DHAKA, Bangladesh – Members of the Oregon National Guard traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the Oregon State Partnership Program in support of U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (PR DREE), from Aug. 18-21. The PR DREE provided a forum for disaster management and response experts from USARPAC, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, Bangladeshi Governmental and Civil authorities, and members of the Oregon National Guard to come together to discuss and evaluate Bangladeshi disaster response capabilities.

The Oregon National Guard provided eight members with expertise ranging from medical first-response, search and extraction, to structural engineering, logistics and command and control. They were paired with USARPAC subject matter experts to exchange ideas and engage their Bangladeshi counterparts in discussions relating to earthquake response.

“The DREE included two days of table-top exercises focused on earthquake response scenarios and a field training exercise where Bangladeshi first-responders conducted hands-on rescue techniques with Oregon National Guard members and role-players in a rubble pile built to simulate a collapsed building.”

Adam Lulay, one of Oregon’s leading search and extraction experts who attended the PR DREE, was impressed by the hard work and motivation of the Bangladeshi first-responders.

“The Bangladesh Fire Department and Army were very impressive,” Lulay said. “(They were) extremely hard working, motivated, and thorough in their preparation and execution. I look forward to future training opportunities with them.”

Officials say Bangladesh capabilities in earthquake preparedness and response have serious and high-level dedication at all levels in the country. Bangladesh sits on three fault lines and, according to

See Bangladesh on Page 4

Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Adam Lulay (left) shares a laugh with Bangladeshi firefighters during preparations for a training exercise with the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division at the Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange (DREE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aug. 20.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Barto, Oregon State Partnership Program

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore. – After more than six months deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, 26 members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron returned to the excitement of family, friends and co-workers who were on hand to greet them, Aug. 8. The Airmen departed for Al Udeid, Qatar in January 2013 following pre-deployment training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel addressed the Airmen and related his experience at Qatar, having been deployed there a year before.

“It feels especially good to welcome you back having gone through that exact experience,” he said.

As part of their assignment of providing 24/7 protection, members separated into different shifts and sectors, covering flight line security, base patrol, vehicle search areas and supply.

“I can already tell that you have matured and gone through many challenges during your time away,” said Stencel.

Stencel discussed changes within the Oregon National Guard that took place during their deployment and introduced Oregon’s new Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, to the Airmen. Hokanson officially took over for Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, who retired on July 31.

See Airmen on Page 11

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

142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron returns from Qatar deployment

Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, greets Tech. Sgt. Devin Boise and other Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron during the unit’s demobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., Nov. 3.
The Oregon Sentinel

State Commander in Chief
Governor John A. Kitzhaber
The Oregon National Guard
Chief Warrant Officer 5
Capt. Brady A. Phillips (right) administers the oath of office to CW2, Andrew Rhode, serving in Afghanistan with Detachment 47.
American Legion Commander: ‘Let’s serve veterans as well as they served us’

Story and photo by Daniel M. Dellinger, American Legion Commander

American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger is national commander of the 2.4 million member American Legion.

During the recent government shutdown many numbers were thrown around. There is one number that stands out and it has nothing to do with the debate over the federal budget.

More than one a day. That is how many members of our active-duty military, National Guard and Reserve forces have committed suicide over the last year.

Simply put, we are losing more service members by their own hands than we are by the enemy in Afghanistan.

One of these service members experienced firsthand the horrors of combat can understand why most of these young men and women feel the way they do from such drastic and permanent measures.

As Veterans Day ceremonies and parades occurred throughout the country, it was important that we commit ourselves to doing everything possible to prevent these needlessly tragic deaths.

We are their friends, their family, their co-workers and their neighbors. It is up to us to ensure that these service veterans find his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans. There are many ways we can bestow our appreciation on their sacrifice, but the easiest is to simply say, “Thank you for what you have done for this country.”

If he is showing signs of unhappiness or depression, encourage him to seek help through the VA immediately. If he has had difficulty obtaining the benefits that she is entitled to, let her know that The American Legion and its Legislative Liaisons in Washington, D.C. as well as our local Legion District Commanders and Commanders nationwide will help her navigate the bureaucratic free zone of VA claims.

As Legion national commander, I do not wish to minimize the sacrifices our service veterans made, but I believe we can bestow appreciation on their sacrifice, remember the price that has been paid for our freedom and offer our support to the loved ones left behind. Veterans Day is a time to honor not just those who have fought for us in battle, but, in fact, all of the outstanding men and women who served in our nation’s Armed Forces since our founding more than 237 years ago. Not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is that they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation.

Perhaps most significant in preserving America’s way of life are the battles that America does not have to fight because those who wish us harm slink away in fear of the Navy aircraft carrier, the Coast Guard cutter, the Air Force fighter squadron or the Army Soldier on patrol.

Do they have the words that recently retired General James Mattis shared with his Marines: “Be polite. Be professional. But have a plan to kill everybody you meet.”

While we should all be grateful for the remarkable advancements made in military medicine and prosthetics, the fighting spirit and inspirational stories of our veterans is not due to technology. These traits come from the heart.

And many of these veterans are women, such as Army Chief Warrant Officer Lori Hill. While piloting her helicopter over Iraq in 2006, she maneuvered her chopper away from another helicopter and provide suppressive fire for troops on the ground.

Despite flying a damaged aircraft and suffering injuries, she landed the helicopter safely, saving her crew. For her actions, she became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Women are major contributors to our military presence in Afghanistan and many have given their lives in the War on Terrorism. America recently issued a report calling upon VA to improve its response to the unique needs of women veterans.

The VA and military health systems need to adequately treat breast and cervical cancers as well as trauma that resulted from domestic violence, sexual assault and assault. America is home to more than 1.2 million veterans and they deserve our support.

In the poem “Tommy,” the great writer Rudyard Kipling pointed out the sad treatment a British Soldier received at a pub.

In writing in classical old English, Kipling compared the abuse with the more favorable treatment that “Tommy” receives by calling out while singing:

“For it’s Tommy this, an ‘Tommy that, an’ ’Chuck him out, the brute! But it’s ‘Tommy in a country’ when the guns begin to shoot;

An’ it’s Tommy this, an’ ‘Tommy that, an’ anybody in this country’ when strange noises come from the engine.

On your trip you listen to the car, trying to guess its condition. You wonder if you should stop at the nearest hotel or if you can make it through long stretches of lonely highway. Do you have enough gas? When is the next station? Do you ignore some of the strange noises from the engine? Do you keep going?"

Self-Awareness is one of the Core Competencies of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program. Just like driving the car is more difficult when you cannot gauge its condition, so too our effectiveness as Soldiers are limited when we cannot accurately assess our current state of being.

Self-Awareness is not about giving in to the pain, it is about knowing the difference between a minor stuffle or soreness or serious ligament damage after a 26 mile run.

Having greater Self Awareness allows for better planning, which leads to increased chance of completing the mission.

Information on the Resiliency Program can be found under G1 on the website: http://www.army.mil/readiness

For individual resilience information visit the Soldier Fitness Tracker at https://www.sif.army.mil/
Logisticians learn skills ‘affecting the lives of every Soldier’ at annual workshop

Story and photos by Sg t. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. – Oregon Army National Guard logisticians from across the state gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., for the Director of Logistics (G4) annual State Logistics Workshop, Dec. 2-6. The week-long conference gave logisticians a chance to network and brush up on their skills with workshops covering every aspect of their field.

“Logistics is where the rubber meets the road; we all depend on the supply chain no matter what the mission is,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chuck Stewart, Quartermaster Branch Chief for the Oregon Army Guard.

A town hall session gave subject matter experts a chance to address questions from the field. Round-robin classes included hands-on computer based training with the systems logisticians use to order and track their supplies. A range of topics were covered including the Qualified Recycling Program, government purchase cards, sizing Soldiers for deployment gear, unit sub hand receipts, budget forecasting, preparing for inspections, logistics support during state emergencies, among many others.

“We have been doing this annually for about 13 years,” said Col. Donald L. Rolph, the Oregon Army National Guard’s Director of Logistics (G4). “The training we provide here supplements what they receive at their professional logistics schools and gives them the tools they need to be successful supply sergeants.”

Rolph said this supplemental training is especially important due to the 67 percent turnover rate for supply sergeants over the last year.

“We have to keep the new people trained, provide them the support they need, and help raise their confidence,” agreed Stewart.

“Newly-hired supply sergeants such as, Spc. Humberto Gonzalez, with Detachment 1, 118th Military Police Company, from Milton-Freewater, Ore., said the State Logistics Workshop was beneficial.

“I’ve only been a supply sergeant for two months, so I need the practice,” said Gonzalez, as he navigated the Army Food Management Information System during the State Logistics Workshop at Camp Rilea.

The networking that takes place here will help anyone in the long run,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Blain, who will take over as supply sergeant for the rear detachment during the upcoming deployment of Charlie Co., 2-162nd Infantry Battalion in Gresham, Ore. “You can take the information back to your unit and you’ll know who to call when you have questions.”

Logistics representatives from National Guard Bureaus, Col. Michael J. Bouchard, Army National Guard Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations, Logistics and Environment (ARNG G4), and the ARNG G4 Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Guy Hahs, were also in attendance at the State Logistics Workshop.

“Everything starts and ends with logistics,” said Bouchard as he addressed the audience of logisticians. “You affect the lives of every Soldier whether it’s through their food, their clothing, or their equipment.”

Bouchard lauded Oregon as a great state with a great reputation,” saying the Oregon Army National Guard is leading the Army in logistics as a top performing state, evidenced by the awards it has earned.

At the awards banquet on Dec. 3, many individual logisticians were recognized for going above and beyond in their work. Among those recognized were Sg t. 1st Class Linda G. Cassle, Staff Sgt. Nicole F. Herron and Staff Sgt. Scott A. Young, who were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Martin for “demonstrating the highest standards of integrity, moral character, and displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence.”

The Honorable Order of Saint Martin recognizes individuals who have served the United States Army Quartermaster Corps with selfless service, and has contributed to the promotion of esprit de corps in ways that stands out in the eyes of the recipient’s superiors, subordinates and peers. It is part of the Regimental Awards Program for the Association of Quartermasters and is an equivalent award to the National Infantry Association Order of Saint Maurice Le-gionnaire or the U.S. Field Artillery Association Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Currently, there are less than 20 actively serving members of the Oregon Army National Guard who have been inducted into the Order of Saint Martin.

Bangladesh rehearses earthquake response with Oregon Guard

Continued from Front Page

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Continued from Front Page

Oregon Army National Guard logisticians were inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Martin during the awards banquet dinner, Dec. 3, at the State Logistics Workshop at Camp Rilea. From left to right: Sg t. 1st Class Linda G. Cassle, Staff Sgt. Scott A. Young and Staff Sgt. Nicole F. Herron.

Hundreds of buildings across the country, especially in the capital city of Dhaka, the country’s most populous city, have poor structural integrity. Tragedies such as the Rana Plaza building collapse in April 2013, which left more than 1,100 dead, have strengthened the resolve for Bangladesh to build their capabilities in areas of disaster response—specifically in earthquake preparedness.

U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena, often emphasizes that it is not a question of “if” Dhaka will be hit by a large magnitude earthquake, but a question of “when.”

“If Dhaka were hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, about 20 percent of the 350,000 buildings in this great mega city would collapse,” Mozena said during his opening comments at the PR DREE.

Given these numbers, an earthquake in Dhaka has the potential to be ten times more devastating than the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The Bangladesh government and military are well aware of the situation and have been taking necessary steps to proactively mitigate the effect of this potential disaster. This has led to a specific area of support that the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division (BD AFD) has requested from the Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon National Guard has been partnered with Bangladesh since October 2008. The Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership Program is currently working with the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, as well as the BD AFD to develop engagements in 2014 as follow-on to the DREE, with additional subject matter expert exchanges focusing on search and extraction, medical first response, and structural engineering. These engagements are intended to reinforce lessons learned and continue to develop the country’s capacity in areas of disaster response and preparedness.

The National Guard’s State Partnership Program provides unique, cost-effective, partner capacity-building capabilities in support of U.S. National Security objectives by developing sustainable, cooperative partnerships between individual U.S. States, Territories and the District of Columbia and foreign partner countries.
SOU cadets active in school, community

Southern Oregon University ROTC cadets conduct a quarterly Field Training Exercise.

Story and photo courtesy  Southern Oregon University ROTC Program

Southern Oregon University ROTC is a program developing future officers for the Oregon Army National Guard and their communities. SOU’S ROTC cadets are learning to be critically thinking, technically and tactically proficient leaders through weekly classroom instruction, leadership laboratories and quarterly field training exercises.

Recently the program’s Fall 2013 Field Training Exercise (FTX) was highlighted by the Medford ABC affiliate KDRV. The FTX was the first of four events the cadets will attend in preparation for their final examination Leader Development and Assessment Course during the summer between their junior and senior year.

The cadet commander, Cadet Shane Corley, observed the cadet’s success during the FTX and remarked, “despite the blisters, early mornings and long distances between land navigation points, the cadets retained positive attitudes and motivated each other to keep working hard.”

In August the university acknowledged the program’s success by moving the program from a smaller facility and gifting 34 dorm rooms at no cost to cadets. Housing scholarships have eased financial burden on many of the cadets and is improving their ability to focus more on their education.

Through the program’s success the university has developed and conducted a holiday toy drive for underprivileged children in conjunction with the southern Oregon Chapter of the Marine Corps League’s Toys For Tots toy drive in south Medford and Ashland, Ore.

The cadets distributed collection boxes to Ashland businesses and collected toys at the south Medford Wal-Mart. Follow SOU’s cadets on their Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/#!/ groups/156489054412424/

McMinnville signs community covenant

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. – Mayors, members of local community, faith-based organizations, veterans service organizations, and the Oregon National Guard gathered at the Yamhill County Fair, Aug. 2, to sign a Joining Community Forces (JCF) Covenant.

The Covenant signing is the culmination of months of planning and preparation for the JCF. The program seeks to expand and reinforce the network of care available to service members and families of Oregon veterans.

“Basically the community is pledging to take care of their veterans,” said Jerry Wilson, the Yamhill County Veterans Service Officer, and a 30-year veteran. Symbolic of the partnership between veterans and the local community, the American Legion opened and closed the ceremony with a Color Guard comprised of local veterans, which included two Soldiers who served in World War II. A survivor of Pearl Harbor, retired Lt. Col. Leonard DeWitt, Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross recipient, also attended the event.

Paule Partridge, program manager for Yamhill County Health and Human Services, gave particular credit to Elin Lambert, special projects officer from the Oregon Army National Guard, for organizing the event. Lambert served on the original JCF steering committee in January, and helped all of the various agencies and organizations to see new ways they could work together to assist service members and families.

“We do everything we can to help veterans locally,” said Kathy George, a Yamhill County Commissioner. Moving forward, the committee will continue to focus on trying to identify and close any gaps in coverage for those in need.

The Covenant signing ceremony concluded with an Armed Forces Medley sung by the local musical group In Accord.

“I’m very pleased with the turn-out in attendance,” said Consuelo Christenson, a retired Air Force first sergeant. “It has all gone so smoothly and we’re excited about working together.”
The people that really inspired me were the wounded warriors.

- Retired CSM Al Hunt Jr.

It's just a generation of “you can do anything.” All you have to do is just step out and do it.

Hunt said that was his way of stepping out and doing it.

“You see all these people around you and they’re doing it with no limbs,” he said. “They’re accomplishing something so I figured I might be blind, I might be deaf but I’m gonna do it.”

and I strongly believe that,” said Army Capt. Emily Grace Mate, who headed up the 10-Miler teams and the Army Guard’s participation in the event. “I think it’s a tremendous feat what he just did and gives us the motivation, especially for those of us that aren’t runners, to go out next year and run. I think it’s tremendous that he came out here and ran and set the standard for everybody says to me.”

This year’s event also saw a large turnout for runners from the Army Guard.

“We had 2025 runners registered, last year we had 1500 registered, so that was a big increase for us this year,” said Mate, adding that the Guard also had two teams—one male team and one female team—running the 10-Miler competitively with both teams taking second place in their respective divisions.

And for Hunt, it all comes back to preparing for and accepting the challenge.
**Women in the military see changes over span of careers**

Story by Ursalla Bichoff, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

PATRICK McRoberts joined the Oregon National Guard in 1974. She comes from a strong military organization except maybe cheerleaders. I am very patriotic and wanted to serve my country," Woodbury said.

She later joined the Oregon Army National Guard 82nd Brigade, eventually became a Delta. She moved to Oregon and worked as a Quality Technician at Gage Industries. Woodbury went back to school, got her master's and eventually became a Douba. She retired from the Oregon Army National Guard January 14. She will be missed by many as a role model, mentor and leader.

**Environmental Program Section bids farewell to long-time employee**

Story by Ursalla Bichoff, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The Environmental Program Section of the Oregon Military Department (OMD) began with one man, Gerald E. Elliott, in 1983. Thirty years later the program has developed into a staff of six employees and more than 120 employees in 2013. The program includes noise management, hazardous waste and numerous other areas for the Oregon Military Department.

Elliott began his career learning the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Oregon Military Department, July 14.

Gerald Elliott (fourth from the right), with his family following his retirement ceremony at the Oregon Military Department, July 14.

"Elliott has developed one of the top Environmental Programs in the entire National Guard," Caldwell said. "This team is second to none and has been recognized on numerous occasions by the National Guard Bureau and the Department of the Army. We will most certainty miss his presence!"
Two services, one mission: joint CERFP trains to save lives

PORTLAND, Ore. - With its home at the 142nd Fighter Wing, commanded by Col. Rick Wedan, a newly-validated joint team comprised of approximately 197 Airmen and Soldiers known as the Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear-High-Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), stands ready for call-up by state or federal authorities.

The unit’s mission is to respond to man-made or natural events and provide a robust, quick-response search and extraction, with the varied capacities of decontamination, medical care, treatment and stabilization, and fatality recovery.

With Soldiers from various units around the state providing the lead-up of the search and recovery and decontamination efforts on the team, two groups from the 142nd Fighter Wing provide the medical support (to include a trained medical team embedded within the search and extraction team), and fatality recovery elements.

Lt. Col. Eric Schadler, the medical element is comprised of 47 Airmen assigned to the 142nd Medical Group, which is commanded by Col. Heidi Knox—who also participates as a physician on the team. The medical element brings an expert mix of doctors, physician assistants, nurses, medics, bioenvironmental engineers, public health experts, and administrative support.

The CERFP has the ability to decontaminate and medically stabilize up to 200 patients per hour through its ambulatory and non-ambulatory lines, with a focus on providing life-saving stabilization and allows for rapid evacuation from the incident area to local or regional medical centers.

The fatality search and recovery (SAR) team, led by Maj. Dawn Choy and Tech. Sgt. Dustin Pate, are staffed by members from the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Force Support Squadron, which is commanded by Lt. Col. Donna Prigmore. The Squadron Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Victoria, is the Air Component Director on the CERFP’s command and control element, and fills a critical role which interfaces between the joint elements of the CERFP.

The CERFP SAR team’s primary role is to enter into the incident zone, locate and recover fatalities, and remove them from the area so they can be safely returned to families. This effort is also critical in providing much-needed technical data for investigators if there is the possibility of a terrorist or criminal event having occurred.

The Oregon CERFP is one of the nation’s newest validated teams. It completed its required external validation in May 2012, which evaluated members in the technical aspects required for their mission. In March 2013, the team also underwent a Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team (SEAT), which evaluated its fiscal and administrative responsibilities. The team’s excellent results allowed for its ultimate validation and mission readiness status by the former Adjutant General of Oregon, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees. The CERFP has a busy 2014 schedule and must remain prepared for its FEMA Region-10 mission. The unit will conduct multiple training missions in the Portland metropolitan area in January and February, to prepare for another external evaluation in March.

Immediately following that evaluation, the unit will join other CERFP units in Alaska to take part in an exercise simulating a large earthquake event. In July, Oregon’s CERFP will again travel to another mass-casualty exercise in Wisconsin, followed in October by another SEAT inspection, where the unit’s administrative processes will again be tested by federal inspectors.

Lewis uses radio skills as Soldier and emergency management volunteer

SALEM, Ore. - Sgt. Patrick Lewis, a signal support system specialist with the Oregon National Guard, has a passion for the power of communication and using his skills to help others.

In addition to his military service, Lewis is an amateur radio volunteer for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. His office provides important functions and programs for the state of Oregon revolving around preparation, response, recovery and mitigation for emergencies and disasters.

The 24-year-old Lewis, who was an amateur radio operator since he was a junior in high school, said he became interested in emergency communications when he found out amateur radio may be the only form of communication in a disaster.

“If an event like Oregon Cascadia happens we know it will be the only form of communication out there in many places,” said Lewis.

The Oregon Cascadia event is described as an earthquake event with an estimated magnitude of 7-9 on the Richter scale. This earthquake event historically occurs every 200-300 years, and is estimated to be about 75-100 years overdue.

The Amateur Radio Unit in which Lewis volunteers his time is one example of the important resources the Office of Emergency Management provides for Oregon. The unit can be activated to provide statewide backup and alternate communications during times of emergency. The methods or modes of communication are overloaded or disrupted.

“This Unit will utilize HF, VHF, UHF, and Digital Modes to provide communications between county and state emergency management offices, and to border states, as required,” said Fred Molesworth, communications officer for Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

“County has no other means for backup communication other than amateur radio and volunteers like Lewis, who will be critical in a disaster scenario,” Molesworth added.

Lewis said his job with Oregon National Guard involves work with electronic equipment that sends signals.

“I joined the Guard because I was an amateur radio operator, and being an amateur radio operator has helped me throughout my military career,” Lewis said. “It gives me more depth of knowledge about radio waves, and going above and beyond to learn radio theory, and how radio waves work.”

Molesworth added that there are several emergency and disaster scenarios that can happen in Oregon where normal cell, telephone and internet communication would be lost.

“When we are activated to counties our backup is all via amateur radio,” Molesworth said. “We have highly flexible amateurs with licenses and training all over states that are very versatile and capable of providing emergency communication.”

Molesworth said the assistant radio unit he manages consists of 25 members, and that Lewis is the assistant emergency coordinator and operations chief for the unit. Lewis wrote the operations plan for the unit and was chosen for the leadership position for a reason, he added.

“J chose him because of experience, ability and tremendous enthusiasm,” Molesworth explained. “He had the qualifications we were looking for to make him a good choice.”

Molesworth added that Lewis is a model amateur radio volunteer who brings a level of discipline and experience in communication from his military background.

“He has a real sense of mission,” Molesworth said. “Right now in the state of Oregon people with his degree of dedication and sense of mission are vital for our state.”

Lewis said he was inspired even more when in 2011 while on leave from Afghanistan, he got to put his skill to work during a tornado in Minnesota.

“I heard tornado sirens and provided emergency communication to help speed up critical communication,” he said. “It felt really good to be able to use my skills to help people.”

Molesworth explained that there are 680 trained volunteers out of 17,000 licensed radio operators in Oregon, and if something like the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake (similar to the event in Japan) were to occur, 680 volunteers would simply not be enough.

Lewis says he will continue to volunteer well into the future, and that he hopes more of the 17,000 licensed operators will volunteer to expand the backup emergency communication network across the state.

“This makes me feel like I’ve achieved something, I like being in the role because I have ideas and want to put them to use,” said Lewis. “I really believe in the importance of amateur radio so it feels good to be in a leadership role.”

If you are interested in learning more about what the Office of Emergency Management amateur radio operators do, or how to volunteer, go to W7oem.org.
The Oregon National Guard is ‘Always There’...

Left: A joint Oregon National Guard color guard presents the American flag during the Portland Trailblazers Military Appreciation Night at the Moda Center in Portland, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Sgt. Philip Sterner, Recruiting and Retention Battalion)

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors team members, Pvt. Scott Fox (right) and Pfc. Everett Mayers (left), fold the American flag in honor of fallen service members during the Portland Timbers Military Appreciation Night at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, Ore., Aug. 17. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Left: Oregon National Guard members display the American flag during the Portland Timbers military appreciation night at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland, Ore., Aug. 17. (Photo by Spc. Matthew Burnett, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Below: Col. William J. Edwards, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, salutes Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, as the unit passes the reviewing stand during the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Above: The Oregon National Guard’s Adjutant General Select Honor Guard team leads the 2013 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Portland, Ore., Nov. 29. (Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

Right: An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier waves to spectators along the parade route during the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Ore., Nov. 11. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

History re-enactors display artifacts from the Oregon Military Museum during an Open House at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Ore., Nov. 7. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

... throughout History.

with Honor,

with Tradition,

with Pride,

with Patriotism,

with Professionalism,

when we are Needed,

Funding a Hand,
Oregon Air National Guard changes command as Brig. Gen. Gregg retires

SALEM, Ore. - Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg relinquished command of the Oregon Air National Guard to Brig. Gen. Mike Stencel in a change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Oct. 5. Stencel now has the overall responsibility for the organization, training and equipping of seven Oregon Air Guard units with more than 2,300 personnel throughout the state.

Prior to his assignment as commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Stencel previously served in various command positions, including commander of the Civil Engineering Squadron, 142nd Mission Support Group, 142nd Fighter Wing, and most recently as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air), Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard, in Salem, Ore.

Gregg retired after 29 years of service during a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Oct. 4. He joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1984. His many assignments consisted of Flight Instructor, Flight Examiner, Functional Check Pilot, Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Flight Commander, and Operations Officer.

Gregg commanded the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, and the 142nd Fighter Wing as Vice Commander and then Wing Commander. He also served as the Director of Operations (Air) and then became the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) at Oregon Joint Force Headquarters, in Salem, Ore., prior to taking command of the Oregon Air National Guard in January 2011.

Oregon National Guard Airmen awarded Bronze Star Medals


Silver promoted as Assistant Adjutant General - Air

SALEM, Ore. - Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jeffrey M. Silver was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Oct. 5. Silver, who formerly served as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, has been assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air), Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard, in Salem, Ore. He is responsible for establishing policy and maintaining oversight of more than 2,300 Oregon Air National Guard personnel within the state.

Silver graduated from Oregon State University in 1984 with a bachelor degree in business administration. He received his commission the same year, through the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science, and was named a distinguished graduate. He was initially assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., as a Weapon Systems Officer in the F-4C and was selected to represent the wing in the 1988 Base, Portland, Ore., as a Weapon Systems Officer in the to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Academy of Military Science, and was commissioned the same year, through the Air in business administration. He received his University in 1984 with a bachelor degree state.

Mike Stencel in a change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

Oregon Air Guard welcomes new Chief

SALEM, Ore. - The Oregon Air National Guard State Command Chief changed as Command Chief Master Sgt. Patrick “Andy” Guantz replaced Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell during a change of responsibility ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Sept. 8.

Russell served as the state’s top Air Guard enlisted Non-Commissioned Officer since Jan. 11, 2011. He is scheduled to retire in a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Jan. 3.

Russell began his military career in 1980 as a Weather Observer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving the Marine Corps in 1987, he enlisted in the Oregon Air National Guard’s 123rd Weather Flight, where he later became a Active Guard Reserve member. He held positions as Weather Forecaster, Meteorological Technician, Operations NCOIC, Station Chief, Training NCO, Security Manager and Resource Advisor.

Guantz previously served with the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, at Camp Riles, in Warrenton, Ore., before being selected to lead as the new Oregon StateCommand Chief.
Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Fresno, Calif., fly over the skies of Klamath Four F-15Cs from the 144th Fighter Wing, the F-15s they have the aircraft and the maintenance personnel to Kingsley operations to Kingsley Field on a 60-day cycle, and will comprise various job specialties, primarily in the maintenance group. These personnel will integrate seamlessly into Kingsley operations as the 144th converts from the F-16 to the F-15 they have the aircraft and the maintenance personnel for the mission, but lack trained F-15 pilots to fill the cockpits.

“This was a major problem,” said Smith. “They came to us and said, ‘what can we do to help you guys increase the number of pilots you are training?’ Leadership from both wings sat down and hammered out a plan that would allow the 173rd to train additional 144th track-one students, pilots who have flight experience in a different fighter aircraft, and meet the production needs of the 144th. The 144th sent four F-15s and a group of maintenance and support personnel to Kingsley Field, allowing the 173rd to increase their flying by four additional aircraft flights in a day. In turn, this facilitates the 173rd the opportunity to train four additional Fresno F-15 pilots.

“This is the 173rd looking at the challenges and finding solutions,” said Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander. “We are willing and able to step up. It is part of our culture - we have a challenge, Kingsley is the solution. Give us the resources and we are expandable. There were multiple reasons for the limited number of trained pilots at the 144th, including the delay in transferring the aircraft from the Montana Guard, sequestration, and the resulting furloughs. Fresno personnel will rotate through Kingsley Field on a 60-day cycle, and will comprise various job specialties, primarily in the maintenance group. These personnel will integrate seamlessly into the 173rd shops, working side by side with Kingsley Airmen.

“This is a great opportunity for their maintainers to get the hands-on experience fixing jets that they need,” added Smith. “As they stand up their mission they will be prepared to meet the day-to-day challenges having spent that time with us.”

The 173rd benefits by providing pilots and students a chance to fly an aircraft with V-1 radar, a more modern and upgraded version of the V-0 radar found in the Kingsley aircraft. “The V-1 radar is one of the primary ‘go to war’ radar types in the F-15 with newer hardware and upgraded software,” noted Smith. “This is an excellent opportunity for our instructors and students. Smith expects the increase in flights to have minimal noise impact on the community.

“We currently typically fly a 10 turn 8 schedule; this will increase to a 12 turn 10,” he said. “The community should not hear much of a difference in the noise level.” Smith also points to the benefit to the community, namely the visiting Airmen shopping, eating, and staying in the basin for the next eight months. Fresno people and aircraft are scheduled to leave Kingsley in the mid-June time frame.

The 144th Fighter Wing is responsible for providing air defense on the west coast as well as air superiority in support of worldwide joint operations. The 173rd Fighter Wing is the home to the sole F-15 Eagle pilot training unit for the United States Air Force.

An F-15C from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., taxis down the runway at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4. The 173rd Fighter Wing is teaming up with the 144th FW to increase the number of students trained in order to meet an increased demand for F-15 pilots at the 144th.

Continued from Front Page

Your reputation proceeds you, having had Major General Rees tell me everything about your work prior to going into this deployment,” said Hokanson. Working on multiple mission sets, the group conducted a wide range of security operations for the largest transit hub in the U.S. Central Command. “I know you did a great job and everything I’ve heard about your work has been extremely positive,” said Hokanson.

As part of their in-processing, the Airmen gathered to take time to reflect on their mission with refreshments donated by local businesses and sponsored by the United Service Organizations (USO). This gave Oregon National Guard leaders a chance to spend some time with the Airmen and thank them in a less formal manner.

“It’s just good to have you guys home and safe,” said Col. Rick Wedan, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, as he interacted with unit members one-on-one. Hearing stories from the Airmen about the extreme heat and temperatures in Qatar while they were deployed, Wedan joked about the conditions in his office over the last few months.

“A few times, I have complained about the air conditioning not working in my office during the summer, but I’ve got nothing on you guys,” he said. Airmen later had briefings from Family Programs, finance office, personnel, medical and others, as they began the process of reintegration.

A formal demobilization ceremony was held Nov. 3.

Prior to this deployment, the 142nd Fighter Wing Security Forces has served three prior assignments to Iraq and also supported relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Continued from Front Page

173rd Fighter Wing helps 144th Fighter Wing transition to F-15s

An F-15C from the 144th Fighter Wing, Fresno, Calif., taxis down the runway at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 4. The 173rd Fighter Wing is teaming up with the 144th FW to increase the number of students trained in order to meet an increased demand for F-15 pilots at the 144th.

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Oregon Airmen provide medical care in Sri Lanka during Pacific Angel

Story byTech. Sgt. John Hughel,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Oregon Airmen who participated in the Pacific Angel mission in the Jaffna Peninsula of Sri Lanka, July 28-Aug. 18, were one of the larger medical groups made up of active duty, Air National Guard and other nations supporting the total force objectives.

Before the medical groups arrived, civil engineers began renovating schools and setting up facilities in the area, allowing the medical teams to help take on the large volume of patients. Many of the Airmen said the chance to work abroad was a unique experience for them. Ray, an Aerospace Medical Technician and a 12-year member of the Air National Guard, focused on the family practice aspect, seeing a variety of illnesses, injuries and other basic complaints.

"The (medical) teams that we had worked very well together and it was awesome to interact with another culture," said Ray.

Between treating spider bites, waterborne illness and cases of tuberculosis, the biggest hurdle was the language barrier. The medical teams had assigned translators to assist, both with patient interactions and administrative paperwork.

"At times we had enough help but often there just were not enough translators," Ray recalled. "We had civilian medical students as our translators but there were periods where it was a challenge to keep up with the high numbers of patients." Medical teams, made up of 30 staff members, were able to treat basic cases, often prescribed vitamins and follow-up treatments with local doctors.

By the end of the Pacific Angel exercise, 3,505 patients had been processed at the two main locations, entailing the treatment of 522 dental, 389 physical therapy, 506 optometry and 2,115 general medical cases.

"Everyone was very patient but at times it was a gaggle," said Ray.

Ray said the success of treating the high numbers of patients was a great result of the U.S. and Australian military medical teams working alongside their Sri Lankan counterparts. "Getting them comfortable with their own military was all part of this experience," she said.

The conditions in Jaffna, Sri Lanka presented their own challenges. The staff was advised to only drink bottled water and not eat some local food items due to the water contamination issue. Rice and noodles was something the staff ate in abundance.

The heat and humidity was another concern, but the civil engineers set-up air conditioning in the sleeping quarters prior to their arrival, which gave the staff some relief at night.

Furnia summed up the experience from Pacific Angel. She said there is a really positive attitude about taking on more types of training like this with the (Medical) Group.

"Leadership has been instrumental in lighting a fire, and we are getting our people out the door to take on challenges like this."
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

OEM employee not slowing down after nearly 30 years of service

Story and photo by Cory Grogan,
Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - Joseph Murray hasn’t skipped a beat as he nears his 36-year anniversary with Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management. Although his tenure is the longest with the agency, he still brings a strong work ethic and a passion for service with him to the office every day.

Murray says he endures a long commute from Springfield, Ore., where his family lives because he believes he is making a difference, working for an agency that plays an important role in preparation, response, recovery and mitigation for emergencies in Oregon.

When you ask other employees at the agency what stands out about Murray, one of the things many of them tell you is his work ethic.

Murray started as a staff engineer for OEM before becoming the emergency planner, and now he works in Mitigation and Recovery as well as serving as OEM’s Human Services and Oregon Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (ORVOAD) lead. He said a high level of curiosity is what drives his work ethic.

“I love this work because the more I learn, the more I realize what I don’t know — that is what makes me want to explore and be able to help our customers,” said Murray.

Murray said the agency has changed a lot since he started when there were only 12 employees working in the basement of the state capitol building.

“We were a much smaller agency with one computer when I started in the fall of 1984, and one thing that stands out is that technology has tremendously changed how we communicate with email and cell phones,” he explained. “Back then, we were on the road a lot and if you went to a meeting in Baker County you were out of reach until you got there.”

Murray has been a part of Presidential Disaster Declarations and Disaster Recoveries for numerous events where he says painstaking work is what makes him most proud of his job.

“There are several federal disaster assistance programs and each has its own criteria for how a federal disaster declaration is triggered — it is my job to know about those programs to help people know what they qualify for,” he said. “It sure feels good to get help to local people and governments that have been affected by a disaster.”

Murray said that in addition to his duties in Mitigation and Recovery, he takes great pride in his work with Human Services and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

“Many events have no federal assistance, but if it’s your house it’s still a disaster — I feel terrible if I can’t help, or find help,” Murray explained. “Having the lead for human services and working with the VOAs around the state helps me stay fresh and engaged because these are jobs that are directly connected with people.”

Murray is passionate about doing everything he can to help.

“If we do our jobs well, we have a real opportunity to reduce pain and suffering: fewer people will get hurt or killed, there will be less loss of homes and personal possessions, and that is the ultimate reward.”

Mass casualty exercise tests Salem’s emergency response

Photo by Cory Grogan, Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

Paul Richardson, with the City of Salem Fire Department, assesses notional capabilities for Salem’s emergency response to a mass casualty incident.

Story by OEM staff

SALEM, Ore. - On approach to the runway at the Salem Airport a turbo prop aircraft carrying more than 50 people strikes a flock of geese before crashing.

This was the scenario at the Salem Airport for an exercise that tested emergency response capabilities to real world events where emergency response personnel and equipment are critical for saving lives in an actual event.

The Salem Airport Exercise 2013 coordinated by City of Salem Emergency Management Emergency Manager Roger Stevenson, Sept. 20, prepared responders for a potential mass casualty incident in Salem.

Stevenson, who has been a part of five full scale emergency response exercises, said in addition to preparing responders for potential scenarios, that the exercise also meets FAA mandatory requirements every three years.

Jim Stewart, city of Salem Fire Department public information officer said his organization has developed great partnerships with organizations like Cherriots Bus, Salem Health and Salem Community Emergency Response Teams.

“This is a good test of our command structure and emergency response capabilities,” he added.

Oregon drops, covers and holds for statewide earthquake drill

Story by OEM staff

SALEM, Ore. - The Oregon Office of Emergency Management encouraged individuals, businesses, and schools to participate in the nationwide earthquake drill known as ShakeOut on Oct. 17 at 10:17 a.m.

Governor John Kitzhaber signed a proclamation declaring October as Oregon Great ShakeOut month.

More than 200,000 Oregonians registered for the Oregon Great ShakeOut, and joined 19 million people worldwide in the largest drop, cover, and hold drill in history.

“A major earthquake will strike our state sometime in the future, it’s critical that Oregonians know what to do when the big one hits,” said Dave Stuckey, director of the Office of Emergency Management.

Scientific findings indicate Oregon is at risk for a magnitude 9.0 or higher earthquake within the next 50 years. Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a fault line stretching from California to British Columbia that is due for a major quake.

In support of the ShakeOut, the City of Portland, OEM and several other agencies held an earthquake preparedness fair on Oct. 16, at Portland City Hall.

It was the third annual ShakeOut for the state of Oregon. More than 37 states, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Province of British Columbia took part in earthquake drills on the same day.

For more information about the ShakeOut, go to www.Shakeout.org.
Oregon Soldiers join Australians to honor WWII vets in Rockhampton

Story courtesy of 41st Infantry Division

“Let us forget”, the sacrifice of the greatest generation has made for the freedom of the citizens of Australia and the United States.

July of each year for past 60-plus years, the citizens of the Queensland area of Rockhampton and Yeppoon gather to memorialize the American and Australian veterans of WWII at the St. Christopher’s Chapel in Rockhampton.

This year was more than a memorial. The historical Capicorn Society of Rockhampton, led by Director, Peter Cook, along with Norma Heppenstall, author of two books “1939 – 1945” and “When the Americans came to Rockhampton.”

Their idea was to remember the citizens who supported the 41st Infantry Division, who according to many, gave their all in support of their country during the time of need in the unfolding war in the Pacific.

The Historical Capicorn Society sponsored the event.

On July 6, the unveiling of the “Seat of Remembrance” in Yeppoon, brought out the citizens of the Queensland area, Mayor of Rockhampton Regional Council, and Regional Council and Parliamentary members.

It was also at time to show respect to the citizens who opened their homes to the 41st Infantry Division. The surrounding area served as training grounds for the Soldiers, and a recreation and recovery area during the war.

Attending the ceremony was David Funk, as representative of the 41st Infantry Division Association.

Representing the Oregon National Guard, State Command Sergeant Major Shad Lake, a former 1st Brigade command sergeant major.

At the Yeppoon ceremony, Funk expressed gratitude to the citizens of Yeppoon Australia and to the 41st Soldiers who served in the area during WWII.

Oregon National Guard State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (second from left), and Mr. David Funk, Director of the 41st Infantry Association, Portland, Ore., Chapter (left), present a framed photo of the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center to members of the Rockhampton Regional Council during the renaming ceremony of the St. Christopher’s Chapel, in Rockhampton, Australia, July 7 while visiting Australia to commemorate the annual Australia-New Zealand Day (ANZAC) observance. The Chapel was renamed, the “Jack Quincy Fleming Memorial Reserve”. From left to right: Funk; Lake; Tony Williams, Rockhampton Deputy Mayor; Margaret Strelow, Rockhampton Mayor; Rose Swadling, Regional Council Community Service Director; and other members of the Rockhampton Regional Council.

Quincy Fleming Memorial Reserve.

At the ceremony, Funk expressed his gratefulness to those who served in the war, and also recognized Mayor Strelow for her support.

Funk gave Rose Swadling, Rockhampton Regional Council Member a bottle of 41st Infantry Division wine and an American, Australia flag pin.

Tony Williams, Deputy Mayor, served as the master of ceremonies at the commemoration and renaming ceremony, and was also given a bottle of commemorative 41st Division wine.

Lake recognized the Rockhampton Council members, Mayor, and the Member of Parliament, Bruce Young attending for their support.

Lake and Funk both presented to the Mayor of Rockhampton, a framed photo of the Dedication of the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Ore.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were the citizens of Rockhampton, Australian Armed Forces, and American Armed Forces who were serving on a military exercise, called “Talbar Sword” in the Queensland area.

The Salvation Army played both the Australian and American National Anthems during the raising of the U.S. and Australian flags by the Australian Boy Scouts.

Hoping for SAFE and happy holidays

Courtesy of Oregon Military Department Safety Office

It’s that time of year again for season changes in Oregon. This is a time when people tend to look forward to activities such as skiing, snowboarding and traveling for the holidays. Along with these activities comes driving in dangerous conditions such as ice, snow, fog and high winds.

A common mistake skiers and snowboarders make is failing to have the necessary “survival kit” if you are going on a trip outside your vehicle such as flashlight and batteries, tool kit, and flares.

Funk said “You need to have the necessary equipment in case of an emergency. You need to have the necessary “survival kit” if you are going on a trip outside your vehicle such as flashlight and batteries, tool kit, and flares.

Another concern with a live Christmas tree is the fire danger brought on by electrical malfunctions. Examine holiday lights, extension cords and other electrical items whether they are new or old.

Candles - Candles should be kept away from decorations, curtains, walls, bedding, paper, furniture and other combustible material, as well as places or paths where they could be accidentally knocked over. Make sure you use sturdy, noncombustible candleholders that will collect dripping wax. Remember to always blow out your candles before you leave your home or go to sleep.

Other safety tips include:

- Prior to using any lift, skiers must have the necessary equipment in case of an emergency. You need to have the necessary “survival kit” if you are going on a trip outside your vehicle such as flashlight and batteries, tool kit, and flares.

- Financial assistance also available to members separated due to service-connected 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 1-800-438-6851
info@mppt.org

Oregon's Liberty Truck inducted into MVPa Hall of Fame

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association inducted the Oregon Military Museum’s 1918 Model B Liberty Truck into its Hall of Fame, following the 2013 MVPa Convention held in Portland, Ore.

The vehicle was chosen for its uniqueness, impact on the hobby of restoration, the degree of work involved in the restoration project, and/or the manner in which it was prepared and displayed.

For more information visit the MVPa online at www.mvpav.org.

New members inducted into 162nd Hall of Honor


WINTER 2013 Page 14
The Freedom Award is the Department
of Defense’s way of saying “Thank you” to
Guard and Reserve members for their
service to our Nation’s defense.

As of December 20, 2013, Service-
memberTAeligibilityforcontinued
benefits and healthcare, including continued
benefits and healthcare, will be affected by the
policy changes that will be announced.

Veterans will also be able to reduce their
“There are some restrictions on the
amount spent on clothing and

The Oregon Air National Guard

The following expenses do not qualify:
- the cost of tuition, fees and course materi-
als are purchased from the educational
institution and request the for

In general, qualified expenses for the
academic period that begins in the first
taxable year. Also, 40

The veteran should receive a Form
1098-T, Tuition Statement,
which contains information about the
amount of home and farm loans made by
the IRS. This restricts notification to name and address
of member or veteran.

House Bill 2710 - Provides that a
drone may not be law enforcement
agency for purpose of surveillance of
a person has reasonable expectation of privacy except
pursuant to warrant.

There are some restrictions on the
amount spent on clothing and

The Oregon Air National Guard
Retiree Group has a new Facebook
page on Facebook targeted at
employers, and the page is
Going to make it easy to contact
anyone in the family. This also
viruses or other online threats.

Army Tuition Assistance to change Jan. 1

The tax credit can also be claimed for ex-
cesses for the first 100% of pursuit of sec-
ondary education instead of just the first
two.

Unlike the other education tax credits, the
American Opportunity tax credit in-
cludes expenses for room and board, instruc-
tional supplies and equipment that are not nec-
essarily paid to the educational institution with
which the student is enrolled. It is paid directly
from the Hope scholarship credit because it
allows the credit to be claimed for four
years, instead of two.

The maximum tax credit is worth up to $2,500
of the cost of tuition, fees and course materi-
als paid during the taxable year. Also, 40 percent of the
credit (up to $1,000) is re-

TSA Pre-Check changes rules for travelers

TSA Pre-Check is a voluntary, expedited
security screening process that allows partic-
ant organizations, including the Oregon
National Guard, and members of the
Coast Guard, who have a valid Common
Access Card (CAC).

Eligible Service members do not need to be
on official travel in order to take
advantage of TSA Pre-Check. Family
members ages 12 and under traveling with an
active-duty service member can be screened
through expedited screening as well.

However, family members 13 and older must
use their DoD ID number as the “Known Traveler
Number” when making reservations through
DTS, through the TRICARE Service Center,
through a Commercial Travel Office/
Travel Management Center or when booking
a trip through the airline or travel websites.

When using DTS, Members must enter
their DoD ID number in the “Passenger
Traveler Number” field when prompted
to verify their Secure Flight Information (namely
known as DTS) for their flight
reservation. Service members
will be affected by the policies
changes that will be announced.

If making a reservation through a
Commercial Travel Office, Service members
may only add a maximum of
12 DTS profiles to their DoD ID
number as the “Known Traveler
Number” for their flight reservation.

On Jan. 1, 2014, the Army’s FY14 Tu-
ition Assistance (TA) program will change
to include the same requirements for
Service members as the DoD
eligibility for continued
benefits and healthcare, including continued
benefits and healthcare, will be affected by the
policy changes that will be announced.

Veterans will also be able to reduce their
tax liability by one dollar for each dollar
they paid for tuition and required fees for
the enrollment or attendance, same expenses
paid with tax-assisted funds, including
Veterans’ educational assistance, same expenses
used for any other tax deduction, credit or
educational benefit.

For the American opportunity tax cred-
its, taxpayers can also ele-
pended to include expenditures for course
materials, as well as tuition and required fees.

This tax credit is worth up to $2,500 of
the cost of tuition, fees and course materi-
als paid during the taxable year. Also, 40 percent of the
credit (up to $1,000) is re-

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Nisei WWII vets honored for service to U.S.

VA Secretary Shinseki visits with Japanese-American WWII vets at event

BY MIKE ALLEGRE
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. – In recognition of the uniquely challenging circumstances faced by Japanese-Americans (Nisei) who fought in World War II, a Congressional Gold Medal was minted two years ago to honor their service and sacrifice.

In late August, that medal went on display at the Portland History Museum along with photos and a memorabilia exhibit from Nisei servicemen and families from that era. A day-long series of events in downtown Portland on Aug. 24, honored and paid tribute to Oregon’s Japanese-American veterans of World War II which coincided with a visit from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

Many U.S.-born Japanese volunteered from inside the government mandated detainment camps. Some were already serving in uniform. They were assigned into three all-Nisei units and served with distinction receiving more than 18,000 individual honors, even as many of their families were confined to detention camps in the American West.

Shinseki, a retired Army four-star general of Japanese descent, addressed a luncheon crowd on the 24th. “We all have a personal responsibility to share their stories and not let it pass,” he told the assembly. “To the veterans, thank you for your wonderful example of how to live our lives.”

The day before the event, Shinseki spoke at a media event where he was asked about the Nisei’s. He spoke about when he was a youngster growing up in the aftermath of World War II. “In my community these men were the giants that we all talked about. They’d served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service - a secret unit nobody knew about until the 1970’s when the files were declassified. Most of us had no idea about the terrific work they did,” Shinseki said.

The secretary added that as a Regiment, the 442nd only existed about three and one-half years and were a special unit stood up for World War II. They were primarily Americans of Japanese ancestry commanded by caucasian officers. “That period of time, 21 Medals of Honor were awarded for actions in combat. That’s not to say there were only 21 heroes in that unit,” he said, “It’s difficult to say that was the level that they operated at.”

Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Director Cameron Smith also attended and spent time with many of the Nisei veterans. He called the loyalty, determination and courage of Nisei veterans and their families a true testament to them, especially when many fellow Americans doubted their patriotic resolve. “These men and their families are an inspiration. They fought and served in battle after battle – earning the highest military decorations – all while their families endured unimaginable discrimination here at home,” Smith said.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is responsible for administering benefit programs for veterans, their families, and their survivors. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary exercises authority, direction and control over the Department of Veterans Affairs.

‘Spirit of ’45 Day,’ a new state holiday proposed to honor WWII veterans

Oregon’s first celebration of the Spirit of ’45 Day was held on August 11, 2013 at Willson Park next to the capitol building in Salem, Ore. In addition to representatives from various veterans’ groups, World War II veterans were recognized and honored for their service. Some hoped to see the day proclaimed as a state holiday.

According to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately 152,000 Oregonians served in WWII. More than 3,700 service members were killed in action. Approximately 24,000 WWII veterans are still living in Oregon today.

For more information on the Spirit of ’45 project, visit http://www.spiritof45.org.

For more information about the WWII Veterans Memorial, visit http://www.wwiiveteransmemorial.com.

For information on the Historical Outreach Foundation, which is a 501(c) (3) non-profit associated with the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum, visit www.historicaloutreach.org, or call 503-705-5965.

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