The Oregon National Guard’s 41 Division Armed Forces Reserve Center will be officially dedicated during a ceremony, held at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., Sept. 16. Leadership from Australia, Japan, Oregon, and the U.S. are scheduled to attend the event. The new facility will be home to nearly 1,300 Oregon National Guard members, as well as Soldiers with the U.S. Army Reserve. See story and photos on page 6.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs with significant contribution and photos by Tech. Sgt. Greg Neuleib, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz (right), along with Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, (center), shake hands with members of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron. Members of Oregon Air National Guard’s 125th STS stood in formation for a change of command and mobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., Aug. 23.


Capobianco began his career in Combat Control in 1998 learning to be a combat diver, military freefall and static-line parachutist. During Operation Enduring Freedom, he was an assistant director, Joint Forces Special Operations Command.

Roughly 30 members of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron will deploy to augment an Active Duty squadron in Afghanistan; with rotations starting in the Fall of 2011.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
A decade of sacrifice, dedication and motivation

It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since the terrible day of attacks, which changed our nation and our world, September 11th, 2001. There certainly was no indication that our first responders, our military, and our National Guard are truly some of the most amazing people in the nation's history.

Event after event has occurred, with an amazing response to each one. We have adapted and learned to leverage each other’s strengths to overcome an evil of extremism, which only exists to target and kill thousands of our civilians, including the very young and innocent from killing the innocent. We are a strong nation, and our message is that we will not stand for it.

For the past ten years nearly 6,000 service members have lost their lives so that we could be safe; we need you to choose to kill, hurt and destroy in the name of extremism.

We are surrounded in our nation’s sorrow, with 130 volunteer families who have participated the ultimate sacrifice, 20 of whom were members of the Oregon National Guard.

Families, communities and businesses across our state all have felt the impact of 9-11. Thousands of Oregonians have deployed in the past decade, and as of today remain deployed in support of operations throughout the world including Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have gotten back to the roots of the U.S. Constitution, using the militia/National Guard for operations within their respective states, and an instrument to execute the Laws of the Union. We as a nation have stood together and triumphed.

On responding to disasters, Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard have worked nearly 640,000 man days on domestic emergencies since 2001, including floods, assistance with winter snowstorms, and assistance to the people of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

They have helped extinguish forest fires within the state which consumed nearly 400,000 acres, including the massive fire which consumed in excess of 300,000 acres alone.

Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, much like Katrina and Rita, we have assisted other states during their times of need.

There is no question; we have truly demonstrated that the Oregon National Guard is an amazing organization.

In addition to remembering our heroes from the immediate past decade, we also have the opportunity to recognize the Oregon Citizen Soldiers from 70 years ago with the dedication of the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe this month.

The 41st IBCT with several units and individual brigade mobilizations since 11-11 traces its roots of heroism to those who served in the honored Sunset Division.

With attendance of dignitaries from Japan, Australia, U.S. and local elected officials, as well as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, there is no question of the impact the veterans of the 41st Infantry Division have had and will continue to have in Oregon.

This is a facility dedicated to our successful past and made to build strong partnership for our future.

This month, I am proud to say we all have been a part of, and have helped to recognize the history of the Oregon National Guard. Whether it has been ten or 100 years, the Oregon National Guard has lived the phrase: "Remember who we are, where we are, and why we are here.

Thank you for your sacrifice, dedication and motivation. Thank you for your commitment to Oregon’s oldest and greatest institution. If our future is as bright as our past, all I have to say is, HOOAH!

Always Ready! Always There!

A busy September. We have major events occurring all around us and we must stay focused to accomplish all the missions we are being assigned.

Welcome home to the 3-116F! (Members of the unit will participate in a demobilization ceremony during the first week of October. The Oregon Sentinel plans to cover the ceremony in the October 2011 issue).

We have anxiously been waiting your return to us, your families, friends, and communities. It has been a long year and we missed you very much.

We have heard nothing but great things about your deployment and you accomplished the mission above and beyond. Now it is our turn to make sure that you are reintegrated back into your families and communities.

We have a robust reintegration plan for you and hope to meet all your needs. I personally can’t wait to spend time with you at your 30-60-90 day events.

Building Dedication! (see story on page 6) Of those you who had the opportunity to see the new and old Air National Guard Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, please make it a point to visit this impressive building. Most of the units are in and operational approximately the same facility and the dedication ceremony on the September 16th should be quite an event.

Senior Leaders Conference! In conjunction to the Building Dedication there will be a Senior Leader’s Conference that very same weekend in the AFRC. I look forward to this conference as it brings all the leaders together in one place to discuss how the ORNG can get even better.

Tenth Anniversary of September 11th, 2001. I remember exactly where I was when I watched that second plane slam into the World Trade Tower.

I was in the library at Stayan High School watching it on the news before school started. I went to class and that is all I talked about with the students, but my mind was in Corvallis because I was the First Sergeant of Bravo Co., 2-162 IN BN.

There was a lot of discussion about West Coast attacks and I knew I wanted to be ready if we got the call. I went to my principal in the morning to see if we should go to the airport. When I showed up at the airport, there were already 10 plus Soldiers waiting there. They weren’t called up or alerted, they just showed up.

That was a very impressive moment for me and really started my extensive study on what the term Citizen-Soldier means. I know each of you has your own viewpoint about what it means, but I feel like sharing it, send it to me at brunk.conley@us.army.mil.

This is a safe place where warrants can be introduced on Facebook. It has grown over 19,000 hours of flight-time. What an accomplishment.

The group is open to all current and retired warrant officers as well as the Chief of the National Guard and other General Officers.

Next month will be my farewell article as Command Chief Warrant Officer and an introduction of the incoming CCWO, CW5 Terry Swartwout. Stay tuned!

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon Military Department, authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published by the Oregon National Guard's Public Affairs Office. The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Defense or the United States government.

The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Army and Air Force, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force, and other interested persons by request, free of charge. Oregon's oldest and greatest institution. If our future is as bright as our past, all I have to say is, HOOAH!

Always Ready! Always There!
Diversity crosses boundaries, exceeds expectations... again

Story by Capt. Dawn Choy, Supervisory Human Resources Specialist, Oregon Military Dept.

When it comes to defying all odds, many have lived through struggles in order to overcome obstacles to achieve their dreams or goals.

Even though our environment influences our attitudes and affects our behavior, we have the choice and ability to control what we become.

A great example of this is the recent promotion of our first female Soldier to the rank of Brigadier General.

Brig. Gen. Julie Bentz was recently promoted to brigadier general, and is the first female to do so in our state's history.

Although there have been opportunities in the past for other Guard members to achieve the rank of general officer, Bentz seized the opportunity to continue to a higher level in her career, and has now set a path for others to follow, not just in our organization, but for other organizations in Oregon as well.

In an article published in last month's Sentinel, Brig. Gen. Bentz said that she was "glad to be an example that doors are continuing to open for all men and women who serve."

This not only exemplifies the importance of opportunities available to our Guard members, but also the character of those who are recognized, and moved up through the ranks.

The numbers don't lie: In the Oregon Army National Guard, about 1.6 percent of officers make it to the rank of lieutenant colonel or colonel. Of these, 1.4 percent are male, and just over 1.5 percent are female.

Oregon Army National Guard Warrant program is even more impressive. While just under two percent of Soldiers are in the Warrant program, .36 percent hold the senior positions of CW4 and CW5. They are divided as such, 32 percent male, and 37 percent are female. In the Oregon Air National Guard, while 3.4 percent of officers make it to 0-3 or 0-4, 3.1 percent are male, and 2.4 percent are female.

Bottom line: We are a truly an organization who rewards our membership without bias.

No matter what your gender, race, background or experience, members of the Oregon National Guard have the ability to succeed, grow and create a life that exceeds even their own expectations.

Our organization believes in encouraging diversity and equity in the workplace, eliminating barriers which hinder progression, and provide enhanced career opportunities and professional development for all employees.

Everything we do creates a footprint in history; realizing this, it is incumbent upon us of all to maximize our potential and improve our organizations’ legacy. This goes for us as individuals, and us as an organization.

After all, we create the history by which others will remember, and ultimately judge us.

### Oregon's Employer Initiative Program

**JOBS for National Guard and Reserve**

**Contact:** Gary Dominick

503-584-2393
gary.dominick@state.or.us

Craig Snitker

503-584-2393

 craig.j.snitker@us.army.mil

or visit:

www.workinginoregon.org

www.employerpartnership.org

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### Men also victims of sexual assault, researchers say

**Story by Judith Watson, Alternate JFHQ SARC**

Did you know that one in seventeen will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault during his lifetime?

“According to a 2007 study by a team of Veterans’ Administration researchers, a nationwide screening of veterans seeking VA services turned up more than 60,000 with sexual trauma. More than half of those—nearly 32,000—were men.” (Bill Sizemore of the Virginian-Pilot, 10/9/2009)

If it is difficult for female victims to report the crime, it is even more difficult for men to contact authorities.

Boys are not supposed to be vulnerable, sad, helpless, ashamed, afraid, submissive...” according to Jim Hopper, a psychology instructor at Harvard Medical School.

Military training reinforces that socialization. He further states that “It conditions men to accept physical wounds, death and killing while leaving them unprepared for emotional wounds that assault their male identity.”

The Department of Defense is committed to creating a climate in which victims and survivors feel accepted when they step forward to report an assault.

Victims of sexual assault want to know that they will not suffer negative consequences, either in the form of career advancement or intimate relationships.

Two key factors that improve the climate for reporting sexual assault are commander involvement in creating a pro-reporting environment and the role that follow Soldiers and Airmen can play in being supportive to the survivor by encouraging that they report the crime.

The good news is that there are now over 32 military Victim Advocates throughout Oregon as well as six Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) for the two Brigades, the two Wings, and JFHQ.

For more information, call the SARC cell at 503-756-5327. You will reach a JFHQ SARC who will return your call and set up a time to talk.

Effective October 1, the Chapter 33 will expand eligibility to include AGR, Title 38 and ADF, and the Chapter 33 can now be used for non-college degree programs as well as on-the-job and apprenticeship training programs.

Fall term is the last term ARNG Soldiers can request Federal Tuition Assistance through https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits/

For classes that begin on or after Oct. 1, all ARNG Soldiers need to request TA through the Army website at www.goarmyed.com. You must register on the website before you can request TA for winter term.

If you are deploying soon, and your spouse would like to receive tuition assistance they have check the spouse TA program through MyCaa at https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits/

With the Chapter 33, you also receive a book stipend and E-5 housing, depending on percentage of benefit.

Soldiers can transfer the Chapter 33 MBG to a dependent if they have at least six years of service and a four year obligation in the ARNG.

Effective October 1, the Chapter 33 will expand eligibility to include AGR, Title 38 and ADF, and the Chapter 33 can now be used for non-college degree programs as well as on-the-job and apprenticeship training programs.

Stimpson recognized for recruiting efforts

**Photo by Guy Britnell, Oregon National Guard Recruiting & Retention Battalion**

Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon, presents the Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees Recruiter of the Year Award to Staff Sgt. Sarah Stimpson recently promoted to 1st Lt., 199th Military Police Co., the Oregon Army National Guard.

Stimpson recognized for recruiting efforts during fiscal year 2011, while shipping 93 percent of his enlistments to Basic Training.

He volunteered for the upcoming deployment of the 1186 Military Police Co., leaving for the unit’s pre-mobilization training the following morning after receiving the award.

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Going back to school? You’ve got some work to do!

**Story by CW4 Diane Beach, Oregon National Guard Education Services Officer**

Prior to attending college, you need to be proactive in applying for your college benefits, such as your Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB), Federal Tuition Assistance, grants and scholarships. The benefits don’t just happen automatically.

In the case of the MGIB, many Soldiers and Airmen are eligible for more than one program, but you can only use one at a time, so you need to decide which MGIB will provide the maximum benefit before you apply.

Each MGIB is good for 36 months of full time benefit. You can use more than one MGIB, but not at the same time and not for more than a total of 48 months. Apply for your MGIB through the Veterans Administration website at www.gibill.va.gov, and submit a VA 22-1990 online. Depending on which MGIB for which you are applying, you should upload a copy of your supporting documents which verify eligibility.

If you are applying for the Chapter 1606 MGIB, you need a copy of the Notice of Eligibility (NOE), if applying for the Chapter 1607 (REAP) or the Chapter 33 (Post-9/11), you will need copies of your DD 214 that verify qualifying active duty time.

Military training reinforces that socialization. He further states that “It conditions men to accept physical wounds, death and killing while leaving them unprepared for emotional wounds that assault their male identity.”

You also need to upload a copy of your kicker contract if eligible.

Soldiers attending a community college may receive more benefit using the Chapter 1607 (REAP) rather than the Chapter 33 (Post-9/11) when used along with Federal Tuition Assistance.

The Chapter 33 pays the school directly for the tuition and fees, but no more than the highest state tuition rate for your state at the undergraduate level.

Soldiers who are not eligible for 100 percent of the Post-9/11 MGIB can request Federal Tuition Assistance.

The college cannot receive duplicate payment from both Chapter 33 and Federal Tuition Assistance, but they can supplement TA with the Chapter 33 so 100 percent of tuition and fees are covered.

Stimpson recognized for recruiting efforts

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**Photo courtesy of dianebits.com**

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Paktika province, Afghanistan, Aug. 27.

It was an unusually cool evening on Forward Operating Base Sharana – perfect for a run.

With the cool weather and a fresh rain, the Hood to Coast Satellite Run kicked off Aug. 26.

The 12-person relay teams were comprised of Soldiers from the 1249th Engineer Battalion, the 18th Engineer Brigade, Task Force Gridley, and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, Task Force Attack.

The relay was run in conjunction with the Oregon Annual Hood to Coast 197-mile run, which extends from Mount Hood located in the northern region of Oregon, to the Pacific Ocean, specifically Seaside, Ore.

Teams are comprised of 12 runners each, running three legs of varying distances. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the relay race, also known as “The Mother of All Relays.”

“We did this for the challenge and unique opportunity,” said Team Warrior’s captain, 2nd Lt. Ray Jones of Dallas, Ore.

“This was a great way for us to connect to our home state while deployed to Afghanistan.”

Teams comprised mainly of Oregon National Guard Soldiers were Team Warrior and Oregon, led by 2nd Lt. Ray Jones and Capt. Daniel Faust of Portland, Ore.

As he exited his office, Lt. Col. Christopher Reese, who is now the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment Commander, ran the 11th leg of the relay that year, taking a virtual handoff via satellite phone. As he exited his office, more than 60 of us were waiting to run with him. Taking a break from hard work and having a connection to home made it a great experience.

When we ran the race in 2009, it was the third year that deployed Oregon Soldiers had run overseas with a team called “360 Goes 180.”

This year in Oregon, I ran the 11th leg in Oregon and handed off to Reese so he could finish the relay for our team. The experience went full circle as we waved a U.S. flag at the finish line in Seaside, Ore., with our teammates.

The Hood to Coast is the largest relay in the world and for the past four years, 360 Physical Therapy has sponsored deployed Oregon National Guardsmen with shirts and gear for the relay.

Maj. Russell Gibson of Salem, Ore., ran on a team comprised mainly of runners who ran the legs of the race in Oregon, while Gibson ran as a shadow runner in Afghanistan. There was a live hand-off via satellite phone to the runners in Oregon as Gibson finished his legs.

“This has been a great event,” Gibson said. “It’s pretty exciting to be able to run this event with the folks back home.”

The 1249th Engineer Battalion is headquartered in Salem, Ore., with Soldiers from its headquarters and forward support companies currently deployed to Afghanistan. The unit is scheduled to return to Oregon.
The team was started by Anuciado, whose father served four tours in Vietnam. Anuciado, who owns the Vancouver, Wash.-based company said he wanted to take his passion for running and appreciation for what our service members do to give something back.

The two 1249 Companies are currently deployed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of “Task Force Gridley” which includes Army National Guard units as well as active duty Army and Air Force personnel.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, which is one of the Salem units from the 1249th Engineer Battalion, is responsible for command and control of a forward support company, two route clearance companies, two construction engineer companies, a survey and design detachment, a concrete detachment, and an Air Force well drilling detachment, said Gibson.

He said the Soldiers from Oregon have been extremely busy conducting construction and route clearance operations.

“The focus for all of our missions is conducting them with our Afghan National Army (ANA) counterpart units,” Gibson said.

“We are developing partnerships with ANA Engineer units and have begun conducting combined operations with them—this partnership with the Afghan forces is the real focus of our mission here.”

He said running Hood to Coast in Afghanistan is a great opportunity.

“Most of the Soldiers from Oregon are motivated to participate in the Hood to Coast Relay as way to stay connected to home; I know that is true for me,” Gibson said. Gibson and the 36 other Soldiers from the 1249th ran more than 15 miles in Afghanistan at elevations between 7,100 and 7,500 feet for the relay. It was his first Hood to Coast race.

Next year, Gibson plans on starting a team or another it has not worked out—I look forward to running the event next year when we are back in Oregon,” he explained.

The Oregon JAG team placed in the top 25 percent of the 1,268 teams which ran the race. Capt. Samuel Hernandez, former Judicial Clerk to Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz, said the race was a demanding, team-focused event which required a strong group of dedicated teammates.

“Our team successfully completed the mission because, like the rest of the Guard, we value leadership, unity of effort and a culture of endurance and success,” he said.

The OSJA utilized the team building event as a chance to introduce other athletes to the opportunities offered by the Oregon National Guard.

“It was also an honor to represent the Citizen-Soldiers of Oregon, and heartwarming to hear all the shouts of ‘Go Guard!’ as we ran.”

The Oregon Army National Guard, Baker said, offers a 27-Soldier section within Joint Force Headquarters with the mission of providing legal services to all Soldiers and Commanders of the Oregon Army National Guard. The 12 runners and four volunteers were organic members of the OSJA team. The team was comprised of university students and professors, paralegals, attorneys, and ranks ranging from specialists to lieutenant colonels.

“OSJA’s strong performance in the Hood to Coast Relay is a testament to the readiness and adaptability of the Oregon National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Mark Ronning, Oregon Military Department Staff Judge Advocate.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) represented the Oregon Army National Guard at the 2011 Hood to Coast Relay, a 200-mile, race from Timberline Lodge to Seaside. Each team is comprised of 12 members, and each completes a “leg” of the race.

The OSJA is a 27-Soldier section within Joint Force Headquarters with the mission of providing legal services to all Soldiers and Commanders of the Oregon Army National Guard. The 12 runners and four volunteers were organic members of the OSJA. The team was comprised of university students and professors, paralegals, attorneys, and ranks ranging from specialists to lieutenant colonels.

“OSJA’s strong performance in the Hood to Coast Relay is a testament to the readiness and adaptability of the Oregon National Guard,” said Lt. Col. Bryan Libel. He noted how the addition of 250 teams to this year’s relay caused major delays and congestion along the route.

“Our team remained flexible and effectively negotiated logistical challenges, despite the lack of sleep, changing weather and unfamiliar terrain.”

“The Oregon Guard was loved by so many and I love being part of it,” he said.
NEWS

New facility honors famed WWII unit, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team

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

CLACKAMAS, Ore.—The Oregon National Guard's new 41 Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe is scheduled to be officially dedicated during a ceremony on Sept. 16. The facility is located at 15300 NE Industrial Way, in Clackamas, Ore.

Scheduled to participate in the ceremony are representatives of the governments of Australia and Japan; the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, military dignitaries from Washington, D.C. and Oregon; state and local representatives; Oregon National Guard leadership, and members of the original 41st Infantry Division and their families.

The event will coincide with the 62nd Annual Reunion of the famed 41st Infantry “Sunset” Division in Portland, Ore. They will commemorate their unit's 71st anniversary of being called into active service in 1940. The troops comprised of the National Guard divisions of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. All of them are in their upper eighties or nineties. This may well be their last formal reunion.

The new AFRC is dedicated to the memory of the 41st Infantry Division and its Soldiers—a unit which gained recognition for their sacrifice and service during WWII. To help tell the story of the unit, the largest collection of 41st Infantry Division artifacts in the world will be on permanent display at the facility.

The 41st Inf. Div. was the first American Army Division to be sent overseas in WWII, and served longer than any other. They were also the first to be trained for jungle warfare; something they needed for their first assignment in New Guinea.

Their defeat of the Japanese in the Buna-Gona campaign, alongside the 32nd Division, was the first American army victory of the Pacific War. The action earned them the Presidential Citation for outstanding performance.

After the WWII record of 76 days in actual combat—as they drove the Japanese out of the Salamaua area—they began calling themselves the “Jungleers”. The 41st followed up their lengthy deployment by making four major assault landings in just 34 days.

The fourth of those landings, a coral island called Biak, was the scene of the first tank battle of the Pacific war. Again, the Jungleers outperformed their Japanese adversaries.

When they left New Guinea in 1944, they headed to the Philippines, pushing the war closer to Japan. The final assignment for the 41st Inf. Div. was the occupation of Japan itself, near Hiroshima, the target of the first Atomic bomb.

The 41 Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, completed at a cost of less than $72 million, is the largest facility built by the Oregon National Guard. At just over 250,000 square feet, it will be home to more than 1,300 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and the United States Army Reserve.

The project generated more than 1,200 jobs in the state during its construction. The Oregon National Guard broke ground for the new facility in June 2009.

The federal government has funded most of the total cost, with additional funds coming from the National Guard.

Barrentine Bates Lee, of Lake Owego, Ore., was the architect. Construction of the facility was contracted with Hoffman Construction Company of Portland, Ore.

September: Disaster Preparedness month

Story by Jennifer Chamberlain, Oregon Emergency Management Public Affairs Coordinator

Oregon’s National Guard and all of Oregon’s emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, and sometimes, rescue us from harm. But they can’t do it alone. It is our personal responsibility to prepare our families to survive during disasters. In doing so, we contribute to the safety and security of the state and the nation as well.

Recent research conducted by FEMA on preparedness showed that 40 percent of survey respondents did not have household disaster plans in 2011. An additional 80 percent had not conducted home evacuation drills, and nearly 60 percent did not know their community or school evacuation routes.

In Oregon, only 1 out of 20 people have an emergency kit stored where family members can get to it in the aftermath of a disaster. September is a time, while out buying school supplies, etc., to put together an emergency kit with the following basic items: Water— one gallon per person per day; food - at least a three day supply; a radio, batteries and flashlight; a hand crank flashlight and extra batteries; first-aid kit; dust mask; prescriptions; pet food and water; camping equipment; cash; extra clothes; blankets.

Make your kit specific to your family and add items that will help you be more comfortable during a difficult situation.

Most importantly, National Guard members and their families need to be as prepared as other first responders since their assistance in the response is so necessary.

Oregon’s National Guard and all of Oregon’s emergency responders do an incredible job of keeping us safe, and sometimes, rescue us from harm. But they can’t do it alone. It is our personal responsibility to prepare our families to survive during disasters. In doing so, we contribute to the safety and security of the state and the nation as well.

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Most importantly, National Guard members and their families need to be as prepared as other first responders since their assistance in the response is so necessary.

Members of the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team, and the Eugene Fire Department HAZMAT team, respond to a simulated chemical dispersal at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Ore., during a training exercise Aug. 17, in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Trials there.


“Everyone works together to evacuate and decontaminate the role players and it takes a lot of communication and teamwork,” she said.

Welch and Barr agree communication is vital so each agency understands strengths and weaknesses to rely on the best subject matter experts and work more efficiently as a team.

“The cooperation was fantastic, the 102 CST and city of Eugene have built a great rapport over time,” said Capt. Richard Hosmer, Nuclear Medical Science Officer for 102 CST.

The organizations have state of the art equipment and good people working together to ensure resources are used to the best of their capability, Hosmer explained.

“This shows us how important communication is and it allows us to address that need,” said Capt. Rod Cullen, an Entry Team Leader with the Eugene Fire Department HAZMAT team.

Jasmin San Miguel, 102nd CST Deputy Commander, and former member of the Eugene Police Department, said as a resident of Eugene, he has a unique perspective on the exercise.

“It’s comforting knowing firefighters, the National Guard, and other local agencies have a plan in place to keep us safe,” he said.

City services in Eugene are ready to work with the Oregon National Guard for a quick emergency response, he added.

Based in Salem, the 102 CST is a unit of more than 20 full time Army and Air National Guard members who can be rapidly mobilized anywhere in Oregon to assist civil authorities. The team uses matter experts and work more efficiently as a team.

“The event at Autzen Stadium demonstrates how an interagency cooperative effort is possible in case of emergency,” Welch said.

He said he is glad University of Oregon agreed to sponsor the event because utilizing a venue like Autzen Stadium is
**AIRMAN CALLED TO SERVE COUNTRY, GOD, BIDS FAREWELL TO MILITARY**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (June 8, 2011)** — A line of Airmen wait to receive communion from Chaplain Richard Sirianni on May 15, 2011 at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore.

The intimate World War II-era chapel is nearly filled to capacity with Airmen, there to hear Sunday Mass during the unit training assembly weekend and share in Chaplain Sirianni’s final homily before his retirement from the Oregon Air National Guard.

“This is a bitter-sweet day,” said Col. Michael Richard Sirianni, 142nd Fighter Wing Vice-Vice Wing Commander. “Father Rick has touched every single one of us individually and as a larger sense the entire Oregon Air National Guard.”

Sirianni’s fascination with airplanes began at a young age, as he could hear and see aircraft flying into the air from his Mount Tabor home. Yet it was not until his mid-30s that he found the calling to serve as a military chaplain.

In October of 1987, Father Richard Sirianni joined the Oregon Air National Guard with the full support from the Archdioceses of Portland.

After an officer orientation course and Chaplain Service training he began serving as the 142nd Fighter Wing base priest.

“The training I have received in my 23 years of military service has been outstanding and typically 100-percent applicable as to what I do as a parish priest too,” Sirianni said.

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The early training through the two schools allowed Father Sirianni to deploy. From December 2003 to April 2004, he served as the staff Chaplain for 1st Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

“I turned down the job twice because I was afraid that I was not ready,” he said.

Eventually it was the 142nd Fighter Wing commander, retired Col. Bradley Appleget who finally convinced Sirianni he needed to get out of his comfort zone, and take the deployment.

Building on this first deployment, it was three subsequent deployments to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where Sirianni found he could draw upon his years both as a parish priest and a military Chaplain.

“The first few times in Landstuhl I would mostly sit in the outpatient unit and found that fascinating,” he said.

In 2004, Father Sirianni found himself again in the ICU after the Battle of Fallujah, where almost all of the U.S. caualties were Marines.

“It happened to be that most of those Marines were Catholic and I worked with their families coming to Germany,” said Sirianni.

For his last deployment to Landstuhl in 2008, Sirianni requested to work in the psychiatric department primarily with military members suffering from post traumatic stress and depression.

“I chose it specially to work more as a counselor and because I knew that the skills I learned would be helpful to the Airmen back home here,” Sirianni said.

As the former 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, and now the Deputy Chief of Oregon Air National Guard leadership, family and friends.

“What is most impressive is your courage, tenacity, and absolute dedication you bring to the mission and your fellow service members,” Gregg told the Airmen who stood in formation in front of guests, Oregon National Guard leadership, family and friends.

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“Should the enemy decide to take you on, I have complete faith in your ability to leverage the assets required to professionally deliver a response he will not soon forget,” Gregg added.

Even as Sirianni plans his retirement, he has committed to continuing service in the Oregon National Guard, helping members suffering from the stress of deployments to the everyday issues that come with being a Citizen-Airman.

“The Air Force has just given me too much to take that part away; I still feel that need to help those that serve,” Sirianni said.

**BG GREGG TO 125 STS AIRMEN: ‘YOUR COURAGE, TENACITY AND DEDICATION IS IMPRESSIVE’**

I woke up May 19, 2010 in Afghanistan to the sound of my radio and pager telling me that there had been five explosions. As my head cleared I could hear small arms fire coming from different areas of the base.

Almost immediately an Apache helicopter sitting right above my camp opened up with its main gun, which was deafening. I thought I would have had to evacuate the perimeter at that point, but we held on.

As the Camp Mayor and the FSS Superintendent I was able to witness all parts of this fantastic organization. It’s exciting to have you on-board,” Rees said.

Prior to assuming his current position, Capobianco was a strategic planner, U.S. Special Operations Command, Center for Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments, MacDill AFB, Fla.

About 30 members of the 125th STS are deploying to augment Active Duty rotation rotations in Afghanistan for six-month rotations starting in the Fall of 2011. Oregon Chief Justice Paul J. De MunizThursday, Aug. 22, 2013 — The 125th special tactics squadron was established on May 1, 2005, and is headquartered at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

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Oregon combat veteran finds success in post-deployment spirits

Story by Nicole Hoeft,
Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs

CAMPDAIR, Ore. – One of the great truths about being a combat veteran is that war changes the course of the lives of those who experience it.

When Dawson Officer opened the doors to 4 Spirits Distillery, he knew he was taking on a huge risk, but for this Iraq veteran, this is the path he wanted to do. As a member of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 4th Battalion, 368th Infantry Brigade, Officer learned under extreme circumstances that he had to face his fears of living and dying.

“After that, everything became trivial,” said Officer. “What in the world could happen to me that would closely compare to prematurely accepting death?”

It was in this acceptance that he realized what he wanted to do with his life and the distillery was born.

“I was at home drinking whisky making it I’d like to make this but with some changes. That was the first idea and then it just grew from there,” recalled Officer.

To get 4 Spirits up and running, Officer enlisted the help of his family and friends and he received plenty of it. His father, a Vietnam veteran, and his brother, also a veteran, helped build and construct. His friends helped weld signs together, build the website and design the graphics for the bottles of his first two products, SlapTail and WebFoot Vodka.

But it was the naming of his company that he sought input from the other men of Delta Company. Officer wanted to dedicate the distillery to the memory of their four friends who were killed while serving in Iraq—Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. David Roustum, Justin Eyerly, Sgt. Justin Linden, and Sgt. David Ronstrom. The term “4 Spirits” was chosen by the men as a nod to their friends who had been killed. Officer wanted to dedicate the distillery to the memory of their four friends who were killed while serving in Iraq—Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. David Roustum, Justin Eyerly, Sgt. Justin Linden, and Sgt. David Ronstrom. The term “4 Spirits” was chosen by the men as a nod to their friends who had been killed.

“My concern was the guys I served with. If they had a problem with it then it was out,” said Officer. “I was happy when they all saw the message that I was trying to send and get an overwhelming level of support. They thought it was a great way to honor our friends and the fallen.”

The journey from Soldier to distiller has not always been easy. After a certain amount of pain and anguish while learning the trade, Officer now has his products on the shelves of many retail liquor stores.

“My vodka is small batch, it’s not volume based. When you make it in small batches you get to care for it a bit more. I distill very slowly and I filter it slowly, but in an unconventional way, as far as I know,” said Officer.

The product has received a smooth, martini grade vodka with a little nose on the back end. He has distilled a winner.

Through the extremes of war and entrepreneurship, Officer has kept life in perspective.

“There are four guys who didn’t get the chance to move on with life. I better start making it mean something for all of us,” said Officer.

The 4 Spirits Distillery’s tasting room is located in the old Air Force Communications building in Adair.