1249th EN demobilize in Salem after tour in Afghanistan

Story by Ted Sickinger
The Oregonian

When 24-year-old Staff Sgt. Jerod Condit stepped off the Boeing 737 at Salem Municipal Airport on Dec. 12, his father wrapped him in a bear hug and couldn’t let go, despite the crowd of family members waiting eagerly to lay hands and lips on their returning hero.

Nearly a month later, Don Condit was still brushing back tears on Saturday, awash in pride and relief as Gov. John Kitzhaber, Sen. Ron Wyden and a host of families on financial and educational support programs. "You'll stand by one another as you stood by your one another in Afghanistan," Kitzhaber told the crowd. "I hope you'll stand by one another as you stood by each other in Afghanistan."

Maj. Jon Van Horn, a battalion surgeon in the 1249th, said that after living in a heightened state of alert for a year, putting on eye protection and a reflector belt for something as routine as a nighttime trip to the job, relaxing and reintegrating with spouses, children and jobs can be jarring.

The tour in Afghanistan was his fifth since being married, including Bosnia, Iraq, Hurricane Katrina and another in Afghanistan. While he and his wife Shannon have become pros at managing the logistics, they said each deployment has gotten harder as their boys have grown, and their emotional and parenting needs have changed.

Van Horn recently returned to work as a physician's assistant at Legacy Emanuel two weeks after off to get back into a civilian rhythm. But he said he was encouraged to see the breadth of services being offered to returning vets compared to when he got back from Iraq in 2003.

"Back then, it was 'Thanks for your service, see ya later,'" he said. "Now the whole setup is much different. You've got a whole set of support services."
A new year for the Oregon National Guard

We begin 2012, and as in normal fashion, in a historic way. The Guard’s first storyteller, General Craig R. McKinney will now also officially be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, directly advising the President of the United States. This is an amazing accomplishment, especially as we have just celebrated 375 years of service to the people they train to adequately equip have happened because of the great success of our Soldiers and Airmen during the Global War on Terror. The Oregon National Guard is off to a quick training year with overseas training over the next few months in areas such as Oman, Thailand, and with our State Partner, Bangladesh.

For Office of Emergency Management, I commend each and every one of you for your efforts during what is already known as the Calendar Year 2012. As our citizen-soldiers and airmen remained thoroughly prepared for a potential call out, you were coordinating civil and state assets to assist our citizens directly and were able to quickly assist with the Governor’s decision to declare a state of emergency in multiple counties throughout the state. As both the Governor and I personally viewed the devastation and talked with unified command representatives in Coos County it was evident that they not only knew what assets were available to them if needed, they worked very hard and for assistance if they needed more. This superb synchronization between on the ground incident commanders, county emergency operations centers, and service providers truly demonstrated the relationships and prior coordination that had taken place to effectively assist Oregon citizens during an emergency. Job very well done.

In February, we will welcome home our unmanned aerial vehicle platoon from a six-month deployment to Iraq with a formal demobilization ceremony. These were the last of our Oregon troops to be in Iraq before the complete withdrawal. I look forward to personally welcoming them back to Oregon. As we welcome them home we will prepare for elements of our aviation community to join forces with the Maine National Guard for an anticipated 400-day mobilization to Kuwait in support of MEDVAC operations in the region. This truly is an amazing time in our history. Oregon National Guardmen are literally serving around the world. Simultaneously, we are preparing for other events never before. Vice Guard in May will dramatically assure this. We will assure all Oregonians that the Oregon National Guard, the Guard’s story ideas. Stories from any source, military families are encouraged to submit articles and stories of the Oregon National Guard which benefit Oregon Guard members and their families.

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon Military Department, authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-6 and the United States Air Force Regulation 460-1. The views expressed herein are those of the author and not necessarily the opinions of the United States Army, Air Force, or the State of Oregon, and are under exclusive written contract with the Oregon Military Department. The Sentinel is not necessarily the voice of the Army and Air Forces, the Department of the Army or the National Guard Bureau.

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National Guard State Partnership Program emphasizes building relationships

Fellow Warrant Officers and all ORNG Soldiers, As we begin this New Year for the ORNG, I will be writing a series of articles covering WO issues. I am prioritizing and publishing the most important issues first. The ORANG WO end strength has been around 84% of required numbers for several months now. The 84% WO end strength, compared with all other states and territories, is average, it still lands us in the red for reporting purposes.

It takes a substantial amount of time and effort to put together a packet for a potential WO. Documenting individual’s experiences (military and civilian), training, evaluations, etc to prove the proponent schoolhouse the information needed to adequately evaluate each WO candidate is critical. Each MOS has different requirements and standards applied by the proponent schoolhouse and of course no two soldiers have exactly the same career path (independent compared with other soldiers). An example of a discriminator that is not yet a requirement is education level; with higher level completion giving an indication that the soldier has proven ability for further training aptitude.

Even though the ORANG is short WOs; high standards, ethics, and motivation are still the requirements necessary to assuage this pool of professionals. The WO recommendation and selection process must continue to seek out the most experienced, qualified, and leadership oriented soldiers in the ORNG.

Do you have what it takes? A Warrant Officer Workshop is scheduled for the AFRC at Camp Withycombe on 10-12 Feb 12. Any Army or Air Guard WO candidate is critical. Each MOS has different requirements and standards.

Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Mikele Miletic, chief of staff of the Serbian Armed Forces, review Serbian troops following McKinley’s arrival in Belgrade, Serbia, on Sept. 10, 2010, for National Guard State Partnership Program activities. U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenleaf

A new year for Warrant Officers

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Governor Kitzhaber, Maj. Gen Rees visit Turner
Story by Kim Lipart
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs


Rees and Kitzhaber saw the effects of flood waters on one of the worst-hit parts town. Some residents in Turner had to be evacuated from their homes because of the severe weather.

The State of Emergency authorizes the Office of Emergency Management to coordinate requests for state assistance from affected counties. “The return of severe winter weather has overwhelmed communities across our state,” said Governor Kitzhaber.

Outreach program connects with kids
Story and photos by Spc. Cory Oregan, Oregon National Guard Reintegration

Children got a chance to play, spend time with family, and be around other kids from military families at JJ Jump in Clackamas, Ore., Dec. 29, thanks to a partnership between the Oregon National Guard Youth Program, Operation: Military Kids and local business owners who want to give something back to military families in their area.

More than 200 participants registered for the event, which quickly reached maximum capacity, where the children experienced multiple bounce houses and courses, a six-foot tall mouse, Santa Claus, a climbing wall, zip-line swing and much more free of charge for military families.

Aless DeLeon, program coordinator, Oregon National Guard Youth Outreach Services, said the JJ Jump entertainment center opens its doors twice a year for an exclusive event for military children and youth. Participation has steadily increased since the event started in 2009, DeLeon said.

DeLeon said each child at the recent event also received a toy that was brought to the event as part of a donation to Operation: Military Kids.

JJ Jump owners Nile and Wade Wilson were presented the Two Star Note award from The Adjutant General, Ore., Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Oregon National Guard signed by the Oregon National Guard Service Member and Family Support Director, Ret. Col. David Ferre and Rees.

Joan Engeldinger, the project director for Operation Military Kids, said her program and the Oregon National Guard have made an effort to reach out to military families with children and youth who have experienced deployments.

“We have worked hard with our networking to try and give families access to events where they can be around other military families,“ she said. “It is a chance for them to be around people they have something in common with, take their mind off the stress, and just have fun.”

Engeldinger said these types of programs and events are important in Oregon because there are no active duty military bases to help create connections with other military families.

Staff Sgt. John Mueller, his wife Debbie, and their six children have attended every JJ Jump event. Mueller said he has been on three deployments and that he thinks the events are particularly important for his kids when he is gone. “The kids love it, and gives them a chance to meet other kids who are experiencing the same thing,” said Debbie.

Hank Bauer, assistant state youth coordina- tor, Oregon National Guard Youth Program, helps children choose gifts during an exclu- sive event for military families at JJ Jump in Clackamas, Ore., Dec. 29. Each child at the event received a toy that was brought to the event as part of a donation to Operation: Military Kids.

Reserve families live a different lifestyle than families on a military post and often are not as prepared when a family member leaves for deployment. He said that is a big reason the events are important to the families who attend.

“We get a lot of thanks, the children love it, and families are often asking when the next event will be,” he said.

For more information on upcoming family events for Oregon National Guard service members check www.jointservicessupport.org or www.twitter.com/OR_YellowRibbon.

Vocational Rehab
Story by Master Sgt. Jeffery Lopez
82 BDE Senior Human Resources NCO

The Department of Veterans Affairs’ Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Vet Success program (also known as Voc-Rehab or Chapter 31) offers disabled veterans counseling, training, education and other services needed to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.

If you are a veteran who has a VA disability rating and an employment handicap, you may be entitled to vocational rehabilitation & employment services under Chapter 31 of the GI Bill. These services include - but are not limited to - counseling, training, education and job placement assistance.

The following services may be provided through the VR&E program: Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, interests, and needs.

1. Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning.

2. Employment services such as job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance.

3. Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives.

4. On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences.

5. Financial assistance for post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school.

6. Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and referral. Independent living services for Veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities.

VR&E Eligibility

Eligibility and entitlement for VR&E are two different things. You may meet eligibility criteria, yet not be entitled to services. The first step in the VR&E process is to be evaluated to determine if you qualify for services. To receive an evaluation for VR&E services, you must meet the following “eligibility” criteria: Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable. Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% - or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA. Submit a completed application for VR&E services (online at the Department of Veterans Affairs VONAPP site).

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. (Feb. 4) - The VR&E program provides both educational and vocational assistance to individuals with service-connected disabilities. Veterans who are interested in using these services must make an appointment to be evaluated by a VR&E counselor. Veterans may contact the VR&E office at 626-0025.

The VR&E program serves various purposes which include, but are not limited to: Vocational education and job placement assistance.

The VR&E program has two main categories: Vocational rehabilitation counseling and vocational rehabilitation training.

Vocational rehabilitation counseling services help veterans establish and implement a career plan in order to achieve their personal goals.

Vocational rehabilitation training services provide training to help veterans prepare for a job in their chosen occupation.

The VR&E program helps veterans who are interested in vocational rehabilitation training find training institutions that meet their needs.

In Oregon, this training can be provided by public or private vocational rehabilitation training facilities, technical or business school.

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**Military cont.** emphasis on the Pacific and the Middle East, while maintaining a presence elsewhere, Panetta noted.

“The bottom line is, when we face an aggressor anywhere in this world, we’re going to be able to respond and defeat them,” he added.

The chairman said a popular misconception about the new strategy assumes the nation’s two wars will no longer be able to fight more than one conflict at a time.

“I think we’re very, very, very capable of doing that,” Dempsey said. “The threat, and the environment in which we find ourselves in this decade of the 21st century, suggests that it’s likely to be more than two.”

The strategy aims to build a force capable across the military operational spectrum with the leadership, manning and equipment to provide options to the national command authority, the chairman noted.

One point that may have been underemphasized, he added, is that the military has “learned an enormous amount” over the last 10 years about how to wage war.

Dempsey said the military has developed strengths unforeseen a decade ago, noting its capabilities in special operations, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyber.

“What we’re looking to do here is not just look at our own weaknesses and strengths but rather build a force that has the kind of agility the secretary mentioned, that is a learning organization that will adapt itself to what it confronts,” he said.

The military has seen a decade of high demand, and defense leaders are working to ensure the force size remains adequate and adaptive to future missions, he said.

“We do have a ... significant, capable [National] Guard and reserve component, and we do have an active component that has learned a lot over the last 10 years,” Dempsey noted. “What we’re trying to do is break the template and think about different ways of accomplishing the task, to give more options to our nation.”

**CBS “Face the Nation” host Bob Schieffer interviews Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta, center, and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, in Washington, D.C., Jan. 6, 2012. Panetta and Dempsey fielded questions ranging from the upcoming budget cuts to the threats that Iran poses in the Middle East.**

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**Armed Forces News**

**NEWS**

**Illness claims extended**

**Story courtesy of Army Times**

The Veterans Affairs Department has extended the deadline for Persian Gulf War veterans to file compensation claims for unexplained illnesses and symptoms such as Gulf War veterans to file compensation claims for unexplained illnesses and symptoms such as unexplained illnesses and symptoms such as the service in that war.

The deadline, which had been set to expire last Jan. 31, has been extended to Dec. 31, 2016.

Some Gulf War veterans report unexplained illnesses and symptoms such as muscle and joint pain, fatigue, headache, memory problems, rashes and shortness of breath. Many of the symptoms are similar to those experienced by Vietnam veterans who developed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease) at higher rates than the general population.

The cause of these multi-symptom illnesses is unknown, although studies have linked them to environmental factors such as dust and acid petroleum smoke, exposure to nerve agents and adverse reactions to inoculations and preventive medicines.

Nearly 80,000 U.S. personnel deployed to the region in 1990 and 1991.

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**Military recruiter of the Month**

**Story courtesy of Oregon National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

Sgt. 1st Class Johnny L. Palmer III was recently recognized by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, for winning Recruiter of the Month honors, at the Oregon Military Department, Dec. 19.

Palmer enlisted six new Soldiers during the month of November, focusing on a specific unit and Military Occupational Specialty.

Palmer, stationed in Corvallis, has enlisted twelve Soldiers into the ORARNG since Aug. 1, 2011, all of whom chose Infantry career fields. Eleven of the Soldiers were assigned as Bravo Company, 2-162 Infantry Regiment.

Palmer’s efforts represent the single most significant impact on the end strength of an Oregon infantry unit in recent history—and comes two years after Maj. Gen. Rees has designated two infantry MOS’s as among Oregon’s top five most important career fields requiring gains in strength, said CSM Kevin Cutting, Command Sergeant Major with the Oregon National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command.

Palmer attributes his success to long hours, the Soldiers of B-2-162, and his relationship with Oregon State University’s Military Science program. He also trains with Soldiers of the unit and with the OSU Military Science program on a regular basis.

“I work in my schools as much as I can but nothing could replace the referral response I get from Bravo Company and OSU Military Science,” Palmer said.

Palmer said his recognition was “great for morale” and his family resolve and your family resolve personal problems.

**Oregon Military Assistance**

No service member stands alone

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

800.511.6944

www.ormah.com

**JFHQ Family Program Cookbook Sales**

The JFHQ Family Program is putting together a JFHQ Family Program Cook Book as a fundraiser for next year’s events. Each book will have approximately 200 recipes for all 51 cities. If you are interested in reserving one, please contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581 or by email at robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us. Supplies are limited so get your order in early. If you are interested in submitting recipes for the cookbook and have your name appear in print, send them to Robin also. The deadline to submit recipes is February 26th.

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**Safety Hero**

Nominations

Starting January 1, 2012 and each quarter thereafter, the Federal (Oregon National Guard) and State (Oregon Military Dept.) Safety offices would like to recognize employees/soldiers for their contributions to the overall Safety Program by awarding honors to those who go the extra mile to provide a safer environment for all. A “Safety Hero” is someone who takes the initiative to prevent a near miss or accident/ incident from occurring. There is no limit on the number of times an individual may receive this award. If you would like more information or the Nomination Form, please contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581 or by email at robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us.
JTAP in action

Story and photos by Spc. Kirby Rider
115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Oregon Army National Guard

THE DALLES, Ore. – Soldiers returning from missions overseas now have an easier way to access crucial benefits aimed at helping Soldiers readjust to life after a deployment.

Soldiers in the Oregon Army National Guard now have access to crucial assistance dealing with these stressful issues thanks to the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program, the first Joint Military Service program in the nation.

“In Iraq there was something to do every day, whether that was managing vehicles or personnel issues, there was always something to do every day,” said Capt. Jeffery Sagen, Commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Calvary Regiment. “Coming home, I may need to mow the lawn and that is for the day. It’s about needing to adjust to a new lifestyle and having days off.”

“There is a lot of stress we deal with that Active Duty cannot do not encounter,” Sagen continued. “They come home and continue on within a similar organizational structure they become accustomed to overseas. Our guys come home and go back to civilian jobs and only see their unit once a month.”

The JTAP helps Soldiers by providing them access to information that helps with adjusting to a new lifestyle. Some of these programs are education benefits, employment issues, crisis management, and their general well-being.

“This program is very helpful to people with families and those with kids,” said Staff Sgt. Michael Absher, an assistant convoy commander with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Calvary Regiment. “The 60-day event was really useful and gave me information about services.”

One of the programs offered by JTAP is the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. These events happen prior to the deployment for Soldiers and their families, during the deployment for families while the Soldier is gone, and three programs for the Soldiers and their families at 30-days, 60-days, and 90-days following the Soldiers return from overseas.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is one piece of the JTAP’s mission plan. However, the programs success comes from working with Soldiers on an individual level to ensure the needs of the Soldiers are met.

“The purpose of the program is letting the Soldiers know they can contact the team at any time,” said Scott West, a member of the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program and also a Staff Sergeant with the Oregon Army National Guard. “It’s about building a relationship with the Soldiers.”

The JTAP team members are available 24/7 to Soldiers who may need assistance, from program assistance to being available to talk with Soldiers about their problems. JTAP also works with local law enforcement agencies, educating them about issues and considerations particular to deployed service members.

“The reintegration teams are great,” said 1st Sgt. Brian Nation, the senior Non-Commissioned Officer of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Calvary Regiment. “They have been with us since we got off the plane (at Joint Base Lewis-McChord). They have taken a personal interest in our guys to ensure they are taken care of.”

Although the JTAP is the main contact for Soldiers, they work with many outside organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Student Veteran Associations on college campuses, and many local organizations.

“The (JTAP) team is awesome,” said RaeLynn Ricarte, President of the Gorge Heroes Club, a non-profit organization that helps Soldiers and Veterans in the Mid-Columbia region. “We get insight into what soldier need and we can help connect Soldiers to programs.”

West has taken a special interest in working with homeless Veterans to ensure their needs are met. Recently JTAP received a large donation of tents, clothing and camping supplies from a retailer in Prineville, Ore. “The community asked how they can help,” Ricarte continued. “This is a great way for military families to be active while their loved ones are deployed.”

To contact the Oregon Joint Transition Assistance Program call 1-888-688-2264.

McKinley: Guard and Reserves well-positioned for new defense strategy

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Blair Heusdens
Florida National Guard

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Jan. 10, 2012 - The Rotary Club of Jacksonville hosted Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, on Monday at the Omni Hotel here, where McKinley spoke about the current state of the National Guard and the challenges that ahead for the U.S. military.

McKinley, a Jacksonville native, spoke about the recently released defense strategy that will guide the nation’s defense into the future. The strategy, announced Jan. 5, emphasizes trimming the force while writing new missions for the future. The strategy, announced Jan. 5, emphasizes trimming the force while writing new missions for the future.

“ ‘These decisions were not made lightly,’ ” said McKinley. “They were made with the most senior leadership of our unified services briefing the president of the United States and the National Security Council. And this is the military they believe will lead us through 2012 and into the next decade prudently, fiscally and with the ability to handle those types of emergencies that may occur.”

McKinley believes the U.S. military is still sized properly to handle these challenges, especially in the National Guard where units are better trained and equipped than they were just 10 years ago.

“Your National Guard and the Reserve components are at the top of their game,” said McKinley. “For the next several years, we believe we are the answer to our nation’s security needs, and we are the answer to our needs here at home in Florida in case we have a natural disaster. We are well-led, well-equipped and we are very, very proud of the opportunity to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.”

Politics in Uniform

Knowing what you can and can’t do in politics can be confusing as a servicemember. Part one of a multi-part series may help you understand what is and is not allowed, as a servicemember, federal employee and state employee.

Part1: Excerpt from DoDD 1344.10 Feb. 19, 2008

A member of the Armed Forces on active duty shall not:

• Participate in partisan political fundraising activities (except as permitted), rallies, conventions (including making speeches in the course thereof), management of campaigns, or debates, either on one’s own behalf or on that of another, without respect to uniform or inference or appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement. Participation includes more than mere attendance as a spectator.
• Use official authority or influence to interfere with an election, affect the course or outcome of an election, solicit votes for a particular candidate or issue, or require or solicit political contributions from others.
• Allow or cause to be published partisan political articles, letters, or endorsements signed or written by the member that solicits votes for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause. This is distinguished from a letter to the editor as permitted.
• In any official capacity with or be listed as a sponsor of a partisan political club.
• Speak before a partisan political club.

See POLITICS story on page 8

Memorial Pool

Built in front of the 41st Armed Forces Reserve Center, the Sunset Division Memorial pool stands as a tribute to the servicemembers of the 41st Division during WWII.

Do you have an interesting photo or story you would like to submit to the Sentinel?

Send them to: Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us
Experience counts when lives are on the line

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- The Kingsley Field Fire Department is staffed by 30 State firefighters and one Federal Technician Fire Chief. The firefighters work 24-hour shifts from 7:30 one day to 7:30 the next. Minimum staffing is seven operations personnel caring for 24 hours a day.

Together the Kingsley Field Fire Department Firefighters represent more than 350 years of combined firefighting experience. The firefighters combined have over 350 State Certificates and over 380 Department of Defense Firefighter Certifications.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department is organized to provide primary fire protection and fire prevention services to the Kingsley Field Air Guard Base. The Kingsley Field Fire Department is also responsible for the fire protection of the commercial and general aviation traffic at Klamath Falls Airport.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department has responded to numerous incidents both on base and off. There have been several aircraft incidents that the fire department has responded to and performed rescue and fire prevention activities.

The fire department has assisted with the local fire departments by providing medical care assistance and firefighting assistance for structures and wildland incidents. In 2011, the Kingsley Field Fire Department assisted with the multiple alarm fire at the Everett mental health facility and at the Klamath Falls Gospel Mission.

In August 2011, several members of the fire department attended the Air National Guard Fire Emergency Services conference awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jim Court, the Assistant Chief of Prevention was recognized as the Air National Guard Civilian Firefighter of the Year for 2010. The Kingsley Field Fire Department was honored with the CMSgt Edward Wolbert Award – 2010 Fire Department of the Year (Large Category) by the Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association.

The Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association is comprised of Air National Guard Fire Departments in the United States and its territories. There are 31 departments that fit into the large category based on full time staffing. Award criteria includes: Fire Department Management, Quality of Life, Community Relations, Awards, Operations, Training, Fire Prevention and Technical Services.

Oregon’s Good Sam: The Convair C-131B in Oregon

The Oregon Air National Guard (OreANG) flew the Convair C-131B Samaritan as an operational support aircraft between 1972 and 1986. Enlisted aircrews maintained the aircraft in excellent condition for its transfer to the OreANG.

Approximately 30 states that had fighter aircraft were assigned a C-131 aircraft for support missions. They were the Adjutant General’s limousine and the flying unit station wagon. States could use the aircraft for a variety of purposes, such as to help recover their fighter aircraft from other locations as well as to transport personnel and take parts to a stranded aircraft, as well as flying aircrews to altitude pressure chamber checks at other bases.

Oregon’s C-131B had served as an Air Force aircraft at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. It was a test bed for the encoding altimeter, the transponder which transmitted the large category based on full time staffing. Award criteria includes: Fire Department Management, Quality of Life, Community Relations, Awards, Operations, Training, Fire Prevention and Technical Services.

Volunteer

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Staff Sgt. Erin L. Miles, an aircrew flight equipment journeyman recently returned from a 130-day deployment to the AOR this October. Miles volunteered for the deployment after deciding to pursue some additional adventure in her life, but that’s not how she felt from the outset of her career.

“No, I won’t ever deploy,” Miles said in response to the often asked question. “I am with a training unit and my job is to maintain the pilot’s equipment. Since my instructors stay with the students, and I stay with the pilots, No, I won’t have to deploy.”

But as Miles approached her 29th birthday she began to feel differently, of the fire department attended the Air National Guard Fire Emergency Services conference awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Jim Court, the Assistant Chief of Prevention was recognized as the Air National Guard Civilian Firefighter of the Year for 2010. The Kingsley Field Fire Department was honored with the CMSgt Edward Wolbert Award – 2010 Fire Department of the Year (Large Category) by the Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association.

The Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association is comprised of Air National Guard Fire Departments in the United States and its territories. There are 31 departments that fit into the large category based on full time staffing. Award criteria includes: Fire Department Management, Quality of Life, Community Relations, Awards, Operations, Training, Fire Prevention and Technical Services.

One of the important OreANG C-131 missions took place during the period from 1980 to 1986 when the OreANG was in the process of taking over Kingsley Field at Klamath Falls, Oregon from the USAF. Initially, the 123rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Portland had two aircrews on air defense alert at Kingsley. Later on, as the OreANG took greater control of Kingsley and responsibility for building up and operating the new ANG F-4 Phantom Replacement Training Unit, the C-131 was used for two to four

and carried 10,400 pounds of fuel. This fuel fed thirsty Pratt & Whitney R2800 engines which developed 2500hp with water injection and using 100/145 octane fuel. Unfortunately, in 1980-81 100/145 fuel was not available at all bases and so they had to use 100/130 octane, which was lost about 200hp. This made single-engine performance in the C-131B difficult and hazardous.

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Miles. And shortly thereafter she departed the United States for her overseas deployment to Iraq. Due to the sensitive nature of the work she performed she is unable to discuss specifically where she was or what she did there. What she can say is that it was worth the extra work and sacrifice.

“I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I have made, not only in my career but in my life,” She said.

Despite long hours and a heavy workload Miles said the experience was uniquely fulfilling.

“I would have to say that the most satisfying part of my experience down range was a feeling of fulfillment on such a deep, personal level – knowing that I was a part of making a difference,” she added.
FT RUCKER Ala. -- Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey M. Day, of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, was presented with the medal by Col. Jessie O. Farrington, U.S. Army Aviation Center for Excellence commander, for exceptionally meritorious achievement in valor that was displayed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Feb. 25, according to Capt. Jonathan Britton, operations officer of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization.

"Day displayed complete disregard for his own safety while initiating multiple engagements in an engagement with superior fields of fire over the friendly forces," said Britton. "His actions were decisive in saving the lives of the Soldiers on the ground."

Col. David Fee, director of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, told the Soldiers and Family members the story of how Day came to receive the medal.

"We were trying to decide whether he is crazy or stupid," said Fee, "but no matter what, most of the great awards were given somewhere in between.

According to the colonel’s account, there was a unit under heavy fire that had run out of bullets and water, and needed an emergency resupply. These supplies are stuffed into bags, which are then called speedballs, to be delivered by aircraft to the unit in need.

"They needed someone to help push [the supplies] out of the aircraft and, naturally, the unit in need. It wasn’t until Day returned to the aircraft that he realized he saved all the ground guys’ lives and both the ground crew and the aircrew became unhooked, said the director. "He stayed out there, under heavy fire, just doing his job and unloading the speedballs," said the colonel. "Three rocket propelled grenades came at the aircraft, but he continued unloading the emergency supplies.

Meanwhile, the Soldiers flying the aircraft and the ones on the ground are trying to communicate to Day, yelling for him to “get out of there,” added Fee.

In the midst of the heavy fire, and with disregard for his own safety, Day runs back and gets the rest of the speedballs for the unit in need. It wasn’t until Day returned to the aircraft that he realized his communication with the aircraft had become unhooked, and the director.

"The aircraft had six bullet holes in it, and both the ground crew and the aircrew felt that the enemies’ intentions were to shoot Day," he said. "The end result is that he saved all the ground guys’ lives by getting their supplies to them under a ton of fire."

"I was just doing a job," said Day when reflecting on the story. “Everyone asks me ‘Why did you get out of the helicopter?’ and I say because they needed it. "Why the colonel didn’t say is that the whole time the team was laughing at me. I had nothing better to do that day I guess," he joked. “But it was fun and interesting, and I have a trophy of it at home. It’s a good reminder.”

INFO BOX: UH-60

Max. Gross Weight: 22,000 lbs
Max. Armament: 2640 lbs (or 11 combat-equipped t coax)
Max. Endurance: 219 hours
Range: 600 km
Internal Load: 2640 lbs (or 11 combat-equipped t coax)
Crew: 2 pilots; 2 crew chiefs
Manufacturer: United Technologies (Stratford, CT); General Electric (Lynn, MA)

Resiliency through Mental Fitness

Story courtesy of Oregon National Guard Resiliency Team

Setbacks or stressors as stated in the December Sentinel issue can be big or small. Examples can be you have allot of meetings for the day, you have to pick up some milk for dinner after work or as big as getting stuck on I-205 in Portland due to a car accident. As we move on in our military career there are things that must be done to be prepared. It could be to update your promotion points with a new award, submit your latest college transcripts or even take the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

It is the APFT that the Resilience Office would like to talk about in this issue. For years the Army has worked on physical fitness training. Making everyone physically fit for training is very important and should be incorporated in every aspect of a leader’s goal. But what about being mentally fit? What about having mental agility? Yes, some Soldiers and family members don’t see how they can cope with stressors a little better but everyone should basically “workout” and train their minds. A man’s or woman’s mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness.

A mortars team from the Oregon National Guard’s 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, guides a Soldier from the Royal Army of Oman’s 11th Brigade, Western Frontier Regiment, while firing a mortar at the Rubkut Training Range Jan. 22. The live fire event is part of a U.S. Army Central (CENTRAL) training exercise in Oman. Photo by Spc. Cory Groogan, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

1-82 CAV in Oman
Final Flight

Politics cont.
• Conduct a political opinion survey under the auspices of a partisan political group or club or distribute partisan political literature.
• Perform clerical or other duties for a partisan political committee or candidate during a campaign, on an election day, or after an election day during the process of closing out a campaign.
• Solicit or otherwise engage in fundraising activities in Federal offices or facilities, including military reservations, for any political cause or candidate.
• March or ride in a partisan political parade.
• Display a large political sign, banner, or poster (as distinguished from a bumper sticker) on a private vehicle.
• Display a partisan political sign, poster, banner, or similar device visible to the public at one’s residence on a military installation, even if that residence is part of a privatized housing development.
• Participate in any organized effort to close out a campaign.
• Sell tickets for or otherwise actively promote partisan political dinners and similar fundraising events.
• Attend partisan political events as an official representative of the Armed Forces, except as a member of a joint Armed Forces color guard at the opening ceremonies of the national conventions of the Republican, Democratic, or other political parties recognized by the Federal Elections Committee or as otherwise authorized by the Secretary concerned.
• Make a campaign contribution to, or receive or solicit (on one’s own behalf) a campaign contribution from, any other member of the Armed Forces on active duty. Any contributions not prohibited by this subparagraph remain subject to the gift provisions of sections 2635.301-2635.304 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (Reference (f)). See subparagraph 4.1.2.1. for general prohibitions on partisan fundraising activity.
• Commissioned officers shall not use contemptuous words as prohibited by section 888 of Reference (h) or participate in activities prescribed by DoD Directives 5200.2 and 1325.6 (References (g) and (h), respectively).

C-131 cont.
flights a week to shuttle fighter airmen to Klamath Falls and back to Portland.

2012 Oregon Women Veterans Conference

SALEM -- All women who have ever served in the military are invited to participate in the 2012 Oregon Women Veterans Conference. The conference has been scheduled for March 30-31 in Salem at the downtown Conference Center. Every even numbered year during an official representative of the Armed Forces of this nation do not realize that they are a veteran in every sense of the word. It does not matter when a woman served (wartime or peacetime), it only matters that she served honorably and faithfully,” said Val Conley, Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs deputy director and president of the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators. “This conference is a unique opportunity for Oregon to honor its more than 25,000 women veterans and thank them for their service.”

At the conference an award for Oregon Outstanding Woman Veteran will be presented. This award recognizes a female veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a military service member, as a veteran’s spouse, or an outstanding member of and contributor to her community.

More information on this award as well as nomination forms can be found on the Oregon Women Veterans Conference website. Nominations for this award should be submitted by Feb. 24, 2012.

The deadline to register for the conference is March 10, 2012. For more conference information, including hotel arrangements, and to register, please visit the Oregon Women Veterans Conference website on ODVA’s website: www.oregon.gov/odva/wvc.shtml.

There was ingenuity at all OreANG levels to keep the aircraft flying. On one occasion Lt Col Thompson was vacationing near a California ANG base and picked up a # 8 engine cylinder completely and brought it back to Portland to save the C-131 from a lengthy grounding.

Another notable quote concerning C-131 parts came from the TAG General Miller himself, “...parts are so critical we are ordering custom hoses from the John Deere Tractor Company.” This was at an NGIB conference which discussed the status of the C-131 program.

Oregon’s enlisted airmen associated with the C-131 accumulated more than 20,000 flying hours aboard Oregon’s operational support aircraft. Although that figure is of course impressive, it does not reflect all the work behind the scenes essential to make the aircraft ready for flight each mission.

The early morning and many occurred with little or no warning.

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