Star Power

All-Star Salute to Oregon’s Military kicks off $6.5 million Capital Campaign to build new Museum at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas

Oregon Guard breaks ground on new readiness center in The Dalles

THE DALLES, Ore.—U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), U.S. Representative Greg Walden (R-District 2), along with other federal, state and community leaders came out to celebrate as the Oregon National Guard broke ground at their newest location for a readiness center at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles, Ore., June 2.

After 20 years in the making, the readiness center will not only benefit the Oregon National Guard, but the community as well, said State Representative John Huffman, (R-The Dalles, OR District 59).

“We kept plugging away,” he said, “Thanks to everyone that has brought us to this location at this point today.”

“Don’t quit,” said The Dalles Mayor Jim Wilcox, one of the official ceremony members, in reference to finally getting a new facility. “That’s The Dalles, it’s who we are.”

Wilcox was also pleased with the way the project brought together Congress, the Oregon Legislature and the local community.

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“Not only will it be a drill floor, but a conference room as well—a great co-efficient building,” Wilcox said.

The Dalles is the home of Alpha Company 3-116 Cavalry, The Dalles Readiness Center will also serve as a workforce training location, providing reintegration programs and education for service members, as well as an extension of the community college.

“Will integrate military and civilians,” said the mayor. “It will be good for our citizens to see that our friends and neighbors are the service members here.”

Construction is slated to begin September 2012 and will be completed sometime in October 2013.

See related story, Oregon Soldiers among first in nation to begin training on new, cutting edge tank, on Page 7.
Warrant Officers: get involved, our survival depends on it

For this article I am addressing Warrant Officer involvement in professional organizations. Maj. Gen. Rees authored a memorandum regarding participation in professional organizations, dated Mar. 1, 2012. Membership and participation in these organizations afford military and government employees a forum in which to legally advocate for benefits.

Furthermore, this important forum allows us the opportunity to voice our regarding proposed changes in manning, equipping, and policy within the DoD, U.S. Army and National Guard.

Currently, mission structure and funding for the Air National Guard is being threatened. While the Oregon Air National Guard will lose only a few positions in this proposed change, if the current proposals are implemented, some states will lose their ability to meet their state mission requirements.

For the Oregon Army National Guard, we are already feeling the impact of the post-9/11 cuts in government spending and reduction due to lack of funds. The Oregon Army National Guard must lose only a few positions in the proposed change. If the current proposals are implemented, some states will lose their ability to meet their state mission requirements.

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Hall receives accolades from grieving parents

To the Senior Staff of the Oregon National Guard, Maj. Oliver Hall, in his role as a chaplain, comforted us during our darkest hour. He was able to relate his own personal experiences as a military chaplain and help us through the rituals and formalities of things strange to us.

We lost our son, and we are sad. Major Hall came along, and we have “adopted” him as long as we live, by God’s grace and will, Major Hall will be a light that came to us, dressed in his new dress uniform, and dressed with a gentleness and steadiness that led us through the rituals and formalities of things strange to us.

Thanks for sending Major Hall. Let this appreciation go as high up the chain as it will. Not only did Major Hall deserve your commendation, but those above you need to know that in your hands, things are going well.

With great pleasure,
The Rev. Dr. Charles W. Stewart, Assistant Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church of the Nazarene

Rose Festival organizer thanks Oregon Guard

Gen. Rees, Good afternoon. My name is Sara Wright and I have the honor of working with the GMSC Scott Lucas at the Rose Festival’s Memorial Day Celebration. I wanted you to know how much we appreciate all of the support we received from Scott and the Guard. He is such a professional, and was there to help in every way. He was part of our committee, helping with our ideas, processes and implementation.

Also to me, as a civilian, getting through all the paperwork and protocols that go with our events, was a huge help.

We went through the process, and Scott helped us get through it. Our families and the public were so honored to have the military support.

Thank you again, Sara Wright, Events Assistant, Portland Rose Festival Foundation

Gorge Heroes Club sends care packages to deployed 1186 MP Co

Thank you very much for the packages you sent us. Some of the non-perishable food goes on our trucks for missions when we cannot get to a chow hall. I especially wanted to say thank you to Kyle McCullough. I read the article and I appreciate his huge effort.

Thank you for all you do. I would like to have you at our final formation if possible.

Respectfully,
MAJ Jack Gillentine, Commander, 1186 Military Police Company, Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan

Dear Maj Gillentine,
The members of the Gorge Heroes Club take great pride in being able to support our fallen and the members of the Oregon National Guard 1186MMP Unit during your deployment.

We are sending you to our deepest appreciation for all your dedication and commitment in preserving our freedoms.

We will be honored to be present at your final formation.

Respectfully,
Terri Hansen, VP GEC

Tribute motorcycle owner grateful for story

Master Sgt. Choy, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Soldiers honored on my bike. The article you wrote and the photo do great honor for our fallen comrades and the American flag. As a Vietnam veteran and the words that I wish. I had two copies of this Spring edition. I plan on giving this one to the artist Paty Nichols who painted my bike. She will be so touched. She is the one who came up with the American flag idea.

The art work is truly amazing in person.

She truly showed a great way to honor our fallen heroes. Ride with some great heroes.

Again thank you for the article.

IG Bob White (ret.)

Editor’s Note: If you would like to read the article on this bike, refer to Page 10 of the Spring 2012 issue of the Sentinel. And Bob, it was our privilege and honor.

Hall receives accolades from grieving parents

By Maj. Gen. Francis Vavalal, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard

Maj. Gen. Francis Vavalal, Adjutant General, Delaware National Guard, was asked to do this service for our friends as well as a Hall serves, and to All Others to Whom It May Concern: Greetings!

It is with the greatest pleasure that I write this commendation of Major Oliver Hall. In the darkest hour of the death of our beloved, CW5 Paul F. Stewart, who was killed in the street in Olymipia, Washington, a young man riding his bicycle. The shock of it all is yet with us.

In that dark hour, Major Hall came to us. We did not know what to expect from this young soldier when he called. He came to us undaunted through winter weather with the threat of snow clogged passageways.

My wife and I were not only shocked by our son’s death, but we both were in the rawest condition of grief and were able to operate our car. At one of his appointments with us, I had to go into the ER with my body in disarray by some alien malady. (It was later determined to be appendicitis made worse by an attack of Bell’s palsy.)

When he did not find us at our house, through friends of ours, he located us at the hospital. He came into the waiting room bringing empathy clothed in his bright yellow uniform, a vivid contrast to the often downcast ambience of a waiting room.

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Editor’s Note: If you would like to read
Oregon National Guard Soldiers take a ride on the Tinseltown Express

Story and photos by Sgt. Cory Oregan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—When Sgt. Amy Felztn and Spec. Jayme Roth of the Oregon National Guard’s 1249 Engineer Company were on convoys in Afghanistan, the dream of working on a film set in Hollywood seemed a long-shot.

However, less than six-months after returning from their deployment, they found themselves doing just that, thanks to a program designed to find veterans jobs in the film industry.

“Operation Hollywood,” the brainchild of Hollywood film producer Suzanne DeLaurentiis, has helped the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Transition Assistance Program, is providing Soldiers opportunities to work in the film industry.

Actress Erica Christensen, who has had major film roles in “Traffic” and “Swimfan,” and currently plays Julia Braverman-Graham in the television series “Parenthood,” is one of several Hollywood actors who work closely with Felztn on the set of DeLaurentiis’ new film “How Sweet It Is.” She said she is honored to be working with the veterans.

“I think it is really cool that they feel special being here,” Christensen said. “But we feel special having them here; it is an honor both ways.”

Felztn, who is working wardrobe and make-up on the set, said she is having an amazing experience.

“The whole experience of being on the film set, and the demands there are, is so parallel with what the military asks of us—it’s very time-wise and energy-wise,” Felztn said. “Getting to work with these guys is just awesome.”

DeLaurentiis met the Oregon Citizen-Soldiers during a visit to a career and benefit fair in Oregon, which was put on by the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Transition Assistance Program. The team helps veterans and their families with employment, healthcare and education.

She said the veterans on her set are brave men and women who are wonderful people and even better employees.

“The great thing about hiring veterans is they’re always on time, they know how to multi-task, and they’re very accustomed to taking direction,” DeLaurentiis said.

DeLaurentiis, who frequently visits wounded veterans and donates much of her time in support of veterans, said she was inspired after viewing the documentary “This is War: Memories of Iraq” at one of her film festivals. The film, produced by independent Oregon filmmaker Gary Moetnens, follows several Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers during their 2004 deployment to Iraq.

One of the Soldiers featured in the film is Master Sgt. Vinnie Jacques of the Oregon National Guard.

Jacques, who runs plans and Operations/Reintegration Manager for the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program, helped launch what many consider the best reintegration program in the nation for veterans and their families.

He was moved to launch the program after losing one of his Soldiers in an IED attack. He and two other Soldiers were wounded in the same explosion.

Jacques said he understands what veterans endure, knows they are capable of great things, and is passionate about helping them succeed.

“He’s an incredible individual,” Christensen said. “He’s been very impressed with Roth. He and two other Soldiers were wounded in the same explosion.

Jacques said he understands what veterans endure, knows they are capable of great things, and is passionate about helping them succeed.

“She’s excellent, she’s knowledgeable, she retains, she is a very quick study, and definitely an asset,” Burns said.

“Whenever we do another film she is the first person I am calling,” Roth said. “She’s excellent, she’s knowledgeable, she retains, she is a very quick study, and definitely an asset,” Burns said.

“She’s excellent, she’s knowledgeable, she retains, she is a very quick study, and definitely an asset,” Burns said.

We feel special having (the Soldiers) here. It is an honor both ways.

- Erica Christensen, Hollywood actress

Suzanne has given an incredible opportunity to our troops to come down here and work on a film set,” Jacques acknowledged. “I told Jayme: Suzanne has offered the door for you and that I am ecstatic to hear how well you are doing.”

When DeLaurentiis met Jacques, they talked for many minutes about sharing similar values and an interest in working together to help veterans.

Since then, DeLaurentiis’ efforts have resulted in accolades and recognition from the very organization to which she has dedicated herself. Thus far, she has received the Oregon Commendation Medal (an award rarely bestowed to civilians), a written letter of appreciation from Oregon’s Adjutant General, and an engraved plaque of recognition from the Oregon National Guard.

“Operation Hollywood” is her most recent effort to help veterans.

Jacques said he can’t thank DeLaurentiis enough because of the doors she has opened for returning vets.

“We’ve given so much, we’ve all seen it when they are downrange, and there are a few people who have really noticed it here in the U.S.,” he said.

DeLaurentiis said she personally plans on hiring more veterans and will promote “Operation Hollywood” to other influential people in the film industry.

Jacques and DeLaurentiis recently met with an executive from Paramount Studios to discuss employment opportunities.

Feltztn said she is proud to be a part of something bigger than just herself.

“This is such an amazing honor because we get the chance to pave the way for “Operation Hollywood,” so other service members can come and do this too,” she said.

Larry Litton, assistant director for “How Sweet It Is,” said the veterans are picking up very quickly.

“As hard work—you’re moving, always running.”

Alex Adams, a production assistant for “How Sweet It Is,” is also a former Marine. He said the ability to think ahead gives veterans an advantage on a film set.

“It’s a very good thing because we’re already trained to take orders and we’re good at a lot of different things,” he said. “There are other former military on this film set and we’ve all talked about a common sense factor that military experience brings to the set.”

Actor Joe Piscopo has said he has been impressed with the Oregon National Guard Soldiers on the film’s set. The former “Saturday Night Live” star has been in many films and says he has done multiple USO tours while frequently supporting the New Jersey National Guard. His father served in World War II with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

“I’ve got the chance to see some of what the military goes through and we are very humbled by that, and I’d like to thank Suzanne DeLaurentiis for doing this,” Piscopo said.

“How Sweet It Is” stars Piscopo, Christensen, Paul Sorvino, Michael Pare and Eddie Griffin. It is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2012.

Governor’s proclamation marks Military Family Appreciation Day at State Capitol

Family members represented Oregon’s military during the signing of a proclamation on Military Family Appreciation Day at the Oregon State Capitol on May 8. The three families who were present with signed copies of Kitzhaber’s proclamation were Rachael Siller, a former Army Guard member and military spouse from Wallowa Wash.; Mindy Barrella, a military spouse from Gresham; and Salem’s Norman and Arlene Walters—parents of Army Sgt. Donald Walters, who was killed in Iraq in March 2003.

Photo by Sgt. Cory Oregan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

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Wesley Ham, a cavalry scout.

and even making new friends,” said Spc.
by training with a foreign Army, ex-pect, they quickly began communicating

weapons training session. While it was

event kicked off with meet and greets and

Sides will remember this for a lifetime,” he

interpreters during the training, echoed the

National Guard, who managed three other

wildlife that included camels, panthers,

of this region, and the Soldiers on both

lifetime.

Soldiers with memories that will last a

Col. Stanley Reedy, Oregon’s Adjutant General also said he

thought the Oregon troops did an excellent job while visiting the Rubktuk Training Range with Conley.

“The 1 of the 82 Cavalry has made the most of a wonderful opportunity; the Soldiers have deployed with a great attitude and thoroughly impressed their Oman counterparts,” Rees said.

staff Sgt. David Reynolds said it is the first time in his 23 years of military experience that he has been able to train with a foreign national army. He said it is great to learn about their culture and military tactics.

“I am impressed with the teamwork the Omanis have,” Reynolds said. “It’s like our teamwork, and right now we are working with them as one team.”

Capt. Nicholas Le Crerar from the British Foreign Service, a training officer for the Omani Army, commented on the relationship between the U.S. and Omani Soldiers on the last day of training. He

“This unit is the best Army National Guard unit I have seen in my 24 years of service, they did an outstanding job partnering with the Omani Soldiers and leaders,” said the Deputy G7 of the Arabian Peninsula.

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Maj. Antoinette Baucom, public affairs officer for the Third Army, said the purpose of the training is to maintain and enhance the U.S. presence in Oman while strengthening military to military relationships that promote regional stability.

In addition to the interpreters involved in the training, Oregon and Omani Soldiers found other ways to bridge the communication gap, said Spc. Caleb Rice, a medic with 1/82 CAV.

“We maximized the training with all the hands-on activities—the language barrier wasn’t really an issue,” Rice said.

Maj. Erin Bagley, plans and operations officer with 1/82 CAV, said the training is a great tool for the development of the Oregon squadron.

“We’re looking at what works for us and how we can improve,” Bagley said. “This is a great opportunity to do that.”

Capt. Nicholas Le Crerar from the British Foreign Service, a training officer for the Omani Army, commented on the relationship between the U.S. and Omani Soldiers on the last day of training. He

said everybody came with a great attitude ready to learn throughout the training.

“You can see today that they’ve become great friends. They’re out here shaking hands and having a bit of fun,” Le Crerar said after the U.S. and Omanis participated in sporting events and shared a traditional Omani meal.

Maj. Scot Cauthran, the U.S. task force commander for the event said the experience is one he will never forget.

“We have improved as a unit and now have an increased respect for Omani culture,” he said.
From Vicksburg to Willamette: The incredible journey of Peter Knapp

A number of family members, friends, and decades connect Civil War veteran through history

Story by Mike Francis,
The Oregonian

Editor’s Note: This story originally appeared in the Oregonian on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, two days before Knapp’s funeral at Willamette National Cemetery. The dates and references were not changed in adherence to Oregonian reprint guidelines.

An echo of America’s bloodiest war will be heard in Southeast Portland Friday when family members, the Oregon National Guard, historians and members of a curious public gather to bury the ashes of Civil War veteran Peter Knapp.

The event also will cap a story of a long-ago medical oddity, a burst of national publicity, a cross-country friendship of former military enemies, followed by a long period of oblivion.

Knapp’s cremains will be buried at Willamette National Cemetery on the 88th anniversary of his death in Kelso, Wash., and 151 years after the surrender of Fort Sumter to the Confederacy. He will almost surely be the last Civil War veteran to be laid to rest.

Knapp was a key player in an unusual event that commanded national attention in 1921 – 58 years after he fought in the Siege of Vicksburg, Miss. And it was his role in that episode that leads to Willamette this week.

The story could begin almost anywhere, but let’s pick Oct. 11, 2009, when the Oregon Mail-Tribune published a fascinating story with the headline “Coughs Up Bullet: The unlikely sequel to a Civil War mystery.” The story by Shady Cove writer Bill Miller began with an anecdote from 1921. That was when a 78-year-old Confederate War veteran named Willis Meadows suffered a violent coughing fit.

Meadows, who lived in Lantan, Ala., was struggling to breathe until, as Miller writes, “something flew from his mouth, bounced off his wooden kitchen table and tumbled to a stop.”

It was a bullet fired at Vicksburg. A Union soldier had fired a round into Meadows’ eye and he was left for dead. But Union doctors nursed him back to health, although they never recovered the bullet that took his right eye. Meadows went home after the war, the slug remaining lodged in his head – until his coughing fit.

The story made national news, eventually becoming the subject of a “Ripley’s Believe it or Not” panel. Across the country in Cowlitz County, Knapp read it and realized he must have been the one who shot Meadows.

Knapp, with his great-great-niece, Alice Knapp, was elected justice of the peace and became commandant of the mill business,” was elected justice of the peace and became commandant of the mill business.

On June 14, Thayer was also honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon National Guard Executive Briefing hosted by Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber. The event was held at the Portland Air Guard Base in Portland, Ore.

The Oregon Military Museum will be the centerpiece of the new Historical Area Development Plan at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., home of the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Infantry Division and Oregon Army National Guard Reserve Center.

Funds raised will be used for facilities upgrades, including proper museum lighting, fire safety, environmental controls and security system improvements. Professional exhibits include a vault which showcases one of the largest weapons collections west of the Mississippi.

For more information on the Oregon Military Museum Capital Campaign, visit; www.historicallayoutreach.com.

The ashes of Civil War veteran Peter Knapp have been contained for almost 88 years in a box in a southeast Portland mortuary. Now they have been transferred to Willamette National Cemetery, where they will be buried Friday in a ceremony with full military honors, along with the ashes of Knapp’s wife, Georgianna.

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BEAVERTON, Ore.—On what could have been a typical day at Southridge High School in Beaverton, Ore., students were offered a rare chance to interact with Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces and all of America’s recent conflicts.

The Oregon Army National Guard was represented by a diverse number of military occupations ranging from Field Artillerymen from the 1-411 Brigade Support Battalion command, and Soldiers of the 141st Infantry Regiment, to recruiters from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion command, and Soldiers of the 141st Engineer Battalion command.

All attendees were veterans of at least one overseas conflict and wished to share that knowledge with the next generation of young Americans.

Forty-three veterans, both male and female, attended the event and shared stories over the course of six hours during the school day. The oldest attendee was 92 years of age, a retired Colonel and Veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

The most junior Soldiers were several young Oregon Army National Guard Specialists who demonstrated the functions and capabilities of various pieces of equipment on display in front of the school.

While most of the attendees were local, one veteran traveled from Brooklyn, New York and was in town to visit his grandson who attends Southridge. The majority of the speakers were retired from service. Some were careerists who served 26-plus years in one of the services, and others shared their story of being drafted or volunteering for conflicts because they were called upon by their country in a time of great need.

Much like current day Soldiers of the National Guard, these men and women were called from their civilian lives and served their nation. Some of them were also successful in their adjustment back to civilian life with no intent to make the military a career.

The Oregon Guard Soldiers who attended the event shared stories from modern conflicts such as Operations Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Task Force Phoenix (Afghanistan), and Joint Task Force Katrina.

Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Browning of Recruiting Command said it was rewarding to see students taking an interest in what modern-day Soldiers were doing.

“I also really enjoyed spending time with some of the older veterans from WWII and Korea,” Browning said. “Their stories fascinate me.”

The 141st Engineer Support Battalion was well represented. Capt. Jessy Claerhout, 141st Second Officer, gained insight from the students as well by sharing with the students.

“Some groups had a broad variety of questions that related to a certain era and I had a great time answering all their questions,” Claerhout said.

“However, not only did they ask about my military experiences and career but once I told them that I was originally from Europe, they had a bunch of questions about Europe.”

Claerhout said most of the students’ questions gave her a better understanding about their views on Europe, the United States, and their overall knowledge of the world.

Maj. Jeffrey Copeck, 141st Battalion Administrative Officer said the experience allowed him to be an ambassador to an audience which was clearly interested in the military, but also gave him a chance to share his personal experiences with others.

“The best part was answering the student’s questions,” Copeck said. “Many students put a good amount of thought into their questions and wanted detailed responses.”

The organizer of the event was Kevin Bickler, a social studies teacher at Southridge High School. Bicker, who has organized the event for the past six years, said it was extremely important for students to connect with history in more ways than just learning out of a book.

“I feel that this is the single most important opportunity for Southridge students each year because it is such a rewarding and humbling experience in many ways,” Bickler said.

“All too often the experiences of our military members are explained from a historical perspective in our history classes, but when students are able to learn from those that experienced history first hand, it provides a human side to those experiences that students would otherwise never be able to connect.”

Bickler added that history is about the stories that others have to tell and asked what better stories are there than those who served through them.

“The positive feedback I have received from the staff and students each year solidifies the need and benefits of such an event,” Bickler added.

“What I hope students gain from this event is feeling greater appreciation that there may never feel from studying history out of a textbook, and understand the human side to the Soldier, allowing them to critically think and analyze major social issues. It is my favorite day of the year and an extremely humbling experience to witness such great history in one room at a given time.”

One of the new M1-A2 SEP tanks rolls down the road near the Umatilla Army Depot on the back of a low-boy in this May photo. Ontario’s Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, will spend the next few weeks at the depot training on the new, high-tech armored vehicle. The 3rd Battalion is the first Guard unit in the nation to receive the new Soldiers’ newest tank.

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The organizer of the event was Kevin Bickler, a social studies teacher at Southridge High School. Bicker, who has organized the event for the past six years, said it was extremely important for students to connect with history in more ways than just learning out of a book.

“I feel that this is the single most important opportunity for Southridge students each year because it is such a rewarding and humbling experience in many ways,” Bickler said.

“All too often the experiences of our military members are explained from a historical perspective in our history classes, but when students are able to learn from those that experienced history first hand, it provides a human side to those experiences that students would otherwise never be able to connect.”

Bickler added that history is about the stories that others have to tell and asked what better stories are there than those who served through them.

“The positive feedback I have received from the staff and students each year solidifies the need and benefits of such an event,” Bickler added.

“What I hope students gain from this event is feeling greater appreciation that there may never feel from studying history out of a textbook, and understand the human side to the Soldier, allowing them to critically think and analyze major social issues. It is my favorite day of the year and an extremely humbling experience to witness such great history in one room at a given time.”

One of the new M1-A2 SEP tanks rolls down the road near the Umatilla Army Depot on the back of a low-boy in this May photo. Ontario’s Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, will spend the next few weeks at the depot training on the new, high-tech armored vehicle. The 3rd Battalion is the first Guard unit in the nation to receive the new Soldiers’ newest tank.

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WARRENTON, Ore.—Some of the Oregon National Guard’s best marksmen put their skills to the test Apr. 4-5 at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. during the Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Training Exercise.

“Oregon has always had a strong history of marksmanship since the founding of the Oregon National Guard,” said Match Director Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Merrick.

According to historical archives at the Oregon Military Museum, what has evolved into the Adjutant General’s Match originated in the early 1900’s to select the marksmanship team that would represent the state at the national matches.

Merrick said he takes pride in the competition because of what it means for the Oregon National Guard. It is important to send competitors back to their units better trained to teach other Soldiers marksmanship, he said.

“Marksmanship training embodies the key disciplines of being a Soldier,” said Merrick. “The use of arms is the skill that defines us as Soldiers, as members of the profession of arms it is the one thing we should be proficient at if nothing else.”

This year’s match included an individual competition with a series of tests, and the team event where 12 four-person teams tested speed and accuracy using multiple weapons systems including M4/M16 rifles, M9 pistols, Squad Automatic Weapon machine guns, .22 match pistols and 12 gauge shotguns.

Sgt. 1st Class Toben Pond, range non-commissioned officer at Camp Rilea, has competed in the competition multiple times and says it is a great experience. He would recommend it to other Soldiers.

“It allows young Soldiers to get involved with marksmanship and learn how to handle a weapon more effectively,” Pond said.

Pond said his experiences have allowed him to be a part of a rich marksmanship tradition in the Oregon National Guard. Throughout history, Oregon marksmen have constantly distinguished themselves among the best in the country by winning the individual and team competition multiple times at the national championships, said retired Master Sgt. Nelson Shew.

“From its inception in the early 1960’s there has always been at least one Oregon Guardsman on the prestigious “All Guard” marksmanship team,” Shew said.

The “All Guard” marksmanship team is the national team representing the entire National Guard Bureau at the interservice and national championships every year. This year there are two Oregon Soldiers on the 25-person team; Sgt. 1st Class Merrick, and Sgt. Daryl Hagar from 1-82 Cavalry.

Shew won the “Presidents 100” match in 1988 at Camp Perry, Ohio, competing shoulder to shoulder with several thousand of the best marksmen the county.

Merrick said the rifle Shew used is displayed at the Oregon Military Museum as a monument of his accomplishment.

This year’s individual winners were Staff Sgt. Buck Dugger, of the 173 Fighter Wing, in the Open Class, and Sgt. William Nix, of the 162 Engineers, in the Novice Class.

Team competition winners were Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Jones, Airman 1st Class Tim Tecmire, Staff Sgt. Buck Dugger, and Staff Sgt. Michael McCormick of the 173 Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard.

Winners will have the opportunity to compete at the Marksmanship Advisory Council regional match, Camp Gurnsey, Wyo., scheduled in August, and selected individuals had the opportunity to attend the Winston P. Wilson National Guard Bureau Championships in Little Rock, Ark., which took place in April.
Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen set their sights on being the best marksmen in the state

1: An Oregon National Guard Soldier engages a target with a shotgun at Camp Rilea during The Adjutant General Match in Warrenton, Ore., April 5. Soldiers and Airmen from around Oregon compete to take first place honors as the Guard’s top marksmen in a variety of categories. This year, more than 50 Oregon National Guardsmen are competing against one another with M4/M16 rifles, M9 pistols, SAW machine guns, .22 caliber pistols and shotguns.

2: A “Bravo” flag marks an active firing range at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., April 5.

3: Soldiers load their weapons prior to the shotgun portion of the TAG Match.

4: A Soldier participates in the M4/M16 portion of Oregon’s Adjutant General Match team competition.

5: “Spent brass” litters the ground following a TAG Match segment, April 5.

6: Staff Sgt. Wayne Vaughn, 1st Squadron, 82 Cavalry Regiment, fires at pop up targets during Oregon’s Adjutant General’s Match, April 5.

7: A spent shell casing appears to hover mid-air after a Soldier fires at targets during the TAG Match at Camp Rilea, April 5.

8: A Soldier competes in the shotgun portion of the TAG Match, April 5.

9: Ammunition conveniently placed in a Soldier’s helmet for the TAG Match at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.
**Facebook, Twitter, blogs allowed by DoD, but highly scrutinized and monitored**

Continued from Page 2

you’re at it, make sure your security suite is up to date and includes antivirus, anti-spyware, anti-spam, a firewall, and a website safety advisor.

10. Choose unique logins and passwords for each of the websites you use. Explore using password managers, which can create and store secure passwords for you.

11. Check the domain to be sure that you’re logging into a legitimate website.

If you’re visiting a Facebook page, look for the www.facebook.com or www. link you find that looks at all suspicious or compromised in some way. It’s nice to feel free to send your questions via e-mail;

12. Be careful when posting photos or videos (even those from family vacations), which may reveal personal information. Consider this: would you walk into a crowded bar and show everyone there a picture of the house (with address) in which your family resides? Again, don’t do online what you wouldn’t do in real life.

15. Invest in identity theft protection. Regardless of how careful you may be or any security measures you put in place, there is always a chance that you can be compromised in some way. It’s nice to have identity theft protection watching your back.

If you have any questions about proper (and safe) use of social networking tools, address is www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-National-Guard/Oregon-Military-Department/63030248017. Thanks in part to Robert Siciliano of Infoseg Island for some of these tips.

**Recent OCS graduates ready to lead**

This year’s Winter Accelerated Officer Candidate School graduates were honored with a ceremony at the 41st Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., Apr. 6.

Capt. Joseph Snyder, Officer Strength Manager, said the program has grown immensely over the past two years thanks to hard work and dedication of the newly-commissioned officers, and the OCS cadre at the Oregon National Guard Regional Training Institute.

“Our efforts have doubled the attendance in these program and the standards have never been higher,” he said.

Graduates include Second Lieutenants Geoff Bogie, Paul Brown, Jared Hoffer, Saul Ramirez, Timothy Frey, Mike Metzger and Cadet Stephen Carlyle.

**Salem gives Aviation unit big send-off**

Salem Mayor Anna Peterson (right), speaks with Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Tyler Eikenberry, a member of the Forward Support Medical Team of the Oregon Army National Guard’s Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation, following the unit’s mobilization ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., March 3. Peterson joined Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, at the ceremony. Nineteen Soldiers from the unit will spend approximately one year in the Middle East in support of Central Command/MEDEVAC missions there.

**Oregon Guard Soldier recognized as hero for saving injured boy’s life**

Story by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Ore.—An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier was recognized for his heroism at a ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., April 13.

Sgt. 1st Class James Goleman, a member of the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters, located in Salem, received the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal with Gold Star, for his response to a vehicle accident he witnessed on Interstate-5 in August, 2010.

The ceremony, which took place at the 41st Division Armed Forces Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., was presided over by Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, Assistant Adjutant General.

“Sgt. 1st Class Goleman is the epitome of what it means to be a citizen Soldier,” Bush said. “Always ready, always there is our motto and adhering to our core values is precisely what Sgt. 1st Class Goleman did, in his act of bravery to save a young child.”

On Aug. 27, 2010, after Goleman witnessed a vehicle accident between a passenger vehicle and a semi-truck on I-5 near Wilsonville, Ore., he came to the aid of three injured passengers in a Jeep Wrangler, that rolled over.

After reporting the accident to authorities, Goleman rushed across the southbound lanes of I-5, and quickly took action. He evaluated the injuries of the Jeep’s occupants, before concentrating on Khoal Collinsworth, who was riding in the rear seat, and had sustained massive head trauma.

Goleman, who deployed with the 1249 Engineer Battalion in 2011, stayed with Khoal in the back seat of the Jeep, reassuring him and the other passengers, while monitoring the child’s condition until paramedics arrived on the scene.

Khoal Collinsworth, (right), shares a book with Khoal while monitoring the child’s condition until paramedics arrived on the scene.

He remained at the scene until the youngster was rushed to a local hospital via Life Flight, where doctors were able to save the child’s life.

“I didn’t think he was going to make it,” Goleman said about Khoal’s injuries during an interview with a local television station just before the award ceremony. “When I found out he had made it, I was surprised—but very happy.”

Goleman is credited with risking his own personal safety, and remaining calm despite a chaotic and stressful situation, according to his award.

“His actions epitomize the meaning of a Citizen-Soldier and are a credit to himself, his instructors and the Oregon National Guard,” the award read. When Khoal’s parents referred to Goleman as a hero, he took the compliment in stride. Later, he dismissed the accolade.

“I was just doing what anyone else would have done,” Goleman said. “I’m sure that the real hero is Khoal. He fought to stay alive. He fought like a Soldier.”

Goleman is the Substance Abuse Program Coordinator at Joint Force Headquarters, in Salem, Ore.

He lives with his family in Vancouver, Wash.

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which qualified for the competition, and was among just 34 teams who completed the grueling test.

Phillips said he and Madair spent two weeks drilling constantly in preparation for the event.

“When it came time to execute we blocked everything out and did it like we had always done,” said Phillips.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Bloom, 2-162nd Battalion Command Sergeant Major, said Phillips has been a model Soldier; he served on three deployments and during his most recent overseas tour, he led a platoon for Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.

The duo did what no other National Guard members have done—becoming one of only two National Guard teams on that deployed Phillips received one of the highest honors in the Army, when he was inducted into the elite Audie Murphy Club for non-commissioned officers.

Bloom said it is amazing that the Oregon National Guard has been able to provide a number of quality pre-Ranger instructors, adding that 2-162 has a history of doing so.

“We have been fortunate to set the standard for performance and training by drawing some of the finest Americans,” said Bloom. “Because of that, Soldiers are able to see that excellence looks like—and they have learned from it.”

“You have to be a perfect Soldier to be a Wild Ranger,” said Bloom. “You have to be a Soldier of perfection—what you have to be doing, how you handle yourself, who you are as a Soldier, that is what Wild Rangers are all about.”

Phillips and Madair finished the Wild Canyon Games along with the rest of the Oregon National Guard Elite team.

“Watching these Soldiers is enough to get anyone’s heart racing. They are what a true Warrior looks like,” said Phillips. “I really was excited to see that grow even more in the future.”

Military skills came in handy at the event for members from the team “Dr. A”, who performed first aid on a wounded participant during the geocaching event.

“Military skills came in handy at the event for members from the team “Dr. A”, who performed first aid on a wounded participant during the geocaching event.”

“The Oregon Guard continues to prove how amazing an organization it is with events like this that bring out the talents of our armed services. I have never been in the U.S. This year’s Wild Canyon Games outside of Antelope, Ore., stands as another example of this nationwide support.”

Five teams from the Oregon National Guard converged on the town located just 60 miles northeast of Redmond, Ore. Out of the total of 15 teams, they represented Oregon’s Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen at the patriotic event, June 2-4.

The Oregon National Guard Elite team placed first in the military portion of the competition which included two special operations teams from the active duty military. The team finished the event with athletes finishing seventh overall out of 130 seven-person teams.

“The Oregon Guard continues to prove how amazing an organization it is with events like this that bring out the talents and release our soldier spirit,” said Lt. Col. Chris Reese, Directorate of Military Support to Civil Authorities for the Oregon Army National Guard.

“We have been fortunate to set the standard for performance and training by drawing some of the finest Americans,” said Bloom. “Because of that, Soldiers are able to see that excellence looks like—and they have learned from it.”

“One is of the best Soldiers I have seen in the 24 years I have been in the battalion” said Bloom.

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy E. Beck, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team also contributed to this story.

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“For more information, visit: wildcanyongames.org.

Participants in the “Wild Canyon Games” triathlon, June 2 in Antelope, Ore., pause for a group photo following the event.

Story by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon National Guard Warrior Training Center

Story by Staff Sgt. Kassidy L. Snyder, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

Photos by Master Sgt. Scott Bostoen, Army National Guard Warrior Training Center

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**Oregon Airmen trade rain for snow during Alaska Alert mission in April**

**Story by Staff Sgt. Tristan Threlkeld, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—While maintaining aerospace control alert over the Pacific Northwest skies, Oregon Air National Guard airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing deployed to Alaska in May to also protect the vast airspace of Alaska out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The 142nd Fighter Wing sends more than 50 personnel and five F-15 fighter jets in support of the alert mission.

It took 96 hours from the time of the request to support the alert mission to mobilize and deploy its Airmen. This time includes travel hours to Alaska. It also normally takes almost six months to prepare for real world contingency missions.

“Reaching Alaska for the wing to have pulled off this in such a short period,” said Lt. Col. Richard Morris, 123rd Fighter Squadron CO. “This is history.”

This mission came at a time when the wing was engaged in multiple training and readiness events. In support of the Alaska mission, the 142nd Fighter Wing also was providing mission support for U.S. Central Command, providing personnel to assist with the ACA alert at the Oklahoma City National Guard in Massachusetts and maintaining alert here in Portland.

Col. Jeff Hwang, 142nd Operations Group Commander said that he felt 142nd Fighter Wing maintenance crews did an outstanding job maintaining the aircraft. He said the deployment was an amazing opportunity for technicians and maintenance crews.

“On the operations side, unless we actually get a scramble and a launch, we don’t really deploy like a training deployment,” said Hwang.

Hwang emphasized that deployments reinforce the teams and enhance the skills they diligently train for here in Portland. “This alert mission is something that is bread and butter,” Hwang said.

We realized that type of skills applies to anywhere we go. We built a fair amount of confidence that we can do this on a short notice,” Hwang said.

The alert mission is a component of a strategic force poised to respond to any airspace threats. The mission provides quick-reactation support to protect U.S. airspace and significant events like presidential movements and space shuttle launches.

The typical alert mission for the 142nd is much more about the territorial alert and concentrating on potential aerial and general aviation issues, said Hwang.

“Though Alaska this time is ever so different compared to what the typical alert mission the unit covers in Portland and the lower 48 (states),” said Hwang. He said while in Alaska the threat is more keeping an eye on Russian long range aviation.

“Now we are familiar with Alaska operations and if the call comes again we know what to expect. We know the base and the environment and are more aware the limitations there are,” Hwang said.

Some members only had two weeks to prepare for the Alaska mission after returning from Exercise Red Flag in Nevada in early March.

The short turnaround was a challenge for the 142nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, who was responsible for the spin up on the personnel side for the Alaska mission. Senior Master Sgt. Pam Pittman, 142nd LRS, played an integral role of coordinating all the pieces on a very tight schedule that needed to be in place in Alaska by April 8.

“We have a really good working relationship with the guys on in in Alaska. We’ve worked with Pam. Everybody always goes the extra mile. We do a lot of deployments, so it’s just knowing what to do.”

“With everything we’re covering we are kind of in every corner of the globe right now,” said Morris.

**142nd Fighter Wing honors Battleground, Pendleton, during Cities of Honor Ceremony**

**Story by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs**

**PORTLAND, Ore.**—Pendleton Mayor Phillip Hoxie helped the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing unveil nose art on an F-15 fighter jet during a Cities of Honor ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., June 14.


“Even though General Rees is from West Linn, we like to refer to him as a Pendletonian,” Hoxie said to the gathering crowd.

The unveiling ceremony took place immediately following the Oregon National Guard’s Executive Briefing. Another F-15 jet, with nose art honoring Battleground, Wash., flew into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson the same time as the unveiling of the new F-15 nose art honoring the City of Pendleton.

“Pendleton’s annual Round Up. The graphic unveiling was immediately following the Oregon National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing’s unveiling of the nose art.”

The unveiling ceremony took place immediately following the Oregon National Guard’s Executive Briefing.

**142nd Fighter Wing Chaplain makes history in Oregon once again**

**Story by Bruce Poinsette, The Skinner News**

Trisa Kelly is surprised she is making history.

“I’m amazed that in 2012 you can still be a first Black anything,” she says.

Last month, Kelly was named by Gov. John Kitzhaber to Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Advisory Council—the first Black woman to be appointed, and the youngest to serve.

She was already the first African American chaplain—and the first female chaplain—in state history for the Oregon Air National Guard. Currently, she is the same time as with the 142nd Fighter Wing. Her rank, after 10 years of service, is Major.

Kelly says the honor is the one time in her life to use her experience to bring a different perspective to the state ODVA advisory committee and advocate for those to underserved veterans.

She often gets questioned on how she can remain an officer in the military when she is a dedicated Christian.

There are Buddhists and Atheists at the base but we’re all human,” says Kelly. “My spiritual background helps me be empathetic. Personally I believe all wisdom is God’s wisdom. I show the compassion that Jesus would. Jesus was a dedicated Christian. He had friends and family in the service who she insisted she would be a good chaplain; so she signed up for the Guard and was given the opportunity.

For the most part, this didn’t cause much commotion, she says. “I’ve never had anyone get up and leave,” says Kelly. “In the military you learn to adjust to adversity. I had a funny moment at one event where someone asked me, ‘Are you the chaplain’s assistant?’

Kelly will be using her experience as an underrepresented voice to advocate for other veterans she feels are underserved.

Specifically, she says she wants to advocate for traditional Guardmen because, according to Kelly, most of the people serving on the Oregon Veterans’ Affairs Advisory Committee are chosen from former active duty soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

“This has really given me, she says, more extensive GI loans for active duty Soldiers. The issue, she says, is that Guardmen are not eligible for some benefits because they are considered by some to be “weekend warriors” rather than full members of the military.

Another issue she wants to address is defining military leave. Currently the state can only give Guardmen two weeks of military leave. Kelly says two weeks isn’t enough.

“The is tasked to do extra things like funerals and weddings,” says “This is time I have to take away from work. What if I have used my two weeks but I need to help a family that has to bury a loved one?”

Kelly recalls one moment, during a memorial in Bulgaria, where she saw the bright eyes of a woman in the Bulgarian military and was touched by the sight of a fellow female Soldier.

“I deploy through my members,” says Kelly. “As they travel across the globe, I’m privileged to be able to serve, pray for them and reach out to families.”
Oregon’s Airmen, Soldiers participate in Vigilant Guard Exercise

Story by Master Sgt. Nik Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard took part in a week-long exercise designed to train alongside state, county, local, National Guard and federal resources.

“The Vigilant Guard Exercise was conducted at multiple locations throughout the state, May 1-6,” said Maj. Troy Danielson, project officer for the Oregon Military Department’s Joint Operations Center and the Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Eric Bush, who held the dual status commander position during the exercise.

“Vigilant Guard is an excellent opportunity to highlight the Oregon National Guard’s ability to respond to events of emergency,” Bush said.

“This exercise will strengthen our relationships in the disaster response community and with U.S. Northern Command,” he continued.

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from the Oregon National Guard, along with other Guard members from Puerto Rico, Washington, personnel from NORAD, and USNORTHCOM took part in 24-hour operations at various locations including the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.; the Fairview Training Center in Salem, Ore.; Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Training Center in Sherwood, Ore.; and the Eugene Airport and Autzen Stadium, at the University of Oregon, both in Eugene, Ore.

Multiple military assets, including the new HH-60 “Mike” model MEDEVAC Blackhawk helicopters, as well as personnel and specialized equipment from the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force-Plus team, took part in the exercise.

A delegation from the Bangladesh military, including Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud, Principle Staff Officer for the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh (center), on scene and extraction operations at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Training Center in Sherwood, Ore., during Vigilant Guard Exercise, May 3. Wadud led a Bangladeshi delegation visiting Oregon as part of the ongoing State Partnership Program.

Human suffering, and mitigate severe property damage under the authority and control of a local dual-status commander. According to organizers, Ardent Sentry and Vigilant Guard are designed to test and train this ability.

As part of Ardent Sentry, related training events also took place in North Dakota, Texas, Alaska, Connecticut and Nova Scotia, involving U.S. and Canadian military units.

The Oregon National Guard provides a reliable force of approximately 8,800 citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, who are fully equipped and trained to respond to natural or man-made incidents throughout Oregon and the region.

Greg Rogers, an urban search and rescue instructor with Safety Solutions, Inc., out of Brynmoor Beach, Fla., briefs Lt. Gen. Abdul Wadud, Principle Staff Officer for the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh, on search and extraction operations at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Training Center in Sherwood, Ore., during Vigilant Guard Exercise, April 25. Wadud led a Bangladeshi delegation visiting Oregon as part of the ongoing State Partnership Program.

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from the Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, who held the dual status commander position during the exercise.

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This year the Human Resource Office has invited an instructor from the Thrift Investment Board to come and present information on the Thrift Savings Plan to employees and service members.

The instructor will present two separate seminars at each location, Pre-Retirement and Separation and an In-Depth Overview of the Thrift Savings Plan.

The seminars are offered at the following locations at the specified times:
- Date: Aug. 22, 2012
  - Location: Anderson Readiness Center, Room 114
  - Time/Topic: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Pre-Retirement/ Separation; 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., In-Depth Overview of TSP
- Date: Aug. 23, 2012
  - Location: Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, Auditorium
  - Time/Topic: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Pre-Retirement/ Separation; 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., In-Depth Overview of TSP

The seminars will be open to any employee or member of the military services who is eligible to contribute to TSP (Federal Technicians, AGR/ADSW/ ADW and Md-Day or DS7 service members).

Registration is required. If the number of registrations does not meet the minimum required by July 27, the Thrift Investment Board will cancel or reschedule the seminars.

For more information, or to request a registration form, contact Spec. Betty Boyce at betary.boyce@us.army.mil.

Thrift Savings Plan to offer new Roth option

WASHINGTON, DC (April 13, 2012) – Service members and Defense Finance and Accounting Service members who are eligible for the Thrift Savings Plan will soon have a new Roth option for retirement savings under the program, according to defense finance officials.

The change will allow participants to contribute after-tax dollars to the federal government-sponsored retirement savings and investment plan, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

As with traditional and Roth individual retirement accounts, eligible contributions will now allow plan participants to invest either as after-tax dollars, or as pretax dollars, although limits on annual contributions, catch-up contributions and agency matching funds will remain the same, officials said.

The plan, which is similar to a 401(k), is open to federal civilian employees and military members. For 2012, the maximum contribution is set at $17,000. Catch-up contributions, available to participants 50 or older, are capped at $5,500 over the standard limit.

Only civilian employees are eligible for agency matching contributions. All eligible civilian employees receive one percent in agency matching funds. Eligible plan participants receive a dollar-for-dollar agency matching contribution for the first three percent of pay they contribute, and 50 cents on the dollar for contributions between three and five percent. Contributions above five percent of pay are not matched.

The current plan treats all contributions as pre-tax dollars – participants do not pay taxes on pay they put into the plan, but will pay federal taxes when they receive those funds in retirement.

The new Roth option will allow contributions that are taxed in the year they are made, but will be tax-free in retirement, TSP officials said.

Greg T. Long, TSP executive director, urged in a letter to participants that they carefully consider whether a Roth TSP would be to their advantage.

As with all tax matters, you should seek the advice of a qualified tax or financial advisor for information pertaining to your specific tax situation,” Long wrote.

He added the plan’s website will soon offer a Roth calculator, and other website content including forms and publications will be updated in May to include information about the Roth feature.

Defense finance officials said the Roth option will be available on a phased basis by military service from June to October. Officials said the schedule will allow service finance employees to continue and thoroughly test the complex changes needed to the various payroll systems.

Defense finance officials said more specific deployment dates on Roth TSP elections will soon be available on www.dfas.mil.

Officials said service members and their families can contact Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 to schedule an appointment with a financial consultant.

For more information, visit www.tsp.gov.

Oregon General delivers keynote address at Ex Cope South in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh — As part of its ongoing partnership between Bangladesh and the Oregon National Guard, Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General (Air), delivered the keynote speech during the closing ceremony of Exercise Cope South, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, May 26.

The exercise allows U.S. and Bangladesh Air Forces an opportunity to exchange airlift, air-land, and airdrop delivery techniques that will enhance the participants’ ability to respond to regional disasters.

According to exercise planners at United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), the event helps cultivate common bonds, foster goodwill, and improve readiness and interoperability between members of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and U.S. Air Force (USAF).

Exercise Cope South, last conducted in 2010, was a great success in developing the interoperability between the United States and Bangladesh.

For more information on Oregon’s State Partnership Program, visit the National Guard Bureau website at: http://www.nationalguard.mil/features/sp/default.aspx.

Want to be a Teacher?

Troops to Teachers program is looking for Guard members who want to be teachers.

- Counseling services available
- Must have six good years of military service
- Financial assistance available to members separated due to service determined disability
- Must meet academic or vocational requirements

Financial assistance also available to members who were teaching school prior to federal activation.

For more information, visit www.ProudToServeAgain.com, or call Edward Brands at: 1-800-438-6651 info@empt.org
ORVET offers ORANGE to host 47th Annual Western States Golf Tournament

The 47th Annual Air National Guard Western States Golf Tournament is scheduled to be held at the Great Blue Course at Herald Lakes Golf Course, Herald, Ore., and Trinidad/Camp Withycombe Golf Course in Ridgefield, Wash., Aug. 21 – 23, 2012.

The tournament is sponsored by the 142nd Fighter Wing located at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., and is open to members of the Air National Guard, Oregon Army National Guard, retired and their spouses.

Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the 142nd Fighter Wing Community Foundation, a local organization which provides assistance to local veterans and their families in times of need.

A national kickoff game is scheduled to be held on August 22, 2012, followed by the two days of tournament play. A block of rooms has been reserved for this event at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach.

The hotel is located at 909 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, Ore.

For more information, visit the tournament’s official website at:  http://angwesterninvitational.com.

AUSA to hold 10th Annual Golf Tournament, July 19

A blast from a Howitzer will announce the start of the 10th Annual Association of the United States Army Columbia River Chapter FORE! Our Troops Golf Tournament at the Chelatchie Prairie Golf Course, in Newberg, Ore. July 19, starting at 1:00 p.m.

The event will raise money for Soldiers in Education Fund of the Oregon Military Foundation through the Columbia River Chapter.

All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Troops to Home Loan fundraiser that enables this chapter to continue to give assistance.

Sign up online at www.chelatchiepgm.com/fore2011.

Teams should be sent via mail to 2259 St. Moritz Loop, West Linn, OR 97068. The cost is $100 per person. An Early Bird Special of $75 per person includes two mulligans and 20 raffle tickets if purchased by May 31, 2012.

All players are automatically entered in the drawing for Bandon Dunes Package.

A 19th Hole wine tasting will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and dinner will follow immediately. Prize drawings, corporate sponsor recognition and presentation of golf awards will take place during dinner.

ODVA offers ORVET home loan programs

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA) is now offering a wider variety of competitive home mortgage rates, including a 30-year fixed mortgage rate, which may allow for reduced closing costs. ORVET offers one of the lowest home mortgage rates, including a 30-year fixed loan at 3.49 percent APR.

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs is currently offering the lowest home mortgage rates, including a 30-year fixed loan at 3.49 percent APR.

A state of Oregon veteran benefit, the ORVET Home Loan Program is available to qualified veteran home buyers.

“These new rate offerings will allow many veterans to take advantage of a great opportunity to own their own home. ORVET VA home loans have served our country with honor and distinction,” said Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “We must always provide them with the best service that we have to offer.”

The ORVET Home Loan is a lifetime benefit for eligible veterans with a maximum loan amount of $417,000 for a single family, owner occupied residence.

For more information about eligibility requirements, contact the ODVA Home Loan Department at 1-888-673-8387, or visit www.oregon.gov/ODVA/HOMEOANS.

Practice safe summer grilling with these tips

It’s that time of the year again, the weather gets nice and we break out the IHFW grill. Here are a few tips on how to keep you and your grilling safe this summer.

1.  Don’t wear loose clothing that might catch fire or on top of anything that can catch on fire.
2.  Clean out the tubes that lead into the burner.
3.  Make sure the grill is at least 3 feet away from your house, trees or other structure.
4.  Store and use your grill on a flat surface that cannot burn (i.e. concrete or asphalt).
5.  Don’t use grills in a garage, porch, deck or on top of anything that can catch on fire.
6.  Keep children away from fires and always stay mentally fit applicants who are passing all of the selections.
7.  Keep your grill clean and free of grease buildup that may lead to a fire.
8.  Never store liquid or pressurized fuels inside your home and/or near any possible sources of flame.
9.  Use long handled barbecue tools and/or flame resistant mitts.
10.  Keep your grill clean and free of grease buildup that may lead to a fire.

For more information, contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581.

JFHQ to hold family picnic in Turner, Aug. 5

The Joint Force Headquarters Group Family Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, at Alderage Camps and Retreats in Turner, Ore. The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The event will include a water balloon toss, volleyball, tug-of-war, sack race and a water slide. There is no age requirement for this event, but it is recommended that children bring a change of clothes and towels for kids who want to play on the water slide or in the water balloon toss.

For more information, contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581.

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

Eligibility Criteria

- All members of the Oregon National Guard are eligible
- Born on or before June 1, 1990. (Must be less than 33 to attend Flight School)
- Passing APT with minimum of 70 points in each event
- Must be able to pass Class I Flight Physical
- GT score of 110 or higher
- Secret Security Clearance
- Support from applicant’s Chain of Command
- Must pass AFAST (Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test)

Preferred applicants will have (but not required):

- Bachelor of Science
- Private pilot’s license
- E-5 or above (with WLC completed)
- ROTC Cadet MS-4

IUR positions will be FY13 and FY14. The board will be conducted the week of Jan. 28, 2013, at the AASF#1, in the Charles L. Debert Operations Facility in Salem, Oregon. The IUR positions will be in FY13 and FY14.

Flight School is a series of highly demanding courses, including:
- Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOSC)
- Advanced Helicopter Overwater Survival Training (HOST)
- Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion level C (SERE-C);
- Initial Rotary Entry Training (IERTW; Advanced graduate flight training for the UH-60 or CH-47).

No matter how serious about the process thru to completion are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact:
1LT Matthew Maurice 503-584-3993
matthew.maurice@us.army.mil

CH2M Hill, Portland 541-736-3285
andrew.steven.moden@eng.army.mil

No service member stands alone

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

Army & Air Force Exchange Service is now open at

Camp Withycombe
15300 Industrial Way
Clackamas, OR

Exchange

Class-Six

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
The two-percent cap on the number of women in the military was lifted and more and more fields were opened to females. In 1980, women were finally admitted to the service academies, bringing about expanded roles for military women. By 1990, 100 percent of Coast Guard, 20 percent of Air Force, 59 percent of Navy and 52 percent of Army positions were open to women.

**Persian Gulf War**

By 1991 and the Persian Gulf War, more than 31 percent of the active duty military and 13 percent of the reserve forces were women. The Persian Gulf was a true turning point for women in the military. For the first time they were called upon to demonstrate their effectiveness in positions previously reserved for men. Manning Patriot missile placements, flying helicopters on reconnaissance and search and rescue missions, driving convoys over the desert close to enemy positions, women were called upon to do all these jobs and more. Close to 35,000 women served in the Persian Gulf. Their success can be measured by the fact that many new positions have been opened to women in recent years. Slowly but surely women have demonstrated that the characteristics necessary to be a successful and effective soldier are not found only in men.

**Afghan-Iraq War**

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are the first in which tens of thousands of American military women have lived, worked and fought with men for prolonged periods. Through 2011, more than 200,000 female troops have engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). This is one in 10 female-to-male ratio. Currently, women compose more than 17 percent of military troops. More than 17 percent of military women are officers; one percent higher than male counterparts.

The growth in seniority of women veterans is expected to continue. In these wars without front lines, there have been more combat deaths. As of February 2012, nearly 150 U.S. female service members have died while serving in support of OEF/OIF.

From the Revolutionary War to the present, American women veterans have been invisible heroines. They are examples to future generations that securing our country’s liberty and freedom is everyone’s responsibility.

**Oregon War**

In 1941, when America entered the war, men, women in the USAF and military saw duty close to the front lines and were wounded and killed as a result. Some were imprisoned by the Germans. Since the nurses were not engaged in combat, the government refused to grant disability pay.

World War II

During the war, more than 384,000 women served in the military. The Women’s Army Corps was established as America prepared for World War II. Many women in the United States can’t imagine a world where they couldn’t vote, get an education or join the military. Every March, we celebrate the women who made the possibilities a reality by acknowledging National Women’s History Month.

Even though women have always played a role in our country’s conflicts, it wasn’t until 1901 that they were recognized as having official roles in the military. Since then, women have changed the way the United States military goes to war. This is the second and final part of a two-part story on women who served in the United States military over the years.

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The end of the draft and the advent of the All-Volunteer Military in 1973, along with the increasing demand for a technologically skilled soldier, the feminist movement, and the successful service of women, all played a part in the changes of the early 1970’s.

**Story by Warren Aney, Oregon Military Department Historian**

What was going on in the Oregon National Guard this Summer 150 years ago?

May 1862

Co. E, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, travels to Fort Walla Walla for garrison duty and spends the summer patrolling and performing escort duty.

June 1862

Remainder of 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry moves east of the Cascades; one company is sent to Nez Perce country in Idaho and two companies are sent to the Salmon River district and later to Fort Hall in Idaho.

July 7, 1862

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord of the U.S. Army assumes command of the District of Oregon. He orders a company of cavalry to the Nez Perce country to protect that tribe from the intrusion of miners.

July 15, 1862

Col. Cornelius resigns as commander of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry; command of 1st OVC turned over to Lt. Col. Reuben F. Maury.

August 14, 1862

Capt. Currey, commander of Co. E, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, is ordered to arrest three Indian leaders accused of raiding settlers in the Grande Ronde Valley; shooting breaks out and four Indians are killed, including two of the leaders.

Aug. 19 - Oct. 11

Lt. Col. Reuben F. Maury, 1st Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, leads 175 men from Camp Owchey to Bruneau river and Fall river in southern Idaho, then back to camp on the Malheur river in Oregon, a distance of 1,000 miles.

Retire Service Office

Anderson Readiness Center Room 241
3225 State Street
Salem, OR 97309
503-584-2891, or 1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil
Web: http://orretireeinfo.org/
Retire Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309