comprised of nine entry points into the city that are manned by police departments. Since there are not many highways in Afghanistan these police officers are responsible for keeping the insurgent effort from entering the Kabul city limits.

The instruction included properly conducting searches of people and vehicles, identifying improvised explosive devices, proper use of equipment and how to set up an effective entry control point.

Task Force Hydra, the senior U.S. task force in Kabul, conducted the training as a part of its Police Advisory Team (PAT) mission. The unit, which is commanded by the 648th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Headquarters, a Georgia Army National Guard unit out of Columbus, has the task to advise, assist and mentor the 30 police districts, their special tactical units, and the 14,000 police responsible for law enforcement and security for the capital city of Kabul and its five million residents.

Task Force Hydra PAT team is made up of a supervisory element lead by Lt. Col. Andre Edison, a Missouri Guardman and a former policeman, members of Wisconsin National Guard, and the 1186 Military Police Company, an Oregon Army National Guard unit serving with Task Force Hydra.

“We bring a lot of law enforcement experience to this mission,” said Edison about the PAT team. “Because of our background, we have added to Task Force Hydra’s ability to impact the officers’ training. As the security in the capital city of Kabul increases, the government becomes more legitimate.”

The City Gates leader training was held as a part of the first and last phase in the process the PAT has implemented to improve the operations of the City Gates posts and Police Advisory Teams.

The first phase included conducting assessments of the 30 police districts and City Gate posts within the Kabul Province. The current phase is to address their opportunities to improve equipment, supplies, training and capabilities that were discovered during the assessments.

“The goal is for Kabul Province police to be as prepared as possible to work in Kabul area,” Edison said. “This training is targeted at the NCO level and they are eager to learn.”

The partnership between the Kabul City Police Chief and the PAT team is imperative to the success of events like these; the City Gates commander was on hand to observe and welcome the Pat’s training and was welcoming of the professionalism the U.S. Soldiers shared with his officers.

“The impact has been very positive, said Spc. Zachary Modrell, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Bravo Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, one of the many soldiers who also said he enjoyed the training.

“It’s a blast,” he said. “It’s a lot of valuable information learning how to recover a vehicle in any situation that might arise. You have to be able to adapt and overcome in any situation.”

After six years of trying to get into the class, he was very excited to finally have the opportunity. “It’s an extra identifier on my MOS that makes me able to do more for my fellow Soldiers,” said Modrell. “If you’re a young Soldier looking to be a valuable asset to your unit, this would be the place to go.”

Sgt. 1st Class Ben Daniels, with the 24th Regional Training Institute, the Idaho Army National Guard, was one of the instructors for the course which is usually taught at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. He said the Oregon National Guard asked his team of instructors to host the course in Oregon because the state was in need of qualified recovery specialists.

“We came to Afghanistan because they had so many students that needed the training,” said Daniels.

The first part of the course consisted of driver training and the principles of recovery. Students learned all the mathematical equations that go along with recovery; the weights of vehicles, the loads; the maximum amount the wench can pull. They also learned how to use shackles and cables for a tactical advantage.

“This is some of the most valuable training I’ve had,” said Spc. Aaron Fox, with Bravo Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion. “It’s a light wheeled vehicle mechanic learning to get vehicles out of stuck situations. The most challenging part has been the math; how much cable to pull out and how many snatch blocks we have to use. There’s a lot more science to it. I’ve learned a lot and the roll-over training is some of the most fun I’ve had yet.”

After completing the classroom portion of the course, students received hands-on training using M994A1 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks and M1089 Medium Tactical Vehicle Wrecker.

“We take the students out to the recovery and roll-over training area, we teach them to hook-up to various vehicles and tow them safely,” said Daniels.

Some of the vehicles were partially submerged under muddy water, requiring the students to use their hands and knowledge in place of sight to hook-up the

Soldiers from Task Force Hydra’s Police Advisory Team and the 1164 Military Police Company congratulate a Kabul City Gates police officer after he receives his certificate for completion of the two-day training that took place at the City Gates Kandak Headquarters for noncommissioned officers.

said Col. Dreen Mohammed Sanjani. “They have never had such training and I believe it will make them more professional.”

Sanjani also spoke highly of the relationship he has built with Lt. Col. Edison over the last month of overseeing training. “He is now my brother and my friend,” said Sanjani.

At the completion of training each officer was presented with a certificate of completion in vehicle recovery procedures at entry points into the city that are manned by police departments. Since there are not many highways in Afghanistan these police officers are responsible for keeping the insurgent effort from entering the Kabul city limits.

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Soldiers work blindly beneath the muddy water in an effort to properly attach and lock a wrench component to tow a stuck five-ton truck during the newly mandated training course, 1164 Mobile Wheeled Vehicle Recovery, required of wheeled vehicle mechanics, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., June 25.

The Army National Guard Soldiers attempt to pull a five-ton vehicle from the practice mud pit, using a 1089 MTV Wrecker, during the 1164 Additional Skill Identifier training course at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., June 16-28.

 lieu of a supervisory element lead by Lt. Col. Andre Edison, a Missouri Guardman and a former policeman, members of Wisconsin National Guard, and the 1186 Military Police Company, an Oregon Army National Guard unit serving with Task Force Hydra.

“We bring a lot of law enforcement experience to this mission,” said Edison about the PAT team. “Because of our background, we have added to Task Force Hydra’s ability to impact the officers’ training. As the security in the capital city of Kabul increases, the government becomes more legitimate.”

The City Gates leader training was held as a part of the first and last phase in the process the PAT has implemented to improve the operations of the City Gates posts and Police Advisory Teams.

The first phase included conducting assessments of the 30 police districts and City Gate posts within the Kabul Province. The current phase is to address their opportunities to improve equipment, supplies, training and capabilities that were discovered during the assessments.

“The goal is for Kabul Province police to be as prepared as possible to work in Kabul area,” Edison said. “This training is targeted at the NCO level and they are eager to learn.”

The partnership between the Kabul City Police Chief and the PAT team is imperative to the success of events like these; the City Gates commander was on hand to observe and welcome the Pat’s training and was welcoming of the professionalism the U.S. Soldiers shared with his officers.

“The impact has been very positive,”

Story and photos by Spc. Marilyn Lowry, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WARRENTON, Ore. — The Oregon Army National Guard hosted its first H8 Wheeled Vehicle Recovery course at Camp Rilea Training Site, in Warrenton, Ore., June 18-28.

The ten-day course was held in response to a recent Army policy change requiring MOS qualified recovery specialists.

Some of the vehicles were partially submerged under muddy water, requiring the students to use their hands and knowledge in place of sight to hook-up the

Pull. They also learned how to use shackles and cables for a tactical advantage.

“This is some of the most valuable training I’ve had,” said Spc. Aaron Fox, with Bravo Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion. “It’s a light wheeled vehicle mechanic learning to get vehicles out of stuck situations. The most challenging part has been the math; how much cable to pull out and how many snatch blocks we have to use. There’s a lot more science to it. I’ve learned a lot and the roll-over training is some of the most fun I’ve had yet.”

After completing the classroom portion of the course, students received hands-on training using M994A1 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks and M1089 Medium Tactical Vehicle Wreckers.

“We take the students out to the recovery and roll-over training area, we teach them to hook-up to various vehicles and tow them safely,” said Daniels.

Some of the vehicles were partially submerged under muddy water, requiring the students to use their hands and knowledge in place of sight to hook-up the

Story by Capt. Jacqueline R. Wren, Task Force Hydra – Kabul Base Cluster

1249 Engineer Battalion, is a wheeled vehicle mechanic who has practiced real life vehicle recovery missions while deployed in Iraq.

“Overseas I was a mechanic and in a recovery crew,” said Gwynn. “We would go outside the wire and recover tracks that had blown-up or rolled-over, often having to work 16-hour days.”

Gwynn stated that the training will allow new Soldiers to be more confident in their jobs and what they’re doing.

“This training will allow us to do our jobs much more proficiently, we’ll be prepared,” he said. “I think it’s beneficial to both veterans and new Soldiers coming in. It’s been a great experience.”

Spc. Zachary Modrell, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Golf Company, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, was one of the many soldiers who also said he enjoyed the training.

“It’s a blast,” he said. “It’s a lot of valuable information learning how to recover a vehicle in any situation that might arise. You have to be able to adapt and overcome in any situation.”

After six years of trying to get into the class, he was very excited to finally have the opportunity. “It’s an extra identifier on my MOS that makes me able to do more for my fellow Soldiers,” said Modrell. “If you’re a young Soldier looking to be a valuable asset to your unit, this would be the place to go.”

Sgt. 1st Class Ben Daniels, with the 24th Regional Training Institute, the Idaho Army National Guard, was one of the instructors for the course which is usually taught at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. He said the Oregon National Guard asked his team of instructors to host the course in Oregon because the state was in need of qualified recovery specialists.

“We came to Afghanistan because they had so many students that needed the training,” said Daniels.

The first part of the course consisted of driver training and the principles of recovery. Students learned all the mathematical equations that go along with recovery; the weights of vehicles, the loads; the maximum amount the wench can
Hiring our Heroes (H2H) in Oregon a success, organizers say

**FEATURES**

**ODVA, VA work to lay to rest discovered vets’ remains**

**PORTLAND, Ore. — The cremated remains of four Oregon veterans were laid to rest with full military honors at the Eugene Armed Forces Reserve Center in Springfield, Ore., July 19. The fair was Oregon’s first event featuring the Hero2Hired (H2H) job fair in Springfield, Ore., July 19. The fair was Oregon’s first event featuring the Hero2Hired (H2H) job fair.**

Maas said without the support of the Oregon Employment Department, local employers, local media, local veterans’ services and other organizations, an event like this simply isn’t possible.

“These programs bring a room full of military friendly employers who understand what these people bring to the table,” Maas said. “So many companies have developed positions specific to military personnel recruiting. It’s a win for everyone. H2H is a cutting edge program that uses modern technology and job fairs to link employers with qualified veterans, said retired Sgt. 1st Class, Craig Snitker, the program liaison for the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTPA).

H2H is new this year,” explained Snitker. “It’s just now getting out to the field.”

Snitker said ESGR also works with WorkSource Oregon and JTPA to hold Integrated Transition Assistance Program (ITAP) workshops. As the ITAP lead, Snitker has organized three-day events where veterans learn job-seeking skills, including resume writing and networking with businesses. The fact that the events are integrated with employers who participate makes them unique, Snitker said.

He said utilizing these events and the modern technology of H2H will provide the best available support for veterans seeking employment in Oregon.

“Job seekers can build a profile, post a resume and applications right from the site,” said Snitker. “Employers can search resumes by key word, zip code or city. It is streamlined for straight job landing.”

In addition, the H2H site provides links to all of the tools that are at the ITAP events, such as writing a resume or a cover letter. Once registered, veterans can also apply from a mobile phone application.

Snitker said the anticipated outcome of events like the Springfield job fair is to assist anyone who has ever served in the military. It is a great tool for getting service members searching for jobs face-to-face with people that need and want assistance.

He said that H2H also helps veterans translate skills to a resume or interview.

There were more than 200 people at the Springfield event with more than 150 pre-registered to take advantage of the help being offered.

The Springfield event also included 10 veterans’ service organizations and three colleges.

“We use the Hiring Our Heroes program a lot,” said Tina McGee, campus manager for the Red Rock College of Construction, Oklahoma City.

“The character traits veterans have make them stand out above other potential candidates,” McGee said, referring to Red Rock College of Construction’s job placement with the program.

An informal poll of job seekers at the event showed that veterans concur with McGee. The most common answer, when asked what they felt veterans bring to the job, was military values and character traits.

Maas said that he completely gets where job seekers are coming from and understands after being unemployed for a year prior to obtaining his current position.

At six months the mindset changes,” said Maas, empathizing with job seekers who start to doubt themselves and their job skills. “There’s a lot more to you (military veterans), and employers need to know that.”

Maas said an example is how much responsibility a squad or team leader has accounting for personnel and equipment and how that translates to financial responsibility.

“The goal of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is to see 500,000 veterans hired,” said Maas. The plan of action for accomplishing this goal is centered on the 400 events they have planned.

Locally, H2H is organizing another job fair in Oregon scheduled November 15. The event will again partner with the H2H program. It will be held at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Ore. All veterans are invited to attend.

For more information about H2H contact Craig Snitker at craig.snitker@us.army.mil or by phone at (503) 584-2393, or the H2H website at https://h2h.jobs.

Veterans and vendors interact during a Hero2Hired (H2H) job fair at the Lane County Armed Forces Reserve Center in Springfield, Ore., July 19. The fair was Oregon’s first event combining the H2H web service and the Hiring Our Heroes initiative organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

**ARE YOU A VET?**

**NEED SOME ASSISTANCE?**

The Oregon Military Assistance Helpline is a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service that can help you and your family resolve any personal problems.

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www.ormah.com
Continued from sure everyone meets and exceeds the of this training experience and to make the Task Force Kupa’a.

logistical and strategic planning for Joint operational readiness, administration, Hara is responsible for training, commander, Hawaii National Guard.

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As the Soldiers exchanged tokens of friendship, they shared a bit of themselves as a start to a meaningful exchange lasting far beyond the exercise at hand.

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The sharing of gifts has a place in almost every culture in the world and the symbolism of this act conveys a sense of goodwill.

French sociologist Marcel Mauss said in his popular work ‘the gift’ that the act of gift giving transfers a small piece of the giver’s own identity to the other person.

Many involved in the exercise chose gifts that meant something personal to them.

“I chose a Myrtlewood pen for my counterpart because we write a lot in our job and Myrtlewood grows in Oregon. It’s also a functional gift, something that can be used,” said King.

In this ongoing partnership, military members attend the exercise with open minds and attitudes focused on learning from one another.

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Cultural awareness is key to understanding each other,” Lee said.

“I’m confident we will enhance close bonds of friendships and continued peace,” he added.

Directing the exercise was Brig. Gen. Gary M. Ha’a, land component commander, Hawaii National Guard. Ha’a is responsible for training, operational readiness, administration, logistical and strategic planning for Joint Task Force Kupa’a.

“I encourage you to take full advantage of this training experience and to make sure everyone meets and exceeds the training objectives,” said Hara.

The Regional Training Institute, Bellows Air Force Station is located in Waimanalo, a small town on Oahu’s windward coast, near the southeastern tip of the island.

Rising behind the formed troops during the ceremony were the picturesque Ko’olau Mountains, a remnant of a once active volcano on the island of O‘ahu.

According to the announcement in the opening ceremony, the sounding of the conch shell, also known as the pu was used to accompany chants, and most often used to announce the arrival of the Ali ‘i or Hawaiian royalty, births and deaths, and the beginning of a ceremony.

The conch shell was blown in four directions, signifying the universal protection over the exercise and representing the arrival of the official party.

Members from 29th Infantry Division, Hawaii National Guard also conducted urban operations training with members of the Singapore Armed Forces during training exercise Lightning Strike, which took place simultaneously along side Tiger Balm.

Bridging the cultural gap: U.S., Singapore relations strengthened by exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Photos courtesy 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WAIMANALO, Hawaii -- A mix of sage and jungle-patterned camouflage made it difficult to focus in the dim auditorium as two militaries came together to share strategy, culture and symbolic gifts.

This year, service members from the Singapore Armed Forces and the U.S military trained for global peacekeeping operations at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii.

The two groups have a long tradition of working together in this exercise, called Tiger Balm, the longest-running bilateral exercise in Singapore Armed Forces history.

Providing instructional material for the combined group were subject matter experts from both militaries who shared both strategic information and operational anecdotes for the mixed group.

The different perspectives and experiences provide the true value of Tiger Balm, said Staff Sgt. Jailene L. King, non-commissioned officer in charge of the exercise.

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Tiger Balm 2012 last for Oregon National Guard, says commander

Continued from Front Page
Rising above the Pressure

Story by Spc. Erin J. Quirk, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Above: Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard and Singapore Armed Forces stand in formation during the opening ceremonies of the 2012 Tiger Balm Exercise, held the first week of July at the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo, Hawaii. The bilateral training exercise, which helps foster relationships and enhance combat readiness for participants, is the last for the Oregon National Guard.

WAIMANALO, Hawaii (July 12, 2012) — Set against the Ko‘olau Mountains, the Regional Training Institute in Waimanalo is the home of the Hawaii Army National Guard’s 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Over the course of the last 10 years, the Oregon Army National Guard has utilized the training institute to conduct the bilateral brigade level command post exercise known as Tiger Balm.

The exercise was designed to help foster relationships as well as enhance combat readiness, professional relationships and interoperability between the U.S. military and the 3rd Singapore Division’s 24th Infantry Brigade.

One of the many objectives of the exercise was to give both the HIARNG and the Singapore Armed Forces the opportunity to train on their mission essential tasks. This can include anything from route clearance to convoy security to base defense.

According to organizers, this was achieved through a series of mission scenario event list injections, or MSEL’s. In charge of the MSEL injections is the opposing force section known as OPFOR, who were MSEL managers and roll players in the exercise.

“Essentially, it’s a game of choose your own adventure,” said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Cox, of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 82nd Rear Tactical Operations Center, and an OPFOR liaison.

“We are here to test the ability of the Singapore Armed Forces and the Hawaii Army National Guard in sustainment operations,” he continued.

In order to test the reaction and communication capabilities of the SAF and the HIARNG, OPFOR placed them in several electronically simulated training situations.

These situations can include anything from terrorist attacks to anti-coalition protests to criminal activity.

The training situations are designed so that the SAF and HIARNG can come together at the end of the day and share their own training techniques and plans of action.

By sharing reaction strategies and thought processes on how to counteract the MSEL’s, the units can come together as one and learn from each other.

“All of the situations are scalable depending on the stress level that both the Singapore Armed Forces and the Hawaii Army National Guard are feeling,” said Sgt. 1st Class Cox.

“We don’t want to give them more than they can handle, but for every action they take there will be a reaction from OPFOR to help guide them in the right direction so they can achieve their training objectives,” he said.

The Oregon Army National Guard played the role of the higher control, or HICON, in the Tiger Balm exercise. The HICON is essentially the control and command of the exercise.

At the end of each day the SAF and the HIARNG reported to the HICON with the days events and their strategies of reaction to the MSEL injections, as well as touching on the other objectives of the exercise.

“What we’re trying to do is add some realism and depth to a two dimensional computer simulation,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Stocks, of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 82nd Rear Tactical Operations Center.

Stocks, a MSEL manager for OPFOR added that there was a lot of tweaking and adjustments along the way.

“We wrote these MSEL injections for the 2008 Tiger Balm exercise, and have just built off that and adjusted them to help with today’s scenarios,” he said.

Along with the MSEL injections from previous exercises, the Oregon National Guard is also bringing a new aspect in to play with these exercises. This is putting in to place the non-kinetic MSEL, where there will be a reaction from OPFOR, and a non-kinetic MSEL, where there may be a way to talk themselves out of conflict instead of fighting through it,” said Maj. Joseph Lontai of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 82nd Rear Tactical Operations Center.

Lontai, the officer in charge of OPFOR, said the OPFOR personnel need to remain flexible, and willing to work together.

“OPFOR is going to be a neutral playing field,” Lontai added.

“Based on the positive actions and the reactions of the Singapore and U.S. forces, there will be the insurgency and OPFOR response,” Lontai said. “So we try to make it as if there is a living entity of the OPFOR.”

While the Singapore Armed Forces achieved their training objectives, few will be able to really experience what happens behind closed doors with OPFOR, said Capt. Guang Wei Tan, of the 3rd Singapore Division’s 24th Infantry Brigade.

“I’m shadowing the exercise control officer Captain Vucmam during the MSEL injections,” said Wei Tan, a MSEL manager for OPFOR. “It’s my first time working as the opposing force so I’m looking forward to learning how everything works.”
Oregon Army Guard units honored with Meritorious Unit Citations

The Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and subordinate battalions were awarded Meritorious Unit Citations in recognition for exceptional performance during their July 2009 – April 2010 deployment to Iraq. The Meritorious Unit Citation is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of duties for at least six continuous months during a period of military operations against an armed enemy.

The 41st IBCT, 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion, 1-186 Infantry Battalion, 141 Brigade Support Battalion, 41 Special Troops Battalion, and 1-82 Cavalry Squadron were awarded the MUC at separate ceremonies across the state this summer.

On July 18, the 2-218 Field Artillery Battalion was awarded their Meritorious Unit Citation during Annual Training at the Yakima Training Center in Yakima, Wash. The unit was honored for their extensive sustainment and security operations conducted over a 150,000 square-mile area of operations during their 2009-2010 combat deployment to Iraq.

The 2-218 FA escorted more than 13,000 trucks over two-million miles in support of a multi-region route security and vehicle escort mission. These efforts were a vital part of the larger logistical sustainment effort to get fuel, supplies, and equipment to the Iraqi people during the phased draw-down of U.S. Forces in Iraq.

Col. William Edwards, commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, praised the unit for their ability to adapt to what he considered a non-standard mission.

“This battalion was presented a non-standard mission for an artillery unit,” said Edwards. “The Soldiers of the 2-218 adapted to this mission in a manner that maintained its artillery roots and performed superbly.”

During a ceremony held July 20 in Warrenton, Ore., Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, presented the Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to the 41st IBCT.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the 41st Special Troops Battalion ran the Base Defense Operations Center at Victory Base Complex, an area consisting of seven contingency operating bases, one Air Force base, five Iraqi Security Force bases, and Baghdad International Airport. Addressing the Soldiers in attendance, Rees said, “You represented the Oregon National Guard, the people of Oregon, and our nation in a wonderful fashion. We are extremely proud of everything you have done.”

Capt. Van Zalle, an infantry officer who deployed with the 41st IBCT, said one of the challenges of draw-down operations was the adjustment to the new convoy and traffic control procedures to be used when encountering Iraqi drivers on the roadways. On this deployment, operations and traffic control procedures to be used when encountering Iraqi drivers on the roadways. On this deployment, operations were adjusted so the Iraqis were provided with a sense of normalcy.

On Aug. 11, The 41st STB affixed a MUC streamer to their unit guidon in a ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. The unit conducted physical security for Victory Base Complex, as well as convoy security on key routes throughout southern Iraq.

The 1-186 Infantry Battalion was awarded their Meritorious Unit Citation during Annual Training at the Biak Training Center, in Powell Butte, Ore., on July 26. The unit was recognized for exceptionally meritorious service while conducting convoy security and force protection operations during their 2009-2010 Iraq deployment.

According to the award narrative, the 1-186 Inf. Bn. was responsible for force protection at Camp Korean Village, as well as convoy security operations on routes throughout central and southern Iraq. The battalion’s security convoys were travelling at rates of 5,000 miles per week during the deployment.

Rees addressed the Soldiers of the 1-186 Inf. Bn., and took a moment during the ceremony to mention a similar award given to the unit earlier in its history.

“Over 70 years ago your predecessors in the 1-186 received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for action in Palawan Island,” he said. “Today you’re 21st Century Soldiers receiving recognition for the great work you have done in Iraq and for the Global War on Terror.”

Lt. Col. Noel Hoback, who deployed with the 1-186 Inf. Bn. and took command of the battalion on the day of the ceremony, echoed praise for the battalion as he addressed his Soldiers.

“Guards of the western gate, you have shown time and time again that you are willing to support any mission given to you,” he said, invoking the unit motto.

Command Sgt. Maj. Theodore Santoyo did the honors of affixing the streamer to the 1-186 Inf. Bn. guidon. After the ceremony, Santoyo commented on how the 1-186th’s mission of convoy security expanded the capabilities of his infantry Soldiers, “It wasn’t an infantry mission, so my Soldiers learned a lot of new skill sets and gained a vast amount of knowledge on this deployment.”

On July 28, Soldiers of the 141 Brigade Support Battalion were recognized for conducting convoy security missions for more than 100 fuel and water trucks that traveled over two-million miles of key routes in northern Iraq.

“It is this battalion that makes the 41 Infantry Brigade a mighty brigade,” Rees said. “This battalion has earned its place in history.”

The commander of the 41st IBCT said the unit’s recognition is both historically significant, and has a potential impact on recruitment.

“The addition of the Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to your proud colors will stand as a permanent display of your achievement and inspire future Soldiers to join your ranks,” Edwards said.

Sgt. Eric Davis deployed with the unit and worked the night shift in a Tactical Operations Center. He said it was good to be recognized for the unit’s effort and for what he described as, “an incredible amount of work.”

The 1-82 Cavalry Squadron was awarded their MUC streamer in a previous ceremony held May 19. A ceremony for the 2-162 Infantry Battalion is scheduled to take place in November.
3670th Maintenance Co. helps coastal towns prep for emergencies

SEASIDE, Ore. — Citizen-Soldiers with the ground support platoon, 3670 Maintenance Company, 82 Troop Command Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, assisted Oregon coastal communities with equipment repair and maintenance in preparation for natural disasters and emergencies, Aug. 10, in Seaside, Ore.

Soldiers trained city water works employees in Seaside on the proper preventative care and maintenance for older military generators used as backup systems in case of emergencies.

“We’ve had nothing but positive feedback from the groups we support,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3, Tim Coronado, a ground support maintenance equipment engineer with the 3670th.

“My Soldiers love going out and working in the local communities, it helps build relationships across the board.”

There are approximately six different communities that request maintenance and training support throughout the year.

“We send out our contact teams during our Annual Training,” said Maj. Richard Ybarra, 3670th company commander.

“The communities understand that it provides training to our Soldiers and the local employees. It’s a win-win situation,” Ybarra added.

Cities like Seaside may not always be able to purchase brand new back up generators, and that’s where the local relationships with the Oregon Army National Guard and 3670 Maintenance Company help out, he said.

“This is a key partnership that we have with the communities,” said Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, 82 Brigade commander.

“It dovetails nicely with the concept of military support to civilian authorities and building relationships at the local level.”

Repairing generators and building community relationships, Soldiers of the 3670th hope to continue on with the program as long as they are needed.

“It’s not about getting recognition for what we do,” said Coronado. “It’s about training our Soldiers and lending a hand to our neighbors.”

2012 ANG Golf Tournament raises over $6,000 for 142nd FW Fund

Participants in the 2012 Air National Guard Golf Tournament pause for a group photo on the first day of play at the Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield, Wash., Aug. 22. The tournament raised more than $6,000 for the 142nd FW Fund, which helps Airmen and their families in times of need.

Vallee earns coveted spot at Command & General Staff College

Maj. Geoffrey Vallee, Oregon Army National Guard, is one of only 30 National Guard members across the nation enrolled in a year long resident school at the Command and General Staff College.

Vallee is currently at the residential school at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He will finish his school in June, 2012.

“It is a unique honor to come to the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), especially for National Guard members,” said Lt. Col. David Poulton, U.S. Army National Guard Advisor for Command and General Staff College.

Poulton said, Vallee is strategically placed in small groups with about 15 other Soldiers from the active duty component, so he can share his experiences as a National Guard Soldier.

“I feel privileged to have the opportunity to be here,” said Vallee. “I want to share my perspective with fellow students,” he added.

The school teaches officers the necessary skills for the transition from being a company grade officer to being a field grade officer. Vallee deployed as the company commander for Charlie Company 7-158 Aviation in 2009. Prior to that deployment, Vallee spent nine years on active duty as an aviation officer.

Poulton said with all of the deployments for the National Guard, the Active Duty Soldiers can gain insight from Soldiers like Vallee.

“Maj. Vallee is a sharp guy and he’s representing the Oregon National Guard well,” he added.

Vallee said the Command and General Staff College has taught him many skills he will be able to use in his job when he returns.

“I am looking forward to returning to Oregon and applying what I have learned at school to help improve any organization to which I am assigned,” said Vallee.

“I hope that what I have learned will be beneficial to the state of Oregon, the National Guard, and the Army,” he added.

Vallee said he is learning the most updated doctrine and practices the Army is using.

“We are at a time of change in the Army, it’s nice to be in a place where that change is being talked about daily,” said Vallee.
Klamath Falls, Ore.

Forces. They spent the majority of their the Oregon Air National Guard. Airmen have deployed multiple times and deployment and recognized members of their support during the unit’s six-month Adjutant General-Air, presided over the every day.”

His efforts opened dialogue with local villagers to report priority intelligence requirements on insurgents activity. He also directed the United States Air Force’s first ever Female Engagement Team initiative and conducted 10 joint patrol missions with a Human Terrain Team analyst.

“&dquo;We&dquo;re very proud of Master Sgt. Pemberton for his outstanding leadership in Afghanistan,” Prunk said. “His Bronze Star is well deserved and brings great credit upon himself and the 173 Fighter Wing.”

Pemberton, a native of Bonanza, Ore. was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for the accomplishments of his unit during the deployment and for his competent leadership, proven ability, and his role as an ambassador for the United States as his squad conducted Counter Insurgency (CST) operations in Afghanistan. Pemberton credits his teammates for his success, “My whole team deserves just as much credit as they were with me every day.”

“&dquo;It is an honor to add another award to our list of accomplishments,” Pemberton said. "&dquo;We are proud you are a part of the Oregon Guard team.”

173rd Airman awarded Bronze Star for service during Afghanistan deployment

**AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

**From Bonanza to Bronze:**


During the demobilization ceremony for the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Security Forces Squadron at Kingsley Field, July 21, an Airman was recognized with the Bronze Star.

Master Sgt. Cody Pemberton is the first enlisted Airman from Kingsley Field to be awarded the Bronze Star while assigned to the 173rd FW.

The ceremony recognized his fellow 26 Airmen from the Security Forces Squadron, who recently deployed to Afghanistan for six months.

To their home between March 17-20, 2012.

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Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, the Assistant Adjutant General-Air, presided over the ceremony. He thanked family members for their support during the unit’s six-month deployment and recognized members of the 173 SFS for their outstanding service in Afghanistan.

He also noted that most of the unit’s Airmen have deployed multiple times and are among the most seasoned veterans of the Oregon Air National Guard.

The deployment was unique for the Airmen in Kingsley Field’s Security Forces Squadron. They spent the majority of their time working outside the wire ensuring the security and safety of Coalition Forces—a first for deployed fixed base Air Traffic Control personnel in Afghanistan.

On one visit and later receive a very cold response from the same village.

Many of the items were for the children who did not have the necessary clothing for cold weather climate. The Security Forces members were deployed to Afghanistan during the high casualty period in 2009 and during the 2010 burning incident.

In the event that the Coast Guard VBST discovers high levels of radiation or unfamiliar chemicals aboard a vessel, the CST would be called upon to identify the material, and decontaminate the vessel and any members of the team with whom it had come into contact. The teams worked together in a real world scenario on April 8, 2011 when the freight vessel Pan Pac Spirit was cleared to enter the Columbia River. Both teams boarded the vessel, which had recently transited through Contaminated waters in the vicinity of Fukushima, Japan.

VBST members also participated in an exercise in Astoria, Aug. 16.

**Klamath Falls unit recognized with Outstanding Unit Award**

**Klamath Falls, Ore.**—The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron (ATCS) of the Oregon Air National Guard received the 2011 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, during a ceremony at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Aug. 4.

Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, presented the award to the unit. The award cited a range of accomplishments by the 270th ATCS, "from providing fixed base Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities for the only F-15 training site, to training and deploying airborne controllers and maintenance personnel to every region of Responsibility (AOR).”

The citation also noted that, “The unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving as ground-based systems operators and significantly contributed to more than 2,600 hours of successful operational surveillance, tracking more than 155,000 aircraft with zero mishaps.” This is the seventh consecutive year Air Force has recognized the 270th ATCS.

"It is an honor to add another award to your list of accomplishments," Gregg said. "We are proud you are a part of the Oregon Guard team.”

**CST trains with U.S. Coast Guard**

**ASTORIA, Ore.**—Coast Guard Sector Columbia River’s Vessel Boarding Security Team and the Oregon Army National Guard 102 Civil Support Team trained together in Astoria, the week of Aug. 16, to prepare for potential chemical and radiation threats posed by vessels entering the Columbia River.

"In the event the Coast Guard VBST discovers high levels of radiation or unfamiliar chemicals aboard a vessel, the CST would be called upon to identify the material, and decontaminate the vessel and any members of the team with whom it had come into contact. The teams worked together in a real world scenario on April 8, 2011 when the freight vessel Pan Pac Spirit was cleared to enter the Columbia River. Both teams boarded the vessel, which had recently transited through potentially contaminated waters in the vicinity of Fukushima, Japan.

The VBST provided security and basic radiation detection while the CST offered more technologically advanced radiological and chemical detecting capabilities. CST members practiced hoisting to and lowering from a Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter, and practiced vessel boardings. In a boarding drill, VBST found simulated chemical or radiological defense of the 220 square kilometer base security zone, according to the citation. Pemberton led 130 military personnel outside the wire during combat missions, incorporated residual base defense air and synchronized reconnaissance assets, protecting 110 coalition aircraft, 36,000 base personnel, and over three billion dollars in strategic warfighting assets, according to Pemberton’s citation.

As the architect of Operation KALEIDOSCOPE, Pemberton also coordinated fostered relationships with village Maliks throughout Baghram District. His efforts opened dialogue with local villagers to report priority intelligence requirements on insurgent activity. He also directed the United States Air Force’s first ever Female Engagement Team initiative and conducted 10 joint patrol missions with a Human Terrain Team analyst.


**Story courtesy of 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

"We are very proud of Master Sgt. Pemberton for his outstanding leadership in Afghanistan,” Prunk said. “His Bronze Star is well deserved and brings great credit upon himself and the 173 Fighter Wing.”

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KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Maj. Gen. Timothy Zadalis, the Director of Intelligence, Operations, and Nuclear Integration, HQ Air Education and Training Command (AETC), visited the 173rd Fighter Wing after a recent AETC restructuring that brought the 173rd FW under his command.

Zadalis toured the base and learned about the Wing’s mission as the F-15 Premier Pilot Training School House.

At the start of the day, Zadalis expressed his enthusiasm for the Oregon Air National Guard pilot training mission.

“This is a great place to fly and a great mission,” he said.

Zadalis, a cargo aircraft pilot, spent the morning preparing for an F-15 familiarization flight, learning about the equipment and terrain, viewing new construction projects and meeting Kingsley Airmen.

“We don’t want to mess with this operation,” Zadalis said. “You know what you’re doing.”

In the afternoon, Zadalis was ready for his first flight in the F-15. “I just hope I don’t lose my lunch,” he joked.

Zadalis stepped up to the aircraft and buckled up for the ride.

The general returned to terra firma with his lunch intact. Stating that the ride was incredible.

“I’ve never seen an aircraft do anything like that!” Zadalis exclaimed. “I do not know how you guys do this for 25 years,” he added, noting the physical stresses exerted on the body by the F-15’s maneuverability.

Zadalis then thanked all the Airmen involved in making the visit possible. He expressed his enthusiasm and optimism about the future of a possible total force integration (TFI) at Kingsley as the Air Force decides to plus-up F-15C graduate production.

A TFI would bring active duty men and women to Kingsley Field and increase the number of pilots graduating from the school house.

Col. Robert Erickson, Air National Guard Advisor to General Zadalis and former Kingsley member, said HQ-AETC has always been strong advocates for Kingsley following the visit.

“After seeing the people, the facilities, the mission, and the excellence at Kingsley, we now are strong advocates for Kingsley,” Erickson said. “I have no concerns for a TFI at Kingsley. It would be fantastic for the Oregon Air National Guard and for Klamath Falls.”

MG Zadalis visits K-Falls
Story by 2nd Lt. Heather Bashor, Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Airman recognized as one of nation’s best
Story and photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mook, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. – We drive past him almost every day. He greets us with a smile as we roll down our car windows and show him our ID.

Sometimes we stop for a minute and talk, chatting about the weather, upcoming events or just about things happening in our lives.

Who is this man that guards our gate and keeps us safe?

Joe Lefore was born in 1953 in a small Texas town. He admits spending his formative years facing segregation and racial harassment.

“I would have to climb up trees to get away from other kids that wanted to beat me up,” he said.

In 1955, Joe’s father, who was in the active duty Air Force, was assigned to U.S. Strategic Air Command in Scotland. The move saved Joe from further childhood discrimination at the hands of his peers in Texas.

“Scotland was very different than what I was used to,” Lefore said. “It was much easier for me to fit in with the kids my age.”

After spending several years in Europe, he returned to Texas. Joe was shocked by the cultural shift. He now felt like a complete outsider — he still faced racial segregation, but also just didn’t quite fit in.

“People would treat me as being sub-human,” Lefore said, “I didn’t fit in with the white or black communities.”

It was through that experience he decided to be the best at whatever he did, no matter what it was.

During his teen years, he moved to Long Beach, Calif., where he learned how to surf and play the guitar. It was the 1960s and music and the surf culture in Southern California reigned supreme. He finally found his niche.

He spent several years playing with many famous musicians at the Palamino Club. He earned an associate’s degree at the local college.

Lefore also studied boxing and kung fu.

The physical training taught him resiliency, but also mental toughness. He could now face challenges and could ‘roll with the punches.’

He married and eventually had a child. Lefore moved his family to Oregon and attended bible school in Eugene, Ore.

He soon took a job working as a counselor at Fairview Hospital, where he helped patients deal with personal issues for nearly 27 years.

The Lefores now have two children and reside in the Salem area.

Lefore said his passion for helping others comes from his own personal difficulties growing up as an “outsider.”

He has taken his knack for helping people and combined it with his musical abilities, and now holds group guitar sessions with Oregon National Guard Soldiers and veterans returning from war.

“The difficulties in my own life have given me a unique perspective,” said Lefore. “I feel my experiences help me mentor and help others through some of their life challenges.”
The two-year Capital Campaign for the Oregon Military Museum is off to a strong start with two high profile events raising money and funds for the cause. The All Star Toile at the Oregon Military at the Oregon Golf Club in May raised $350,000 for the museum. The event featured celebrities like Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS. The All Star Toile at the Oregon Military was impressive because of the immediate outpouring of support from everyone I know,” said Tommy Thayer, lead guitarist for the rock band KISS. “It’s something that everyone can relate to and directly affects their lives,” said Thayer.

The Oregon Military Museum will be named after Retired Brig. Gen. (OSDF) James B. Thayer, who is the recipient of the Silver Star, and Bronze Star, and World War II veteran. Thayer, of Lake Oswego, helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp during World War II. After the war, Thayer returned home to Oregon to build a successful business and raise a family.

On June 14, Thayer was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon National Guard Executive Briefing at the Portland Air National Guard Base hosted by Gov. John Kitzhaber. Thayer accepted the award with his four children, Tommy Thayer, John Thayer, Mike Thayer and Jim Thayer on stage. “I’m so proud that Dad is being honored,” said Tommy Thayer. “It’s fitting considering all of his accomplishments and leadership for nearly 70 years of service.”

The Oregon Military Museum will play tribute to Thayer and all those who have served in the military. “This is what this state needs,” said Oregon State Defense Force Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer.

The Oregon Military Museum will be the centerpiece of the new Oregon Military Heritage Park at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., home of the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center.

“The museum will be a gathering place, a sort of blueprint, a way-finding point, of meaningful stories about Oregonians’ military service and military values,” said Tracy Thoennes, Curator for the Oregon Military Museum.

Funds raised from the Capital Campaign will be used for facilities upgrades, including a safer museum lighting, fire safety, environmental controls and security system improvements. Professional exhibits include a vault containing a large weapons collection. Thoennes said every object tells a story.

“We hope that by sharing these stories with the community, through our collection of historically significant objects and archival material, lives will be enriched,” said Thoennes.

For more information on the Capital Campaign for the Oregon Military Museum go to www.allstarsalute.com.

The Thayer family joins Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Roos, Adjutant General, Oregon, on stage during the Oregon Air National Guard’s Executive Briefing. Brig. Gen. (OSDF) James B. Thayer was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement award during the event.

The Oregon Army National Guard’s 2-641 Aviation Regiment is seeking applicants for its upcoming Initial Entry Rotary Wing Board, Jan. 28-31.

Eligibility Criteria:
- All members of the Oregon National Guard are eligible
- Born after June 1, 1990. (Must be less than 25 years old at the time of flight School)
- Passing APFT with minimum of 70 points in each event
- Must be able to pass Class I Flight Physical (No disqualifying medical condition per AR 40-501)
- No Criminal conviction or DUI’s
- G-2 Secret Security Clearance
- Support from applicant’s Chain of Command
- Must pass AFAS (Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test)

Preferred applicants will have (but not required):
- Bachelor’s degree
- Private pilot’s license
- E-5 or above (with WLC completed)
- ROTC Cadet MS-4

IERW positions will be in FY13 and FY14. The board will conduct the week of Jan. 28-31, 2013, at the AASF4, in the Charles L. Deebert Operations Facility in Salem, Oregon. The IERW positions will be in FY13 and FY14.

Flight School is a series of highly demanding courses, including;
- Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOSC; Warrant Officer candidates)
- Helicopter Overwater Survival Training (HOST); Survival, Escape, Resistance and Chute (SERI-C); Initial Entry Rotary Wing Board (IERW); Advanced graduate flight training for the UH-60 or CH-47.

Only motivated, physically and mentally fit applicants who show a strong interest in completing the course are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact:
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Labor Department launches Vets Retraining Assistance Program
Story courtesy of the U.S. Dept. of Labor

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the Veteran作品 Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) rolled out the new program on July 1, 2012.

To qualify, a Veteran must:
1. Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old.
2. Be unemployed
3. Earned an other than dishonorable discharge
4. Not be eligible for any other VA education compensation due to unemployment
5. Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program
6. Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

Participants must receive medical treatment.
Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill.
Participants must be enrolled in a degree program (currently, $1,473 per month). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program.

We are accepting VRAP applications now through September 30, 2012.
Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved by VA beginning after July 1, 2012, at a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation.

For more information or to apply, please visit the website at www.vow.va.gov/vow.

End of summer marks job hunting season for vets
Story by Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The end of summer marks the start of an open season of sorts for job fairs for military spouses in what one Pentagon official calls the “high-touch” part of a “high-tech, high-touch” process.

Meg O’Grady was a military spouse and a lawyer who has maintained her skills through nine moves and two deployments.

“Something that’s resonated with the American public a great deal is the way that families of service members have been impacted by the war,” said Dempsey.

The partnership hosts an online job portal called MSEP’s partner, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which has 220,000 ads on its site.

When Dempsey was building the Hiring Our Heroes staff, she turned to Noreen O’Neill, a military spouse she knew socially who had volunteered for the program’s launch, to be its events director.

Like many military spouses, O’Neill had an employment gap of more than 10 years, but “had either been the president or chief fundraiser of every spouse club she was in,” Dempsey said.

Telling a private-sector manager you were a family readiness group leader may not resonate until you say you were in charge of the well-being of 750 families, Dempsey said.

“I could say you were a spouse club president may sound like a boutique social position,” she added. “But if they say they were in charge of a budget of tens of thousands of dollars and hosted 10 major events with hundreds of attendees, that’s an event planner.”
SALEM, Ore. — On the 68th anniversary of the Allied invasion of France, June 6th, memories became fresh and emotions stirred as thousands gathered at the ceremonial groundbreaking of Oregon’s World War II Memorial in Wilson Park on the grounds of the state Capitol.

Many don’t recall an event in recent history so where many veterans of World War II gathered in one place. It was history, once again, in the making.

“There’s not very many of us left, and I think it’s very nice that they would do this,” said Alvin Christopherson of Salem, a World War II veteran who lived through the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“I was actually on duty that morning, wide awake. And I heard a drone and looked out my window, and I said this must be on the wall as you enter the headquarters of Portland. He worked closely with the United States Appraiser of the Port of Portland. He eventually settled in Portland, Ore. He shortly began re-odds and bouncing back and forth business endeavors, becoming a force in the local trade, becoming a well respected, successful statesman, is a proud heritage to the Oregon State Defense Force History Office charged with raising private grounds. The Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation or to make a donation, visit: www.oregonwwimemorial.com.

On February 1, 1865, Owen joined the United States Volunteers. Colonel Summers was ordered to Portland and consolidated into the Second Oregon Regiment of the United States V olunteers. Colonel Summers was the First Regiment. Seven years later, he was promoted to the rank of colonel. At the opening of the Spanish-American War, all National Guard troops were ordered to Portland and consolidated into the Second Oregon Regiment of the United States Volunteers. Colonel Summers was named as commander of this new group, and on May 24, 1898, the regiment sailed to the Philippines. The unit was the first military unit to leave the continental United States, and along with the First California and five companies of the U.S. Infantry, were the first to arrive in a foreign country during the war. The men under Summers’ command fought with honor and dignity, and are forever known as the 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the Tuskegee Airman, a unit of America’s first black aviators.

And courage: when considering the careers and service of Ken Jemstedt, one of the original Flying Tigers volunteer pilots in China, later a state senator and mayor of Hood River. Rex T. Barber, a pilot fighter from Culver who was part of the top-secret mission to locate and shoot down Japanese Ad. Isoroku Yamamoto.

“Sacrifice, as in the act by 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the career of 1st Lt. Robert Diez, one of the