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Oregon Airmen mobilize for duty in Afghanistan

Story by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ore — Twenty-eight members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron participated in a formal deployment ceremony here, March 1, as they prepared to support Operation Enduring Freedom with members deploying to both Afghanistan and Bahrain.

Twenty-five Civil Engineer technicians will deploy to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and will provide support and maintenance services to facilities, airfields, and base infrastructure.

The three remaining members are firefighters with the wing and will deploy to Bahrain to perform fire and emergency services for both personnel and flight line support.

“Based on the ongoing drawdown in Afghanistan, we expect to be clearing and dismantling several facilities while the base population decreases, as well as adjusting to the many flying missions that will be coming in and out of the region through Bagram,” said Lt. Col. Jason Lay, 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

The training leading up to the unit’s deployment has been focused on going to a part of the world that will be unlike the Pacific Northwest.

“We already know how to do our main job skills, but we have spent time refreshing our wartime skills as well as receiving some cultural awareness training,” he said.

Seasoned members of the unit that have been deployed before will be an added asset for individuals whom this will be their first deployment.

“The ones with experience are good about sharing and helping those who don’t really know what to expect about being
I have had the opportunity to speak personally with many of our members of our fine organization while travelling throughout the state this year and was able to join in excitement and encouragement of our dedicated Soldiers and Airmen. My travels have been invaluable in the development of the Oregon National Guard (SD2ORG). It is essential for all units to be engaged in their communities and to communicate our mission to be a trained, capable, and ready-to-response force of Citizen-Serve Members. Community partnerships is essential at the local level and national level. The National Guard is truly the backbone of our nation’s security strategy.

The citizens of Oregon look to their National Guard for help in the event of a natural disaster and dislocations. They know we can be trusted to respond quickly and professionally. When the situation demands, we can provide a trained and ready force to assist local responders. Continue your training and be ready to respond. The Oregon National Guard is proud to be a part of Oregon’s disaster and emergency response teams.

There have been no specific decisions made on exactly how budget cuts and downsizing the military will affect the Oregon National Guard. Regardless of any fiscal challenges in the upcoming years, the goals and mission of our organization will never change. First, we must retain the Oregon National Guard community. I want everyone, our Airmen and civilian employees are our most valuable resource.

Secondly, we will complete our mission and take care of our Soldiers, our civilian workforce and their families. Oregon’s National Guard and Airmen have the best training, the best equipment, and the best facilities in the National Guard. If we remain focused on our people, we will excel at every mission that comes our way.

We recently welcomed home our Citizen-Soldiers from C Company, 7-158th Aviation Battalion and Detachment 47 from their deployments overseas. As we welcomed them home, Airmen with the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Civil Engineer Squadron prepare for their deployment in support of operations in Afghanistan and Bahrain.

Over the next several months we will continue to train and prepare units across our state for upcoming mobilizations. More than a thousand of our fellow Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are scheduled for federal mobilization this summer. During a time of continued federal mobilizations, we need to ensure we remain focused on supporting our state support mission and be prepared to assist first-responders here at home if the need should arise.

When Oregon and our nation find themselves in need, they turn to the Oregon National Guard for help. As the first and oldest state agency, we have a proud history of providing support to Oregonians from the Cayuse Wars of 1847 to today! Your training, expertise and can-do attitudes are thelynchpin, which keeps our state and nation strong. Thank you for your service. Keep it up!
In his present position, which he has held since March 2003, Kessinger has the overall responsibility for the support of all State and National Guard units and personnel within the state.

Kessinger enlisted in the active Air Force in November 1981 and served until his parachute-transfer to the Oregon Air National Guard in May 1986, as a traditional Guard member. In 1988, he was recognized as Security Police NCO of the Year for the entire Air National Guard and in 1989, his selection to the Air Force Team of the Year brought him national recognition as one of five top Security NCOs on the Air Force on the Air Force’s “Team of the Year.”

He was commissioned in September 1990 as an Air Force Reserve Officer and the Air National Guard of the United States. Over the next six years, he was a Flight Commander and then the Squadron Operations Officer in the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

In January 2001, he was selected to be the State ANG Director of Personnel at the Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Oregon. During this assignment, his additional duties included serving as the Executive Officer for both the Oregon ANG Commander and Oregon Chief of Staff.

In December 2004, he was selected as the Vice Commander of the Oregon Combat Operations Group and State Director of Support. In June 2006, he assumed full command of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

In 2008, he was appointed as the full-time Detachment Commander and Chief of Security Forces for the 142nd Security Forces Base. In 1999, he assumed full command of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

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Oregon Legislature lauds Rees for life’s accomplishments

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon State Legislature recognized the distinguished career and service of retired Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, during a session in the Senate Chamber at the Oregon State Capitol, Feb. 5.

Rees, who began his military career as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, had numerous active duty and Army National Guard assignments, including his role as Command Chief of Staff of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

As a three-term adjutant general for Oregon, Rees led Oregon’s 4,500 service members and their families with the best resources and assistance programs to help them prepare for deployments and transition back home. He retired from that post as adjutant general of Oregon with 17 years of service to four different governors and the longest service period as adjutant general during wartime.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204 may be viewed at the following link: https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2014R1/Downloads/MeasuredDocument/SCR204

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Retired Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, with strength adjutant general of Oregon, is recognized by the Oregon State Legislature for his distinguished service to the state and nation during a session in the Senate Chamber at the Oregon State Capitol, Feb. 5. Senate Concurrent Resolution 204, honoring Rees, was sponsored by Senator Bill Hansell (R-District 29).

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

LA GRANDE, Ore. — The military-friendly Eastern Oregon University is a top choice for veterans and, as a result, Eastern has been named a Top 20 Veteran Friendly School by Military Friendly®, a website that provides education and training opportunities for military and veteran students.

In 2014, the university partnered with two countries as part of The Pacific Northwest Training Center, a four-year, $100 million project that included support and development training for cadets and guardsmen.

With the help of the university’s Office of Military Affairs, cadets can earn a college education and prepare for leadership roles both in the military and as civilians.

In total, Eastern has awarded $3.5 million in military scholarships, and in 2014, Eastern was named a Top 20 Military Friendly® School.

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NEWS
When 1st Sgt. Jeremy McLoud, Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Carver and Spc. Michael Cutone showed up for work at the Hillsboro Armory on the morning of Dec. 18, 2013, they never envisioned they’d be called “heroes” by the time the sun set that day. The trio, who work with the Recruiting & Retention Battalion, were attending a day-long meeting at the armory, and chose to conduct a working lunch.

At the same time outside the armory, two passersby noticed a figure laying on the ground in the parking lot. It was the unconscious form of Paul Perone, Hillsboro Armory Maintenance Manager, who had just suffered a heart attack.

“Those kids are the real heroes because they came in (the building) and got us. Most people would just pass by,” said Carver.

As it turned out for Perone, luck and timing was on his side. Through a series of events, the right people with the right training were in place at the right time, Carver continued.

“If those kids weren’t there, and we didn’t stay there for the working lunch, and 1st Sgt. McLoud wasn’t a volunteer on the fire department, I don’t know what would have happened,” Carver continued.

Cutone ran outside and immediately jumped into action. After a quick assessment of Perone’s condition, he administered Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) until Carver and McLoud arrived to assist.

The Soldiers continued CPR until Metro West Ambulance Unit #30 arrived on scene, followed by Hillsboro firefighters. McLoud, who is also a volunteer firefighter, continued to assist EMS upon their arrival.

Perone was intubated twice while being transported to a local hospital for additional treatment, and remained there until he was released on Dec. 29, with no apparent neurological effects.

The Soldiers’ courageous actions didn’t go unnoticed by the City of Hillsboro.

On Jan. 6, the Hillsboro Fire Department presented Carver, McLoud and Cutone with the agency’s Life-Saver Award for their actions in saving Perone, at a ceremony held during the City of Hillsboro’s Council meeting at the Hillsboro Civic Center Auditorium.

Carver’s parents, Gregg and Marilee, who attended the ceremony, said their son was always quick to help anyone in need.

“He’s always been quick to jump in and help people,” said his father, Gregg, a former Soldier and Vietnam War veteran.

“Because it was dark, I could see the tail light was on, I just felt it was my responsibility to stop and check it out,” he said. As he scrambled down a hill, he could see someone remained in the car.

The driver was conscious but in obvious shock from his injuries.

“He asked me who I was and I said, ‘my name is John, I’m here to help you get out of here,’” said Crowe.

After carefully checking the man for injuries, he could tell that he had a broken femur and had a possible broken arm and multiple lacerations. Because he didn’t have a first aid kit, he faced the dilemma of either moving the man to his vehicle or leaving him and calling paramedics.

Temperatures were well below freezing, so he decided it was critical to get the man warm and to medical help as soon as possible and pulled him from the vehicle. He carried the man to his truck and drove until he could call paramedics.

At first he said he simply reacted to the situation using his Air Force training, but he made his decision using his training.

“Every one I know would do the same thing.”
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Schools prepare for emergencies, thanks to Oregon’s OEM grants

Story and photo courtesy of Oregon Emergency Management

Oregon Emergency Management donated supplies to the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

“Oregon is due for a major 9.0 or higher Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake at any time, preparing our coastal schools is imperative,” said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator, at Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

“The Cache is located at Taft High 7-12 School in the southeast area of the parking lot, next to the softball field. Supplies are stored in two secured 20-foot shipping containers which are wind and water tight. It contains basic survival supplies including food, water, shelter and medical supplies.

Oregon Office of Emergency Management donated eight large tents valued at $2,000 for the project. Other goods donated by partnering agencies include rain ponchos, Mylar blankets, and water barrels.

“We realize that while we cannot prevent an earthquake and tsunami, preparing in advance with basic survival supplies will greatly reduce suffering and promote resiliency during and after a disaster,” said Sue Graves, Safety Coordinator, Lincoln County School District.

The project was made possible through matching grants from the Lincoln County Commissioners and partnering organizations including the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, City of Lincoln City, and North Lincoln County Fire and Rescue.

“It took a lot of people with a clear understanding of the risks we face here in Lincoln County to make this project a reality,” said Graves.

“One of our hopes in putting this cache together was that it would inspire others in Lincoln County to put similar caches together in their areas - which has already started to happen,” she added.

Those interested in learning more about the cache project or wishing to donate may send an email to: susan.graves@lincoln.k12.or.us or call her at 541-270-4367.

Volunteers assemble one of the donated tents for the Taft Disaster Supply Cache, a project aimed at meeting the basic survival needs for 1,300 students and staff at Taft Elementary School, Taft High 7-12 School in Lincoln City, and Oregon Coast Community College.

Pilot project upgrades Portland homes

Portland resident, Stacey Schubert pauses next to a display, Feb. 20, during the announcement of a pilot project which provides seismic upgrades on 30 Portland homes for earthquake resiliency. Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, Clean Energy Works, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA attended the event. The innovative project is possible thanks to a partnership between the City of Portland, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, Clean Energy Works, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and FEMA. Novick called the project a good investment for the city.

Are you prepared for emergencies?

Being prepared means being equipped with the proper supplies you may need in the event of an emergency or disaster. Keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry emergency preparedness kit that you can use at home or take with you in case you must evacuate.

For more information, or to build a kit, visit the Red Cross website at:

www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit

Be a survivor, not a statistic!

Officials mark ominous anniversary

Barrels inside tsunami preparedness containers in Cannon Beach, Ore., contain emergency items for local residents. The containers include family cache items, medical, administrative, and tool chest support containers as well as tourist, emergency items for local residents. The containers include family cache items, medical, administrative, and tool chest support containers as well as tourist, emergency items for local residents. The containers include family cache items, medical, administrative, and tool chest support containers as well as tourist, emergency items for local residents. The containers include family cache items, medical, administrative, and tool chest support containers as well as tourist.

January 26th marked the anniversary of the great Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that shook the Pacific Northwest in the year 1700. The magnitude 9.0 “megathrust” quake struck off the coast of Oregon, Washington, Northern California and British Columbia.

Scientists believe Oregon is within a window of time where another massive earthquake could occur.

“We know a major earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that struck off the coast of Japan could hit Oregon at any time,” said Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is recognized as one of the world’s most dangerous faults, posing a significant earthquake hazard for Oregon and other Western States. Many of the region’s most highly populated cities including Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver in British Columbia would be affected.

Experts say impacts to the Oregon Coast would be similar to that along the coastline of Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and are encouraging individuals, families and communities to prepare.

Rizzo said there are many actions that can be taken to prepare for the next earthquake including talking with your family about an emergency plan, creating a supply cache, and learning basic first aid skills.

“Prepare now and be your own survival story,” Rizzo added.

To learn more about the threat in Oregon and find resources that can help you prepare go to: http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/preparedness_information.aspx at Oregon Office of Emergency Management website, or the American Red Cross website at http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake.
**RESILIENCE**

### Don’t eat the marshmallow

There was a famous experiment done by Stanford University child psychologists in the 1970s where four-year-olds are placed in a room with a single marshmallow. They are told that if they can wait fifteen minutes without eating the marshmallow they will earn a second one.

Most of the kids fail, many in under four minutes, but one-third of them succeed. This ability to delay instant gratification is correlated with generally greater success. At first glance it makes sense, we all know the story of the grasshopper and the cricket. But why were some kids able to do this while others couldn’t?

In thinking about this experiment, we sometimes focus on how many of the kids struggle under the temptation of the marshmallow before them.

A slightly different, and in my opinion, a key view, is that the successful kids weren’t suffering without the present marshmallow, they were suffering for the future marshmallow. Bottom line: their focus is different.

Austrian neurologist and psychologist, as well as Holocaust survivor, Viktor Frankl said, “Those who have a why to live, can bear with almost any how.”

Our military training, our missions, routinely call for difficult actions now for a better future.

There are a variety of skills available to “not eat the marshmallow,” many of which are components of the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) program, such as PDP, Energy Management, Detox Icebergs, and more.

Ask your unit Master Resilience Trainer (MRT) on how to incorporate this into your training plan.

### Skier credits Olympic participation to her Oregon Army Guard father

**Story by Gary Sheetlick, Army News Service**

Photos courtesy Col. David Wiles, Judge Advocate General, JFHQ, Oregon

**KRASNYA POLYANA, Russia —** U.S. Olympic skier Jacqueline Wiles, 21, said the support of her Army father has been instrumental in allowing her to ski competitively and achieve her dream of getting to Sochi for the winter games.

Wiles competed in the Olympic ladies downhill event Feb. 12, finishing 26th with a time of 1:44.35, as her father, Col. David Wiles, watched from the stands.

She finished just 2.7 seconds behind Slovenian’s Tina Maze and Switzerland’s Dominique Gisin, who tied for the gold, both crossing the finish with a time of 1:41.67. Switzerland’s Lara Gut took the bronze with a time of 1:41.67.

USA’s Julia Mancuso finished in 8th place, just under a second behind the leader. Her speed at the bottom was just over 100 kilometers per hour, while Wiles was clocked at 99.44.

Even though her time wasn’t as fast as what she hoped, Wiles said just competing and representing her country in the Olympics was a dream come true. She finished fourth among U.S. skiers in the final downhill training run at Rosa Khutor, Feb. 8, qualifying her to compete in the final downhill training run at Rosa Khutor, Feb. 8, qualifying her to compete in the Olympic downhill event.

Wiles said she was somewhat surprised just over three weeks ago when she found out that she definitely would be coming to Sochi. Nominations for Team USA at the Olympic Winter Games are made based on World Cup standings, and Wiles has only been competing on the circuit for a few months.

She was named to the U.S. Ski Team in November at Copper Mountain, Colo. Then in December, she won the Nature Valley Alpine Championship downhill title at Copper Mountain. On Jan. 10, she won the downhill championship at Squaw Valley, Calif.

“In the beginning of my career, I was told I was too small for the sport,” Wiles said. “As I got older and stronger and faster, I came to the realization that I wasn’t fast enough to compete against the world’s best. I also realized I needed to get stronger and faster.”

In the spring, Wiles was named to the Olympic team as part of the 2015 U.S. Olympic Team. She said she was excited to be able to compete in the Olympics.

“Being a part of the Olympic team is a dream come true,” she said. “I am honored to be able to represent the United States in the Olympics.”

Wiles has been skiing since age two, almost since she began to walk. She said her father took her and the family to Mount Hood, Ore., for regular ski outings.

“Even though my training is different than my father’s,” Wiles said, “he taught me how to ski and instilled a passion for the sport.”

Her father is an Army officer and has served nearly 34 years in the Army, with the state judge advocate at the Oregon National Guard since 2005. He left active duty in 1984, after serving at Fort Irwin, Calif., the Presidio of San Francisco and the Military District of Washington.

Her grandparents also were Army officers during World War II. Her grandmother, then-lt. Lea Wilcken, was an Army nurse in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. Her grandfather was an Army dentist in the Pacific theater during the war.

When her father commanded Camp Rilea, Ore., from July 2011 to 2012, Wiles went there to observe Army training for a weekend.

“There was a little area set up to look like Afghanistan,” Wiles said, adding that she was impressed with the training.

“Jacqueline grew up in a traditional National Guard Family,” the colonel said. “One weekend a month she’d see me dress up in uniform and take off.”

Now the younger Wiles is known among U.S. Ski Team members for her military luggage bag.

“Everybody loves my military bag,” she said. “It helps me out at the airport.”

Wiles was a three-sport athlete in high school until her softball coach made her choose a sport to focus on, and she decided skiing was her future.

In 2012, she was named to the national junior team. Now she attends Westminster College in Salt Lake City on a merit scholarship. She trains half days in skiing at the location of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

This summer, she wants to work on agility and strength training in order to get “explosive power” and endurance. Her plans are to “sleep, eat and breathe skiing.”

Wiles said she definitely plans to be back to the Olympics in 2018 to try it again in Korea. And she looks forward to seeing the president in May when the U.S. Ski Team visits the White House.
NEWS

Ceremony lauds Soldiers, thanks families following Kosovo, Afghanistan missions

Continued from Front Page

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore. — Set against a backdrop of HH-60M Blackhawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters, and Oregon Soldiers standing in formation, friends, family and fellow Oregon National Guard members welcomed home Soldiers of the 2-641st Aviation Battalion.

The Soldiers were honored during a deployment homecoming ceremony held at the Oregon National Guard Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8.

Commander of 2-641st Aviation Battalion, Maj. Gen. Daniel Hekanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, commander of 2nd Troop Command Brigade; and Lt. Col. Pete Derouin, commander of 82nd Troop Command welcomed home Soldiers of the 2-641st Aviation Battalion, were among the many in attendance.

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Maj. General Erik Hokanson, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans; and after their return home, said Krissa Caldwell, Deputy Commissioner for Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

“This bill is about helping Oregon’s veterans transfer their military acquired knowledge and skills to civilian life and careers,” she said.

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Geoffrey Vailliege gives Heidi Moawad, who represents Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, a tour of the UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter following the demobilization ceremony for Soldiers with 2-641st Aviation Battalion, held at the Oregon National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8.

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Geoffrey Vailliege gives Heidi Moawad, who represents Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, a tour of the UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter following the demobilization ceremony for Soldiers with 2-641st Aviation Battalion, held at the Oregon National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility-1, in Salem, Ore., March 8.

The Soldiers of TF CEASAR broke the record for hours flown and missions supported in their second month of deployment, and continued to break their own record every month thereafter.

Det. 47 attained their flight goal of 300 hours on two planes in one month prior to their return to Oregon in December 2014. While deployed, members of Det. 47 completely overhauled all sections within TF CEASAR in anticipation of the training requirements ahead.

They evaluated dismantled and redesigned the areas of Flight Standards, Safety, and Maintenance, and rebuilt them in order to train an entirely new unit in anticipation of sending them to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, with two new planes from the another unit.

The 14-person unit (eight pilots, four electronics warfare officers, and two operations Non-Commissioned Officers) was trained and evaluated in every aspect of the mission prior to establishing the sister unit at Bagram.

The group was able to implement the Developed Electronic Warfare mission sets which were previously not offered to ground forces in Afghanistan.

Moawab thanked the Soldiers for their life-saving missions, saying they truly lived up to the Oregon National Guard motto of; ‘When we are needed, we are there!’

She also thanked the Soldiers’ friends, family and loved ones for their sacrifice.

“Without your enduring support, our Citizen-Soldiers would not have the amazing reputation of success they have today,” she told the gathering.

Moawab also highlighted the unique dual-nature of the National Guard.

“As a whole, the battalion conducted domestic support operations here at home, while simultaneously conducting successful overseas missions,” she said.

“Amazing job, and thank you for your dedication,” Hokanson thanked the unit for the exemplary work overseas, taking time following the official ceremony to greet each of the Soldiers standing in formation.

“Congratulations to both units on a job well done! Welcome home,” he said.

Oregon Senate Bill allows college credit for military training

Story by CW4 Diane Beach, State Education Officer

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature unanimously passed Senate Bill 275, which requires local community college boards, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA), to develop standards for community colleges to award credits for education and training obtained by individuals who served in the Armed Forces.

The legislation also requires learning institutions to inform interested persons the opportunity to receive this credit for their military training and professional military education.

Senate Bill 275 does not guarantee that colleges will award college credit based on military training, but it simply requires community colleges to develop a standard by which they will award credit.

Local Oregon community colleges are familiar with the deployments Oregon has experienced, and are committed to helping the soldiers of Oregon military members who pursue post-secondary education during their deployments and after their return home, said Kristen Caldwell, Deputy Commissioner for Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

“Together, we can help veterans to help them jump-start civilian education and training,” Caldwell said.

“Oregon’s community colleges stand ready to continue to help veterans pursue post-secondary education as they return from active duty around the world,” she added.

For more information on this bill, or to read the various committee meeting minutes, visit http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/2011/sb275/.

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

Want to be a Teacher?

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

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

For more information, visit: www.ProTovTeachagain.com or call:

Edward Brands
1-800-438-6851 / info@mpt.org
ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Nearly 200 Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard’s emergency response team participated with the Hawai’i National Guard during Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 training exercise, near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, March 24 - April 3.

Members of the Oregon and Hawai’i National Guard’s CERFP work together to quickly transport a simulated victim caught in a debris pile during the Vigilant Guard-Alaska 2014 exercise, March 30.

As members of the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERP), the team works with civilian authorities to respond to mass-casualty and natural disasters.

Deploying for the first time to train outside of Oregon, aircraft of every size from the C-130 Hercules, to C-17 Globemaster IIIIs, KC-135 Stratotankers and the legendary C-5 Galaxy, arrived in Portland, Ore., to move the gear and manpower to support the exercise in the ‘Land of the Midnight Sun.’

“This is a training exercise, that brings together civilian agencies as well as military and National Guard assets to learn to work together,” said Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Mike Moffit, Oregon CERFP commander.

The exercise in Alaska had both the Oregon and Hawai’i teams assisting victims after a simulated earthquake.

While the physical injuries and medical conditions revealed from the episode, some of the casualties were found trapped under debris, and were ‘rescued’ by members of the CERP’s search and extraction teams, who practiced pre-planned rescue scenarios, all under the supervision and guidance of the inspectors from National Guard Bureau.

The disaster scenario was modeled after the March 27, 1964 earthquake and the resulting tsunami that hit Anchorage and affected other parts of the state of Alaska.

“We’re here to help the Alaska fire chief practice search and extraction on collapsed buildings and treat victims of the earthquake,” Moffit said.

Event organizers said having the two CERFP teams work together provided continuous support for the civilian authority under the conditions factored into the exercise mission. This allowed both teams to ascertain each other’s best practices and learn to integrate those procedures.

“We have conducted several training events in preparation for this exercise. There are several schools that our Soldiers and Airmen have attended, from online testing to actual onsite classrooms,” Moffit said.

The training has occurred on every level from Citizen-Soldiers, extraction, ropes courses, decontamination and chemical response, and administrative accountability.

Moffit also noted the similarities in how the military task can begin to mirror the civilian mission.

“Our command element attends many schools in conjunction with civilian response forces so that we all learn how to use the same language, use the same forms, use the same command structure and how we can create the military into a civilian force.”

Within the structure of the CERFP, the unit is a joint mission, with Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen taking on different roles to create the team with the command and control structure being a blend of both forces.

We abandon the things that don’t work and gravitate toward the things that do work in order to get the mission done.

- Maj. James Faumuina, 154th Medical Group Operations Officer, Hawaii Air National Guard

The Army National Guard provides the Soldiers who do search and extraction as well as our decontamination team, the medical element and the fatality search and recovery teams are made up of Air National Guard.

The Alaska trip is Oregon’s first rapid deployment on a military aircraft, and the training has been so successful, the exercise has sent the new decontamination trailer to Alaska for the first time, Moffit said.

“The Alaska trip is Oregon’s first rapid deployment on a military aircraft, and the training has been so successful, the exercise has sent the new decontamination trailer to Alaska for the first time,” Moffit said.

We all have the same priority, which is saving lives, the FSRT portion of the exercise, inspectors from the National Guard Bureau changed the status of some of the simulated victims to deceased, in order to test the response of the fatality search and recovery team (FSRT).

Each member of the team keeps a thoughtful sense of solemnity in their work. Their mission is to give full dignity to the remains and a thoughtful approach by each team member to carefully recover the deceased individual, she said.

“We’re here to help the Alaska fire chief practice search and extraction on collapsed buildings and treat victims of the earthquake,” Moffit said.

“Adding in the ability to work with civilian first-responders and local authorities from different states was an additional benefit as well,” Moffit said.

“Overall this has been an excellent training opportunity - not only for ourselves, but for the firefighters and the civilian search and extraction teams. They are getting familiar with our mission and our overall capabilities,” he added.
Oregon Air Guard brings another Airman into the ‘family business’

Oregon National Guard Col. Todd Farmer, State Army Aviation Officer, administers the oath of enlistment to his son, Joel Farmer as he becomes a member of the Oregon National Guard, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Feb. 12. With his enlistment with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Joel Farmer will be a member of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron’s Munitions Flight after first attending basic training and technical schools with the U.S. Air Force.

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Rick Weden, (left), 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, talks with Col. Mark Crosby (center), the Port of Portland’s Chief of Public Safety and the Director of the Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership Program, and Mr. Bill Wyatt (right), Executive Director for the Port of Portland, following a ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Feb. 20, to honor the Portland of Portland as the Oregon Air National Guard Employer of the Year for 2013.

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

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing honored the Port of Portland with their Employer of the Year award for 2013, during a ceremony at the Portland Air Guard Base on Feb. 20.

The Oregon Air National Guard Employer of the Year award program began in 2002, as a way for Oregon Airmen to recognize the support of their full-time employers. Previous recipients include Alaska Airlines, UPS Aviation Technologies, City of Wilsonville and Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The 2013 nominee, Port of Portland, is “very supportive of its employees, providing support to National Guard members through financial support and incentives, patriotic partnerships, and internal communications and business accommodations,” the award reads.

Among some of the Port of Portland’s accomplishments are; collaboration with the Oregon Air National Guard on a new 50-year property lease for the Portland Air Base, rent-free space for the new USO facility at the Portland International Airport, development of a military appreciation program for military travelers, and the Director of the Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership Program, and Mr. Bill Wyatt (right), Executive Director for the Port of Portland, following a ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Feb. 20, to honor the Portland of Portland as the Oregon Air National Guard Employer of the Year for 2013.

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Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and generating renewable power. The Portland Air National Guard Base implemented energy efficiency projects, helping to achieve federal energy mandates of reducing energy consumption by three percent each year for 10 years.

The Portland Air National Guard Base recognized by Energy Trust of Oregon for energy reduction efforts

Story by 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing was recognized by Energy Trust of Oregon during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Jan. 30.

The wing was recognized for their work in energy efficiency upgrades. Energy Trust of Oregon is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping utility customers benefit from saving energy and generating renewable power.

The Portland Air National Guard Base implemented energy efficiency projects for exterior lighting, aircraft hangar lighting, vehicle maintenance facilities, and flight line lighting, helping to achieve federal energy mandates of reducing energy consumption by three percent each year for 10 years.

Engineer Squadron to assist with construction, repair, ordnance disposal

Airmen from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, pose for a group photo prior to the unit’s mobilization ceremony.

Continued from Front Page

gone for several months at a time,” said Lay.

All their experiences help facilitate the mission to completion, as well as keeping people safe and secure to do their jobs.

“We have about 10 individuals that this will be their first deployment; most of us have deployed at least once before and for some this is their third or fourth deployment,” Lay said.

The primary mission of 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron is to provide civil engineer support for the bed down of personnel and aircraft worldwide. Key capabilities include construction, repair and maintenance of airfields, facilities, and infrastructure; fire and emergency services; as well as, explosive ordnance disposal.

For the past 45 years, the men and women of the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron have faithfully performed their mission throughout the world on all seven continents.

The 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron remains ready to support its community during state emergencies.

142nd FW unveils new nose art, pays tribute to City of McMinnville

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing honored the City of McMinnville with an unveiling of new F-15 nose art during a Cities of Honor ceremony held at the Portland Air Base in Portland, Ore., on Feb. 20.

The Oregon Air National Guard’s Cities of Honor program started in 2007, during the planning for the ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the United States Air Force.

The cities of Beaverton, Corvallis, Gresham, Hillsboro, Hood River, Lake Oswego, Portland, Salem and Vancouver were formally recognized during the original ceremony for their support of Oregon’s Citizen-Airmen.

The artwork was specially created for each jet, including the names and iconic images of each of these cities, honoring the relationship between the local communities and the Citizen-Airmen who reside there.

Historically nose art was used to personalize combat aircraft and boost unit morale. World War II was an era where artwork was in high demand, and extravagant creations highlighted unit pride and cohesion. Today, the Air Force allows for specialized artwork for fighter aircraft that is distinctive, symbolic and in good taste to enhance unit morale.

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Story by 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Oregon Air National Guard

Klamath Falls jets repainted to match desert environment

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — The 173rd Fighter Wing welcomed a distinctive new F-15C aircraft to its growing fleet Feb. 7, 2014. The jet sports a tan, desert paint scheme rather than the typical grey-blue worn by all the other aircraft at the wing.

The aircraft comes from the aggressor squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., where it simulated adversary aircraft. Two more aircraft from Nellis are scheduled to arrive between now and June 2014, but those will have the standard F-15 paint.

There was a scheduling conflict for [this] aircraft that prevented it from being painted prior to transfer,” said Lt. Col. Jeff “Sled” Smith, 173rd Maintenance Group Deputy Commander. “When asked if we would accept a brown “lizard” paint scheme, we agreed to it!

The arrival of this aircraft and six others scheduled between now and June will bring the total number of assigned to Kingsley Field to 32. Smith says seeing the unique aircraft in the skies over Klamath Falls is significant.

“It’s a visible sign to the base and local community that Kingsley’s mission is growing despite budgetary challenges across the Air Force and DOD as a whole,” he said.

Col. Jeremy Baenen, the 173rd Fighter Wing Commander says it points toward the USAF commitment to adding more F-15C pilots to the fleet.

“In order to produce more pilots the 173rd Fighter Wing has to grow in both aircraft and personnel,” he said.

“This recently acquired aircraft retains the paint scheme of the 65th Aggressor Squadron where it originated but blends in ANG and 173rd FW emblems. It also symbolizes our desire to grow personnel at Kingsley Field by blending ANG and active duty personnel.”

That growth manifests itself in many ways, among them the former alert facility which went unused by the wing since that mission left the base years ago, is once again a beehive of activity.

“Building 400 and building 404 have been in a necessity to accept more aircraft,” said Maj. Micah Lambert, the 173rd Fighter Wing Maintenance Squadron Commander, of the former alert barns.

“We are currently performing two phase inspections there, and one aircraft acceptance with the fourth bay being used for weapons load training and aircraft washes. This facility is also the primary location for NDI [non-destructive inspection] to perform aircraft x-ray. It is a busy facility!”

And that won’t change any time soon, the building is slated for a full renovation of the entire electrical system, HVAC system, and installation of a high expansion foam (HEF) fire suppression system, said Maj. Tim Bruner, 173rd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron Commander.

With the addition of this aircraft and the four temporarily assigned here from the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, Calif., the Kingsley ramp is home to 34 F-15C aircraft, the largest number of aircraft in base history.

Kingsley unit recognized by Air National Guard for airfield operations

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. — Approximately one year ago the Associated Press reported that Kingsley Field’s air traffic control tower was selected for closure under the terms of sequestration, a term describing a budget impasse in the U.S. Congress.

The tower activated a strong response, and the FAA ultimately removed Kingsley Field’s tower from the closure list.

Over the year the people at the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron have maintained a high standard of work, so high in fact they were named 2013 Airfield Operations Flight Complex of the Year for the entire Air National Guard. The unit is no stranger to the award having earned it in 2008 as well.

“This airfield operations award, this is the big one,” said Maj. Michael Balocotti, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron Commander.

The award takes into account three main areas, airfield management which falls under the 173rd Fighter Wing, radar approach control and the tower which are both part of the 270th ATC’s.

The chief of air traffic control airspace and ranges at National Guard Bureau, Mr. S. Scott Duke presided over the board who ultimately selected Kingsley for the top award in the field noted that the 270th and 173rd Airfield Management operations have an established track record of excellence.

“They would certainly be the benchmark that others would need to strive to attain to be competitive,” said Duke.

“They really have mastered the association you need with management of the airfield, the controllers in the tower and the services provided by the radar controllers,” he added.

Duke said the award shows each of the three areas—tower, radar and airfield management—are performing at a high level.

“This award recognizes a balance between the areas,” Duke said. “You can’t have one area, the tower for instance that was superb, they all three have to be excellent.”

Doug Cunningham, 270th Air Traffic Manager said the award is a result of contributions from several groups.

“It’s maintenance, it’s supply, it’s logistics and especially keeping people ready to deploy all over the world to control aircraft,” Cunningham said.

Those pieces will be tested yet further as the Kingsley Field adds more aircraft and controls a complex mixture of Air National Guard, fire suppression, general, and commercial aviation.

There is even an air race featuring more than 50 aircraft scheduled for this June.

142nd Airmen, employees honor fallen Soldier during ‘dignified transfer’ ceremony

Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard members at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Ore., render honors to a U.S. Army Soldier during a dignified transfer, leaving the base on Feb. 21. U.S. Army Spc. John Alexander Pelham, a 2010 graduate of Sunset High School, was killed Feb. 12, while serving in Kapisa Province, Afghanistan, as part of the 2nd Battallion, 3rd Special Forces Group, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A funeral held in Beaverton on Feb. 24 drew nearly 1,000 people.

Hokanson ‘crosses into the blue’

Photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer Siller, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Soldier admits National Guard wasn’t a long-term thing, at first

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Caldwell

BAKER CITY, Ore.—Staff Sgt. Josh Baker never planned on a long-term career in the Oregon National Guard. In fact, the Haines resident said his initial plans regarding the Guard were modest and decidedly short-term.

“I was in the Job Corps and a couple of my buddies were looking at going into the Guard. I talked to the recruiter just as an option,” he said.

Fast-forward nearly two decades and Baker is closing in on the final months of a 20-year, part-time career in the Oregon Army National Guard.

Baker, who works as a truck driver for Leavitt’s Freight Service, joined the Guard in 1994 and spent almost all of his Citizen-Soldier career in the Baker City Guard outfit, Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

Saturday, at the Baker City Armory, Baker – a staff sergeant – reflected on a part-time profession that included two combat deployments to Iraq.

“When I first enlisted, Baker said the possibility he might travel overseas to a hostile, foreign shore was remote. “I never thought I’d leave the U.S.,” he said.

Baker also said when he joined the Guard the prospect he might spend 20 years in the Citizen-Soldier organization seemed dim.

“When I joined, I didn’t even think retirement. I wasn’t thinking beyond my initial enlistment,” he said.

For nearly 20 years Baker gave up one weekend a month and often more than three weeks every summer to train with the 3rd Battalion. Most of that training time was completed on the vast, desolate Orchard Combat Training Center south of Boise, Idaho.

“I’ve been there probably in excess of 40 times,” Baker admitted.

Baker said while being away from his family to participate in Guard training exercises – and the time spent overseas – was the hardest part of his journey he conceded his military time paid dividends.

“There have been a lot of good things about serving,” he said. “I got my commercial driver’s license based on my military experience.”

Baker said the Guard is a vocation he would recommend.

“The Guard will train you to understand that the job is more than just going to collect a pay check, there is pride in what you do,” he said.

While Baker admits he will miss his part-time job he also said he is ready to march on and into a future without the Guard. Part of his willingness to depart at his 20-year mark revolves around the fact that – as a staff sergeant – he holds down a key leadership slot inside Fox Company. He said it is important that he departs when he hits the 20-year benchmark to allow other Soldiers to advance.

“I’m sure I will miss it. But I am not going to hold up one of my troops from getting a promotion just because I want to stay in,” Baker said.
Oregon’s Soldiers and NCOs converge on the north coast to vie for best of the best.

Twenty-one of the Oregon Army National Guard’s top Soldiers from around the state came to Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., to put their mental and physical strengths to the test, March 14-16, 2014, to compete for the titles of best non-commissioned officer and best Soldier of the year.

Story and photos by Sgt. Betty Boyce, JFHQ Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. — Throughout the weekend, they conquered obstacles and rose above adversity to prove their intestinal fortitude.

According to the cadre overseeing the competition, Oregon set the bar high by creating an endeavor that is unmatched.

Soldiers said they were pushed toward their breaking point at each event throughout the three-day competition.

“With my years of service and training, I have never been pushed to this point,” said Spc. Darlene Jordan, with Joint Force Headquarters. “I’m ready to finish this thing.”

Once all the competitors were finished at the range, the cadre quickly briefed them on to how they would need for the last day’s events.

The third and final day began with grouping and zeroing their M4 carbine weapons, and from there they moved to the range for qualification, where they would shoot 40 rounds and hope to beat their opponents.

“I feel like a new man after getting that much rest,” said Sgt. Joshua Martin, with Joint Force Headquarters. “I’m ready to finish this thing.”

The competitors laid waiting in the dark along a trail of chem-lights.

The competitors were finally trickling to the surf for the finish.

“This was so much harder than I thought it would be,” said Spc. Darlene Jordan, with Joint Force Headquarters. “I flipped over in the surf and had to regain my senses, and when I hit that incline up the sand hill, I thought my heart was going to beat out of my chest,” she said.

When it was all said and done, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Stimpson, with the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, took the title of best non-commissioned officer, and Spc. Anthony Olsen, with the 1249th Engineer Battalion, took the title of best Soldier of the year.

This event was designed to replicate the day back in 1944 during World War II, when, under heavy fire, engineers struggled to exit their boats and swim to the shore to secure the beaches of Normandy.

The competitors laid waiting in the sand for a wave to hit them before they could start the event. They had to crawl approximately 25 yards in the sand and water before reaching two cement-filled ammunition cans.

They had to pick up the ‘ammo’ cans and carry them 100 yards, up a 70-foot elevation to the top of a sand dune before running all the way back to the surf for the finish.

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After months of training, dieting and studying for the state competition, they will now continue to train and prepare to represent Oregon at the Region VI competition, which will be hosted by the South Dakota National Guard in May.

“These fine warriors represent the best of the best from the great state of Oregon. They are the warrior ethos defined and what it means to put your mind, body and soul to the test,” said Oregon State Command Sgt. Major Shane Lake.

“I want to thank the Soldiers, along with their individual sponsors, for the many days spent in preparation for this event, as well as all the support staff and civilian sponsors,” he added.

“IT has been an honor and privilege to be a part of an organization where such leaders are born!” Lake said.
**HISTORY**

Former Oregon Adjutant General helps launch American Legion

Story by Aliasha Hamel, Executive Director, Oregon Historical Society

Maj. Gen. George A. White has a fascinating military storystory.

His story and many others are being captured by the Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum in Clackamas, Ore., next door to Maj. Gen. George A. White's last residence, also known as "Ol’ Infantry,"—which will serve as the home of Oregon's Adjutant General.

The American Legion was started at the end of WWI as an organization for former members of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, the eldest son of President "Teddy" Roosevelt, founded the American Legion, to support and fight for veterans' rights upon returning home.

Roosevelt and White advocated for what is now the American Legion until they met with Gen. John Pershing in late January 1919. White was given the mission to travel through the United States and drum up interest in this new organization.

He was so successful that the first meeting in Paris had crowds overflowing with deployed service members. Being a leader at the brigade, division, and state level helped White understand the hardships these Soldiers endured, and he insisted that officers take care of their Soldiers first.

White became the first American Legion National Vice Commander, founded the American Legion magazine, and was its first editor. For his services to the American Legion and the friendship between United States and France, he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur on July 9, 1934.

He had been the Adjutant General of Oregon prior to WWI, and still holds the record as the longest serving, single-term adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard—holding the position for over 25 years.

He was instrumental in forming the Oregon National Guard and the 41st Infantry Division into the most respected National Guard Infantry Division in the United States. The 41st Infantry Division was selected for federal service on September 16, 1940, over a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor—an action which ultimately brought the United States into WWII.

Unfortunately while training his troops at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation at Camp Roberts, Calif., he contracted pneumonia. He passed away on Nov. 23, 1941, shortly after returning to his home, Quarters 1, at Camp Withycombe.

White began his military career as a private in the Utah National Guard in 1895. He served in the Spanish-American War, and returned to the states where he quickly rose through the ranks to first lieutenant.

He then had an opportunity to move to Oregon where he joined the Oregon National Guard and was commissioned as a first lieutenant. He quickly rose to the rank of captain and showed such leadership that he was selected to be Oregon’s Adjutant General in 1915.

When National Guard troops were called to help with the crisis on the Mexican border, White volunteered to lead Troop A, Oregon Cavalry, and had to revert to his federally-recognized rank of captain.

Again Oregon was called upon during WWII, and under his leadership, Oregon's Third Infantry mobilized for this mission

The American Legion and promoting friendship between the United States and France.

The Historical Outreach Foundation, the 501(c)3 non-profit organization friend of the museum is raising money for those exhibits that will tell the story of Maj. Gen. White, along with many other notable exhibits of Oregon’s long and illustrious military history, from the times of the Native American tribes through what today’s servicemen and women are doing to serve our state and nation.

Oregon's history cannot be told without telling Oregon’s military history. Likewise, Oregon’s military history cannot be told without telling the history of our state. This will be a true timeline of Oregon’s history.

For more information, visit the Historical Outreach Foundation at www.historicaloutreach.com.

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Brig. Gen. David Nudo passes

The Oregon Army National Guard is deeply saddened by the passing of Brigadier General (ret.) David L. Nudo. Brig. Gen. (ret.) Nudo died Jan. 15 in Milwaukee, Ore., at the age of 88. He was born Oct. 27, 1925, in Portland, Ore., to Luigi and Rosaria Nudo. He attended Commerce High School and the University of Portland.

He joined the Army in December 1943 and was sent to Germany to serve with the 9th Division during WWII. He received a direct commission in G3 of the 41st Infantry Division, and was sent to Germany to serve with the 9th Division during WWII. He received a direct commission in

He was promoted again to brigadier general in 1923 and to major general in 1930, acting not only as the adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard but also commanding the 41st Infantry Division.

The 41st Infantry Division was comprised of troops from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The unit was so well trained that when called to participate in war games against active duty infantry divisions, they consistently and handily beat them in every event.

In his spare time White had also been so successful that the First Army Commandant was declared "Attack on America," which tried to raise public awareness about the dangers of the forthcoming second world war.

Maj. Gen. White was ready to lead the 41st into WWII, but his time the deployment for the division was cut short by White's death. He received many notable awards, including the Cross of the Black Star and the Cross of the Legion of Honor; both awarded by the President of the French Republic for service in creating

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Korea War veteran awarded Purple Heart 62 years after injury

Robert (Bob) Robinson was awarded the Purple Heart Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster during a ceremony in the Governor’s Ceremonial Office at the Oregon State Capitol on Feb. 21. The Purple Heart is given to service members who are wounded or killed while serving their country in armed conflict. Robinson was wounded on two separate occasions during the Korean War, but did not receive the medal before leaving military service.

Robinson, an 82-year-old Keizer resident, posed for a photo with his medals following the ceremony.

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Would you like to be a published author? Want to see your photo in the Sentinel? Submit your story or photo to: Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us
Free SAT & ACT prep kits available for children of service members

BAMBERG, Germany — Children and relatives of service members can get free SAT and ACT prep kits this year, compliments of several professional athletes and the testing company eKnowledge.

Service members, Defense Department employees and their dependents are eligible for military support qualify for the program. Eligible relatives and dependents of service members under the age of 21 are also eligible, according to an eKnowledge press release.

The SAT and ACT PowerPrep Program, which retails for $200, is available free upon request. It consists of 11 hours of video instruction, 3,000 files of supplemental test material, sample questions and practice tests, the release states.

The sponsorship is entering its sixth year and has donated 167,000 programs valued at over $37 million. The eKnowledge release said the company does not profit from the program.

For more information: www.eknowledge.com/Milli

Free tax assistance offered to retirees

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs provide free tax help to people who make $52,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their tax returns. Local IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals age 60 and older.

They can inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled, and Credit for Children. Volunteers are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other locations.

The TCE Program also offers free tax help for all with priority assistance to people with disabilities. IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.


Certain tax exemptions may apply to veterans

As another tax season lay ahead, veterans should be aware of the possible tax exemptions and deferrals for which they may qualify.

Disabled veterans may be entitled to exempt some of your homestead property’s assessed value from your property taxes. To qualify, veterans must be certified by the VA or any branch of the armed forces as having a disability rating of 40 percent or more, or be a veteran who served and is certified each year by a licensed physician as being 40 percent or more disabled.

Active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserves, may also qualify for a residential property tax exemption.

Any MRT (military or civilian) is able to qualify, modified, or rejected. Academic institutions determine whether to accept credits recommended on the official JST based on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, the student’s program of study, and the requirements and credits needed to finish the program. By July (Bend), 18 Aug. (Roseburg).

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SALEM, Ore. — Construction of Oregon’s World War II Memorial has begun on the grounds of the State Capitol as crews began clearing and shaping the area on the west end of the grounds on Feb. 3.

While no formal ceremony occurred, World War II Memorial Foundation board members and President Lou Jaffe, ODVA Director Cameron Smith, members of the state legislature, World War II veterans and supporters were among those observing the start of construction.

A formal dedication ceremony at the memorial is planned this year on June 6, the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, France on D-Day.

Jaffe said the purpose of the memorial is not only to honor that war’s veterans, but also to educate young people. The memorial will honor members of the armed services, and everyone on the home front who demonstrated support through their work in the shipyards, in hospitals, as coast watchers, on the farms and elsewhere. That includes women who built ships in Portland and schoolchildren who held scrap metal drives and hauled wagons full of tin cans to make their small but significant contributions.

“It probably was our nation’s finest hour, coming together in a unified manner. And that’s what we’re trying to preserve. All will be acknowledged in a series of storyboards that highlight Oregon’s involvement in the war on the home front and specific military units. The veterans, families and Oregonians who participated in World War II deserve to have a memorial,” Jaffe said.

Located at the corner of Cottage and State streets, the memorial will cover a 75 by 75 foot area. At its center will be a 33-foot-high obelisk, referring to Oregon being the 33rd state in the union. A world map will be engraved on the memorial’s footprint with markers for major battles and theaters of operation.

Oregon is one of only six states in the U.S. without a World War II Memorial to honor its resident veterans. In 2011, then-Gov. Ted Kulongoski and the Oregon Legislative leadership established the Oregon World War II Memorial Foundation to build a memorial in Salem.

“It is a co-director of Honor Flight, which helps World War II veterans visit their memorial in Washington.

“I owe the country a great debt because of the freedoms it has given us, and for the perks I received personally from receiving the medal,” Maxwell said. “There is a debt I can never pay back.”

More than 16 million people served with the American armed forces during World War II, but only 464 were chosen to receive the Medal of Honor. Of those, nearly half died as a result of their service. Approximately 152,000 Oregonians served in World War II and of those, more than 3,700 gave their lives. There are more than 20,000 Oregonian World War II veterans still living.

For information on the memorial, visit www.oregonwwimemorial.com.