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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Combat medic trains in Romania for Saber Guardian 2016

Staff Sgt. Brad Foster, a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, out of Pendleton, Oregon, watches the night sky on top of an M113 Medical Evacuation Vehicle during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 in Cincu, Romania. See the full story on page 6.

Soldiers test their mettle to earn infantry badge

CAMP ROBERTS, California – The heat was nearly as intense as the competition itself. More than 100 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from both 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, began the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) event during their annual training at Camp Roberts, California, July 17-21. Only six successfully completed the demanding five-day course, earning the prestigious and coveted award.

The EIB was originally started in 1944 and recognizes infantrymen who have proven themselves as professionals in their job through their proficiency in more than 45 critical infantry tasks, done to standard. Only infantry Soldiers who are in the 18 or 11-series military occupational specialties (MOS) in the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Reserves and Army National Guard are eligible to apply to participate in an EIB event.

The Soldiers are first evaluated on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). Attrition rates throughout the EIB course are extremely high and analysis of units that have been tested under the current policy and measures regulation (PAM dated January 4, 2016) conclude that more than 40 percent of candidates don’t make it past the APFT. Soldiers are required to score a minimum of 80-points per each event, the difficulty is doing the push-ups to standard.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, the only Soldier to go “true blue” (completing every task to standard without using his one allotted re-test) believes strongly in “making yourself better every day … continual self-improvement.”

“Back in April, I had a 230 PT score,” said Ash. “That wasn’t good enough for me. I wanted to be higher. I needed 80 in each event to test for EIB. So, I started training in April and just kept going and going. Focusing on push-ups, sit-ups and two-mile run and I got to the point where a week prior to this competition I went and scored a 290.”

He said seeing the concrete evidence of improvement helped motivate him to continue to better himself, “I already know that I am doing better now, how much better can I get in a month from now, a year from now? Two years from now? Continual self-improvement!”

By day three, the few remaining Soldiers who participate in the individual testing stations account for another 75 percent of candidates that wash out. Soldiers were tested on both day and night land navigation. Then they were evaluated on weapons systems, medical/first aid, patrolling skills, a 12-mile ruck march, and a culminating event known as “Objective Bull.”

After crossing the finish line of the 12-mile ruck march, candidates immediately began the 100-meter “Objective Bull” course where they had to cover, treat and stabilize a simulated casualty. The Soldiers then load the casualty onto a stretcher and move them 25-meters to a casualty collection point (CCP). Objective Bull was added to the EIB schedule beginning in December 2015, and is named after Tech.

Next week in this issue: Oregon Guard trains with Canadian Forces, 3-116 Battalion participates in multinational exercise.

See 41st IBCT on Page 5
STATE COMMAND SGT. MAJ. LAKE SAYS FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

The Adjutant General Major General Michael E. Stencil, Adjunct General Oregon National Guard

The Oregon Sentinel

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Oregon Military Department exists to serve the people of Oregon and promote the constitutional, economic, and security interests of the United States of America and the State of Oregon. The mission is accomplished by furnishing and fielding combat-ready forces and preparing other resources to meet the defense needs of the nation.

The Oregon Military Department will provide excellence in personnel, facilities, training, operations, and resources to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Core Values

• Integrity
• Excellence
• Mission Focus
• Accountability
• Readiness

Keeping our priorities in mind to ensure our success

I would like to take the opportunity to offer my appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you. I am truly humbled and honored for all of the help and support you have provided me, my family and the great State of Oregon over the last four years as the State Command Sergeant Major and Sentinel Editor. Our success as an organization would not be possible without your commitment, dedication and personal sacrifices. I am blessed to have been afforded the greatest experiences, memories and amazing opportunities as a member of the Oregon Military Department over the past 26 years. I have the privilege to serve alongside one of our nation’s greatest Citizen-Soldiers, Airman and civilian. I am truly proud of the command of two Oregon governors and three adjutants general.

You are the one percent that raised your right hand and swore allegiance to our great nation. Your experiences shape the future of our state and country. Your battles, successes and adversities will enable us to build character and empower us to evolve and grow as service members and leaders. Take this experience and use it to be a positive influence and a part of the improvements to make our organization even stronger. It will take your time and dedication to build the leaders of the next generation and write the next chapter in our legacy.

You cannot buy the service members of today’s ranks off the shelf. All of you are warriors forged through training, education, and experience. Together, you are the product of our leadership and the environments of our communities. Every day you find a way to balance many priorities and still stand ready to respond domestically and globally. We stand ready to react locally to an event such as a Cascadia Subduction event, a local flood, or an earthquake, to our federal mission abroad to fly, fight and win in a complex world. Remember to tell your family and friends about how proud you are of the Oregon Military Department and how much your service and dedication mean to those around you.

Your experiences shape the future of our nation. Your stories are evidence of our relevancy. We are warriors forged through training, education, and experience. Together, you are the product of our leadership and the environments of our communities. Every day you find a way to balance many priorities and still stand ready to respond domestically and globally. We stand ready to react locally to an event such as a Cascadia Subduction event, a local flood, or an earthquake, to our federal mission abroad to fly, fight and win in a complex world. Remember to tell your family and friends about how proud you are of the Oregon Military Department and how much your service and dedication mean to those around you.

Fostering a resilient culture built on our core values; Prepare families to be self-sufficient during a major domestic disaster; Provide effective stewardship of our resources. I am proud to be part of such a professional organization. Your leadership as Citizen-Soldiers, Citizen-Airmen, and civilians continues the Oregon Military Department’s legacy of honorable service to our communities, state, and nation. Thank you for your service!

SecDef awards Oregon employer for supporting Guard and Reserve

Story courtesy Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter presented the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office with the 2016 Employer Support Freedom Award at the Pentagon, Aug. 26. Fifteen employers from across the nation received the prestigious award, the nation’s highest honor given to employers for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees. The organization created the Military Employee Support Program, partnering with local organizations raising money for deployed service members, and organized a “Deployed Vet Drive” which collected a half ton of clothing donations for deployed service members. Sheriff Craig Roberts has used his business connections to help find employment for unemployed Guard and Reserve members. Sheriff’s Office monitors the families of deployed troops and assists those who work through home repair. Sheriff Roberts personally delivers $500 gift cards to the families of his mobilized soldiers.

"We have many deputies who also serve in the military at the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office, and we see first-hand the sacrifice they make to protect our freedoms," said Sheriff Roberts. "I’m very proud of the efforts of our professional, well-trained and prepared fighting force that is resilient and effective stewards of our resources based on our core values. I am excited to see what the future holds for this great organization and each of you."

"My family and I will miss being part of the Oregon Military Department family. Our experience will last forever in our hearts. Although I will be leaving my position this fall, I will either move out of the State of Oregon or retire by next spring. I will never forget my military heritage, our fallen heroes, and what it means to be an Oregon Guardsman. Thank you for your service and sacrifice. Every Service Member is a Leader; Always Ready - Always There. Hooah!"

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For more than 170 years the Oregon Military Department (OMD) has responded to domestic emergencies and natural disasters, and has served bravely, domestically and abroad, to defend our way of life and promote peace. This legacy does not just happen—it requires dedication, sacrifice, hard work, and direction. As I have toured the OMD facilities and met our Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians, I have witnessed proof of this heritage, working daily to continue this legacy of extraordinary service.

Notwithstanding the age of our facilities, limited resources and a strained, unpredictable budget environment, the OMD has successfully remained relevant within the state and in the national security setting. Our response to wildfire fires and other state emergencies; the transformation of the 41st IBCT; the scheduled receipt of Strykers; upgrades to our fourth generation fighters; and ongoing deployment tasks are evidence of our relevancy.

Nevertheless, we can rest on our past accomplishments to carry us into the future. The current environment is filled with challenges as well as opportunities. To ensure that we are able to build on this proud history, we must periodically review our objectives and have asked OMD agency leaders, both military and civilian, to review their strategic guidance and direction to ensure that the OMD is headed towards a position of strength that assures our relevance well into the future, domestically and abroad.

I am committed to the Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Priorities in the July 2015 OMD Strategic Planning Guidance. To that end, I ask each of you to give extra focus on the following basic priorities to guide you in your daily activities:

• Know and model our core values;
• Empower and call on every Soldier, Airmen, and civilian to be a leader;
• Develop and maintain trained, ready, and experienced forces for our state and nation;
• Forge and maintain partnerships across our communities, state and nation;
• Invest in the OMD community – coworkers, families, and employers – and in Oregon Military Department personal and property;
• Provide effective stewardship of our resources.

Keep our priorities in mind to ensure our success.
WASHINGTON — Citizen-warriors and the entire National Guard family are vital to the security of the United States, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said at the National Guard Bureau change-of- responsibility ceremony at the Pentagon, Aug. 3, 2016.

The secretary also promoted Air National Guard Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel to general. Lengyel takes the National Guard Bureau chief reins from retiring Army National Guard Gen. Frank J. Grass. Lengyel had served as bureau vice chief, and had been the first Air National Guard chief on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Guard essential to Total Force:
The days of the National Guard serving exclusively as a strategic reserve that was called up only in emergencies are over, Carter said.

“The post-9/11 environment has proven the Guard is an indispensable component of the Total Force, in day-to-day activities and large-scale operations, in planning and execution, and in conventional conflicts and novel threats,” he said.

The more deeply integrated the Guard becomes, the better prepared the nation becomes, the secretary said.

“The presence, skill and readiness of citizen-warriors across the country give us the agility and flexibility to handle unexpected demands, both at home and abroad. It is an essential component of our total force, and a linchpin of our readiness,” Carter said.

That critical element the Guard brings to the Total Force is one reason why the Guard Bureau chief position was elevated in 2012 to the Joint Chiefs of Staff level, the secretary pointed out.

“General Frank Grass has led this historic transition with character and skill,” Carter said.

“He’s helped increase our rapid deployment capability to respond to any crisis,” the secretary added, “and strengthened the Guard’s partnerships at the local, state, federal and international levels. He has been a strong and steady voice at the table for the men and women of the National Guard.

Guard responds quickly:
The Guard keeps the skies free from danger, responds to disaster with compassion and professionalism at a moment’s notice and stands watch at home and abroad, Carter said, telling Guard members, “You responded when we needed you during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan all those years.”

Those qualities have been the spirit, mission and enduring commitment of the Guard through the centuries, “and never more so than over the past 15 years,” Carter noted, adding, “Since Sept. 11 [2001], the men and women of our Army and Air National Guard, and their families, have answered the nation’s call to deploy over 787,000 times.”

Today’s Guard is battle-tested and is an agile, flexible, deployable force with combat experience and a broad range of skills gained both on the battlefield and in civilian life, and confronts the challenges of today’s complex world, the secretary said.

“History has shown that we can never perfectly predict the future, we must also be flexible and agile in preparing for unknowns that we can’t anticipate today,” Carter said.

Grass’ seized opportunity:
“As chief of the National Guard these past four years,” he told Grass, “you’ve been a courageous and skillful leader — exactly the one the nation needed, and you’ve seized every opportunity to make progress, and our Total Force is stronger as a result.”

The National Guard family will remain in the good hands of another proven strategic thinker in Grass’ vice chief and new bureau chief, Lengyel, the secretary said.

Perhaps most importantly, Carter said, Lengyel “knows what it means” to be a military family member after his military pilot father was shot down in Vietnam and became a prisoner of war in 1969, only to return to service there as just one of two former POW pilots in 1975.

Unpredictable global events:
“We cannot predict how, or when, or where, the men and women of our National Guard will be called on to serve their fellow citizens,” the secretary said, adding that because of Grass’ strong leadership, the National Guard is an indispensable force, trained and ready to respond wherever it’s needed.

“We know that General Lengyel will lead this force with certainty, clarity and the full confidence and trust of myself and the president,” Carter said, thanking both leaders and all National Guard members for remaining “Always Ready, Always There.”

Election season do’s and don’ts from the Staff Judge Advocate

Story courtesy Oregon National Guard
Staff Judge Advocate General Office

“It’s an incredible moment for me. I can’t believe it. It’s like meeting a rock star,” said Oregon Army National Guard Gen. Frank J. Grass during his retirement ceremony Aug. 3, 2016, at the Oregon National Guard Armory in Salem, Oregon.

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Oregon Military Department installs multi-million dollar solar array

The project also benefits the State of Oregon as it works toward complying with Executive Order 13693, which sets multiple clean energy milestones including the state to have 30 percent of its electricity produced by renewable sources.

Senator Ron Wyden, in his remarks, stated that the project was a success on a number of levels.

“I know we are calling this Net Zero, but I call it a net win for the State of Oregon,” Wyden said, remarking how it not only helps with energy security goals but the panels being built in Oregon means more jobs for fellow Oregonians.

The array consists of 475 315-watt panels. To date the solar panels have saved or 951 60-watt light bulbs.


“This is the face of Americas’ future,” Wyden said. “It’s wonderful to see the Oregon National Guard lead the way.”

The solar array in Pendleton is one of several Net Zero building projects being conducted by the Oregon Military Department.

Oregon's team was praised by the Guam military.
Continued from Front Page

Sgt. Walter Bull, who earned the first EIB in 1944.

All of the cadre that oversee the event are EIB recipients themselves. The Oregon Army National Guard had approximately 70 EIB recipients before the event at Camp Roberts, but now has 76 with this year’s newest inductees.

As the lead plans and operations noncommissioned officer for the EIB event, Master Sgt. Geoffrey Miotke said he sees “every gamut of emotion” throughout the course of the five-day event.

“Lots of anxious, young infantrymen; then the scared infantrymen; then a little more panicked infantrymen as they go through the process and they start receiving ‘No-Gos’ and can no longer compete or finish their run,” Miotke said. “The excitement builds back up with those that are continuing on.”

Staff Sgt. Tyler Brown, assigned to Delta Company, 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, and a 2011 EIB recipient, worked as a grader on three different individual testing stations and explains, “the really hard ones (lanes) are the ones where there were a number of steps to do in sequence. Out of the EIB recipients to successfully complete this year’s course, Capt. Ryan Skiles, Alpha Company commander, 1-166th Infantry Battalion, agreed, “The lanes with the most tasks in them, that you have to do in sequence, were the most difficult. Those are the ones you really have to memorize and get your rhythm on.”

Skiles said the course certainly has no shortage of low points, “I’m not perfect, I actually double No-Go’s the first day [of individual testing]. They call that ‘blade running’ and that’s what I did for the next 22-stations straight, either I passed or I would be out.”

Not everyone participating was so lucky. Brown reflects, “I think it says something about a person when they can fail, but stay on their feet to do it again. We keep saying to them, ‘Hey, you made it until day two or day three of testing, you’re easily more skilled than 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 percent of the Soldiers out here, so keep your head high and try again next time.”

But the high points were unforgettable, recalls Skiles.

“The high was definitely mile eight on the run march,” he said. “We turned around and they (cadre) handed us a token, which was the actual EIB itself. And there’s no faking from there.”

In order to be successful Miotke believes, “you have to have a lot of discipline, you have to have a high degree of motivation, and you must be physically fit.”

Skiles agrees, challenging other units not only for the next time the EIB course is offered, but with their regular yearly training.

“One of the biggest things that knocked people out was the APFT, so ensure that your APFT is good and you’re doing it to standard,” he said.

The six recipients of this year’s EIB event were Sgt. Glen Christensen, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, and Capt. Ryan Skiles, all with the 1-166th Infantry Battalion; and Spc. Richard Ballentine, 1st Lt. Kevin Johnson, and 1st Lt. Matthew Sheperdergall, all with 2-162nd Infantry Battalion.
Combat medic heals hearts and minds at Saber Guardian 16

CINCU, Romania – U.S. Army combat medics live by a creed of trust. Those who have proven their skills under fire and put their lives before others receive the title “Doc.” From the time a soon-to-be medic gives their first IV at Fort Sam Houston, to the time they hang up their aid bag, a medic will hear blood, sweat and guts to maintain that title.

One combat medic who proved he earned the right to be called “Doc” is Staff Sgt. Brad Foster, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, out of Pendleton, Oregon. Foster, along with his unit, spent three weeks training with other U.S. Army active duty units and nine participating partner nations during Exercise Saber Guardian 16, a multinational exercise designed to develop joint combat readiness.

Foster spent most of the exercise training combat medics in his platoon on how to save lives. During training and war, combat medics make the difference when working with a severe injury to prevent fatalities. Pulling from seventeen years of experience in the field and two deployments, Foster has earned the title of “Doc” within the unit.

“Doc” recalled the fateful day he tested his mettle and steady skills, and earned his title. It was in 2004, while deployed to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment during a routine mission, when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the rear vehicle in his convoy. Under the rain of enemy fire, Doc Foster ran to two Soldiers with life-threatening shrapnel wounds, dragged them to safety, and patched them up.

Not even the memory of receiving the Combat Medic Badge for his heroic acts creates the same smile on his face as when a Soldier calls out, “Hey, Doc Foster!”

Doc Foster received a call on his cell phone from one of his combat medics who’s out in the field covering live-fire training and, seemingly transformed from healer to leader. He answered in a joking, monotone voice, “Sergeant Foster, Leader of Soldiers.”

The opening line to all the calls he received from his Soldiers is one way he keeps the atmosphere around his medical platoon relaxed but ready.

At the end of Exercise Saber Guardian, Soldiers are scheduled to have a cultural day where they visit local tourist stops. For Foster, some really great friends in the Canadian Army, “Doc Foster coyly credits junior leaders, the combat medics underneath him, or the lucky stars, for the facts that point to the influence of his leadership and medical expertise.

Doc Foster’s selfless service for Soldiers overflows to non-U.S. Soldiers as well, having served all over the world from Korea to Germany, to two tours in the Middle East. Saber Guardian saw a total of 2,800 Soldiers from 10 countries as well, having served all over the world from Korea to Germany, to two tours in the Middle East. Saber Guardian saw a total of 2,800 Soldiers from 10 countries, and for Foster the wealth of culture and diversity was worth more to him than a subscription to National Geographic.

“Everyday is a different day, the scenarios are all different to get these guys taken care of,” he said.

Foster said he sympathizes with the men and women who served and now suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and was shocked when he found out how many of his neighbors had served and didn’t have homes.

“They trust me because of my experience being a veteran medic,” he said.

Foster is grateful for all the organizations that do an exceptional job at helping vets in the Tri-cities area: American Legion in Pasco, Department of Human Services of Tri-Cities, Blue Mountain Action Council in Pasco, Veteran Opportunity Center in Pasco, and a special shout out to his work, Richland VA HUD/VSASH team.

According to Spc. Gaige Spencer, a combat medic, who works for Doc Foster, Foster maintains high expectations of everyone in the battalion aid station. During the NTC rotation, Soldiers were doing 14-hour missions with temperatures exceeding 115 degrees. Because of Foster’s work ethic and care for his Soldiers, there were no heat casualties in Charlie Company.

Doc Foster coyly credits junior leaders, the combat medics underneath him, or the lucky stars, for the facts that point to the influence of his leadership and medical expertise.

Doc Foster said, “You may not [always] speak the same language but deep down you know that you experience similar things… it’s kind of unspoken, but its great.”

On the civilian side, Foster works with Veterans Affairs as a housing support specialist for homeless veterans in Richland, Washington.

“I love to work with vets, to find homes and get them stable so they can be safe,” Foster said. “It’s the most rewarding work I’ve ever done.”

The Army prepared Foster, especially being at the NCO level where he has to problem-solve and think outside the box.

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Soldiers from 1-82nd Cavalry Regiment earn their spurs

Spc. Timothy Jackson, Story and photos by Spec. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Timothy Jackson, Story and photos by Spec. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Two paths, two Soldiers, one story; 3-116 trains in Romania

CINCU, Romania – In 2007, at 17-years old, two Central Oregon High School graduates joined the Oregon Army National Guard (ORANG): one, from Madras, Oregon, became a combat engineer and the other, from Maupin, Oregon, became an infantryman. At times changed, they did too, but soon found they had more in common than most Soldiers. Though they started their careers in different units, they eventually ended up as infantrymen in the same organization.

Spc. Kyle Herbst’s desires were geared more to the infantry. He transferred into 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT), in Redmond, Oregon, where he and Sgt. Sergio Calderon-Diaz (Diaz) trained together and developed a friendship.

Diaz started in the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), a delayed-entry process, until he finished basic training and advanced initial training. His former RSP instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Brain Tarvin, said he was a good, solid Soldier from the beginning.

Protecting and serving is at the heart of Diaz’s character. Currently considering a profession in law enforcement, he uses the skills he has learned in the military for his civilian job as an armed security guard at Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam.

The two Soldiers have trained for nearly ten years together. The only time the duo were separated was in 2010-2011, nearly ten years together. The only time they served apart was in 2010-2011, as infantrymen in the same organization.

When it comes to Soldiering, Diaz and Herbst have more in common than almost any Soldier can have. They see eye to eye on most things and have developed a deep bond.

Diaz is a team leader and Herbst is a grenadier. Though not the grenadier’s job, his background in information technology makes him the subject matter expert on most communication systems. His size and determination enables him to be point man through thick brush and trees while training in both the U.S. and in Europe.

During training at Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2, his platoon conducted a patrol, attack and reaction drills during the multinational military training exercise.

It was great!”

Not only does Diaz’s skills attract attention, so does his hair. They called him ‘Chinchilla’ in Iraq because his hair gets so poofy.

Joining the Oregon Army National Guard in 2007, they each have 3 children.

Herbst said, “We both managed to have two boys and a girl around the same time as the other, and in that order.”

When it comes to Soldiering, Diaz and Herbst also have similar beliefs. They are confident in their ability to accomplish any mission, anywhere in the world, and are both thrilled with the opportunity to train in Romania.

Herbst proudly recalls, “I remember when this guy scored 26 kills on enemy [targets] at NTC. He shut down the lanes. It was great!”

Spc. Kyle Herbst (left), a grenadier with Bravo Company, 3-116th Cavalry Battalion, simulates a medical evacuation while training at Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. His platoon conducted a patrol, attack and reaction drills during the multinational military training exercise.

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Esch (left), a flight medic with Company G, 1-189th Aviation, teaches Canadian Soldiers proper litter-bearing approach to an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter prior to air ambulance evacuation training at Camp Borden, Ontario, May 26. Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, in Alberta, Canada, May 26. Maple Resolve is an annual training exercise designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.

Left: A Soldier from Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry moves out of the drop zone and prepares to provide security after performing a static line parachute drop in support of exercise Maple Resolve at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake in Alberta, Canada, May 26.

Above: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Esch (center), a flight medic with Company G, 1-189th Aviation, instructs Canadian Soldiers on helicopter safety prior to air ambulance evacuation training in support of exercise Maple Resolve at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, in Alberta, Canada. The medic unit spent several weeks providing aviation support during the annual training exercise, which is designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 41st Special Troops Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepare to launch an RQ-7 Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft System (TUAS) in support of exercise Maple Resolve, May 24, at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The Oregon Guard TUAS unit spent several weeks training and supporting the 1st Canadian Division during Maple Resolve. An annual training exercise designed to increase interoperability between Canadian, U.S., UK, French, and Brazilian forces.
Romanian Land Forces 4th Infantry Division

Story and photos by Spec. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CINCU, Romania — More than 250 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, mobilized to Romania with the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT) to participate in Exercise Saber Guardian 2016, a multinational military training exercise, from July 27 to August 7. Exercise Saber Guardian 16 officially ended with a closing ceremony, August 7, at the Romanian Land Forces Training Center in Cincu, Romania. Col. Robert Bertrand, the Saber Guardian exercise co-director and Brig. Gen. Nicolae Tonom, the deputy commander of the Romanian Land Forces 4th Infantry Division, both spoke at the ceremony to congratulate and thank all those who participated.

"Today we finish an exercise that brought all of us closer together as nations and partners. This exercise gives us the opportunity to prove ourselves and to assure those of us that we can work together as a team," Tonom said.

Saber Guardian is an annual multinational exercise hosted alternately by Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. The exercise is part of U.S. European Command's Joint Exercise Program designed to enhance (state combined interoperability with allied and partner nations.

Saber Guardian 16 involved more than 2,800 troops from five NATO countries (Belgium, Canada, Poland, Romania and the USA) and five Partnership for Peace states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) participating in the exercise.

Among those participating were 3,700 American Soldiers with M1A2 Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, more than 900 Romanian Land Forces Soldiers, and almost 50 Canadian Soldiers with Infantry Armored Vehicles. Soldiers from the other countries participated in computer-animated command and training exercises connected with the Training Center in Novo Selo, Bulgaria and the Training and Peacetime Keeping Centre in Yavoriv, Ukraine.

Exercise Saber Guardian 16 was planned and commanded by the Romanian Land Forces Staff and NATO Integration Unit. The exercise unfolded in four stages. The command stage trained commanders and staff in the development of combined planning, standard operating procedures and staff battle drills in a force-on-force environment at the brigade level. In stage two, the command post exercise (CPX) cross-trained Romanian officers with officers from Bulgaria, Ukraine, and the U.S. to develop and improve communications and procedures. Soldiers worked with their Romanian counterparts in stage three, the field training exercise (FTX), using a combination of mechanized and ground engagements. In the final stage, Soldiers conducted an array of fire-on-exercise with vehicles, aircraft, and weapons systems from U.S., Army, Romanian and Canadian military.

"During these two weeks all of us made a great effort, we understood each other, we managed all obstacles and issues and we end this exercise in outstanding conditions," Tonom said.

"The Army, as it gets smaller, is going to need each and every Soldier in each and every unit," said Kadavy. "The 116th is a remarkable unit and they've done a great job."

The officers from both countries thanked the Soldiers, officers, civilian employee and allies, as well as all citizens for their kindness and understanding for the exercises that occurred throughout the country.

"We stand in formation as countries, but today we stand as one," Bertrand said in closing.

The majority of Oregon Soldiers who deployed for the exercise are traditional Guardsmen who drill one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. Many of them have families, are attending college, and work for civilian employers.

The 3-116th Cavalry Battalion consists of Oregon Army National Guard units from Baker City, Hermiston, Hood River, La Grande, Ontario, Pendleton, The Dalles, and Woodburn, Oregon.

Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S. The purpose of the training is to increase interoperability between the land forces from the participating countries.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

A Soldier with Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, looks out of his M1A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle turret while training during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania, August 2. The teams simulated attacking for opposing forces while on patrol and responded to simulated attacks and ambushes. Exercise Saber Guardian is a multinational training exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S.

Photo by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Soldiers with Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, participate in a combined arms live-fire exercise during Exercise Saber Guardian 16 at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center near Cincu, Romania, August 6. Saber Guardian 16 is a multinational military training exercise which involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S. The objectives of the exercise are to build multinational, regional and joint partnership capacity by enhancing military relationships, exchanging professional experiences, and improving interoperability between the land forces from the participating countries.

Photo by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, from Ontario, Oregon, commence a movement to contact while training during Exercise Saber Guardian 16, July 28, at the Romanian Land Forces Combat Training Center in Cincu, Romania. Saber Guardian is a multinational military exercise that involved approximately 2,800 military personnel from ten nations, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and the U.S.
142nd Security Forces recognized for deployment efforts

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

PORTLAND, Oregon - The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing, local dignitaries and family members welcomed home 39 Portland-based members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron (142 SFS), who deployed to the Middle East for six months, during a ceremony, April 14, 2016, at Portland Air National Guard Base.

“Oregon Guardsmen put themselves in harm’s way to work for our security abroad,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. “A demobilization ceremony is public recognition of the sacrifice and efforts our Airmen made on behalf of our country.”

Tapping into the robust and flexible nature of the National Guard, the 142 SFS members supported ongoing and emerging global security requirements in the U.S. Air Force’s Central Command region. Members of the 39-person team provided base security operations, operational logistics, anti-terrorism and training support.

“The enduring support and sacrifices made by the families and employers of all members supported ongoing and emerging global security requirements in the U.S. Air Force’s Central Command region. Members of the 39-person team provided base security operations, operational logistics, anti-terrorism and training support.

The 173rd FW is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.

For full story, see page 12.

Above: Brig. Gen. Jeffery Silver, Commander, Oregon Air National Guard, welcomes home members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

Left: Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Kevin Welch, 114th Fighter Squadron pilot, pulls himself through a water-loged parachute as Capt. Mike Parsons, Klamath Sheriff Dive Rescue, supervises during water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22, 2016. Aircrew Flight Equipment members joined with Klamath County Sheriff’s Department agencies and members of Coast Guard Sector North Bend to provide Kingsley’s F-15 pilots with water survival training in the event of an emergency ejection.

U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician 3rd Class Brendan Davis, Coast Guard Sector North Bend, ascends for extraction via helicopter during water survival training at Lake of the Woods near Klamath Falls, Oregon, July 22, 2016. Aircrew Flight Equipment members joined with Klamath County Sheriff’s Department agencies and members of Coast Guard Sector North Bend to provide Kingsley’s F-15 pilots with water survival training in the event of an emergency ejection.

Right: The Honorable Ellen Rosenblum, Attorney General for Oregon, welcomes home members of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron.

The 142nd Security Forces recognized for deployment efforts

173rd Airmen learn to survive in the water in case of emergency ejection

LAKE OF THE WOODS, Oregon – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing spent one day training in water survival skills at Lake of the Woods in Southern Oregon, July 22, 2016.

The aircrew flight equipment section worked in conjunction with a Coast Guard rescue swimmer and helicopter from North Bend to train all of the F-15 pilots stationed at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The tri-annual training covers the basic skills necessary for a pilot to survive an ejection over water. The first portion of the training focused on the skills to detach from the parachute, navigate out from underneath a water-logged parachute, and don the life raft included with their survival gear.

Master Sgt. Kenneth Shearer, with 173rd FW Aircrew Flight Equipment (AFE), explained that each pilot simulates being pulled through the water by a parachute by hauling them while attached to the flight harness from a boat for 500 feet. This gives the pilots hands on experience, "...to get the right body position and release from their harness so they stay above water,” added Shearer.

“It is a lot of fun,” said Shearer. “But there’s a lot of work that goes into getting the different agencies together to make this happen.”

One of the agencies was the Klamath County Sheriff’s Office, who provided a dive and rescue team along with patrol boats to maintain a secure and safe training zone for the Airmen.

The final segment of the training allows the pilots the experience of a water rescue via helicopter. The Coast Guard helicopter dropped a basket into the water for their aviation survival technician Petty Officer 3rd Class Brendan Davis. Davis, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, who safely loaded the pilots into the basket where they were hoisted into the air approximately twenty feet before being lowered back into the water.

Maj. Victor Knill, 114th Fighter Squadron pilot, says he found this year’s training to be eye-opening. Knill chose not to wear the anti-exposure suit for the training and found that even in the July summer heat, he was extremely cold for, "six to nine hours afterwards.”

“I could not imagine being in a real world situation under the stress of ejection and then having to survive in the water, without that suit on, while waiting for an unknown amount of time to be rescued,” said Knill.

Knill said this type of refresher training allows the pilots to become familiar with the equipment, thus maximizing their survival time in the event of an ejection.

After the last pilot was back on the docks, Davis signaled the helicopter to lower the last harness that lifted him out of the water, and back into the helicopter for refueling and departure.

“Our AFE shop did a fantastic job of coordinating and setting everything up, making this year’s training flawless and setting the standard even higher for the next time we do this,” added Knill.

The 173rd FW is home to the sole F-15 training base for the United States Air Force and Air National Guard.
OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

B-Course finale: Graduation and assignment to duty stations

The final chapter of the B-Course series follows the journey from the classroom and cockpit to graduation as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, at the 173rd Fighter Wing, become Eagle Drivers.

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon — In some respects Class 16-ABK ended like it started — with a flurry of activity. Maybe the best indicator of that is the fact that nearly all six graduates of this class graduated on a different day. That is unusual and it reflects a number of things: the fast pace of fighter pilot training in general, the exceptionally high need for trained pilots in the active Air Force, and the fact that these students — to one degree or another — put their personal lives on hold to successfully navigate this training. All six graduated, earning the coveted Eagle Driver patch over the last seven months.

Upon being asked to reflect on that, 1st Lt. Brock Mcgehee said, “Seven months … to be honest it’s really been 14 years.” That may be the untold story of becoming an Eagle Driver; while we see these students arrive, their training began long ago.

There is an unofficial syllabus on just getting to F-15C pilot training. For many pilots it begins with admission to the U.S. Air Force Academy which can increase their chances of getting into the cockpit of a fighter aircraft, because in the past the academy had a larger share of pilot accessions. A quick visit to the Air Force Academy admissions website details extensive preparation beginning in grade six.

For Air National Guard accessions, they should have a private pilot’s license in hand while competing against as many as 100 other applicants. It can be difficult to distinguish oneself, and for that reason many who pursue this training opt for the academy. Moving past these hurdles is good training, Mcgehee says if it’s a refining process and at each step a person grows, one hopes in proportion to the next challenge.

At Kingsley Field the challenge can be summed up as a mountain of work. Students arrive here and receive a load of manuals that would stack three feet high. In them are the feedback that we usually get is that we have a high standard here and we are proud of the product we send out to the combat units.

-Maj. Ryan Reeves, B-Course Flight Lead

OREGON INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW provides backdrop for “All Call” celebration

Story by Tsgt. John Hughal, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HILLSBORO, Oregon - Past and present members of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) gathered for a celebration as part of a series of events highlighting the 75 years of continuous service during the Oregon International Air Show.

The after-hours all-call celebration gave retired service members and current Airmen of the ORANG a chance to reminisce over dinner and music while propped by vintage and present-day aircraft.

“Today, we celebrate our Diamond Anniversary where we pay tribute to 75 years of honor, community and mission aircraft. propped by vintage and present-day reminisce over dinner and music while gave retired service members and current Air Show.

Oregon International Air Show during the afterhours Anniversary where we pay tribute to 75 years of honor, community and mission aircraft. propped by vintage and present-day reminisce over dinner and music while gave retired service members and current Air Show.

The all-call celebration was part of a series of events that began in April of this year to commemorate the 75 years of service of the Oregon Air National Guard, which was first formed while monitoring the raging wars in Europe and Asia in the early 1940’s.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Silver, ORANG commander, welcomed the nearly 400 people attending and described the history and changing mission over the years.

“When we began to organize tonight’s event, we wanted this celebration to focus on the organization both past and present,” Fred Parrish, the last original surviving member and medic with the 123rd Observation Squadron in WWII, was in attendance, as well as past commanders and leaders from nearly every decade since the formation of the Oregon Air Guard.

With dinner provided by the USO, those attending were able to connect to the current ORANG mission F-15 Eagle aircraft to include the ‘Screamin’ Eagle specially detailed for the Diamond Anniversary year.

Silver also thanked the Oregon International Air Show and staff for their support in hosting the event.

“Given the pace with our mission and resources, we reached out to our friends with the Oregon International Air Show for support and what a party they helped us put together.

In addition to the Eagles from both the 142nd Fighter Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing, other historic aircraft models flown by ORANG were on display: to include a P-51 Mustang and F-94 Starfire that were part of the air show’s flying schedule.

The all-call was the fourth in a series of events around the state this year to celebrate the 75th Anniversary. Previous events included the original anniversary of the formation of the 123rd Observation Squadron held at Portland Air National Guard Base April 18, 2016, and a Flag Day ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Portland Air National Guard Base itself held June 14, 2016. A ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the addition of the 173rd Fighter Wing was held at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, June 27, 2016.

As it turns out, each of the six student pilots of class 16-ABK rose to the challenge and they are headed to either RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, or to Kadima Air Base, Japan. 1st Lt. Scott McGowen, the lone Air National Guard pilot, will return to Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts.

Upon his graduation Capt. Alex Frank is headed to Kadima Air Base but that will follow SERE training for both he and 1st Lt. Garrett Womack. Of the last seven months at Kingsley Frank says, “It was fun … but I’m glad it’s over.”

“IT doesn’t really get any easier, the last ride is the hardest one,” said Maj. Ryan Reeves, Class 16-ABK flight lead. “There’s not really much room for a mistake; I’m happy for those guys and I think they’ll do well.”

Now that they wear the Eagle Driver patch, the attitude toward them shifts. They are no longer students, they are now part of the brotherhood.

“The feedback that we usually get is that we have a high standard here and we are proud of the product we send out to the combat units,” said Reeves.

In the meantime, the schoolhouse has more new students than at any point in its history. Many more will arrive to see their preparation until now is adequate for the job that lies ahead. One thing is for sure, with the increasing demand for well-trained pilots, this schoolhouse will remain busy shepherding students, just like this class, through the toughest training in the Air Force.
Bangladesh and Vietnam representatives tour Special Focus Exercise

HANOI, Vietnam – The first-ever U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Response and Civil-Military Coordination Table Top Exercise (or TTX) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, May 10-14, 2016.

The four-day event included international, regional and national disaster management organizations, militaries, and nongovernmental organizations to assist Vietnam in shaping guidelines for managing international disaster assistance through training briefs and working group sessions.

“Vietnam and the United States have mutual interests in humanitarian assistance and disaster response training and preparation,” said Deputy Chief of Mission Susan Sutton, U.S. Embassy-Hanoi, Vietnam. “(Humanitarian assistance and disaster response) engagements and exchanges are a pillar of our 2011 Defense Cooperation memorandum of understanding. As such, I am delighted to see that we are making significant progress in realizing our defense cooperation commitment.”

Sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) and hosted by Vietnam’s National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), the TTX included participants from the Vietnam People’s Armed Forces, U.S. Embassy, U.S. Pacific Command, Oregon National Guard, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

During the event, nearly 40 U.S. participants and approximately 150 Vietnamese senior leaders and disaster response stakeholders considered whether Vietnam should request international assistance after a fictional super typhoon notionally caused severe damage to several northern and central provinces. The training scenario focused on four areas of expertise: maritime search and rescue, urban search and rescue, chemical spill response, and medical assistance and field hospital deployment.

International response efforts occur at the request of the affected nation. Simulating such a request for assistance provides the two nations an opportunity to address solutions to any interoperability issues within the respective missions sets.

“Discussion dialog, best practices and lessons learned shared between militaries and civilian organizations during this event will continue to increase mutual understanding, trust and confidence in the pursuit of rapid and effective response to save lives and mitigate suffering resulting from natural and manmade disasters,” said Col. Joseph Martin, director of CFE-DM.

In addition to the 2011 U.S.-Vietnam Defense Cooperation memorandum of understanding, the TTX supports the Comprehensive Partnership announced by U.S. President Barack Obama and Vietnam’s President Tran Dai Quang in July 2013.

US-Vietnam Disaster Response Table Top Exercise kicks off in Vietnam

Above: Vietnamese Army Senior Col. Pham Van Ty disembarks from a UH-72 Lakota helicopter to participate in the Oregon Military Department’s Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising, June 9, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.

Left: Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, commander of Joint Domestic Operations, discusses natural disaster threats with Vietnamese Senior Col. Pham Van Ty while taking part in the Oregon Military Department’s Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising, June 9, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.

Right: (From left) Deputy Chief of Mission Susan Sutton, U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Vietnam; Col. Joseph Martin, director of the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM); Col. Tuan Ton, U.S. Defense Attaché; and Jim Welsh, Training and Education Branch chief for CFE-DM, represent the U.S. delegation during the U.S.-Vietnam Disaster Response and Civil-Military Coordination Table Top Exercise in Hanoi, Vietnam, May 11.

Strengthening partnerships and disaster response capabilities

Members of the Oregon National Guard, Consultative General of Vietnam and Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pose for a group photo following their joint meeting, August 6, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The group discussed domestic emergency operations and disaster response capabilities to share techniques that can be used to save lives in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. The Oregon National Guard and Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) have been partners through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program since 2012.


Left: Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, showcases the facilities at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon, to Bangladesh Army Brig. Gen. Ahmed Shahmeem and Vietnamese Senior Col. Pham Van Ty, June 9, during the Oregon Military Department’s Special Focus Exercise, part of Cascadia Rising. The tour showcased logistical challenges involved with a Cascadia Subduction earthquake and following tsunami and was part of the State Partnership Program between the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh, as well as Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM).

Below: Bangladesh and Vietnam representatives tour Special Focus Exercise Fall 2016 Page 12

Story courtesy of Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)

State Partnership Program between the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh, as well as Vietnam’s National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM).
Fall 2016 Page 13

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

$2 mil. for winter storm recovery

SALEM, Oregon - The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that it has awarded Oregon more than $2 million as a portion of the FEMA Public Assistance program allocation for recovery from the severe winter storms, straight-line winds, flooding and landslides occurring December 6-23, 2015. This is one of several awards that are expected to be distributed as a result of the nearly month-long weather events. FEMA’s Public Assistance grants will go to more than 400 eligible projects in 14 counties covering Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.

The Public Assistance program offers supplemental financial assistance on a co-funding basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in designated counties. The program encourages protection of these facilities from future events by providing assistance for certain hazard mitigation measures. Current estimate of eligible damage is approximately $40 million. FEMA reimburses 75 percent of eligible costs and makes grant awards to the state. Oregon manages the grant awards to applicants and is accountable for their use. Of the current grants, approximately $1.2 million is being awarded for three large projects, and about $1 million for water and electric lines, equipment, roadway and trench repairs, and a host of other small projects. Reimbursements for costs of emergency measures taken during response to the storms throughout the 14 affected counties are also flowing to disaster recovery grant applicants.

For more information, contact MAE Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont. “It also points to the state of Oregon’s hard work in this recovery process. They help determine project eligibility.”

FEMA is implementing a new business model to deliver funding for public infrastructure recovery after a disaster. The new model does not represent a change in FEMA’s mission or in what it does, but is intended to improve the quality and efficiency of the recovery process for communities affected by disasters.

The disaster declaration signed by President Obama on Feb. 17, 2016, made FEMA’s Public Assistance recovery program available to declared counties. The state and FEMA have been working closely with local officials since Feb. 17 to identify damage, develop project costs and to deliver funding to assist in the recovery from the December 2015 storms.

SALEM, Oregon – Boaters at Port of Brookings in Curry County will be navigating deeper waters thanks to a $416,250 disaster recovery grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Damage to the harbor, the busiest recreational port in Oregon, resulted from severe weather of December 10, 2015. Soaking rains triggered heavy sediment deposits shed by floodwaters from stream tributaries and a failed culvert. Thousands of cubic yards of materials settled on the harbor floor restricting boat access to the Ice House pier service area.

The federal grant will help pay for the dredging and hauling away of 9,325 cubic yards of sediment. Federal disaster recovery funds for this event come through FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) Program. The program offers 75 percent — or $416,250 in this grant — of eligible costs for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. The remaining 25 percent will come from non-federal sources such as state or local governments. The PA program also encourages protection of damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for certain hazard mitigation measures.

This arm of FEMA’s disaster assistance focuses on public infrastructure — infrastructure that residents, communities and local governments depend upon in Oregon,” said State Coordinating Officer Clint Fella of Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management. President Barack Obama signed a major disaster declaration Feb. 17, 2016, making federal dollars available to 14 Oregon counties to help them recover from severe storms of Dec. 6-23, 2015, that caused landslides, mudslides, flooding and more than 100 road closures. Eligible entities include local and state governments and agencies, and certain private nonprofit organizations. FEMA leadership takes keen interest in Oregon’s recovery; the state agreed to be the first implementation of a new Public Assistance Program delivery initiative intended to improve efficiency in delivering federal infrastructure dollars.

“Once FEMA funds are obligated for eligible projects, the state administers the program, but a robust partnership with Oregon has been in place since the disaster declaration,” said Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont.

Port of Brookings was also significantly damaged in 2011 by the tsunami resulting from the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off Japan’s coast.

Radio test enhances media sharing

A radio captures a message on a channel developed to share information with media partners. May 27. FEMA Region X issued a test message during an emergency communications exercise to the State of Oregon and the State of Washington via 5.3305 MHz channel to test capabilities to relay information to the media via radio when all other forms of communication are down.

Story and photos by Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon - On May 27, FEMA Region X issued a test message during an emergency communications exercise to the State of Oregon and the State of Washington via 5.3305 MHz channel to test capabilities to relay information to the media via radio when all other forms of communication are down. After hearing the message, media outlets sent confirmation emails to FEMA Region X to verify the message was received.

The test took place while several state and city agencies, as well as Oregon tribes, were participating in one of the largest-ever regional disaster exercises, called “Cascadia Rising,” which tested the ability of the state to respond to a Cascadia earthquake and tsunami. June 7-10. Many communications components were tested including the ability to share critical, life saving information. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management, along with FEMA and other local and regional agencies, have been working to develop networks and best practices for working with media partners to get alerts and warnings to the public.

Media interested in learning more about how to get onto the radio channel and information during emergencies are encouraged to contact the DHS FEMA Region X News Desk (425) 487-4610; FEMA-R10-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov; Twitter: @FEMARRegion10.

Story courtesy of Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon - The Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that it has awarded Oregon more than $2 million as a portion of the FEMA Public Assistance program allocation for recovery from the severe winter storms, straight-line winds, flooding and landslides occurring December 6-23, 2015. This is one of several awards that are expected to be distributed as a result of the nearly month-long weather events. FEMA’s Public Assistance grants will go to more than 400 eligible projects in 14 counties covering Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill. The Public Assistance program offers supplemental financial assistance on a co-funding basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities in designated counties. The program encourages protection of these facilities from future events by providing assistance for certain hazard mitigation measures. Current estimate of eligible damage is approximately $40 million. FEMA reimburses 75 percent of eligible costs and makes grant awards to the state. Oregon manages the grant awards to applicants and is accountable for their use. Of the current grants, approximately $1.2 million is being awarded for three large projects, and about $1 million for water and electric lines, equipment, roadway and trench repairs, and a host of other small projects. Reimbursements for costs of emergency measures taken during response to the storms throughout the 14 affected counties are also flowing to disaster recovery grant applicants.

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**FEATURES**

### 2-218th brings the boom to the 1812 Overture in Portland

**PORTLAND, Oregon –** The Oregon Army National Guard helped kick-off the 2016-2017 season of the Oregon Symphony during the 20th annual Waterfront Concert at Tom McCall Waterfront Park in Portland, Oregon, Sept. 1.

The concert was closed with a Howitzer salute during the symphony’s grand finale. Citizen-Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, fired volleys from their Howitzer cannons during the symphony’s rendition of Peter Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, written in memory of the War of 1812.

The free, public event has been a summer-ending capstone for the city of Portland for the last 20 years, and signals the start of the Oregon Symphony’s new season. More than a thousand people attended the event, and spent time mingling with Soldiers from the unit, who answered questions about the Howitzers.

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### Seattle Seahawks visit Oregon Guard members at USO in Portland

Christine Vu (left), center manager for USO Northwest’s Center at Portland International Airport (PDX), receives a token of appreciation from Seattle Seahawks NFL football players, center Joey Hunt (second from left), offensive lineman George Fant (center), and retired receiver Ricardo Lockette (right), during a ‘Meet and Greet’ with U.S. military service members, July 15, in Portland, Oregon. The Seahawks players and Sea Gals cheerleaders visited with military service members, including members of the Oregon National Guard, at the USO in the PDX airport as part of ‘The 12 Tour.’

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### Honor Guard brings the colors to KISS Freedom Rock Concert

Above: Members of the Oregon Army National Guard cheer for the band KISS during the “Freedom to Rock” concert at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene, Oregon, July 9, 2016. The Oregon National Guard Soldiers displayed the American flag while KISS performed the National Anthem and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance during a patriotic tribute to U.S. military and veterans at the concert.

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Photos by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Army National Guard

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, OMD Public Affairs
Soldier takes Olympic silver after disqualification is overturned

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Spc. Paul Chelimo relied on the strength he developed as a Soldier to get through the men’s 5,000-meter run at the Rio Olympic Games, where he eventually claimed the silver medal.

On the way to the medal race, Chelimo ran his personal best time of 13 minutes 19.54 seconds to win his qualifying heat on Wednesday, Aug. 17. At the finals, Saturday, Aug. 20, he pushed past that personal best by more than 15 seconds to finish runner-up to Great Britain’s Mo Farah in 13:03.94.

But his greatest challenge came moments after the race, when an NBC journalist informed him that he had been disqualified for lane infringement.

“Getting the news from the television reporter that I was disqualified, that was the most heartbreaking thing in my life,” said Chelimo, 25, a native of Iten, Kenya, who trains in Beaverton, Oregon, as a Soldier in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program.

The race featured a lot of pushing, shoving and stumbling by numerous runners throughout, and came down to a frenetic sprint to the finish in the final 200 meters.

“I was really tactical two or three laps into the race with two Ethiopians trying to lead,” Chelimo said. “I was trying to stay in between them, but they wouldn’t let me. They kept pushing me and kept blocking me the whole time because they were working as a team.”

Once Farah had worked his way to the front, Chelimo knew he had to work his way out of the box or other runners could pass on the outside to collect the silver and bronze medals.

“I was the guy inside in lane one, the guy inside behind Mo Farah,” Chelimo said. “I couldn’t stay there the whole time. I wanted to medal, too, so I had to look for position to get out and go into contention.”

During that process, track officials briefly disqualified Chelimo for stepping on the inside lane line, but the disqualification was overturned upon appeal, and Chelimo won his silver medal.

“They said it was infringement, but going back to what happened is people were pushing back and forth,” Chelimo explained.

The appeal process was the longest wait of his life, Chelimo said. Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, who attended the games as a member of President Barack Obama’s U.S. Delegation to Brazil, said the entire delegation was pulling for Chelimo.

“I’m only here because of these Army Soldiers,” Fanning said. “That’s the reason I’m part of this delegation. But it was fun for the entire delegation to have an extra reason to cheer, not just for the United States but for the Army, so they were screaming loudly for him: ‘Who’s your Soldier?’”

One of the delegation members, four-time Olympian and six-time Olympic medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee, believed all along that Chelimo would be reinstated.

“Pushing and shoving is a part of the sport,” Joyner-Kersee said. “That’s what you do, so I was glad to see our track and field federation was on it and got the protest in there. We prevailed, and I was glad to see him up on that podium.”

For Chelimo, now that the Olympics are over, his real work begins. As a Soldier and member of the World Class Athlete Program, he will take his medal on tour throughout the U.S. as a trainer and an inspiration to America’s youth.

The WCAP Soldier-Olympians, when not actively training or competing in international competitions, participate in recruiting and training missions.

WCAP members recently visited Fort Gordon, Georgia, where they assisted with the events at the local Best Warrior Competitions.

“We’re taking the skills and training that we learn in WCAP and teaching them to Soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson, who competed in the rapid fire pistol event at Rio. “We show them how they can apply the lessons we’ve learned in competition to their daily jobs and to the war-fighting effort.”

From nutrition to weight-training to proper sleep patterns, the Soldier-Olympians remain ambassadors even after they return to their regular units and normal duties.

Liliana Ayalde, U.S. Ambassador to Brazil, said she was impressed with Chelimo and urged him to “be a role model to let others know that it can be done with hard work, with training, with discipline.”

“Despite the obstacles, you just keep going,” Ayalde told Chelimo the morning after the race. “That takes a lot of mental preparation, and it says a lot about you.”

Chelimo said he was eager to fill that role.

“Especially with all the young high school kids, that’s my main focus right now,” Chelimo told Ayalde. “I want to encourage and motivate all of the high school kids. I really want to motivate them and give them confidence.”

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Dan Browne, coach of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program distance runners, who sweated through the disqualification and reinstatement process along with everyone else, was not surprised by the outcome.

“I believed in my heart special things were going to happen,” Browne said, “and I’m so appreciative and thankful that it did come through. All the training paid off.”

“Hard work and perseverance works,” Chelimo agreed.
173rd Fighter Wing celebrates their heritage at Kingsley Field

Story and photos by
Tec. Sg. Jefferson Thompson,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon - The Oregon Air National Guard was born 75 years ago and the fighter squadron at Kingsley Field became the 173rd Fighter Wing 20 years ago. Guardsmen from around the community, both past and present, gathered in a celebration ceremony in the main hangar, June 27, commemorating the history that laid the groundwork for today’s mission.

“The 173rd Fighter Wing is all about relationships and chronologically,” said former wing commander retired Col. Billy Cox. “It actually starts in 1963 at the Air Force Academy.

Cox, in his remarks, mapped out how this Air National Guard wing can trace its roots to a friendship between two cadets who met at the academy and subsequently served in a secret organization called the “Misty” FIST FAC’s during the Vietnam Conflict. There are too many turns on that map to detail them all, but he says Maj. Gen. Don Sheppard, commander, and Retired Maj. Gen. Ronald Fogelman played an important part in the creation of the 173rd Fighter Wing. Cox met Sheppard very randomly when he had to undergo centrifuge training before converting to the F-16 airframe in August 1988. The only available centrifuge was in Pennsylvania and upon arrival he met another traveling pilot by the name of Don Sheppard. The two shared a moment watching pilots pull G-forces on closed-circuit TV they agreed the G’s were too scary but getting to Kingsley Field was worth it.

Cox’s remarks serve as a reminder that it was relationships that provided a last subtle nudge that kept the gates open.

Retired Brig. Gen. David Ward, a former Oregon Air National Guard Commander, recounted an earlier piece of Kingsley Field’s history, describing how the Oregon Air Guard began its flying mission at this small, Southern Oregon base.

“To me, this is my oak tree,” said Ward. “I happened to be on the phone with my counterpart at the Guard Bureau and at the end of the conversation he dropped a little nugget, ‘By the way we’re looking for a base to start a four-aircraft training detachment.’” Ward replied, “I think I know just the place.”

That began a period in which idle buildings were reopened for the first time in a decade and the “Land of No Slack” was born. Base historian Maj. Ryan Bartholomew relates that Retired Lt. Col. Bill Morris, a former base commander, remembers driving a bob cat tractor to remove years of accumulated bird droppings from the main hangar floor so it could house aircraft again.

“Every time I come down here, I am absolutely amazed,” said Ward of the current mission which currently has more than 30 jets on the ramp and is poised to grow further. “So you can see why I call this my oak tree, that little acorn, that nugget of information that got planted by happenstance has resulted in all of this.”

In summing up those years Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, addressed Ward and Cox saying, “I can’t tell you how much we’ve learned from what you’ve done, and how proud we are of what you’ve done.” He went on to say that follows their example and actively markets the good things that the wing is doing. He added that one of his primary focuses lies in identifying what will keep the base viable in years to come. “As we look at this aging air frame you have to ask yourself what is next,” said Smith, “because of the foundation of excellence these two gentlemen have given us … we are in a position now where, if this airplane’s in jeopardy, I’m not worried about this base.” He explained that the last decades of excellence, of overcoming challenges, makes Kingsley Field a proud and relevant place in the National Guard.

“We’re a Total Force team, defending our nation and peacetime tasking any time, any place,” said Cox, “and I wrote the guy I’d stood in line with at the academy and not a wing, and after a trip to Washington where he was told that Kingsley Field would never become a wing. "I happened to be on the phone with the systematic use of airpower. Airmen, aviation and all the ingenuity required of this new dimension were born. The National Guard is always ready, always there,” said Fitzgerald. “Our military history in Oregon is a testament to this commitment.”

With more than 1,000 Airmen, the 142nd Fighter Wing guards the Pacific Northwest sky from northern California to the Canadian border, on 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert as part of Air Combat Command and the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command. Our mission is to provide trained and ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime tasking any time, any place, for the nation, state and community. The fighting “Redhawks” are proud to serve as a vital part of the Total Force team, defending our nation, state and community.

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