In this issue...

142nd Fighter Wing deploys Airmen and F-15s to Europe

PORTLAND, Oregon – More than 200 members of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing were recognized in a formal mobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, June 26.

Citizen-Airmen from the 142nd Operations Group, 142nd Maintenance Group, and 142nd Mission Support Group are deploying to Romania from July to October 2015 as part of the 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, Operation Atlantic Resolve is a visible demonstration of U.S. commitment to the collective security and stability of Europe and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nations in the region. According to U.S. European Command (EUCOM), the partnership between the U.S. and NATO members is built on established values, practices and a long-term commitment to a stable and prosperous Europe.

In attendance at the mobilization ceremony were Oregon Governor Kate Brown; Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Oregon Air National Guard.”

See Oregon Airmen on Page 4
In times of disaster, Oregon relies on the men and women of the Oregon Military Department and Oregon National Guard. Ensuring that we are ready to answer the call is our highest priority. Although any event can present challenges, these challenges will also impact our families. Preparing our families for a disaster before it happens provides peace of mind to them, and each of us, knowing they have the resources to be self-sufficient in the immediate aftermath.

The recent tragic events in Nepal underscore the need for preparedness. As uniformed service members, we train and prepare to answer the call from our state and nation when we need. Likewise, we also need to prepare ourselves and our families for unforeseen natural disasters. This way, our families are safe, and we can focus on our mission of protecting the lives and property of our fellow Oregonians.

I suggest each of us discuss with our families the importance of emergency preparedness. I also encourage you to develop a family emergency plan and preparedness kit as soon as possible to help your family in case of disaster.

A preparedness kit should include a battery-operated radio (with NOAA weather alert capabilities); flashlights; batteries; cell phone chargers; and enough food, water, first aid supplies and medications, including over-the-counter medications you may need in the event of an evacuation; and pet supplies if you have one.

Equally important, your emergency plan and kit should be tailored to meet your family’s needs. Suggestions to assist with developing your family’s emergency plan and preparedness kit can be found on the Ready.gov and Oregon Office of Emergency Management websites.

I encourage you to review these suggestions to make sure you and your family are prepared when disaster occurs. Doing so will help give you and your family the necessary peace of mind so we can then focus on helping others.

As always, thank you for your continued service to our State and Nation. The work you do now will ensure we are Always Ready! Always There!

Brig. Gen. Stencil appointed ANG assistant for 11th Air Force

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. W. Daniel Buchan has been selected to serve as the next Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Air Force Deputy Judge Advocate General.

Buchan currently serves as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate at Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, in Virginia. Pending confirmation, his new position brings with it a promotion to brigadier general. He will serve three years as a drill-status Guardsman in his new assignment, beginning July 1, 2015.

The Deputy Judge Advocate General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., assists the Judge Advocate General in the professional oversight of more than 2,200 judge advocates, 350 civilian employees at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and military judge advocate staff. Buchan also served as the Judge Advocate General’s Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Buchan received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990. In his civilian career, Buchan is a circuit court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Buchan has served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Guam and Alaska and as a prosecutor for the Criminal Division of the Alaska Department of Law. He also practiced law with the Klamath Falls firm of Brandsness, Brandsness, Rudd & Bunch, and served as Klamath County Counsel.

Bunch appointed Air National Guard assistant to U.S. Air Force deputy JAG

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. W. Daniel Buchan has been selected to serve as the next Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Air Force Deputy Judge Advocate General.

Buchan currently serves as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate at Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, in Virginia. Pending confirmation, his new position brings with it a promotion to brigadier general. He will serve three years as a drill-status Guardsman in his new assignment, beginning July 1, 2015.

The Deputy Judge Advocate General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., assists the Judge Advocate General in the professional oversight of more than 2,200 judge advocates, 350 civilian employees at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and military judge advocate staff. Buchan also served as the Judge Advocate General’s Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Buchan received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990. In his civilian career, Buchan is a circuit court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Buchan has served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in Guam and Alaska and as a prosecutor for the Criminal Division of the Alaska Department of Law. He also practiced law with the Klamath Falls firm of Brandsness, Brandsness, Rudd & Bunch, and served as Klamath County Counsel.
Oregon National Guard partners with community to ‘Walk a mile in her shoes’

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response office partnered with Willamette University, the Center for Hope and Safety, and the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force for a ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes’ event, April 18, at the State Capitol Mall. April was nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The month offered an opportunity to continue the process of eliminating sexual assault and to ensure all service members are treated with dignity and respect. The purpose was to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities on how to prevent it.

With more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving, the Oregon National Guard is a vital institution within the state. Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen possess a crucial tie between military and civilian society. As a fundamental institution, the military as a whole, and the Oregon National Guard in particular, are fully committed to a cultural shift in sexual assault awareness and prevention.

“Preventing Sexual Assault in our military requires a personal commitment from all service members, at every level, to be a steadfast participant in creating an appropriate culture and upholding standards of behavior and military core values,” said Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense.

This year’s theme was ‘Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part.’ Eliminate Sexual Assault: Every service member, at every level in our military, must know, understand and adhere to service values and standards of behavior in order to eliminate sexual assault and other inappropriate behavior.

Know your Part: Means that each military member has a unique role in preventing and responding to sexual assault. We must recognize our part in stopping this crime, starting with knowing when and where to intervene.

Do Your Part: We have to act. If we see a crime or inappropriate behavior unfolding, we need to step in to prevent it, adding our voice to the call to end sexual assault.

Education and awareness are the key in reaching this objective.

41st Infantry Brigade commemorates annual ANZAC Day

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team held a commemoration ceremony to mark Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day in recognition of the historic friendships formed between the 41st Infantry Division and Australian and New Zealand forces during World War II.

ANZAC Day is a day of remembrance to honor those who have died in service to their country and recognizes the sacrifices of all veterans who serve.

The relationship between the Oregon Army National Guard and ANZAC dates back to 1942 when members of the 41st Infantry Division arrived in Australia and completed jungle warfare training prior to combat operations in New Guinea and the Philippines.

President Obama lands at PANG Base

President Barack Obama greets a crowd waiting behind a gate on the tarmac after arriving at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon, May 7. He was greeted by Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Reps Earl Blumenauer and Suzanne Bonamici; Portland Mayor Charlie Hales; and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, as he deplored Air Force One. He was in Portland for two days to attend a fundraiser and to promote trade legislation.

Oregon Guard celebrates 240th Army birthday


Brig. Gen. Plimpton visits 173rd Fighter Wing

Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, Land Component Commander, gives a thumbs up from the backseat of an F-15 Eagle as he prepares for a familiarization flight at Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, June 4. Plimpton toured the base, met with leadership and had a firsthand look at the 173rd Fighter Wing’s mission as the sole F-15C training base for student pilots the United States Air Force.
Continued from Front Page

National Guard commander, and Col. Paul Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander.

“As part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, I know that you will be working alongside our NATO allies,” Brown said, as she described the mission the Airmen will undertake in Europe. “You will support and build new and deeper partnerships… your presence will also reassure our allies a commitment to the security of the region.”

The 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron will consist of F-15 fighter jets, support equipment, and personnel as a Theater Security Package (TSP) to augment the U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s (USAFE) existing efforts. Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Sean Sullivan, commander of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, will command the TSP during the deployment.

“The Airmen here today and those already forward will be part of a persistent U.S. presence in the region, especially in central and eastern Europe,” said Hokanson.

The Soldiers spent approximately nine months conducting carpentry, plumbing, electrical and other construction missions at United States military facilities throughout Kuwait and the surrounding region during the deployment. The unit completed 50 large-scale projects throughout the deployment.

“(They) 234th Engineer Company came with the right people to do the job. Our Soldiers have made Oregon proud,” said Maj. Andrew Vidourek, commander of the 234th Engineer Company.

Upon arrival in Kuwait, the unit replaced the 1038th Engineer Company as the primary construction support in Kuwait, and immediately set to work at Camp Arifjan and Buehring, changing base structures to increase security and better suit changing mission requirements.

The Soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company pose next to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities. At Camp Arifjan, the engineers constructed Re-locatable Buildings titled ‘Essayons Estates’ in honor of the engineer motto of ‘Essayons,’ or we will try. The units will house the influx of coalition forces in those regions. The company completed more than 20 engineering assessments in Iraq and Jordan; supported engineer sustainment teams in Al Asad, Erbil, and Taji, Iraq; completed ten construction missions as needed.

“The toughest part about the whole project was when we had other missions that took bodies away. Along with waiting for materials to arrive, it made for a slow completion,” said Sgt. Virgil Newbery of the 234th Engineer Company.

With the on-set of Operation Inherent Resolve, the 234th was called upon to conduct assessments and construction missions in order to expand and improve forward operating bases in Iraq and Jordan, in anticipation of expanding coalition forces in those regions. The company completed more than 20 engineering assessments in Iraq and Jordan; supported engineer sustainment teams in Al Asad, Erbil, and Taji, Iraq; completed ten construction missions in Iraq; provided electrician support to Jordan; and provided quality assurance and control to deconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

While supporting efforts in Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan, the company had to concurrently support construction efforts in Kuwait. The decline of troops needed in Afghanistan and the beginning of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq caused personnel numbers in Kuwait to swell, leading to a shortage of available housing. While stationed in Kuwait, our company had up to 20 construction missions going on in Kuwait at one time. In addition, the company had up to 58 Soldiers at any given time in other countries, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Jordan,” said Vidourek. “It was a challenge to send the right people down range, with the right skill sets, while maintaining mission support in Kuwait, and to be successful in all locations.”

The entire company came together near the end of the deployment to complete the housing project at Camp Arifjan. They constructed Re-locatable Buildings and Contained Housing Units. The completion of these projects provided housing for an additional 812 Soldiers. A concrete castle was constructed at the site and the new living space was officially titled ‘Essayons Estates’ in honor of the engineer motto of ‘Essayons,’ or we will try. The entire company came together near the end of the deployment to complete the housing project at Camp Arifjan. They constructed Re-locatable Buildings and Contained Housing Units. The completion of these projects provided housing for an additional 812 Soldiers. A concrete castle was constructed at the site and the new living space was officially titled ‘Essayons Estates’ in honor of the engineer motto of ‘Essayons,’ or we will try.
Fifteen Army National Guard Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from eight western states participated in the 2015 Region-6 Best Warrior Competition in Cheyenne and Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyoming, May 11-14.

Winners of the competition earned the title of ‘Region-6 Best Warrior’ and a chance to compete against Best Warriors from other regions on the national level at the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

Taking first place for the Region-6 enlisted category was Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Jay Eyestone, with the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment.

Eyestone excelled at the physical and mental portions of the competition, despite finishing final exams of his first year of law school just days before the competition began.

One only separated the winner and runner-up in the noncommissioned officer category. North Dakota Army National Guard’s Staff Sgt. Jason Dittus, with the 819th Engineer Company, and Sgt. 1st Class Ammon Benedict, with the Oregon Army National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters, were neck and neck throughout the competition, with Dittus emerging as the winner. Ultimately, Benedict took second place in the NCO category.

Competitors were put to the test on a wide variety of skills and disciplines, starting with wear of the uniform and answering tough questions from a board of sergeants major. They were evaluated on everything from drill and ceremony, to writing an essay, to firing various weapon systems and completing an obstacle course. The competition culminated with a 12-mile road march over hilly terrain. The warriors, in ‘full-battle-rattle’ with their helmets and body armor, carried a 38-pound combat loadout ruck sack and an M-16 rifle.

After four days of competition, each Soldier, regardless of how they placed in the competition, went home with sore muscles and blisters. To them, the blisters didn’t matter.

It’s exhausting, but it’s an awesome experience,” said Benedict.

They also went home with unforgettable memories of pushing their bodies and their minds to the limits; something that each Soldier needs to be prepared to do during a time of war. Honing their combat skills was just another benefit of the competition. “We’re just competing in a fun competition,” Benedict said. “Those who are [overseas] away from loved ones and in harm’s way are truly the best of us.”

The two first place winners of the Region-6 competition, Eyestone and Dittus, went on to compete in the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition; the culminating event to determine who will be named the top noncommissioned officer and junior enlisted Soldier in the entire Army National Guard (ARNG).

In between the regional and national competitions, Eyestone spent two-weeks, May 30 - June 14, earning his Air Assault wings at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, in Warrenton, Oregon. During the course, Eyestone navigated an obstacle course; written and hands-on examinations; tower and aircraft rappelling; sling-load operations; and another 12-mile road march.

“He’s a very smart kid, he’s tough as nails, and he’s very analytical,” Benedict said about his fellow Oregon Best Warrior. “He has the ability to stay calm and review each task before he starts, and he’s very consistent.”

In the shadow of Utah’s Wasatch Mountains, Eyestone and 13 other regional winners from across the nation battled it out in the 2015 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, hosted by the Utah Army National Guard at Camp Williams during the last week in June. The 14 competitors represented the best of more than 350,000 men and women serving in the Army Guard in all 54 states and territories and the District of Columbia. To make it to the Army Guard-wide competition, the competitors worked their way up from winning unit-level and successive competitions up through their state and regional-level Best Warrior Competitions.

“These Soldiers are already five-time winners,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Brant K. Conley, the command sergeant major of the Army National Guard. “They’ve already won their unit best warrior competition, the battalion, the brigade, the state, the regional. These folks have been in competition for months now. They’ve already demonstrated what it takes to compete and win.”

The Utah competition stressed competitors both physically and mentally as they fought through the high-desert heat, terrain and elevation to prove their battle skills in a grueling seven-day event that tested the skills of a complete warrior.

The competition began with the Army Physical Fitness Test, consisting of push-ups, sit-ups and a two-and-a-half mile run. From there, competitors toughed it out over a number of events that covered marksmanship, close quarters combat, land navigation, casualty evaluation and a variety of other tactical and technical skills that saw them running or traversing more than 20 miles of terrain over the course of the competition.

Though it was designed as a competition, the larger focus was as a training event for those going through it, said Conley, adding that many of the events of the competition were overseen and developed by Soldiers from the Utah Army Guard’s 19th Special Forces Group.

“Special Forces are really integrated into this and they have a lot of equipment, a lot of experience and leaders that are using that to stress our warriors and test them to the highest level,” Conley said.

They take all of the tactics and techniques that they learned and they share that with their subordinates and their peers, and the Guard wins,” he said.

At the end of the competition, Hawaii Army National Guard Spc. Corser Barnes, a cavalry scout with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 299th Cavalry Regiment, was named Soldier of the Year. West Virginia Army National Guard Sgt. Robert Cunningham, a combat engineer with the 119th Engineer Battalion, was named NCO of the Year. Both will move on to compete in the Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition scheduled to be held in October at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, where they will compete against Soldiers from throughout the U.S. Army.

Although Eyestone didn’t take home the national title, his seniors and peers in the Oregon Army National Guard praised his performance.

“He competed like a champ and made us all proud and gave them a heck of a fight,” said Oregon State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Luke. “He is a true hero representing Oregon at the highest level.”

Oregon Guardsmen vie for marksmanship titles at TAG Match

WARRENTON, Oreg. - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state gathered at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, May 30-31, for the Adjutant General marksmanship competition, known as “TAG Match.”

The competition is held annually to provide marksmanship training, and to promote marksmanship. Service members compete as teams and as individuals for a chance to move on to national level competitions, where they represent the Oregon Army National Guard and Reserves compete against each other.

TAG Match is a study shooting competition amongst all the [Oregon Army National Guard] units in Oregon,” said Master Sgt. Geoffrey Miotke, state ammunition and training manager with Joint Force Headquarters. “It just honed our Soldiers’ skills in shooting, because we have a variety of guns here, so it produces a well-rounded Soldier for the different types of weapon systems we have.”

This year’s winning team was from 2nd Battalion, 652nd Infantry Regiment, based in Springfield, Oregon. The team members included Sgt. Benjamin Checkoff and Capt. Christopher Sorembote, both from Alpha Company, Spc. Kamryn Batt and Sgt. Jeremy Heisler, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Spc. Daro Powlishon, with Charlie Company, 41st Special Troops Battalion, based in Clarkacess, Oregon, was the overall individual winner of the rifle competition. Master Sgt. Devion Wickenheiser, of Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, based in Salem, Oregon, was the overall individual winner of the pistol competition.

Oregon National Guard Soldiers fire M9 pistols during the TAG Match marksmanship competition, at Camp Rilea, May 30.
Oregon medevac provides ‘Dustoff’ support for Canadian Armed Forces

for the exercise. They provided air support for simulated mass casualty situations, which tested the Canadian Armed Forces’ response time to field injuries and medevac procedures. The FSMT also conducted nine real-world emergency medical evacuations for injured personnel during the training exercise.

Upon arrival in Camp Wainwright, four Canadian flight medics were assigned to the FSMT. The Canadian medics integrated with the Oregon Guard team, participating in both real world and exercise medevac missions throughout the duration of the exercise.

“It was a great learning experience,” said Canadian Army Cpl. Sean Gauthier, a medical technician with 2-641st Aviation who served as 5 Field Ambulance, Valcartier, Quebec. “It was very beneficial to see the difference in the medical protocols, and answered a lot of my questions on how to process a medical evacuation.”

In between medevac missions, the FSMT conducted aircraft inspections, maintenance and gave mission briefings to visiting dignitaries, including a visit from U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman. The team also taught Medevac 101 classes to members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

“Maple Resolve was an outstanding success for the medevac unit,” said Lt. Col. Mark Ulvin, State Army Aviation Officer for the Oregon Army National Guard. “The exercise allowed Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers to interact with our international partners by introducing the critical lifesaving mission of the medevac HH-60M helicopter capabilities and their vital importance to the battlefield.”
MANGALIA, Romania — Oregon Air National Guard Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Civil Engineer Squadron traveled halfway around the globe in May and spent two-weeks renovating a medical facility in Mangalia, Romania, as part of the U.S. European Command’s (EUCOM) Humanitarian Civic Assistance program (HCA).

EUCOM’s HCA program is designed to improve the host nation’s critical infrastructure and the underlying living conditions of the civilian populace in partner nations. HCA activities can include assessments, training, construction projects, and medical assistance—all with an end goal of bolstering partner nations’ civil sector capabilities. Military partners, such as the 142nd Fighter Wing, provide manpower, expertise and receive on-the-job training, while the civilians in the host community have the opportunity to participate in the project with funding and logistics.

Romania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2004 and became a member of the European Union in 2007. It has emerged as a rising player in the Eastern European region. Romania was selected to receive construction aid under the HCA program while EUCOM facilitates the projects with funding and logistics.

Nearly 90 Airmen from both the Alabama and Oregon Air National Guard participated in the restoration of Pavilion C at the Mangalia City Hospital. The project was led by the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron’s (CES) first mobilization to Romania and EUCOM’s first humanitarian project of the year in an Eastern European country.

The project was started by the Alabama Air National Guard’s 117th Air Refueling Wing, and then handed over to the Oregon Airmen to complete. Romania is a state partner with Alabama, under the National Guard State Partnership Program.

“The project is the result of two rotations,” said Lt. Col. Jacob Skugrud, deputy commander and project officer for the 142nd CES. “Our sister unit in Alabama started the work and then the Portland team followed in their footsteps to complete the project.”

Framed by the backdrop of the Black Sea shoreline, the Airmen addressed a rooftop terrace, treatment rooms, bathroom upgrades, as well as other building projects at the clinic. While some of the civil engineers took on the water damage repairs, a significant aspect to the project was a wheelchair ramp to the Pavilion C entry.

Tech. Sgt. Ramon Lopez, from the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, explains, “Before we started, we tried to understand the organic processes and the existing skills while deploying outside the United States to be able to help.”

He quickly put together a group of six to eight Airmen to finish paint scraping, plaster repair and eventually painting the water damaged treatment rooms and connecting main hallway.

“More than 20 Oregon Airmen volunteered for this deployment and were ready to embrace the mission,” said Capt. Lucas Lewis, Oregon Air National Guard’s chief of Civil Engineering Operations. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that only a select few would get.”

The deployments are an important aspect to sustain a positive U.S. military presence while preparing National Guardsmen to stay prepared to perform their mission; whether home or abroad.

Technical partnerships within these communities this has been a great training opportunity through the DFT program, while at the same time it has also been a chance to broaden our influence throughout Europe,” said Patrick Considine, HCA program manager for EUCOM.

new sealing membrane to keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water from seeping into the rooms and hallway. We had to remove all the damage to the treatment rooms and clean them up before we could start the project on time,” said Capt. Lucas Lewis.

After arriving almost two days late to the site in Romania due to airlift glitches, and with a smaller crew of 33 members, the 142nd CES Airmen had to quickly pick up the pace on the clinic renovations.

Not only had the water damage affected the treatment rooms inside the clinic but also deteriorated the exterior stucco of the building, damaging electrical lighting and fixtures both inside and out.

“The folks from Alabama had done the major prep and demo to the exterior,” said Capt. Lewis. “You can’t work on the ceiling while water is coming down, so the teams worked on the exterior renovations. We had to go from the bare concrete to primer and then to applying the stucco.”

Applying stucco was a new experience for the Oregon Airmen, and allowed for most of the crew working with Smith a chance to cross-train and develop new skills.

“We’ve had an enthusiastic team during this process and I have no doubt our younger Airmen have learned a great deal more than just how to apply stucco,” Smith said.

The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete. The water damage forced several of the treatment rooms located on the third floor to be decontaminated, forcing the practitioners to work in other facilities in the area.

“The damage to the treatment rooms required a handover from the fourth floor terrace, as water exploited weaknesses in the building’s structure. The Alabama team pulled the damaged floor tile and installed “The folks from Alabama had done the major prep and demo to the exterior,” said Capt. Lucas Lewis. “You can’t work on the ceiling while water is coming down, so the teams worked on the exterior renovations. We had to go from the bare concrete to primer and then to applying the stucco.”

Applying stucco was a new experience for the Oregon Airmen, and allowed for most of the crew working with Smith a chance to cross-train and develop new skills.

“We’ve had an enthusiastic team during this process and I have no doubt our younger Airmen have learned a great deal more than just how to apply stucco,” Smith said.

The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete.

“The new membrane will keep water out prior to laying the new tile. With the project nearly complete, the Oregon Airmen continued to install the remainder of the tile roof, spending a majority of time with detailing the final pieces and grouting until complete. The water damage forced several of the treatment rooms located on the third floor to be decontaminated, forcing the practitioners to work in other facilities in the area.

“The damage to the treatment rooms required a handover from the fourth floor terrace, as water exploited weaknesses in the building’s structure. The Alabama team pulled the damaged floor tile and installed

The Pavilion C medical clinic in Mangalia, Romania, was renovated with the help of the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron as part of EUCOM’s Humanitarian Civic Assistance Program.

142nd Fighter Wing civil engineers renovate medical clinic in Romania

142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SUMMER 2015 Page 7
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team welcomes home three battalion elements from deployments to Afghanistan

Nearly 900 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team returned home to Oregon from deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The Soldiers provided security and aid drewdown efforts as well as training, advising and assisting Afghan security forces.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

The Oregon Army National Guard welcomed home nearly 900 Soldiers from three battalions of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Afghanistan this week.

Fort Umatilla, Oregon - 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry Regiment, returned from Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. The Soldiers were expected, the Soldiers and families were happy to see after the year-long separation. Most took the moment toDesde long embraces and quick whispers in each others’ ears. While coming home was joy to many, many held private meetings in their homecoming.

For Sgt. Joel Dees, Umatilla, Oregon - 1st Infantry Battalion, the return home meant meeting a new family member.

“I just met her for the first time,” said his wife, holding her baby.

Dees had difficulty finding the words to describe how it felt to be home. Dees said, “It’s good to see you, Joel. You hold his daughter and give a lot of zero-gravity pins.”

Staff Sgt. Nathan Long, of Charlie Company, 1-166th Infantry Battalion, met his newborn son, Easton, for the first time upon returning to Oregon. He plans to sacrifice the life of a family man.

“I’m in a new dad. It’s going to be quite the challenge,” Long said.

Others shared the moment to make life-changing decisions.

Sgt. Kevin Brower, of Charlie Company, 2-166th Infantry Battalion, just met his niece for the first time, a baby girl who was born six months after he deployed.

“I was going to see it until we landed, but she’s already long enough for us,” Brower said. “She’s gorgeous, she’s cute and she’s the one I’ll never see the rest of my life.”

Still for others, coming home is an opportunity to experience some of the most simple pleasures.

“I’m going to go out at a bar. I know it has one or two,” said Spc. Jared Stolt, of Bravo Company, 2-166th. “It’s been a long time.”

For Spc. Josh Beck, of Bravo Company, 1-166th, coming home meant going to see his four kids in Cobden, Oregon, for the first time, which he helped select but hadn’t moved in yet before being deployed.

“I made it home last night,” his wife, Tami Beck, said. “He immediately got deployed after we picked it up. It was the first time there are kids inside a house.”

Finally, for some, it meant a well-deserved break before putting the uniform back on.

Staff Sgt. Allen Johnson, an Artillery Booster Platoon Commander with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-162 Cavity Squadron, said he was looking forward to taking a month off before going back to work full time at the Band Armory. The exact number of individual circumstances, all of them were eager to be back home on Oregon soil after completing a variety of complex and challenging missions in Afghanistan.

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Troop, 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry Regiment, stand in formation, as they are welcomed home during a demobilization ceremony, held in Bend, Oregon, May 16. (Photo by Neil Davis, Oregon Army National Guard Public Affairs Office)

While some Soldiers were able to return early due to the ongoing drawdown of forces in Afghanistan, the entire battalion was officially welcomed home in a demobilization ceremony, held in Bend, Oregon, May 15, at the Linn County Fairgrounds, in Albany, Oregon.

Approximately 900 Soldiers of the 1-166th Infantry Battalion (Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, with companies A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, and T) deployed to Afghanistan in June 2014 to Fort Bliss, Texas, for pre-deployment training before continuing on to Afghanistan. The battalion’s main mission was to provide force protection and mission command for bases and movements in support of the Task Force Alpha, 5th Command and Control (TAC-5) and a security force assistance (SFA) to reinforce the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

The 1-166th Infantry Battalion’s second mission was to provide theater security forces (TSF) in support of ANSF, which consisted of standardizing processes for base defense, QRF response, and security for movements throughout the area of operations.

Finally, the battalion also provided a Police Advisory Detachment (PAD), supporting 20 police districts throughout the Afghan Kandahar Province.

The 1-166th was the last unit to return to the United States, officially turned over to the 166th Infantry Brigade.

The 166th Infantry Brigade, known as “Guardian Target Support,” was responsible for security and protection for headquarters as they transitioned throughout the Kabul area.

In November, Soldiers from the 166th IBCT deployed to Afghanistan in November, Soldiers from the 2-166th Infantry Battalion, were conducting a security patrol into the Khost-Gardez area.

The Soldiers moved out, killing the gunman. Staff Sgt. Spencer Tumino was seriously injured from a gunshot wound to the neck and medically evacuated to Germany. Two other Soldiers sustained non-life threatening injuries.

Tumino was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart during a ceremony, December 18, at the Center for the Intrepid, a rehab center for Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

“Nobody is in their right mind wants a Purple Heart,” and I feel like myself today, taking on this role, one of the most important things to be accomplished,” Tumino said. “The only news I am happy to receive today is this medal is because of my work and how well they prepared, so as an behalf of Bn, 2-166th, I am very proud of the work and I am very happy with it!”

(left) Oregon Army National Guard Col. William W. Crocket, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, welcomes home Soldiers of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 166th Infantry Regiment, after their arrival to the Eugene Airport, May 20. (Photo by Joel Davis, Oregon Army National Guard Public Affairs Office)

(right) Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Nathan Long, of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry Regiment, embraces his new daughter, Easton, for the first time upon returning to Roseburg, Oregon, June 24. (Photo by Joel Davis, Oregon Army National Guard Public Affairs Office)

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Paul G. Heid emulates a pinning ceremony with his family following his deployment to Afghanistan.
116th Air Control Squadron mobilizes Airmen for overseas assignment

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

CLACKAMAS, Oregon. – Nearly 90 Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) were recognized during a formal mobilization ceremony, April 11, at the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The Airmen are deployed to Southwest Asia for approximately six months.

The 116th ACS, based at Camp Rilea in Warrenport, Oregon, is a deployable radar and communications unit that provides air control, communications and operations in military airspaces.

The unit will assist with surveillance and air space management for air operations in and around the Arabian Gulf. The Airmen of the 116th will support air-to-air and air-to-ground engagements, aerial surveillance and reconnaissance, combat search and rescue, air-to-air refueling, humanitarian support, and Patriot missile defense.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown addressed the deploying Airmen and their families, identifying the sacrifice that Citizen-Airmen continue to make to support overseas contingency operations.

“Our presence overseas will aid important global missions and I have no doubt you will represent Oregon with courage, skill and honor,” Brown said to the departing Airmen. “The void of the unit that is still here is the future you should be proud of and due to your courageous service.”


Members of the 116th Air Control Squadron, 142nd Security Forces Squadron, are now mobilizing in a ceremony ceremony at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 11. The unit is deploying to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Freedom Agenda.

Addressing those in attendance, Hokanson traced the history of the National Guard’s 377 years of service back to the ‘First Muster’ of colonial militia in Massachusetts on December 13, 1636, to the present day with the Airmen from the 116th mobilizing for duty.

“Like their forefathers, the Citizen-Airmen before us are stepping forward; leaving their family and employers, volunteering to serve their nation and to help make our world a better place,” Hokanson said.

Since 9/11 the 116th ACS has made numerous overseas deployments: beginning in 2006 in Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; in Iraq in 2008 in support of the Global War on Terror; and in Qatar in 2011, to provide air defense of the Arabian Gulf.

As the unit has mobilized for major operations over the past 14 years, new members continue to join the ACS to contribute to the current mission.

After enlisting more than a year ago, Airman 1st Class Lindise N. Gallardo, assigned to the 116th ACS as a surveillance technician, is embarking on her first deployment.

“I work in command and control. Our preparation has been excellent, so we’ll definitely be ready,” said Gallardo. “We have been given a plethora of scenarios in our training and I have confidence in our whole team based on their experience on previous deployments.”

Gallardo says she knows her family is supporting her as she makes her first trip abroad.

“While I am taking a break from college, this deployment allows me to develop all the new skills I have been working on.”

Some of those new skills will be quickly put to use once she arrives overseas.

“I wanted to join this particular unit because I wanted to talk directly with the pilots, point out who are good guys from the bad guys,” she said. “Maybe someday I can be a part of that, on the other hand, but for now, it is one step at a time.”

Until the unit returns, the Airmen will miss birthdays, anniversaries and other special events with family and friends while deployed, she said.

“I realize that this deployment also requires sacrifices from families and families who love ones,” Brown said. “I speak for all Oregonians when I say that we will anxiously await your safe return. You will never be far from our thoughts and prayers.”

142nd Security Forces Squadron mobilizes Airmen for Middle East mission

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, thank the Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard’s Total Force Integration (TFI) for their service in a ceremony ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon, May 15.

Approximately 250 Oregon Air National Guard members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron deployed to Kuwait for six months in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

Their primary mission will be to provide airbase security operations, including patrolling on and off the base to mitigate potential threats and ensure safe landing and takeoff for aircraft. Several of the Airmen will be assigned as Base Defense Operations Center controllers. The Airmen may also be assigned other security missions for the protection of aircraft and personnel, such as off base personnel escort teams, and Fly Away Security Teams.

“They will provide ground security at whatever location our planes need to go to drop off equipment, supplies, or personnel,” Lt. Col. Brian Salm, 116th Security Forces Group, said. “They will also be responsible for the Central Command area of responsibility,” said Maj. Gen. Ted Brown, Oregon Air National Guard.

The Airmen are highly trained and motivated defenders,” Schroeder said. “They are dedicated to the mission and are ready to defend our air bases.”

“I wanted to join this particular unit because I wanted to work in command and control. Our preparation has been excellent, so we’ll definitely be ready,” said Gallardo. “We have been given a plethora of scenarios in our training and I have confidence in our whole team based on their experience on previous deployments.”

Gallardo says she knows her family is supporting her as she makes her first trip abroad.

“I wanted to join this particular unit because I wanted to talk directly with the pilots, point out who are good guys from the bad guys,” she said. “Maybe someday I can be a part of that, on the other hand, but for now, it is one step at a time.”

Until the unit returns, the Airmen will miss birthdays, anniversaries and other special events with family and friends while deployed, she said.

“I realize that this deployment also requires sacrifices from families and families who love ones,” Brown said. “I speak for all Oregonians when I say that we will anxiously await your safe return. You will never be far from our thoughts and prayers.”

173rd Fighter Wing is first to integrate active duty support staff for TFI

By Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Oregon Air National Guard is first to integrate active duty support staff for Total Force Integration (TFI) in the first of its kind. TFI units across the country have welcomed active duty members and pilots onto Air National Guard bases. However, the 173rd FW is the first to integrate not only maintainers and pilots, but support personnel as well.

In November 2014, the 173rd FW began to receive active duty personnel on base, in an effort to increase manpower as the wing ramps-up pilot production to meet the Air Force’s need for more F-15C pilots.

As the mission grew, the wing command staff realized that the maintenance and operations were not the only areas that were feeling an increased workload. Support group offices, such as the power production shop in the civil engineering squadron, discovered more manpower was essential.

TFI volunteer Staff Sgt. Trevor Wilkinson, an electrical power production craftsman, joined the 173rd FW power production shop just in time to provide experienced assistance with the increased workload.

Additionally, he was able to assist with the extensive project of replacing the aircraft arresting system; something that must be done every ten years to assure aircraft can be safely stopped during a landing in emergency conditions, which can ultimately save a pilot’s life.

“The TFI is great,” Wilkinson said. “Being able to contribute my skills and knowledge to the people here, and them giving their experiences to me makes us a better Air Force as a whole. Ultimately, it’s a team, one fight.”

Master Sgt. Eric Storer, the shop’s supervisor for power production and barriers, works every day to keep this aspect of the flying mission running smoothly. With only a two-man shop, Storer says he was both relieved to gain a needed troop and impressed with Wilkinson’s work ethic.

“When we got the okay for the TFI, we were fortunate to have Staff Sgt. Wilkinson, an instructor from our 3-level technical school, join our shop,” added Storer.

After completing the aircraft arresting system replacement, Wilkinson’s initial day tour at Kingsley Field was nearly complete. He then volunteered to assist the power production shop for an additional 30 days when he saw there was going to be a manpower shortfall.

“I was really surprised how huge the mission is,” Wilkinson said. “The mission is as big as an active duty mission for as much as we fly. The fact that Kingsley is so small and they’re still able to get the mission done was pretty impressive.”

Storer says that Wilkinson’s performance and dedication to the Air Force and the TFI is evident in his every day duties and how he carries himself.

“He is an outstanding individual; he’s exactly what we look for in a staff to tech sergeant,” said Storer. “He’s an expert in his field and a great example of what our Airmen should try to attain if they’re not already at his level.”

Storer says TFI members like Wilkinson bring a great wealth of knowledge to the base, noting that the exchange of knowledge is beneficial for both the active duty and the Guard.

“You get to take all of this back with me as an instructor,” Wilkinson said about his experience at Kingsley Field. “I now also know more about the Guard, so I can assist my Guard students much better.”

He added that the more the Guard and active duty members work together, the more congruent the practices, and the total Air Force will become.


OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Fighter Wing trains with 162nd Wing in Arizona for Sentry Cactus

TUCSON, Arizona – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, spent a week in March training with the 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, during the Sentry Cactus exercise in Tucson, Arizona.

More than one hundred maintenance, operations and support personnel, as well as seven F-15 Eagles from the 173rd FW traveled to Tucson to participate in the exercise. The two training units participated in dissimilar air combat tactics (DAC T) training, giving them a chance to fly against a different aircraft. Pilots from the 162nd Wing fly the F-16 Viper, while the 173rd flies the F-15 Eagle.

“DAC T is an excellent opportunity for our pilots to sharpen their skills,” said Maj. Jon Vanbraght, 173rd FW instructor pilot and project officer for Sentry Cactus. “We

have the chance to experience the differences in structural training techniques and to improve upon both of our abilities to teach our students for the next generation of air combat.”

This wasn’t the first time the two wings have worked together. In August 2014, 162nd Wing and 173rd Wing participated in a large exercise, Sentry Aloha, training exercise, beginning what could be an annual exchange. Eight months later, 173rd FW jets, personnel and equipment headed south to Tucson for a similar exchange.

Vanbraght said working with the Arizona ANG unit is a natural fit thanks to the similar mission they share; both wings train student pilots. The 162nd Wing is an F-16 training base and the 173rd Fighter Wing is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force.

The exercise not only provided beneficial training to the pilots, but was also a chance for the maintenance and support personnel to work as a team. This year, the pilots are responsible for keeping the jets in the air.

“Sentry Aloha exercise pits 142nd Fighter Wing against other fighter jets

MASTER SGT. JIM MOFFETT, 173RD FIGHTER WING F-15 CREST PCE, USES THE AIRCRAFT FORMS FOR AN F-15 EAGLE FOLLOWING A TRAINING MISSION, MARCH 6, IN TUCSON, ARIZONA.

MAJ. JON VANBRAGHT, 173RD FIGHTER WING F-15 INSTRUCTOR PILOT, PREFLIGHTS AN F-15 EAGLE AIRCRAFT, MARCH 11, IN TUCSON, ARIZONA. OREGON AIRMEN PARTICIPATED IN DISSIMILAR AIR COMBAT TRAINING WITH THE 162ND FIGHTER WING, OF THE ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

An F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing takes out to the runway for a training mission in Tucson, Arizona, March 6, during Sentry Cactus.

here and so people stepped up and helped us with the jets, and even though we were undermanned it didn’t feel like it.”

The majority of Airmen who participated in the exercise said this was a fantastic trip and an excellent opportunity for those involved.

“Tucson is excellent,” said Vanbraght. “It has been a fantastic trip overall.”
Guardsmen, active duty service members, and inter-operability between civil authorities, remains recovery, and command and control. The mission of Oregon’s CERFP is to provide immediate response capability to the governor after a natural or man-made disaster and is comprised of five elements staffed by personnel from already established Oregon National Guard units. These elements include teams specializing in search and rescue, joint service Air and Army Guard elements, and civilian personnel participated in various disaster response scenarios throughout the week.

The large-scale exercise tied-in to Makani Pahili, Hawaii’s annual hurricane exercise led by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA). The Hawaii National Guard and HIEMA, along with U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the National Guard Bureau, have been planning this exercise for more than two years with National Guard units from California, Oregon, Nevada and Guam participating. Other participants included emergency management agencies at the federal, state, county and local levels, as well as various military forces from the active component. Some of them include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pacific Disaster Center, and local police and fire departments.

“Exercises like this are a win-win situation,” said Lt. Col. Michael Moffit, commander of the Oregon CERFP unit. “The Soldiers and Airmen get the best possible training available and the citizens get the benefit of knowing they have a trained and ready force available if and when they need them.”

The overall exercise spanned several locations throughout Hawaii. Oregon Soldiers and Airmen trained alongside the Hawaii National Guard’s CERFP team, learning how to work and communicate together to complete the mission.

Upon arriving in Hawaii, Oregon CERFP members communicated with Hawaii CERFP members already in place and operating in their respective teams to complete a process called Relief in Place/Transfer of Authority (RIPTOA). This process is designed as a handover from one team to the other in order to work in shifts. It allows adequate rest periods for Service Members without a gap in coverage on the front lines of the disaster situation.

“Working with the Hawaii CERFP has been a great experience,” said Moffit. “Teaming up with another CERFP allows us to exercise a critical portion of the CERFP mission that we don’t normally get to practice; the RIPTOA or turnover of the mission.”

This was the second time that the Oregon and Hawaii CERFP units have teamed up. Last year, the two units trained together during Alaska Vigilant Guard 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska. Moffit said this year’s Vigilant Guard exercise allowed them to continue developing tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) that they started implementing last year.

It is imperative that CERFPs learn to work together in this manner so we can maximize our effectiveness; one CERFP cannot do it all,” said Moffit. “I believe Oregon and Hawaii are the first CERFPs in the nation to exercise this task.”

With temperatures in the mid to high 80’s and humidity ranging from 50-60 percent, Oregon Service Members who were working twelve-to-sixteen hour days had a lot to adjust to, all while completing their mission with full success. Members of the unit said they looked forward to participating in more large-scale exercises involving civil authorities in the future to improve their overall experience and knowledge in disaster response.

“Oregon’s CERFP mission is extremely vital to the safety and well being of our state and its residents. We live in such a high-risk earthquake environment that it is especially crucial that we are prepared and properly trained for the worst case scenarios in multiple environments and climates,” said Spc. Kaila Talley, a member of the CERFP with the 224th Engineer Company.
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Recent earthquakes, Hollywood film are reminders of seismic reality

Story by Cory Grogan, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon – With recent seismic activity near Oregon and the release of the Hollywood film “San Andreas,” now is the time to think about earthquake threats in Oregon and earthquake preparedness. The movie depicts several exaggerated earthquakes striking California and Nevada. It serves as a good reminder of the seismic reality of a large-scale earthquake and tsunami threat on the West Coast.

Seven earthquakes occurred within 24-hours, May 31-June 1, along the Blanco Fracture Zone; about 330 miles off the Oregon coast, west of Coos Bay, Oregon. The earthquakes, ranging in magnitude from 3.9 to 5.9, struck about 6 miles below the ocean floor south of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, in the Area of the Fracture Zone; about 330 miles off the Oregon coast, west of Coos Bay, Oregon. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, it’s an area where tectonic plates are interacting."

It’s at the Cascadia zone, a more dangerous fault closer to the Oregon and Washington coastlines, which experts say is where we should be watching for a potential 9.0 earthquake that will rattle across the Northwest and create tsunamis threats. This zone produced huge quakes more than 300 years ago and is currently building up pressure. The Cascadia Subduction Zone, a dangerous fault posing a significant earthquake hazard on the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada. Many coastal regions are highly populated cities including Port Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, B.C., would be impacted. “A Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake that would affect all parts of Oregon, whether from direct earthquake ground shaking or tsunami damage or subsequent response and recovery efforts,” said Iain Madin, interim state geologist who leads the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Officials say while much of the “San Andreas” movie is scientifically inaccurate, it has some parts that are comparable to many other disaster movies, in terms of earthquake safety and science. An example is the mention of the movie, “The Day After Tomorrow,” which dealt with global climate change. The Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake Center provides facts versus fiction, and more about the “San Andreas” film at http://earthquakecountry.org/sanandreas.

Since 2004, Oregon has put emphasis on preparing for its biggest natural threat. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission has produced an Oregon Resilience Plan, which was furthered by the Oregon Resilience Task Force. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) urges individuals to take action to prepare by developing and practicing an emergency plan that includes an emergency kit with at least two weeks of supplies. “We know that a major earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that struck off the coast of Japan could hit Oregon at any time,” said Dr. Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program coordinator for OEM. “Prepare now and be your own survival story.”

Some of the recommended preparation activities include developing and practicing an emergency plan, getting a kit, and practicing earthquake drills. For more information, or to build a kit, visit the Red Cross website at: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit. For more information, or to build a kit, visit the Red Cross website at: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/get-kit.

Amateur radio critical for disasters

Story and photos courtesy Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) supported a statewide amateur radio operator exercise at county and city Emergency Operations Centers, as well as other locations throughout the state.

More than 300 people in 27 counties statewide, including 14 medical facilities, participated in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service “QuakeEX I” exercise. Radio operators tested maximum amateur radio emergency communications capabilities in Oregon. More than 2,000 messages were sent during the exercise.

The training provided an opportunity for county and state amateur radio emergency operators to use preparedness and response efforts. More licensed amateur radio operators are needed to help prepare for a major earthquake. More information on how you can become an amateur radio operator can be found at www.arrl.org.

Are you prepared for emergencies? Being prepared means being equipped with the proper supplies you may need during 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!

Taking pride in making Oregon safer

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

SALEM, Oregon – Kelly Jo Craigmiles is the Operations and Emergency Preparedness Manager for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

She is one of the longest-tenured employees at the agency and highly respected by her fellow employees. She has two primary missions. She manages the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that employs 122 people who work in 22 local and tribal governments that support local government and citizens in Oregon. The $5.2 million grant she manages covers 42 local and tribal emergency management agency organizations, as well as OEM.

Craigmiles said it is a huge responsibility because the grant covers day-to-day operations that provide direct services ranging from the preparation for a large earthquake and tsunami to public outreach about general preparedness enabling citizens to be better prepared for emergencies. “Our EMPG grant serves a lot of purposes in the state of Oregon with over 80 percent being passed to local and tribal governments,” Craigmiles said. “It is a 50/50 match grant that also funds 24 of OEM’s 42 personnel.”

Craigmiles said that Oregon takes a local approach to disasters, and that being able to pass 84 percent of the grant funds to local emergency management entities ultimately makes Oregon safer. “For me it’s a passion,” she said. “I have been doing this full-time since 1983 and love what I do because I know that whether it’s training emergency responders, or planning an exercise, it means the citizens of Oregon will be better prepared for disasters.”

She said her work assists local and tribal governments in two ways. “One way the work helps is with preparedness, and the other is response,” added Craigmiles. “I can make a difference helping people become better prepared. Whether it’s disaster, Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, or just disaster. That’s why I have become one of the most respected by her fellow employees. She has two primary missions. She manages the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) that employs 122 people who work in 22 local and tribal governments that support local government and citizens in Oregon. The $5.2 million grant she manages covers 42 local and tribal emergency management agency organizations, as well as OEM.

Craigmiles said it is a huge responsibility because the grant covers day-to-day operations that provide direct services ranging from the preparation for a large earthquake and tsunami to public outreach about general preparedness enabling citizens to be better prepared for emergencies. “Our EMPG grant serves a lot of purposes in the state of Oregon with over 80 percent being passed to local and tribal governments,” Craigmiles said. “It is a 50/50 match grant that also funds 24 of OEM’s 42 personnel.”

Craigmiles said that Oregon takes a local approach to disasters, and that being able to pass 84 percent of the grant funds to local emergency management entities ultimately makes Oregon safer. “For me it’s a passion,” she said. “I have been doing this full-time since 1983 and love what I do because I know that whether it’s training emergency responders, or planning an exercise, it means the citizens of Oregon will be better prepared for disasters.”

She said her work assists local and tribal governments in two ways. “One way the work helps is with preparedness, and the other is response,” added Craigmiles. “I can make a difference helping people become better prepared. Whether it’s disaster, Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, or just disaster. That’s why I have registered and trained to support emergency management and response efforts. More licensed amateur radio operators are needed to help prepare for a major earthquake. More information on how you can become an amateur radio operator can be found at www.arrl.org.
Oregon National Guard hosts Skills USA youth job skills competition

Story by Spec. Tyler Meister,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s 3670th Component Repair Company (CRC) hosted the annual Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 17-18, 2015.

Skills USA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to prepare youth for the workforce. It is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

Youth from high schools throughout the state converged at Camp Withycombe to attend workshops and test their skills in job-related competitions. Competitive events included everything from delivering speeches, technical drafting, animation, digital photography and video, to carpentry, welding fabrication, automotive repair, electronic technology and culinary arts.

“Watching students succeed at a job they are passionate about is the best part of this event,” said Teresa Mankin, the state director of Skills USA Oregon.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers served as observers and judges for several of the competitions related to their job skill in the Army. For example, Army cooks were judges for the culinary arts events and Army mechanics served as judges for automotive service technology.

“Partnering with the Oregon National Guard provides a unique opportunity for students to see how they can continue their passion and also serve their country,” said Mankin.

Mankin said the Skills USA executive director is impressed with the results from partnering with the National Guard and aims to replicate the effect across the country.

“As a four year member of Skills USA during high school and current employee of the organization, I know first-hand how great this program is and all the opportunities it can create,” said Zach Buchanan, a Skills USA state officer coach. “Oregon is the only state to have the National Guard partner with the program and with the success it has seen, I feel this is one of a kind opportunity to create success for the state.”

Although the bulk of Soldiers participating were from 3670th CRC, other Oregon Army National Guard units also assisted with the event to ensure the students received the best experience possible.

The Oregon Army Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion provided simulators to give students personal hands-on experience with some military equipment. Several recruiters spoke with the high school students about the different types of careers available in the National Guard.

“Many of the students were grateful to have the opportunity to work with Soldiers that actually perform the jobs they are passionate about. One student, Diyora Saadat even went as far as wearing the actual attire of a combat medic during her presentation on some basic first aid medical techniques,” said Buchanan.

“I think the event is fun, but even more so I appreciate the fact that Skills USA helped me discover what I want to do with my life,” Saadat said. “Thanks to this program, I now know I want to be a combat medic in the Army like my father who served for ten years.”

Saadat is a sophomore at Reynolds High School and a new member of the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at her school. Saadat said she plans to compete in the competition for the remainder of her time in school because it sets her up for future success.

The top students in each category at the state competition went on to compete in the National Skills USA competition in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22-26.

Oregon National Guard commemorates annual Armed Forces Day

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Oregon - The Oregon National Guard honored all military members in an annual Armed Forces Day commemoration, May 14, at the State Capitol Mall in Salem, Oregon. In addition to honoring all military members, the event also honored Vietnam veterans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Armed Forces Day was originally created in 1949 to honor Americans serving in all branches of the U.S. military, and was designated as an official holiday in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, Adjutant General, Oregon, were in attendance at the event.

The official ceremony featured music from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 234th Army Band and a Howitzer salute by the “Governor’s Own” Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment. The ceremony was followed by an F-15 flyover by the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing.

Mary equipment from various units throughout the Oregon National Guard were on display for local citizens to explore. The event also featured Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadets from Lebanon, McNary, North Salem, Oregon City, and Reynolds high schools.

Above: Three Oregon Army National Guard Howitzers with the “Governor’s Own” Honor Battery, Bravo Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, fire a salute in honor of the 65th annual Armed Forces Day, at the State Capital Mall in Salem, Oregon, May 14. The day pays tribute to the U.S. military from all branches of service.

Left: Pfc. Jose Melendez, assistant gunner with the “Governor’s Own” Honor Battery, Bravo Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, shows a young girl a Howitzer during Armed Forces Day in Salem, Oregon, May 14.

Right: Two F-15 Eagle fighter jets from the 142nd Fighter Wing fly over the Oregon State Capitol rotunda during the annual Armed Forces Day event in Salem, Oregon, May 14.
Oregon National Guard hosts active duty Air Assault and Pathfinder courses

WARRENTON, Oregon - The Oregon National Guard hosted U.S. Army Air Assault and Pathfinder courses at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, in Warrenton, Oregon, May 30 - June 14. Hundreds of service members from across active duty U.S. Army and Air Force, Reserves and National Guard components, converged on the Oregon Coast to test their mettle and earn the coveted Air Assault and Pathfinder qualification badges.

A Mobile Training Team from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center, based out of Fort Benning, Georgia, instructed the courses.

More than 220 service members participated in the 12-day Air Assault course. The course prepares Service Members for air mobile operations, including combat assault, rappelling, physical fitness, and various other critical skills.

Students were tested with an obstacle course and two-mile run before being allowed to continue with the rest of the training. Throughout the course duration, students were evaluated with written and hands-on examinations, conducted tower and aircraft rappelling, and were tested on sling-load operations. A sling-load operation involves slinging an item under an airborne helicopter to fly it to another location. Prior to graduation, the students had to complete a 12-mile foot march with full combat-load in less than three hours.

Approximately 25 Service Members attended the 14-day Pathfinder course. The course trains and evaluates Service Members in establishing helicopter landing zones, pick-up zones, and drop zones. Students learned air traffic control techniques to guide and communicate with aircraft, as well as planning and conducting air assault and sling-load operations.

Oregon Army Guard aviation unit earns water wings with survival training

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 2-641st Aviation, took the plunge for water survival and vehicle rollover training, Feb. 8, at the swimming pool in Stayton, Oregon.

The 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) helped facilitate the training. Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Freeland was the lead trainer from the CST, along with Sgt. 1st Class Jarrell Rysavy, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Ross, and Sgt. Bejan Rejaiian in the water providing the hands-on training.

Soldiers were instructed to swim the width of the pool five times while wearing their Army Combat Uniforms. "I felt like I was carrying a five-gallon bucket behind me," said 1st Sgt. David Noffsinger.

After treading water for 10 minutes, Freeland taught the Soldiers how to turn their ACU pants into a floatation device.

"The swim training summed up a great Safety Stand event, because and was some of the best PT we have ever done," said Sgt. Terri Burris.

Capt. Adam Luilay, HHC company commander, said he saw a lot of worried faces when it came time for the Shallow Water Egress Training (SWET). He got the idea to conduct this training for his unit from going through similar "Dunker" training at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Shallow Water Egress Training (SWET) simulates a helicopter crash that leaves the cockpit upside down and sinks. The aircraft must keep their composure and use their emergency equipment to safely and quickly escape the situation.

"I was pretty nervous going into that class, but by the end I felt pretty confident to the point that I was getting out of the aircraft blind-folded," said Luilay. "My goal was to create a similar experience for my Soldiers."

He said statistically more Soldiers have drowned from a vehicle rolling into water than from helicopters, but the SWET training helps prepare Soldiers for any emergency water egress whether it's from an aircraft or a vehicle accident.

"I've been in the Guard for 11 years and that was the very best training I have ever received," said Staff Sgt. Destiny Pence, the unit supply sergeant.

The Soldiers of "Team Griffon" said they were challenged to meet their limitations in the water by simply learning to find their breath and stay alive and assist their fellow team members no matter the circumstance. They said it brought them closer as a unit as they encouraged each other to grow beyond their current skill level and worked together to keep their heads above the water.

Spc. Jennifer Brock appreciated the unique training opportunity, "I wish we could do this kind of training every drill."
Ceremony honors World War II veterans of the 41st Infantry Division for 70 years of liberty in Palawan


Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach (left), Assistant Adjutant General for Support, and retired Lt. Gen. Ernesto G. Carolina (center), administrator of the Philippines Veterans Affairs Office, present medals to Filipino WWII guerrilla fighters at the Provincial Capitol in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, April 22.

Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach visits with Filipino WWII veterans being honored along with 41st Infantry Division veterans during ‘Salute to Valor’ events at Plaza Cuartel in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, April 21. Plaza Cuartel will be the home of new monuments telling the story of the liberation of Palawan from Japanese forces during WWII.

As guardians of that hard-won freedom.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to those of this earlier generation, who gave their youth, their futures and their lives to return freedom to the Philippines and other parts of the world,” said Beach. “We have an opportunity to say thank you in recognition of Filipino and American war efforts that led to the freedom that this island has enjoyed for the last 70 years.”

Story and photos by Christopher L. Ingold,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

PALAWAN, Philippines – Dignitaries from the Philippines, Australia and the U.S. gathered in the Province of Palawan, April 22, to offer respects and pay tribute to those who fought to liberate the island from Japanese occupation during World War II. The event commemorated the 70-year anniversary of the end of WWII and celebrated decades of freedom that were won for the Palawan island by the 41st Infantry Division and Palawan guerilla fighters in 1945.

The Philippine Military Academy marched the U.S. and Philippine flags into the infamous Plaza Cuartel to begin the unveiling of new monuments that will honor the 41st Infantry Division and Palawan guerilla forces. World War II history students recalled that Plaza Cuartel is the location where 139 emaciated U.S. Service Members were burned alive by the Japanese military on December 14, 1944. The site currently houses a statue in remembrance of that fateful day. The new monuments are being erected to mark the location as a symbol of sacrifice for freedom.

“Liberation came at a very high price for those who died to secure it,” said Earl Duff, president of the Palawan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “The freedoms it provided needs to be cherished and protected.”

Following the unveiling of the new monuments, the dignitaries were caravanned in a parade to the Provincial Capitol of Palawan for a ceremony featuring a live symphony as the story of the Palawan liberation was told with original music. Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach, Assistant Adjutant General for Support, represented the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team – the successors of the 41st Infantry Division – during the event. He presented awards along with Hon. Jose CH. Alvarez, governor of the Province of Palawan; Hon. Ernesto G. Carolina, administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office; and Christopher Marquez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to Filipino Veterans of WWII.

Many who fought to liberate Palawan were never honored, said Vice Admiral Hispanic “Buddy” E. Mendez Jr., Jr., of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary. “Men who risked their lives that just faded away.”

Col. Mark Burnett, U.S. Army Command Surgeon, Area Support Group Kuwait, attended the event to receive a medal on behalf of his father, George Hilgard Burnett, who served in Palawan and Zamboanga during WWII as a member of the 116th Medical Battalion of the 41st Infantry Division.

“My father, like most of his generation, did not speak about his service,” said Burnett. “He was a humble man and would not be comfortable being recognized, but I am proud to honor him and his service.

As generals, admirals and government officials gave their remarks at the event, each touched on the theme of freedom and the heavy price that was paid for it. They also spoke of the enduring friendship established in WWII between the Philippines and the United States.

Kingsley honored in Bulgaria ceremony

Story by Master Sgt. (ret.) David H. Funk

SUHOZEM, Bulgaria – A memorial ceremony was held, June 23, in honor of 2nd Lt. David R. Kingsley in the village of Suhozem, Bulgaria, on the 71st anniversary of his death during WWII. The ceremony took place at the memorial site near where his B-17 aircraft crashed.

Kingsley’s B-17 (of the 97th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force) was returning from a bombing mission on the Ploesti Oil Fields in Romania on June 23, 1944. His aircraft was damaged by flak over the Ploesti, dropped out of formation, and was attacked by three German Me-109s. The pilot of the me-109s attacked, wounding the tail turret gunner.

Kingsley was attending to the wounded when the aircraft commander gave the order to bail out. He immediately assisted the wounded gunner putting on their parachute harnesses. In the confusion, the tail gunner’s harness, believed damaged, could not be located. In disregard for his own safety, Kingsley removed his parachute harness, placed it on the wounded tail gunner and helped the wounded man bail out of the aircraft. Kingsley’s B-17 crashed in the fields, killing him and some local villagers working in the fields at the time. He was buried by villagers in a nearby area and was later moved to a U.S. cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for saving the life of the wounded gunner. Kingsley Field, located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, was also named in his honor in 1957 and is now home to the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing.

The recent ceremony in Suhozem was held at a memorial placed at the crash site honoring Kingsley and the local villagers who were killed by the crash. The memorial service included a fly-over from two Oregon Air National Guard F-15s, piloted by Oregon Airmen currently serving in Bulgaria in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

In attendance at the ceremony were U.S. Embassy staff, current and former members of the Bulgarian Air Force Base, local mayors and former mayors from the nearby area. Also attending from Oregon was Maj. Cse Kuehni, representing the 173rd Fighter Wing; Brig. Gen. (ret.) Raymond Byrne; and Master Sgt. (ret.) David Funk.

A memorial in the village of Suhozem, Bulgaria, marks the site near where 2nd Lt. David R. Kingsley’s B-17 crashed in 1944.

A memorial in the village of Suhozem, Bulgaria, marks the site near where 2nd Lt. David R. Kingsley’s B-17 crashed in 1944.

Korean War veteran returns to Oregon

Korean War veteran Cpl. Ben Lee Brown, returned to Oregon more than 64 years after he went missing in action.

In the early 1990s, North Korea returned more than 200 boxes containing remains and personal effects of U.S. Service Members. Since then, scientists have set to work on identifying the service personnel.

Cpl. Brown was identified in April. His remains were flown from Honolulu to Portland International Airport, where he was welcomed by the Oregon National Guard, Portland USC and Port of Portland Fire and Police.

Brown grew up in the small Oregon town of Fourmile, south of Bandon, and was laid to rest laid in the Roseburg National Cemetery.


Tiled murals span the walls of the WWII Memorial at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at Fort Bonafacio, Philippines, depicting U.S. Forces in the Pacific during the war. The island of Manila was liberated from the Japanese by the 41st Infantry Division in partnership with Filipino Guerilla forces in 1945.

Story and photos by Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Military Department Public Affairs