Return home marks first time 1249 Engineers fly directly into Salem Municipal Airport

Engineer Battalion comes home

A chartered flight is framed by the U.S. Flag, held aloft by ladder trucks from the Salem Fire Department, following the Dec. 12 arrival of the second group of Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1249 Engineer Battalion following their 400-day deployment to Afghanistan. The flight landed at the Salem Municipal Airport where family and friends waited to greet them. To see the complete story and additional photos, go to Page 5.

Counterdrug personnel recognized by Portland Police

SALEM, Ore.—Personnel from the Oregon National Guard’s Counterdrug Support Program were recognized by officers with the Portland Police Bureau Dec. 6 for their part in a multi-agency drug investigation.

Three individuals with Oregon’s Counterdrug Support Program were given commendation letters for their participation in a nation-wide investigation dubbed “Operation Trick or Treat”.

The three analysts provided case support throughout the investigation.

Eric A. Hendricks, Assistant Chief of Police for the Portland Police Bureau’s Investigations Branch, and Captain Ed Hamann, of the Portland Police Bureau’s Drugs and Vice Division, presented commendation letters to two Soldiers and one Airman during the morning ceremony in Salem.

The identities of the individuals recognized were not made public due to the ongoing investigation.

Hendricks, who has been with the Drugs and Vice Division for eight years, said the work of the Counterdrug’s analysts was invaluable.

“They provide support something to the Police Bureau that we just don’t have,” Hendricks said. “Their skills of robust intelligence analysis is absolutely necessary in drug investigation cases. It helped us make a good case even better.”

On March 17, 2011, investigators from various federal, state and local agencies executed approximately 20 search warrants at numerous locations in New York, Las Vegas, Miami, Dallas, Portland and Vancouver, Wash., related to the ongoing federal Oxycontin and Oxycodone operation dubbed “Operation Trick or Treat.”

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Julie Young, of the 1249 Engineer Battalion, holds her nephew Nicholas on her shoulders, shortly after her unit’s return to the Salem Municipal Airport, in Salem, Ore., Dec. 12. Young, of Rockaway Beach, Ore., and approximately 175 of her fellow Soldiers returned to Oregon following a 400-day deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit’s primary role during their 400-day deployment to Afghanistan was command and control, while providing support for Task Force Gridley.

See Salem homecoming on page 5

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This month we welcomed home the 1249 Engineers from Afghanistan, just in time for the holidays. They arrived home at the Salem Airport and were greeted by family, friends, and the Oregon National Guard. They had their deployment shortened due to the historic drawdown of troops from Iraq. Their sky patrol allowed for a successful transition.

With their return, the Oregon National Guard no longer has any of our Citizen-Soldiers or Citizen-Airmen deployed in Iraq. To both units, welcome home and thank you for making Oregon proud.

Within the last 10 years Oregon’s

Resiliency Training helps Soldiers, units cope with stressors

By Sgt. 1st Class Damon Morrow. Resilience Office Administrative NCO

In this fast pace time in everyone’s life, resiliency is becoming more and more important.

To answer this call there is a program developed by the U.S. Army in 2007 but it’s fairly new to Oregon.

After testing and implementation the Resilience Program Office (RPO) released its second year of operation here in the state. Within the guidelines of NGB the Oregon Army National Guard will send around 31 Soldiers to complete the Master Resilience Training (MRT) course at Guard/Reserve University (GRU) in Wisconsin for the University (VT) at Fort Jackson. MRTs can then teach Oregon Soldiers as Resilience Trainer Assistants (RTA) to further help units in this program.

The very definition of resiliency is “the ability to recover quickly from setbacks”. Setbacks can be from anywhere as having to stop and get gas after a long day at the office or having to be a big as trying to find job. This is the ability that we can overcome those setbacks and "bounce" back even stronger than before.

The MRT/RTA course is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the University of Pennsylvania. The mission of the resilience course is to provide Soldiers with an opportunity to enhance their effectiveness and well-being and to develop the leadership skills. In a high paced heavy deployment cycle Soldiers and families are placed under numerous stressors.

The program is designed for Soldiers and family members to learn critical skills that will assist them during these difficult times. MRTs and RTAs are the forefront trainers and advisors within their commands. They will train Soldiers and family the essential skills to better communicate, identify risk behaviors and guide command on proper steps to assist when needed.

The program is designed to maximize overall performance, well-being of Soldiers and develop leadership potential in every Soldier on resiliency. Soldiers as well as Family and assistant Specialists members will learn to master the following skills throughout the course.

- MRT competencies: Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Optimism, Mental Agility, Strengths of Character, and Connection.
- Build mental toughness. These skills will also develop the ability to understand the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of themselves and others.
- Identify top strengths in themselves and in others, and learn to use these strengths to overcome challenges and build effective teams.
- Master skills to strengthen relationships through communication strategies.
- Learn how to respond constructively to positive experiences, praise effectively, and discuss problems effectively.

The program is not designed to intervene in the psychological health of the service members. Completed written work is kept strictly in confidence and is not shared with others.

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon Military Department, authorized under AR 360-4, “Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4, ‘Department of Defense publications and related matters.’” The Oregon Sentinel is not necessarily that of the Department of Defense or the National Guard Bureau. This program is not connected with the U.S. Army, Department of Defense or the National Guard.

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Resilience Training helps Soldiers, units cope with stressors

State Defense Force trains at Camp Rilea

This end-of-year vote is likely to have one MRT per person who is going to be deployed for 18 months or more. Information regarding classes can be directed to your unit. There are several prerequisites that a Soldier must meet before he or she can be sent to the MRT/RTA course.

Candidates need to demonstrate personal and emotional commitment to training. Soldiers selected as MRTs or RTAs should be available to serve both the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon State Defense Force.

In the end of the year, the Oregon National Guard has been able to be accomplished at a fraction of the cost. The Oregon National Guard is able to maintain the current operational effectiveness of the entire Oregon National Guard and the Guard Reserve, totaling 580,000 Oregon-Citizens.

For the active component it is estimated to cost $1 billion for every 10,000 Soldiers.
NEWS BRIEFS

Details released for wearing campaign stars

The Army has spelled out policy details for the wear and display of campaign stars for soldiers who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, which began March 1, 2010, and will end on a date to be determined. It is one of the five campaigns designated for operations in Afghanistan.

Seven campaigns have been authorized for operation in Iraq, including New Dawn, which began Sept. 1, 2010, and will end on a date to be determined. To qualify for the award of the ACM, Soldiers must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which began Oct. 24, 2001, and will remain in effect until officially ended by the Defense Department.

To qualify for the award of the ACM, Soldiers must have served in direct support of Operation New Dawn (out to 12 miles) operations in Iraq, which began March 19, 2010. Expeditionsary Medal by reason of service in Afghanistan or Iraq during March 19, 2003, April 30, 2005, remain qualified for that medal.

Resources Command. Phases, and is entitled to the appropriate for participation in each of the applicable phases, and is entitled to the appropriate number of bronze service stars, according to guidance issued Nov. 3, 2011 by Human Resources Command.

Obama administration signs Veterans’ tax credits

In August, President Obama called on Congress to pass a tax credit for businesses that hire veterans. The new law provides a maximum credit of $5,600 per veteran, and the credits may be doubled for businesses that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities. The tax credits were included in the...
Oregon Guard facilities focus of national ‘Net-Zero’ initiative

Story and photos by Kimberly Lippert, Oregon Military Museum Public Affairs

Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Energy and Environment, visited Oregon in October to discuss the Oregon National Guard’s focus on Net Zero. Oregon was recently selected as a pilot installation for water and energy.

“Oregon is unique because of our diversity in our geography, we have the availability of solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, we can do it all,” said Roy Swafford, Director of Installations for the Oregon Military Department. The ASA IE&E awarded recognition in three categories – Energy, Water, and Solid Waste. Oregon submitted proposals in two categories – Energy and Water, and won in both categories.

The Oregon National Guard is embarking on a number of Net Zero projects throughout the state. Camp Rilea, in Warrenport, Ore., has been selected as a Net Zero Water Installation. A Net Zero Water Installation limits the consumption of freshwater resources and returns water back to the same watershed so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water in quantity and quality over the course of a year.

There are also future plans for a wave energy project at Camp Rilea. A wave energy project on the coast is huge,” said Swafford. “There is currently no energy production on the coast,” he added.

Swafford said they could go out as far as six miles in the ocean with a wave energy field. The project would be a business boost to Oregon’s shipping, labor, manufacturing, and technology sectors in the state, he added. “It would be a boost to the local economy,” said Swafford.

The Net Zero Energy initiative for Oregon means that all National Guard facilities within the state will strive to consume only as much energy as they produce. By being environmentally conscious the Oregon National Guard is also helping provide stability and security in communities throughout the state.

“We are producing our own power, offsetting our costs and through future projects would generate revenue,” said Swafford.

In Southern Oregon, the Oregon Military Department has begun a $1 million solar project on the former Back Scatter Radar site located east of the community of Christmas Valley, Ore. Solar panels will be installed on three existing facilities located at the Oregon Emergency Response Center, previously known as the Back Scatter Radar site east of Christmas Valley.

The project will include three PV Powered inverters and approximately 500 solar panels, each capable of generating 235 watts, made by Solar World. “These decisions are helping to position this region well in regard to Energy Security, and the ability to provide a ready force of Citizen-Soldiers to support State and Federal missions,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon Military Department will also be utilizing the existing warehouses as emergency supply storage facilities for its Office of Emergency Management. In addition, the Department is working with private industry in an effort to attract industrial-sized projects on the site as well as consolidate other state solar efforts from around the state to this solar farm.

According to Swafford the energy goal for the Oregon Military Department is to be self sustaining by fiscal year 2026, which means the department would generate as much energy as it uses at all of its facilities throughout the state.

“The fiscal reality these days is that we are living on smaller budgets both state and federal, so this is smart business,” said Swafford.

M60 tank moved to Prineville Readiness Center

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

PRINEVILLE, Ore.—Thanks to a lot of hard work by several individuals within the Oregon National Guard, one of the organization’s former battle tanks now graces the entrance of the Prineville Readiness Center in Prineville, Ore.

The M60 tank was relocated to the front of the facility on Nov. 15, by a commercial carrier. According to Tracy Thoennes, Oregon Military Museum Curator, there are total of nine tanks in the Museum’s collection, which are displayed throughout the state.

The tank’s paint scheme is based on the Museum’s research that showed that prior to 1978 or 1979, Oregon National Guard’s M60 tanks were painted solid semi-gloss Olive Drab, Thoennes said.

Lt. Col. Cary Miller, Commander of the Oregon National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention, said the effort to bring the tank to the Prineville Readiness Center was a result of a collaborative effort between several agencies, including Oregon Military Department leadership.

“Getting the tank to the Prineville Armory gives the average passerby a visual reference that this is an Oregon National Guard facility,” said Miller.

According to a memorandum provided by the Oregon Military Museum, “The display of an M60 tank will create a better visual appearance that our building is an Armory... It will give a good visual to all civilians who drive by our Armory every day.”

Several Oregon Army National Guard units during the 1970s and 1980s were equipped with the M60 tank, including the 3rd Squadron of the 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment in north eastern Oregon.

Post-9/11 GI Bill offers revised benefits in upcoming school year

With the end of the 2011 academic quarter upon us, it is time to look forward to the new year by preparing ourselves for the challenge of a brighter future for ourselves and families.

Effective October 1, 2011, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has several revisions and new allowances.

Below is a list of revised and new benefits available to each service member who qualifies:
- $85-per-course (NCD) programs: Non-college degree programs offered at non-degree granting schools: Pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or $8,500, whichever is less. Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance is equal to half of the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents. The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100-percent eligibility tier would be $673.50 for 2011. The bill also allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend of $400 per month. For further information visit the official GI Bill website at: www.gibill.gov, or send an e-mail to Master Sgt. Jeffrey Lopez, 82 Brigade Senior Human Resource Manager, at: Jeffrey.Lopez@us.army.mil.
- On-the-job and apprenticeship training: Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to $85 per month for books and supplies. Flight programs: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or $10,000, whichever is less. - Correspondence training: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or $8,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to $2,500 in books and supplies.

Want to be a Teacher?

Trophes 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 - Must be teachers.

For more information, visit www.ProudToServeAgain.com, or call Edward Brands at: 1-800-438-6851 info@mpotg.org

No service member stands alone

The Oregon Military Assistance Helpline is a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service that can help you and your family resolve your personal problems.
800.511.6944
www.ormah.com
**Salem homecoming brings large local support for 1249 Soldiers**

Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1249 Engineer Battalion arrived at Salem Municipal Airport in Salem, Ore., Dec. 8 and Dec. 12, following a 400-day deployment to Afghanistan.

The two groups of Soldiers returned directly to the Salem Municipal Airport via civilian contracted transport. Their arrival marked the first time the 1249 Engineer Battalion has used the airport for returning from a deployment.

“We were very excited to be able to accommodate the return of the local Engineering Battalion from their overseas deployment,” said John Paskell, Salem Municipal Airport Administrator, about the Soldiers’ arrival at the facility.

Paskell said it was a pleasure to work with the Oregon National Guard on the homecoming of their Soldiers at his facility.

“I am sure that the Soldiers and their families were equally thrilled that the aircraft was able to land in Salem and bring the troops directly home,” Paskell said. “We thank them for their service and welcome them home.”

The first group of 51 Soldiers returned to Salem on Dec. 8, to awaiting friends and family. A group of representatives from the Salem Patriot Guard Riders stood by with U.S. Flags to help welcome the returning Citizen-Soldiers.

A second group of 124 Soldiers returned to the Salem airport on Dec. 12. The scene was similar, but included a larger crowd, despite colder temperatures. As the blue and red Sun Country Airlines 737-800 appeared south of the airport, a cheer rose from the crowd. The plane taxied up to the ramp, framed by a large U.S. Flag strung between two ladder trucks from the Salem Fire Department.

Sgt. 1st Class Peter Fritsch, who is originally from Hawaii, was greeted by his family. Around his neck, he wore a maile lei—signifying luck and prosperity. With the afternoon sun shining on his face, Fritsch said while the deployment went by quickly, it seemed like a long time away from his wife and his son’s family.

“It seemed like a lifetime away from my family,” he said.

Fritsch, like others, were surprised by the direct flight to Salem.

“I didn’t even realize Salem had a runway this big,” Fritsch said with a chuckle, adding that the large turnout of friends, family and supporters was a great way to cap off his unit’s deployment.

Salem is a great city, and it’s always been very supportive,” he said. “This turnout is incredible.”

Fritsch’s wife Dori said she was thrilled to have her husband home safe, but added that she has plans for her husband in both the near and short term—following the family’s scheduled trip to Hawaii.

“I’m going to let him relax for a few days before I hit him up with the ‘honey-do’ list,” she said.

Approximately 175 Soldiers from throughout Oregon deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit’s primary role was command and control, while providing support for Task Force Gridley.

“Overall this was an extremely successful mission,” said Maj. Russell Gibson, 1249 Engineer Battalion Operations Officer. The unit took part in construction projects as well as command and control missions throughout eastern and northern Afghanistan, said Gibson.

“Our Soldiers were well trained and prepared for the mission, and understood the impact to both U.S. and Afghanistan forces, and more importantly to the people of Afghanistan,” Gibson said.

The unit’s mission was to support construction missions in an area roughly the size of Oregon. They first completed pre-deployment training at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin as part of the 400 day mobilization.

The battalion was mobilized in 2003 supporting Operation Noble Eagle to provide Homeland Security missions in both Washington and Oregon. This will be the first overseas mobilization for the 1249 Engineer Battalion Headquarters and Forward Support Companies.

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**142nd FW Maintenance Group raises funds to help Portland Police holiday food drive**

Over the Veterans Day weekend in November, Master Sgt. Kevin L. Stone, of the 142nd Maintenance Group shows off about 880 pounds of food purchased for the upcoming Holiday Food Basket Drive sponsored by the Portland Police Bureau’s Sunshine Division.

Money raised by Stone’s unit through the sale of unit coins brought in a total of 1,350 pounds of food, which was delivered to the Sunshine Division’s warehouse in Southeast Portland.


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**Oregon Counterdrug personnel take part in national prescription drug sting operation**

Massive amounts of information including phone and financial records, which were then analyzed by his team.

“The skills our folks bring to support law enforcement are phenomenal,” Deptula said. “Our folks do an extremely good job of looking at every single piece (of information) so that our law enforcement partners can go out and pursue the investigation.”

During the execution of the warrants, investigators arrested approximately 15 indicted individuals, seized a Range Rover, two Mercedes and four late-model Bentleys, five guns and about 1,000 Oxycontin and Oxycodone pills. Authorities also identified about $200,000 in proceeds in various banks accounts.

The target of the investigation and the sources of supply for the organization were also identified and arrested in Las Vegas, Nev. During the investigation, National Guard analyst were key in helping to assist in identifying addresses, vehicles, associates and the sources of supply in Las Vegas.

“This case was unique from the start,” Hendricks said. “This case reached across the country. We immediately saw it going to have significance not only in Oregon but nationwide.”

Hendricks, who served for six years in the Oregon Army National Guard, first in a Military Police unit, then as an Infantryman and Infantry officer, lauded the contributions of Oregon’s Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

“I personally know the sacrifices Guardsmen make for their service,” he said. “My hat’s off to every guardsman in the Oregon Guard.”

The investigation is continuing and it is believed that more assets and subjects will be federally indicted in the future. To this end, the names of the Oregon Counterdrug personnel are not being released to the public.

Agencies involved in the investigation included Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Portland Police Bureau Drugs and Vice, HIDTA Highway Interdiction Team, Oregon State Police, Westside Interagency Narcotics Team and the Oregon National Guard.

Deptula said his team works regularly with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Team members are allowed to work in a collaborative role in order to achieve common goals, he said.

“It’s been such a great pleasure to work with professionals who are so focused on achieving a common objective,” Deptula said. “We really feel we have a great relationship with some outstanding organizations that are really driving the most efficient and most effective methods of pursuing the drug problem in Oregon.”

Deptula thanked Hendricks and the Portland Police Bureau for the working relationship.

“I want to express to all those agencies that we really appreciate all the work they are doing and it’s a privilege and honor to support those agencies,” he said.
Oregon Airmen partner with local radio station, help raise funds for charity

Story by Chief Master Sgt. Chris Roper, 142nd Fighter Wing

PORTLAND, Ore. (11-28-2011) – Phones ringing off the hook, on-line donations and pledges pouring in while Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing ("Redhawks") stood by to take pledges and donations from generous residents and business across Oregon and Southwest Washington. November 28, through December 2 marked KPAM radio and the Oregon National Guard’s "Operation Santa Claus" donation and pledge drive.

Over the course of eight years KPAM radio host Bob Miller and The Salvation Army have helped to raise over $1,000,000 in support of military members, their families and veterans.

In 2003, Miller came to The Salvation Army wanting to help service men and women in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Since then, The Salvation Army Home Front War Relief Program and help from Miller and KPAM radio’s Operation Santa Claus helped provide support for practical needs of military families whose wage earner has deployed.

Military personnel and/or dependents of other military bases (including those very recently returned) are eligible for services including: one-time financial assistance (check directly to vendors), referral to other community and military resources for on-going support: counseling when needed and appropriate.

The generality of the local community started off early in the morning with a pledge of $11,000 taken over the phone by Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Frank Page, commander of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron. He rang the traditional "Salvation Army Bell" and announced to everyone in the room the great news, resulting in cheers and a round of applause.

"It’s a great event, a worthy cause, and really supports our military members and their families in need year around," said Tech. Sgt. Chris Rich, of the 142 SFS.

"This is my second year taking part in Operation Santa Claus and when asked to donate my time this year there was no way I would miss this opportunity," Rich added.

Seven members of the 142 SFS, and one member of the 142 Operations Group team turned answering the ringing phones.

The group took pledges, and conducted live radio and television interviews by Miller and KPAM. Fox 12’s "Good Day Oregon" weatherman Andy Carson.

During the radio show, another Oregon Air National Guard, Senior Master Sgt. Tim Lear, who is currently deployed with the 966th Air Expeditionary Squadron as their First Sergeant, spoke with Miller on his current experience in Afghanistan.

"Thanksgiving was great," Lear said.

"The squadron leadership and I grabbed chow to-go at the DFAC, went back to the squadron conference room for some squadron time with our deployed Airmen."

It was pretty cool.”

When not deployed Lear is assigned to the 142FW as the Headquarters First Sergeant, and also serves as a police officer for the City of Vancouver in Southwest Washington. During his phone interview, Lear also took time to record a radio promotion for Operation Santa Claus, an annual show which the Oregon Air National Guard and KPAM radio have collaborated on for years.

At the completion of the Bob Miller Radio Show Operation Santa Claus donations and pledge drive had raised over $25,000, beating the opening day goal set in 2010.

Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Chris Roper, 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard

Former 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief vows to ‘keep running’ through life

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs


Though White did not make the USA team and compete in Munich, West Germany, he would eventually move to the west coast. White made his home in Oregon and enjoyed numerous other successes including serving his country and community as a member of the Oregon National Guard.

"I felt a deep sense of patriotism in my early thirties and joined the Oregon Army Guard, going to boot camp at age 34 with most recruits being 17 and 18 years old," White said.

After White retired from the Oregon Air National Guard as a Chief Master Sergeant, many of his coworkers found it difficult to summarize the breadth of his resume—athlete, Airman, educator, coach, mentor—the list goes on.

"What Chief White has done for his Airmen and the Guard has been an inspiration throughout his military career,” said Col. Mike Stencel, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

“Anyone who ever spent any time with Max could feel his passion for the entire force, and his high point then being the First Sergeant in the Oregon Guard,” Stencel added.

White’s positive attitude toward any task motivated other Airmen as well. By working directly with others, he was able to mentor and encourage younger troops to begin or learn a new skill attribute to the entire Oregon Air Guard. Stencel said.

"There was no part of my career that was taught high point then being the First Sergeant as it was rewarding to help people grow and learn," White said.

When the Oregon Air National Guard and Citizen Airmen being deployed to various parts of the world, Oregon guardsmen like Chief White have routinely stepped up, giving of their own personal time to lead by example.

"He has this unique ability to listen to people, give positive feedback and understand their needs," said retired 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Erin Applegate.

It was Applegate who handed over the job of Wing Command Chief to White in February, 2009, and worked with him on a variety of leadership issues for more than a dozen years.

The two volunteered at Camp Rosenbaum—the annual summer camp held each year in Warrenton, which helps instill good citizenship skills in young urban children from the Portland Metro area. White went out of his way to ensure the kids’ needs were addressed, even heading over to the nearby retail store to pick up the correct sized tennis shoes for campers, Applegate said.

"Max literally would give you the shirt off his back," she added.

When he was not in uniform as a traditional member of the Oregon Air Guard, White could be found at South Albany High School, where he taught mathematics and served as an athletic coach.

While he said he was able to take his mentorship skills from the Guard, and seamlessly team them with his more than 30 years of teaching and coaching experience in order to help guide his students.

"My students were highly enthusiastic about my participation in the guard and often my experiences in one influenced the other," he said.

White also served as the Human Resources Advisor for the 142nd Fighter Wing for six years—an experience which allowed him to help members understand their differences, while serving side by side in their military mission.

"It has always been important to me that people be given their proper respect," said White. "I continue to work as a positive factor in any aspect to my service to the Guard.

"It’s a huge honor to have white named as the First Sergeant as it was rewarding to help people grow and learn," White said.

As White crossed the finish line on his Air National Guard career—those who gathered for his retirement ceremony in November reflected on his varied accomplishments and the passion he brought to every endeavor. Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, said White’s ringside status never got in the way of completing his assigned tasks.

"Command Chief White took on challenges as a traditional guardian that in the past was performed by full-time Command Chiefs," Gregg said.

As White addressed those attending his retirement ceremony he acknowledged his own personal conviction to friends and family.

"I find strength with the knowledge that Stephen Covey describes from Greek philosophy; ethos, pathos, logos; living one’s ethical nature and living with personal credibility," White said to the Airmen and guests packed into the conference room for the event. Stencel reflected the feeling of many in the room.

"Max has been a huge cheerleader, passionate about everything," Stencel said.

"He gets out there to find out what everyone; from the newest Airmen to myself is thinking, feeling and doing."
Retired Oregon Army National Guard Col. Doug Kuhl, Veteran's Outreach Director for the Oregon Military Assistance Helpline, speaks with a member of the Navy Reserve during the “Hiring Our Heroes” job fair at Clackamas Community College, Nov. 19.

Oregon’s CERFP showcases mission for Governor at 375th birthday event


The unit will respond at the call of the governor to augment local jurisdictions and other emergency responders during state, regional and national emergencies. The unit is comprised of approximately 170 Citizen-Airmen and Citizen-Soldiers who provide support to first responders upon request.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Leslie, who deployed in 2009-2010, said he and his wife Shannon wanted to see what was available at the job fair. They were both impressed with what they found at the event.

“It is pretty awesome to see how much more support there is in the community. It has been tough to find employment,” Leslie said. “I wish I would have done this before I left—this is a great resource for us.”

Commanding Officer Bruce Bosworth of the Portland Navy Operational Support Center, said his unit has more than 430 Navy Reservist assigned in 17 units that often return as individuals. His association with the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program team opens access to more local and state services, he said.

According to Bosworth, the Oregon National Guard’s reintegration team is a good partner because they expanded into a Joint Transition Assistance Program to reach out to other branches of the service in Oregon, which does not have an active National Guard.

“This has a positive and direct benefit on Navy Reserve mission readiness,” he said.

Bosworth said that having Pringle on the Oregon National Guard because of their closeness to the community—Navy resources are primarily in the Seattle area,” Bosworth added.

Admiral Brown explained that a partnership with the Oregon National Guard makes sense because it is all about helping Sailors, and the National Guard has the ability to access community resources.

“You see the National Guard everywhere here in Oregon, but you don’t always see the Navy,” she said.

The Oregon National Guard is maintaining its status as one the top reintegration teams in the nation thanks to Oregon’s visionary concepts and close relationships with service providers across the state, said JTPA Plans and Operations Reintegration Manager, Master Sgt. Vince Jacques.

“We have merged our reintegration team and career transition assistance program in a joint transition assistance program and are taking things to a new level,” Jacques said, explaining his relationship with the service providers at the event.

“I look forward to working with these people— it’s like a family reunion,” he added.

The Navy Reserve has now become a part of that team.

Retired Chief Petty Officer Pete Pringle, who recently joined the JTPA team, left the Navy in June 2010 after 22 years of service.

Pringle was working at the Navy Reserve facility in Portland when he was asked to be a part of the JTPA team, in an effort to reach out to Sailors.

“I am talking with all the same people I worked with in Portland when I was on active duty. They all know me, I’m in the same spot and am able to reach out—they still think of me as a Chief in the Navy,” he said.

Pringle said he was excited to see more than 200 Sailors and their families benefiting from the event.

“I would love to have two of these a year,” he said. “This is an awesome time to be involved with Oregon’s Joint Transition Assistance Program.”

Pringle said his main concern is linking service members with employment, education and health benefits because throughout his career he wasn’t always happy with the resources available to Sailors.

“This job is all about taking care of service members at Oregon interact with employers during the ‘Hiring Our Heroes’ job fair at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore., Nov. 19.

U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps Rear Admiral Paula Brown, Command Master Chief Martin Aguair, Navy Region Northwest Reserve Component Command (the highest ranking enlisted Sailor on the west coast) joined Brig. Gen. Eric Bosworth, assistant Adjutant General (Army), Oregon National Guard, and Oregon’s State Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Bruny Conley, at the event.

“This is a big deal, we have an admiral and command master chief at this landmark event,” said Conley.

Conley recognized employers and service providers at the event before recognizing the two veterans who made him aware of a $250 a month education benefit that helped that his family 30 years ago.

“She was a wife, two kids, in a wheelchair, and I paid for my third kid with a visa card. Do you think that $250 made a huge difference in my life,” Conley asked?

“Somebody might have the opportunity to hire someone here today and that person may return home 30 years from now,” Conley added. “But you will have a huge impact on one of those young lives, and their families.”

His presentation to employers was followed by Tonja Paro, assistant for the Department of Labor Veteran’s Employment and Training Service, who helped organize the event and brought the crowd of employers and veteran service providers at the event.

When Paro asked employers who were ready to hire a veteran, the crowd of employers erupted with a standing ovation.

“Be a hero, offer a job,” Paro said.

The Oregon National Guard in Oregon City, Ore., the U.S. Navy Reserve showed its commitment to the Navy Reserve mission readiness, and benefits fair of its kind on Nov. 19.

The Navy’s Northwest Region Reserve Command and the Oregon National Guard’s new Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTPA) joined other partners at the event which included Oregon Governor at 375th birthday event.

Debra Bosworth, Command Master Chief Aguiar said it “Be a hero, offer a job,” Pardo said.

Dorian Hunt with Transportation Security Association said her company was at the event ready to hire because veterans make great employees who don’t ask a lot of questions.

“They are tried and true, they stay the course and focus on the mission,” said Hunt, a former Navy’s Biologic Technician. “After a recent initial assessment for our company—of the over 400 that passed—85 percent were vets,” she said.

Many service members, veterans and families who attended the event were surprised by the scope of resources available in one place.

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“This job is all about taking care of...
KEIZER, Ore. (Dec. 7, 2011)—Nearly 70 years have passed since that fateful day at Pearl Harbor that drew America into an engulfing world war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and generations of healing.

And regardless of how much time has passed, for Virgil Taylor of Keizer—that day remains engrained in his mind—vivid as the day he lived it.

At dawn on Dec. 7, 1941, the pride of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was docked at Pearl Harbor. Seven battleships were moored in pairs along Battleship Row: Maryland with Oklahoma and Tennessee with West Virginia. Behind the Tennessee lay Arizona. The repair ship Vestal was alongside.

Last in line was the USS Nevada. Taylor was aboard the Navy’s Battle Force flagship USS California, which was moored alone. Just before 8:00 a.m., newly promoted Machinist’s Mate First Class, Taylor was writing a letter to his mother when the sound of general quarters jolted him. The South Dakota native, who had joined the Navy to get money for college, thought it “was a lousy time for a drill.”

As he left his quarters and entered the engine room, the whole ship vibrated. He thought a fuel tanker had accidentally bumped his ship.

Little did Taylor know that in the air above, America was being thrust into history as 40 Japanese torpedo planes and 27 dive bombers descended and flew low along the harbor. Their ordinance was immediately following the attack. As the government was consulting with its allies, its leader was being informed of a sneak attack by the Japanese. The attack was called a “day of infamy.”

Within 15-20 minutes of jumping from the ship, the wind shifted, forcing the oil slick away from the California. The captain called his men back onboard to fire the fires that had erupted.

Taylor was a survivor but because of an injury that hospitalized him, the War Department listed him as missing in action and then, killed in action. On December 16th, his mother was notified of his death. As the government was consulting with her about funeral arrangements, she received a Christmas card from her son. It was mailed after the attack.

“I’m a common name and things were kind of confused there for a while,” Taylor recalled. “Right after Christmas they heard I was ok.”

Today he still remembers the sounds and the smells of the attack like it was yesterday. “We recovered the remains of our dead shipmates. It was an awful job. So many guys had been badly burned and disemboweled,” Taylor remembered. “But I can’t talk about that.”

The damage in Pearl Harbor was horrendous. The California had lost 98 of its 1,800 officers and crew, with 61 more wounded. She came to rest on the bottom of the harbor along with the West Virginia.

The Arizona was not salvageable and 1,177 of her crew perished. The Oklahoma had capsized with sailors trapped inside. The Nevada had been beached.

In all, 2,335 U.S. servicemen and 68 civilians were killed at Pearl Harbor. Another 1,178 were wounded.

Six of the eight battleships were eventually repaired and returned to service. Taylor was later assigned to the USS Pensacola until June 1942, but was then reassigned to the California just in time to take part in the Battle of Midway. He later saw action in the battles of Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf, Saipan and Okinawa.

And after 20 years of honorable military service, Taylor retired from the Navy in 1957. He eventually settled in Salem with his second wife Gloria, who passed away in 2010.

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Taylor celebrated his 95th birthday. While Taylor has trouble at times remembering all the names and places from his naval service, the vivid memories of Pearl Harbor from 70 years ago remain etched in his memory.