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Bangladesh Army delegation observes Oregon National Guard training

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

UMATILLA, Oregon – A delegation of senior Bangladesh Army personnel paid a visit to the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI), near Umatilla, Oregon, as part of the State Partnership Program, March 14-16. Through the State Partnership relationship between Oregon and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Army hopes to enhance their non-commissioned officer (NCO) training program.

“Increasing the proficiency and caliber of our non-commissioned officers is one of our top priorities,” said Razzaque. “I hope we can continue to work together to

See Bangladesh on Page 4

Oregon Army National Guard changes command

Story by Christopher L. Ingersoll,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Col. William Edwards, of Albany, Oregon, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, April 2, at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Oregon. He assumed command of the Oregon Army National Guard (Land Component) from Brig. Gen. Todd A. Plimpton in a change of command ceremony, April 3, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon.

The Oregon National Guard’s Land Component Command oversees all Army operations for the State of Oregon and is responsible for more than 6,000 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers. The Land Component has oversight over the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command) and a number of other tenant units from other commands located in Oregon.

Most recently, Edwards was assigned as the Director of Operations (J3) for the Joint Domestic Operations Command, where he led the development of contingency plans, operations and exercises for the Oregon National Guard’s role in emergency response. A Citizen-Soldier for more than 29 years, he has served in the Army National Guard in Pennsylvania, New York and Oregon.

In his civilian career, Edwards is an employee of Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis, Oregon. In his 20 years with HP, he has contributed both individually and as an engineering project manager. He currently manages a team of engineers in HP’s Advanced Technology and Platforms Solutions organization.

“Colonel Edwards epitomizes the Citizen-Soldier and has the kind of experience that will make him a great general officer,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. “The Oregon National Guard is proud to see Bill join the general

See Edwards on Page 2
It is hard to believe that we are rolling into the third quarter of the 2016 training year. Many of our units will perform annual training this quarter, while others will be participating in national, regional and state exercises to maintain and improve our readiness for natural disasters.

We will continue to improve our facilities, field new vehicles and equipment, support exercises and overseas mobilizations, and assist first responders, all while continuing local community outreach. Every member of this amazing organization contributes to maintaining a ready force equipped and trained to respond to any contingency.

It is incredibly humbling to serve as your Adjutant General. What I have come to learn is that we must lead this team, there is no greater honor than to serve alongside each and every member of this ‘family’ organization. Although we continue to be one of the best in the nation, I challenge each and every one of you to view yourself as a leader within our organization and to continuously seek improvement in everything you do, every day.

That is the task at hand. Your missions are more secure if we are fully manned. We need to keep filling our ranks with Oregon’s best and brightest. Considering those who have already demonstrated their talent and willingness to work hard. The Secretary of Defense has declared that our top priority is women, which means the talon pool from which we can draw upon has doubled. We need to ensure that all qualified Oregon National Guardsmen and women have an equal opportunity to include the diversity of our forces and reach out to enlist talented women to be Soldiers and Airmen.

Lastly, we have had some recent leadership changes. I would like to thank Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpment for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the Oregon Army National Guard. His list of accomplishments while serving as our first Land Component Commander is impressive. He has poised our Guard for success as we head toward 2020.

I welcome Brig. Gen. Bill Edwards to the chair of the challenge of ensuring that the Land Component achieves even greater success. He is the right leader at the right time. His leadership will transform us to continue to improve the Oregon Army National Guard in the years ahead.

On the Air side of the house, after a brief tenure as the Acting Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (Air Component Office – ACO) he is now assigned as the Adjutant General (ATAG) – Air, for Joint Domestic Operations. He most recently served as the Assistant Adjutant General (AAAG) – Air, and Training and Readiness, and always keep safety in mind.

Hold your heads high and always be proud – you serve in the Oregon National Guard! Always Ready! Always There!

Edwards promoted, Plimpment scheduled to retire

Continued from Front Page

of officer ranks.”

Edwards first enlisted as a forward observer in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1983, where he completed the Basic Course, he took up graduate studies in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1986 and joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1996. His background includes many leadership responsibilities to include Training, and senior leadership experience as the Commander of Joint Domestic Operations, and senior leadership experience in both the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings. Additionally, his deployment experience includes serving as the Deputy Commander for Special Operations, Expeditionary Task Force, Air Component Coordination Element – U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

Edwards moved to Oregon in 1996 and was assigned as executive officer of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, and took command of that company in September 1996. He then became the operations officer for 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry, where his service included the unit’s yearlong deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2005, Edwards was assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team as assistant operations officer, where his service included a month-long deployment to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts. In August 2006, Edwards returned to the 2-162nd Infantry Battalion as the executive officer and then took command of the unit in October 2007. He led the battalion through a successful mobilization and ten-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After his battalion command, Edwards began resident studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, graduating in June 2011. He then took command of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in October 2011, where his service included preparation, mobilization and deployment of more than 400 soldiers from the brigade to Afghanistan in 2014.

“I am humbled by the opportunity and I am humbled by the responsibility,” said Edwards at his promotion ceremony. “I will try to earn it every day with the Soldiers and Airmen.”

Brig. Gen. Todd A. Plimpment, of Lovelock, Nevada, is scheduled to retire following a 33-year military career. He has been serving as the Land Component Commander for the Oregon Army National Guard since 2010. Plimpment is also a partner with the law firm of Belanger & Plimpton, in Lovelock, Nevada.

Plimpment began his career in the Nevada Army National Guard in 1983, where he served as the assistant operations officer in the 421st Signal Battalion after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant through Officer Candidate School in 1986. The new position permanently assigned as the Commander.

“Always Ready! Always There!”
Crosby promoted as he takes charge of Joint Domestic Operations

Story by Ssgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. Mark A. Crosby was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, March 11, at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon. Crosby served as Assistant Adjutant General for Air, for Joint Domestic Operations. He oversees Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) which supports and partners with civilian agencies to provide a joint domestic response team to save lives and protect property during national emergencies. In his civilian job, Crosby is the Director of Public Safety and Security at the Portland International Airport and the Port of Portland.

In a change of command ceremony directed by Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program, where he works extensively with staff in the partner nations, the Embassies, the U.S. Pacific Command, and the National Guard Bureau. The joint program seeks opportunities to share domestic emergency response techniques with Bangladesh and Vietnam, Oregon’s state partner nations.

Prior to this new assignment as Joint Domestic Operations commander, Crosby most recently served as director of Strategic Plans and Policies/Force Structure while also serving as commander of the Combat Operations Group and as Oregon’s State Partnership Program director since September 2010.

“Mark’s background includes many assignments involving domestic emergency response and preparedness, as well as combat communications units. Coupled with his experience leading Oregon’s State Partnership Program, he is uniquely qualified to oversee Joint Domestic Operations,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Crosby was first commissioned in May 1986 and remained in the active duty Air Force until 1993. He joined the California Air National Guard in April 1993 and served as the State Emergency Plans Officer until he transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard in June 1998.

Throughout his career in the Oregon Air National Guard, Crosby has served as State Emergency Plans officer, deputy director of Support (C4), director of Communications (J6), and the deputy commander of the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST). In these positions, he led efforts in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA), state mission planning, strategic planning, and oversight of Oregon’s bioterrorism response team. Crosby has previously served as commander of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) and the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron.

Oregon judge promoted to general officer, assists Air Force JAG

Story by Christopher L. Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Col. Daniel Bunch was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, February 19, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Bunch is serving as the Air National Guard’s (ANG) Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG) of the United States Air Force and a senior member of the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Council.

Bunch assists with legal oversight functions pertaining to the Air National Guard. He provides leadership and planning for all ANG legal offices, including assistant judge advocates, prosecutors and advocates throughout the nation. As the DJAG’s assistant, Bunch oversees all Air National Guard (ANG) matters and works closely with the ANG Assistant to the Judge Advocate General (JAGC) concerning the leadership and management of ANG judge advocates and paralegals worldwide.

“Dan’s selection to the rank of brigadier general is a direct result to the excellence in leadership and his professional qualifications,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Daniel Bunch, the Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG) of the United States Air Force, stands between his wife (left) and daughter (right) as they pin on his new rank of brigadier general during his promotion ceremony at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, February 19.

“Colonel Bunch’s work as the Deputy Judge Advocate General recognizes his skill and character and we, the Oregon National Guard, are proud to call him one of ours,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

“Colonel Bunch has served in numerous legal positions throughout his military career. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1990 to 1994, the U.S. Air Force from 1994 to 1998, the reserve and then the Oregon Air National Guard. He was the Staff Judge Advocate for the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of the Law and Order Task Force in which he commanded a joint force of military and civilian legal specialists in an effort to establish an Iraqi judicial system. Bunch has also served as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and in the National Additional Duty Program.

Bunch 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, Bunch is a circuit court judge in Klamath County, Oregon, having general jurisdiction over civil and criminal matters. Throughout his legal career, Bunch has worked as a prosecutor in the state of Alaska, as a private practice attorney in Oregon, and as County Counsel of Klamath County, Oregon. Additionally, he was an adjunct professor for the Oregon Institute of Technology for several years before taking the bench. He has participated in several boards, including Citizens for Safe Schools and was a founding board member of Klamath County’s First Charter school, Eagle Ridge.

Bunch has served in the Oregon National Guard since June 1998, as the Staff Judge Advocate for the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq in support of the Law and Order Task Force and was the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and the National Additional Duty Program. Bunch has served as a prosecutor in the state of Alaska, as a private practice attorney in Oregon, and as County Counsel of Klamath County, Oregon. Additionally, he was an adjunct professor for the Oregon Institute of Technology for several years before taking the bench. He has participated in several boards, including Citizens for Safe Schools and was a founding board member of Klamath County’s First Charter school, Eagle Ridge.

173rd Fighter Wing changes command, Pierce promoted to serve in D.C.

Story courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KINGSLEY FIELD, Oregon – Colonel Jeffrey Smith took command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in a ceremony, April 3, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Smith is now the senior officer responsible for organizing, training and equipping the largest F-15C/D wing in the Air National Guard. He exercises oversight and command of an integrated, total force wing comprised of active duty and Air National Guard Airmen, four groups, an intelligence fighter training unit, and the Total Force program – a course that familiarizes flight surgeons with the physiological challenges of operating in a high-G environment.

Smith has more than 20 years of military experience, including ten years with the active duty Air Force. He is a graduate of the Oregon Air National Guard since 2005, where he held numerous positions including the 173rd Maintenance Group Commander, 173rd Maintenance Squadron Commander, and the 114th Fighter Squadron Director of Operations. During his career, he has seen multiple deployments, to include Operation Iraqi and Northern Watch.

“Colonel Smith is one of Kingsley’s own, with strong relationships at the national level. I have no doubt that he will successfully carry on the 173rd Fighter Wing’s legacy of excellence,” said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver, Oregon Air National Guard Commander.

Smith replaces Col. Kirk Pierce, who was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a separate ceremony, April 3, at Kingsley Field. Pierce has been selected for a senior staff position at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. He was the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and as Oregon’s State Partnership Program director since September 2010. Pierce has commanded the 173rd Fighter Wing since January 2015.

“Colonel Pierce’s promotion to the rank of brigadier general is directly attributable to his outstanding leadership and professional qualifications,” said Maj. Gen. Mike Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. “His work during his tenure as the commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing is only the most recent testament to his talent.”

Pierce has served in various operational and command assignments throughout his military career. He served as the commander of the 1218th Fighter Squadron and 113th Operations Group at Joint Base Andrews, Md., as well as the Chief of Strategy and Analysis Division with the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C.

D.C. Additionally, he was the Director of Air, Space, and Cyber Operations for the National Guard Bureau, as well as the Senior Military Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy - Strategy and Force Development at the Pentagon. Before taking command of the 173rd Fighter Wing, he served as the Director for Plans and Programs for the Air National Guard. He is a command pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours and several combat tours of duty.
116th Air Control Squadron demobilized in welcome home ceremony

More than 90 Citizen-Airmen with the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon National Guard, were honored during a demobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, Jan. 22, after returning from their deployment in the Middle East.

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

PORTLAND, Oregon – More than 90 Citizen-Airmen from the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS) were welcomed home in a formal demobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, Jan. 22.

The 116th ACS, based at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon, is a deployable air control and radar/communications unit. Members of the 116th ACS deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates from May to November 2015.

In attendance at the ceremony were Oregon Governor Kate Brown, U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader; Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, and many other special guests and supporters.

“I’m very proud of the example you have set, not only for the Oregon National Guard, but the entire U.S. Air Force,” said Stencel.

“You efforts and teamwork in this mission have contributed to the continued security of a very volatile area where events have global impacts and long lasting consequences,” continued Stencel.

The Airmen operated and maintained surveillance, communications and air space management systems to support coalition air operations in and around the Arabian Gulf area of responsibility. They provided support for Operations Inherent Resolve (OIR), Resolute Support (ORS), Combined Defense of the Arabian Gulf (CDAG), and Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS).

The Airmen worked with joint service and coalition personnel to operate and maintain the world’s largest control and reporting center.

Their knowledge and manpower provided a picture of the theater of operations, ensuring the defense of seven Arabian Gulf nations, the safety of 27,900 aircraft across 13 countries, and enabling the disruption of enemy forces throughout the region.

“It’s taken nothing short of a continual focus, determination, planning and coordination to ensure the right people were assigned the right missions, and for this unit to accomplish the amazing things they did,” said Stencel. “They have come back to us more trained and experienced than ever before.”

Bangladesh and Oregon academies exchange NCO training techniques

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achieve an even higher level of success at our academy in Bangladesh.”

State Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, Oregon National Guard, along with senior instructors of the 249th RTI’s NCO academy hosted the Bangladeshi contingent during their three-day visit. Lake also plans to visit the NCO Academy in Bangladesh in the future.

“The continued partnership of NCO professional development is an area where the enduring relationships continue to grow and expand,” said Lake. “Seeing the Bangladesh Army’s commitment to this event and the importance of the empowerment of NCOs, as well as outlining specific steps with tentative future engagements, is very encouraging to all stakeholders.”

The visit included training presentations, academy and training site tours at Camp Umatilla, and one-on-one discussions with the instructors and administrative personnel at Oregon’s NCO academy.

The Bangladesh Army delegation learned training techniques and best practices to use at their own academy.

“It was a very positive event that resulted in instructor exchange agreements and we look forward to continuing our partnership,” said Maj. Timothy Merritt, second officer with the 249th RTI. He said the RTI hopes to send instructors to the NCO Academy in Bangladesh through the State Partnership in the future.

Oregon and Bangladesh have been formal partners through the State Department’s State Partnership Program since 2008. Since the partnership began, the Oregon National Guard and Bangladesh have cooperated in many disaster-response training exercises and other cooperative training programs to enhance capabilities of both partners. This new chapter in their relationship, sharing NCOA knowledge and training practices, is a first for both nations.

“This visit marks a tremendous opportunity for both the Bangladesh Army and the Oregon National Guard,” said Sgt. Major James L. Campbell Jr., senior enlisted National Guard advisor for U.S. Army Pacific. “Bangladesh is making the commitment to increasing the professionalism of their NCO corps and empower them because they see the value in it.”

Campbell also discussed the benefits of joint training objectives, such as training courses conducted at the 249th RTI that combine active duty and National Guard Soldiers.

“Oregon is showcasing that we are one Army and that the Guard is willing and capable of supporting the objectives of the combatant commander,” he said.
Blue Line project helps coastal communities practice tsunami safety

Story and photos by Cory Grogan
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Oregon is leading innovative tsunami wayfinding enhancements on the West Coast with a project called the Tsunami Blue Line to purchase materials for local communities to mark tsunami evacuation routes and install new tsunami evacuation signs. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinated the project with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to utilize funding from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation program.

“The Tsunami Blue Line pilot project is one of several ways Oregonians are working to prepare for tsunamis,” said OEM Geologic Hazards Coordinator Althea Rizzo.

The project is one of the first of its kind in the U.S., inspired by a recent program developed in New Zealand by the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office. Communities paint a blue line, with additional signage on the roadway, along the line leading to the evacuation zone. The Oregon pilot project took place in the communities of Florence, Reedsport, Coos Bay and Gold Beach, where blue line markers are installed on selected routes.

“We want to help people get to high ground quickly, and Oregon has been working for several years to develop how we mark and define tsunami evacuation routes,” added Rizzo. “Now is a good time to practice using tsunami evacuation routes and get familiar with how far up and inland you will have to go, and how long it will take.”

Depending where you are on the Oregon coast, it could take from five to 30 minutes to get to high ground. There is an online tool to find tsunami routes at oregon tsunami.gov.

“All you have to do is type in your address, find the route and practice,” said Rizzo. “Encouraging people to practice their routes to safety is one of the best ways to save lives during a tsunami.”

OEM coordinated with city officials in coastal communities to walk across a blue line into their tsunami safety zone as part of the Tsunami WalkOut Blue Line Project, March 11, on the five year anniversary of the Tohoku subduction earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan in 2011.

The Japanese subduction zone that led to a massive earthquake and tsunami is similar to the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the coast of Oregon.

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and OEM Director Andrew Phelps participated in the WalkOut in Florence.

“This March we commemorate the five-year anniversary of the devastating subduction zone earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku, Japan,” said Phelps. “The Blue Line project is an innovative way to practice and teach tsunami safety in Oregon.”

The Blue Line Project is one of several ways the state is working to promote tsunami safety.

Weapon simulator increases proficiency, morale during drill

BAKER CITY, Oregon – Pfc. Bailey Frasch learned first-hand the considerable advantage that proper instruction on an M-2 .50-caliber machine gun can deliver on the battlefield during a training session at the Oregon Army National Guard Armory in Baker City, March 5.

Frasch, assigned to Fox Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, spent most of her day training, firing and learning the details of the M-2, all inside a classroom at the armory.

In preparation for Fox Company’s annual training stint later this spring, Guardsmen from the unit practiced on an Un-stabilized Gunnery Trainer, or UGT-I, a simulator designed to train individual gunners in accordance with U.S. Army standards.

At first glance the mock-up – designed to simulate a turret-mounted M-2 – is a compact arrangement complete with turret ring and slim, manual hand-crank and a foot-powered manual traverse platform. The apparatus is powered by a small computer with the scenarios played out on a screen where Soldiers engage simulated targets.

“It is supposed to prepare Soldiers to actually go out and fire the weapon. It is really good training,” said Spc. David Iverson, who spearheaded the training.

Iverson, of Union, Oregon, said the simulator furnishes not only needed familiarization on the big M-2 but also helps improve gunnery scores during qualification.

“There is a dramatic increase in performance on the range. It gets everyone familiar with the weapon without the safety concerns,” he said.

Iverson said there are other programs for the simulator geared toward different weapons systems, including the Mark-19 grenade launcher and the M240 machine gun.

For Frasch, age 19, the experience proved to be great training. “It is pretty cool,” she said. “Once you get the hang of it, it is pretty simple.”

Frasch, a resident of Parma, Idaho, who works for the City of Nyssa, Oregon, as an assistant city clerk, is still fairly new to the Guard and the 3rd Battalion. She said she was invited to join the military by a close relative.

“When my aunt came back from her deployment to Kuwait, I told myself I wanted to be just like her. When I saw her in uniform, I knew right then and there that is what I wanted to do with my life,” she said.

Frasch said she views her experience in the Guard as a way to give back to her community.

“Anything to help someone is good enough for me to do,” she said.
Artillerymen celebrate heritage, induct members into Saint Barbara

PORTLAND, Oregon – Despite the rain and the typical Friday-evening traffic that clogged main arterial ways, two hundred military members and their significant others converged on the city of Portland, Oregon, on December 11, 2015. Their destination was the Embassy Suites Downtown to attend the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment banquet in honor of Saint Barbara, the Patron Saint of the Field Artillery.

Men in bow ties and women in high-heels were an elegant contrast to Portlandia’s usual attire of blue jeans, Birkenstocks, and hemp jewelry. A frenzy of excitement and anticipation filled the hall to overflowing; Soldiers took pictures to filter through the hotel lobby. In military terms, it was an “occupation.” Hotel guests looked upon the activities in bewilderment asking, “Who are you guys?”

Saint Barbara is the most anticipated event for all field artillerymen. This year was especially distinctive as the battalion recognized its long lineage with Alpha Battery reaching 150 years in existence. Alpha Battery was established in 1866. It is the oldest artillery unit west of the Mississippi River.

Distinguished guests included Brig. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, Col. (promotable) William Edwards; Col. (Ret.) Robert Tomsic; Col. (Ret.) John Sneed; Col. (Ret.) Sunny Edwards; Col. (Ret.) Robert Tomasovic; Chief Master Sgt. Ulana Cole and her husband, Clint. Attending his first Saint Barbara event, the adjutant general addressed the audience in jest, “Fighter pilots have a saying that there are two types of airplanes - fighters and targets. I was talking to this guy earlier, maybe some of you know him, he said he went by ‘Frank the Tank.’ He told me that there is an artilleryman corollary to this, that there are two types of people – artillerymen and targets,” he said to the roar of the vivacious crowd.

Guest speaker, John R. Bruning, historian and author of the famed Devil’s Sandbox, smartly tied together the significance of the evening’s activities with eloquence. Story after story, he provided historical ingredients were a sock and engine oil. The overall 2015 Category 1 Airmen of the Year recipient was Master Sgt. Mathew A. Jenkins, of the 123rd Weather Flight.

Upon completion of reorganization, the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion will be able to gain even greater capability and range with the imminent fielding of M777A2 Howitzers. GPS-guided, one hundred pound projectiles fired at a distance of 40-kilometers (25 miles) to strike within 20-feet of an enemy target is a game changer.

After the speeches it was time for “Artillery Punch.” The legend maintains the Artillery Punch is a substantive brew of medicinal value to cure what ails you, or at the very least, ensures that you do not care.

“Charge one!” shouted Capt. Robert Gruber, Wingman of the Year. The audience responded in a thunderous, “Charge one,” as he poured the contents of the jug into the grog bowl. “This process continued as each battery commander and member of the battalion gathered ingredients and infused their determined liqueur into the grog until all charges were dispensed — one through seven. The final ingredients were a sock and engine oil.

Shortly after completion of the punch ceremony, the battalion inducted those honored by the United States Field Artillery Association and a committee of their leadership into the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara for significant contributions to the field artillery community. The 2015 recipients were: from left: Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Ward, Capt. Robert Gruber, Maj. Jonathan Vanhorn, and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller. Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Terry Miller received the Ancient Honor of Saint Barbara for conspicuous long-term and exceptional service to the artillery and for service at the brigade level. The festivities concluded with singing the “Caisson Song.” It is a song which the Army unceremoniously plagiarized and renamed the “Army Song.”

Additionaly, many attendees took a short stroll to nearby Voodoo Donuts for a literal midnight snack. One of the many iconic signs within Portland Weird mural on SW 3rd Ave and SW Ankeny St. However, there was nothing weird about the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion celebrating its heritage and building upon esprit de corps with these annual traditions.

The battalion will celebrate the solemn mysteries of the traditional brotherhood of “stonehurlers, archers, catapulters, rocketeers and gunners” again next year on December 9, 2016. Additionally, many attendees took a short stroll to nearby Voodoo Donuts for a literal midnight snack. One of the many iconic signs within Portland Weird mural on SW 3rd Ave and SW Ankeny St. However, there was nothing weird about the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion celebrating its heritage and building upon esprit de corps with these annual traditions.

The after party commenced with a silent auction and casino night with appropriate Blackjack and Poker tables. Additionally, many attendees took a short stroll to nearby Voodoo Donuts for a literal midnight snack. One of the many iconic signs within Portland Weird mural on SW 3rd Ave and SW Ankeny St. However, there was nothing weird about the 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion celebrating its heritage and building upon esprit de corps with these annual traditions.

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This page is intentionally left blank for the Oregon Army National Guard retention poster on the reverse side.
Why Reenlist?

Extension Bonus
Extend for 6 years and receive up to $12,000 *
Extend for 2 years and receive up to $4,000 *

Health, Dental and Life Insurance
The National Guard offers you and your family inexpensive healthcare, dental insurance and low-cost life insurance that pays up to $400,000

Financial Benefits
The first $6,000 of your military income can be deducted from your state taxes. Continue receiving a paycheck to help offset your monthly expenses.

Education
Up to $50,000 Student Loan Repayment *
Up to a four year Minuteman Scholarship *
GI Bill
Federal Tuition Assistance

Retirement
If you serve 20 years or more, you will be entitled to retirement benefits.

Change Careers
Apply to be a full time AGR or FED TECH
Change your MOS and you may qualify for a conversion bonus *
Become an Officer or Warrant Officer *
All career fields are now open to women

Home Loans
Guard members may be eligible for home loans with little to no down payment

Comaraderie
Maintain those strong relationships with your peers and mentors

For More Information
Contact your Unit Readiness NCO or Retention NCO

* Restrictions may apply and figures shown are subject to change.
Oregon Soldiers deploy to Europe, help establish equipment sets

Oregon National Guard Soldiers installed and serviced Abrams Main Battle Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and other vehicles and equipment to help U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command establish forward European Activity Sets in Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria. Two teams of Oregon Guard Soldiers mobilized with the 3670th Combat Cargo Repair Company in December 2015 and again in March 2016 to support the EAS mission.

SALEM, Oregon – Nearly 60 Oregon National Guard Soldiers mobilized to Europe to perform inspection and maintenance on equipment in support of the U.S. Army’s European Activity Set (EAS). The EAS is U.S. Army-owned, Army Materiel Command-managed, equipment that is pre-positioned in Europe to more efficiently outfit U.S. Army Regionally Aligned Forces (RAF). The equipment is used by U.S. forces to conduct multi-national training exercises and other Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR) activities in support of the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) to demonstrate U.S. commitment to the collective defense of NATO allies in the region.

The U.S. Army announced in the summer of 2015 that EAS equipment would be stored in Central and Eastern Europe, enabling U.S. rotational forces to rapidly stage in allied countries and focus more time on training alongside partner nations. The strategic placement of equipment throughout Europe saves time and resources; allowing rotating U.S. forces access to equipment when and where it is needed for OAR training exercises.

In December 2015, RAF units began turning-in equipment at the first EAS storage sites in Bulgaria, Romania and Lithuania. Equipment storage sites are planned in the future. Two separate groups of Oregon National Guard Soldiers from the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command) deployed to inspect and perform maintenance on the equipment turned-in at these first, initial EAS storage sites. The first group of 17 Soldiers deployed from November 29 to December 18, 2015, and another follow-on group of 42 Soldiers deployed March 1-20, 2016.

“The Europe Activity Set is an integral part of America’s promise to defend our NATO allies,” said Capt. Maribel Ortega de Pacheco, commander of the 3670th Combat Cargo Repair Company. “3670th CRC was the first National Guard unit to support this number one Army maintenance priority mission and we are proud of that.”

The Soldiers deployed collectively under the 3670th CRC’s guidance flag, but the unit was staffed by members of the 821st Troop Command Battalion; 1249th Engineer Battalion; 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, as well as some Montana Army National Guard Soldiers.

“3670th took the lead, but it was an excellent partnership,” said Sgt. 1st Class Terry Tuggy, the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCIC) who led the first group of Oregon Soldiers to Europe. “The Soldiers were support vehicles.

The first EAS rotation, in December, was a technical inspection (TI) of the three EAS locations in Lithuania and Romania. The Soldiers traveled from one EAS location to another, inspecting operators’ paperwork and verifying faults, inspecting the equipment, and identifying a list of parts for the EAS team to place on order. In addition, they provided operation and maintenance training to active duty Bradley crews.

“The largest success for the initial TI mission was the sheer number of equipment the team was able to process and inspect for the follow on team,” said Tuggy. “The initial request was for Bradley and tank support but morphed into every vehicle on the ground, as well as COMSEC (communications security), weapons, ground support equipment, and night vision devices. The request included approximately 40 or so tracked vehicles but we completed 247 vehicles and 160 non-vehicles.”

According to the U.S. Army Europe fact sheet, EAS provides enough vehicles and equipment to support a full Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT). The EAS consists of 12,000 total pieces of equipment, of which approximately 250 are tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and self-propelled Howitzers. Another 1,750 pieces are support vehicles.

“The mission of the second rotation, in March, was to install parts and complete the maintenance actions that were identified by the TI team. Led by 1st Sgt. Robert Bryson and Sgt. 1st Class Jonna Maupin, Oregon mechanics performed services and repairs on tracked and wheeled vehicles, and worked on myriad other types of equipment. The Soldiers performed checks, installs and upgrades to various electrical and communication systems. They also inspected, serviced and gauged various weapons, performing minor repairs as needed.”

“Soldiers of the 3670th CRC were able to mobilize and provide competent maintenance in the timeframe we had. We met the mission and proved again the expertise of our Citizen-Soldiers as National Guardsman to those we serve domestically and overseas. Not only is it an opportunity to showcase the expertise of our Citizen-Soldiers as National Guardsman to those we serve with, but also drives our sustainment capabilities as a maintenance unit to demonstrate our readiness as a modern and ready operational force.”

As for the Soldiers who participated in the EAS mission, Tuggy said they appreciated the chance to visit European countries and experience the history and culture.

“This was an enjoyable opportunity that we embraced,” he said. “The countries we visited were beautiful.”

Sgt. Miguel Baltazar, a Bradley mechanic with the Oregon National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, inspects a M978 fueler as a part of the turn in of European Activity Set equipment at Mumaiciai, Lithuania, Dec. 13, 2015. Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers helped U.S. Army Europe and Army Materiel Command establish forward European Activity Sets in Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria.

Sgt. Miguel Baltazar, a Bradley mechanic with the Oregon National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, agreed, “it’s been a great experience. If I get the opportunity to get on that roster.”
ORION: Oregon pilots fly, shoot live missiles at Combat Archer exercise

PORTLAND, Oregon – “Fly, fight, win” is exactly what a group of 142nd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle pilots, maintainers, weapons loaders, and support personnel did during a two-week weapons systems evaluation program (WSEP) known as Combat Archer at Tyndall Air Force Base, in Florida, from Jan. 25 through the first week of the exercise.

As part of the exercise, Airmen flew the jets, loaded and shot live missiles and subsided fully throughout the entire process. The WSEP evaluated various weapon systems in their entirety, including aircraft, weapon delivery system, the weapon itself, aircraft, technical data, and maintenance.

The intention is to gauge operational effectiveness, to verify weapons system performance, determine reliability, evaluate capability and limitations, identify deficiencies, and pursue corrective actions.

It gives us valuable practice with actual weapons.

“Combat Archer provides the opportunity for people who, for the most part, train and practice in a simulated environment, where not all systems involved in an actual missile shot are engaged,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, who participated during the first week of the exercise.

“Combat Archer provides the opportunity for people who, for the most part, train and practice in a simulated environment, when not all systems involved in an actual missile shot are engaged,” Fitzgerald continued.

“We operate in a live construct, where the entire system is 100-percent engaged. This is an invaluable experience because in the subsequent evaluations validate whether a weapon performs according to how its specifications say it should.”

One reason this type of training is so hard to come by is that it requires a very large area, free from both ground and air traffic, to safely conduct the training. Combat Archer is uniquely set up to afford this necessary training.

Along with Combat Archer, the 142nd Fighter Wing also conducted Combat Shield, an exercise that validates the performance of the radar warning receiver (RWR) avionics system in the aircraft. According to Senior Master Sgt. Crawford, an avionics systems technician for the Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, the RWR system helps alert pilots to adversaries in their vicinity through a complex system of antennas and radar signals.

“This is a valuable experience for us as we’re able to exercise systems and processes we most often only simulate for training purposes,” said Capt. Amy Newkirk, 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron command manager.

“It’s a very busy TDY [temporary duty assignment] for all parties involved, but the kind of trip that maintainers most enjoy – the real deal turn-and-burn.”

But aerial missiles and radar avionics weren’t the only activities evaluated during this TDY to Tyndall. On the maintenance side, every aircraft launch and missile load was also evaluated by a Tyndall-based weapons systems evaluation program team member.

Tech. Sgt. Tim Bradshaw, WSEP evaluator, said incoming units receive an in-brief not only in regards to local safety policies and procedures, but also about program expectations.

“We are able to track their maintenance and flying activities through a variety of systems so we have situational awareness at all times as to when evaluation opportunities are available,” Bradshaw said.

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Conner, 142nd Maintenance Group noncommissioned officer in charge, said evaluation provided feedback daily through cross-talks and meetings, while a formal outbrief summarized the results.

Overall however, all agreed on one result of Combat Archer – the level of confidence it instills in the critical combat systems and the people who maintain and operate them.

“Combat Archer brings home the confidence the launch systems, knowing what is supposed to happen does happen, and on that we can rely,” Conner said.

Airmen train for upcoming deployments

PORTLAND, Oregon Senior Airman Randy Theisen, a combat controller assigned to the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (125th STS), was awarded the Bronze Star medal in a ceremony, February 22, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Oregon Air National Guard Commander, presented Thiesen with the medal before an audience of his family, friends and peers.

Thiesen received the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement while assigned to the 21st Expeditionary Special Tactics Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan, while deployed from May 27, 2014 to November 10, 2014.

Thiesen served as the primary joint terminal attack controller for a combined United States Special Forces and Afghan armed force team. He controlled 238 assets through dynamic operations and provided the ground force commander accurate targeting data and full spectrum command and control capabilities.

During one attack, Thiesen’s convoy struck an improvised explosive device which tore a small arms and machine gun fire ambush, pinning down the friendly force. Despite the threat of additional roadside bombs, he left the safety of his armored truck to assist the convoy. While engaging with his M4 assault rifle, he expertly controlled attack helicopters to strike three successive enemy positions with rockets and strafing runs.

Thiesen’s engagements broke the enemy assault and freed his team from the ambush. Additionally, on a following engagement, his partner team, 600-meters away, came under heavy machine gun, rocket propelled grenade, and mortar fire.

He remained in harm’s way to coordinate continuous 30-millimeter gun runs with fighter aircraft, while simultaneously launching 60-millimeter mortars and also firing his own M4. His actions allowed the overwhelmed element to regroup and maneuver back into the protected compound.

The Bronze Star medal was established in 1944 and is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the U.S. Military. It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Nearly 90 members of the 173rd Fighter Wing took part in pre-deployment training at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Feb. 6, 2016.

The Citizen-Airmen are preparing for a possible deployment in the next year during the Reserve Component Period Feb. 14-26. The system is a departure from the old tempo bands used for deployments in the past and part of the new program is more deployments. In fact, this is the first time in recent history the 173rd has deployed this many personnel at one time.

“We trained up to 100 folks with our skills rodeo, where they learned to use the new M-50 mask and their ground crew ensemble, basically their chem suit, so they can survive and defend and do their job in a contaminated environment,” said Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Aubut, the 173rd Fighter Wing emergency services manager.

Pre-deployment training is an integral part of the overall mission, starting with the basics of self aid and buddy care, understanding the rules of engagement, basic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) response tactics and other required training. Organizers say the idea is to provide the building blocks for a successful deployment.

After completing several hours of classroom training, affectionately referred to as mandatory ‘death by power point,’ each group had the opportunity to try on and test out the new chemical protection gear they may be issued while deployed.

“Training went great,” said Aubut. “A lot of people got some education out of it, and did something they hadn’t done for a number of years. One lieutenant said she had never worn chem gear, so it was really going to her.”

Once the Airmen suited up, what may at first have seemed easy proved more challenging while communicating through sealed masks and wearing thick suits, gloves and over boots. One way the training works to overcome these issues is by pairing group members up so they can assist each other with donning the gear and inspect it for proper wear, just the way it’s done in an actual contaminated environment.

Once suited up, they headed outside to practice clearing an area following a CBRNE attack. The group divided into three teams and each made a sweep of the affected area, posting tape designed to detect chemicals or biological agents in strategic places, and communicating with a base command.

The training is required. Two more AEF Skills Rodeo’s are planned for the March and May drill weekends. If you are in a UTC-tasked position please work with your unit deployment manager to make sure you attend one of them.

Staff Sgt. Brian Boatman, a weapons loader with 142nd Maintenance Group, 142nd Fighter Wing, light a missile to the rail of an F-15 Eagle, Jan. 28, during Combat Archer, a two-week weapon systems evaluation program at Tyndall Air Force Base. During the program, participants load, fly and shoot live missiles and subsequently evaluate the entire process going forward or according to established specifications.

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Chris Thiessen”
PORTLAND, Oregon – Col. Adam “Khan” Sitler joined an elite group of fighter pilots to reach 3,000 flight hours in an F-15 Eagle, Feb. 18, at Portland Air National Guard Base. Sitler, an F-15 instructor pilot and the 142nd Operations Group (OG) commander, crossed that threshold during a routine training mission. He is the 99th pilot on record with Boeing as having achieved this benchmark.

“Each and every sortie takes a team effort. No one reaches an aviation milestone on their own,” Sitler said. “I’m the beneficiary of countless hours of toil on the part of the most professional aircraft maintainers in the world. They deliver not just safe, but fully mission capable aircraft that I’m privileged to fly,” he said.

As the 142nd OG commander, Col. Sitler leads more than 375 personnel in the execution of the F-15 mission defending the Pacific Northwest, worldwide deployments supporting national objectives, and domestic operations activities as directed by the governor. He has flown more than 50 combat missions and 250 combat hours in Operation Allied Force and Operation Southern Watch.

“He’s a great fighter pilot, an extraordinary leader and mentor to our junior pilots, and an overall asset to the Air Force and the Oregon Air National Guard,” said Col. Donna Prigmore, 142nd Fighter Wing vice commander.

“Khan epitomizes the National Guard motto of ‘always on mission.’ It’s because of people like him that the Air National Guard is always ready, always there,” Prigmore continued.

Sitler speaks passionately about his Air Force job and the Air National Guard mission.

“It takes continual practice to be ready to provide air superiority at any time, at any place,” he said. “It’s not an exaggeration to say that for every hour spent in the air, at least five or more hours are spent on the ground planning, preparing, briefing, and debriefing each and every sortie.

“The American people expect us to be ready, and we’re ready to live up to that demand,” he said.

Sitler was commissioned in May 1996 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Upon completion of Undergraduate Pilot Training and F-15 Training, he was assigned to the 493rd Fighter Squadron at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom. He served as a combat mission ready wingman, flight lead, mission commander and instructor pilot.

In 2001, he was assigned to the 71st Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. He served as a combat mission ready instructor pilot and weapons officer after completing the United States Air Force Weapons School in 2003. In 2004 he was assigned to the 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where he served as the chief of F-15 Projects.

Sitler separated from the active-duty Air Force in January 2007 and joined the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard. He has served as squadron and wing weapons officer, flight commander, squadron operations officer, wing consolidated unit inspection project officer, and fighter squadron commander.

**142nd Fighter Wing patrols the skies with F-15s during Super Bowl**

PORTLAND, Oregon – When Super Bowl 50 kicked off on Feb. 7, the only airborne threats fans had to worry about were deep passes – thanks in part to the presence of pilots assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base.

While the Navy’s Blue Angels conducted the official flyover, the 142nd Fighter Wing was on alert protecting the skies.

“We work in coordination with other entities to ensure public safety during high profile events such as the Super Bowl,” said Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald, 142nd Fighter Wing commander.

“When you watched the game, we watched the skies,” he said.

The F-15 is an all-weather, extremely maneuverable, tactical fighter that can penetrate enemy defense and outperform and outfly any current enemy aircraft. The weapons and flight control systems are designed so one person can safely and effectively perform air-to-air combat.

Fitzgerald, a 26-year F-15 Eagle pilot, and his team of aircrew and aircraft maintainers in Portland are well-seasoned in the area of homeland defense and can provide a rapid response force for national defense purposes.

The 142nd Fighter Wing defends our homeland with F-15 fighter jets, guarding the skies from northern California to the Canadian border as part of Air Combat Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command. Their mission is to provide unequalled, mission-ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime training any time, any place in service to our nation, state and community.

**173rd FW unveils new flagship artwork**

The 173rd Fighter Wing unveiled new flagship artwork on an F-15 Eagle, April 3, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG), Master Sgt. Paul Allen and his team of maintainers brought this eagle to life on tail number 041, commemorating 1941 as the year the first ORANG unit was activated. The artwork features a screaming eagle on the nose of the aircraft; eagle feathers spanning across the top and underside of the wings; and the ORANG shield and 75th Anniversary logo on the tails.

Left: Chief Master Sgt. Patrick “Andy” Gauritz received a letter from former President George H. W. Bush on the occasion of his retirement ceremony, March 6, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Upon his retirement, Guantz relinquished his role as State Command Chief for the Oregon Air National Guard to Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole.

Right: Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole takes the guidon from Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, signifying her new role as the State Command Chief for the Oregon Air National Guard in a ceremony, March 6, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.
Regional Training Institute gives Soldiers a dose of battlefield medicine

MONMOUTH, Oregon – The patrol was assembled, and the Soldiers were conducting final equipment checks. The heavy rain had mercifully let up and now the sky was a leaden overcast whose modest precipitation could simply be ignored. With their final inspections complete, the squad leader gave the order to move out, and almost immediately after entering the dense green wood line, the shrill screams of incoming artillery rounds cut through the normally silent forest. The members of the patrol flung themselves to the ground and took what cover they could before the deafening concussions of the simulated artillery rounds rang out.

This was not a typical infantry patrol. The members of this patrol were all Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 68W (Health Care Specialists). These medics were participating in the 68W Sustainment Course, put on by the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI), at Camp Najaf, a training center located between Corvallis and Monmouth, Oregon.

The 68W Sustainment Course is conducted primarily to ensure that medics throughout the state remain certified in their MOS by maintaining their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) basic certification. The two-week course starts with a one-week EMT refresher, which is conducted at the RTI in Monmouth, Oregon.

“The classroom time is critical, because you can’t hold a 68-series MOS without also being an EMT,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Dills, instructor with the 249th RTI.

In addition, the course is also designed to prepare medics for real-life scenarios that they may encounter during their military service. The course culminates in a three-day situational training exercise (STX) in which the Soldiers test their medical skills while simultaneously handling the pressure of combat situations.

After reacting to indirect fire, the patrol continued its mission and ran straight into an ambush. Paintballs hissed through the air as the squad leader called out to the patrol to take cover and return fire. During the ambush, the patrol took its first ‘casualty’ and the combat medics leapt into action and began performing the critical lifesaving techniques they had been training on for the last two weeks.

The simulated casualty in this scenario was a 208-pound mannequin known as a ‘Sim Man.’ It is a mechanical training aid that looks, moves, talks, breathes and bleeds like an actual casualty. The Sim Man had missing limbs that required multiple tourniquets as well as a chest wound that needed treating.

As the smoke spread across the battlefield, the area was secured and the medics then had to transport the casualty several hundred meters to the casualty collection point (CCP). They avoided the second ambush, and established 360-degree security while the patrol members sent up their liquid, ammunition, casualty, and equipment (LACE) report. Meanwhile, the squad leader was busy sending up his nine-line medical evacuation request that would send vehicles to pick up the casualty. The casualty evacuation then transitioned the patrol from a dismounted phase to the mounted phase of the operation, where their convoy would encounter fierce firefight.

Medics practice treating simulated wounds using mannequins to maintain their Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute.

As the smoke cleared, the casualty was brought to the landing zone where the medics were greeted by the crew chief of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The patients were loaded onto the Blackhawk and flown away, giving the medics a realistic experience in dealing with air medevac operations. This is a task most of the medics said they have never had the opportunity to experience, and is invaluable to their training.

Oregon is home to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), and many of these medics are required to support combat units. “This is great training for medics,” said Maj. Jon Van Horn, who observed the training as a physician assistant with the 41st IBCT. “Other states don’t conduct training like this. No other place gets you 14-days training and basically builds your skills up from nothing to MOS-ready.”

Medics apply a tourniquet to stop bleeding on a simulated amputation on the ‘Sim Man’ mannequin during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute.

At the Battalion Aid Station, the casualty was brought to the landing zone where the medics were greeted by the crew chief of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The patients were loaded onto the Blackhawk and flown away, giving the medics a realistic experience in dealing with air medevac operations. This is a task most of the medics said they have never had the opportunity to experience, and is invaluable to their training.

Medics treat a chest wound on a simulated casualty following an ambush during the 68W (Health Care Specialist) Sustainment Course conducted by the 249th Regional Training Institute. The mannequin, known as a ‘Sim Man,’ is a mechanical training aid that looks, moves, talks, breathes and bleeds like an actual casualty.
173rd Fighter Wing student pilots take their first real flight in an F-15

Part two of the B-Course series follows the journey from the classroom to the cockpit as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, at the 173rd Fighter Wing, take to the air for their first time at the controls of an F-15 Eagle.

The first item on the agenda was his pilot’s license – something nearly all Air Force pilots need to see their preparation shine. The only thing you can think about, when being safe isn’t just something you talk about in a classroom anymore, but an actual life-and-death consideration for you and others you fly with,” says Knill. “For some it makes them better and for others it presents a hurdle.”

That was nearly two years ago, and since then, Frank says he has been anything but typical. His mission now is to demonstrate his ability to fly in bad weather using the aircraft instruments. Jan. 27, 2016.

He made his way back to flying, albeit in the unmanned aerial vehicle program, where he was learning to pilot an aircraft from a cubicle at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. He spent just over a year in the program and had just spent his first couple hours of actual unmanned flight when he got a phone call from Air Force Personnel Command.

“I was literally walking out of the gym and I got a phone call and a gentleman says, ‘congratulations on your acceptance to UPT, how fast can you get to Laughlin?’ and I said, ‘I’ll be there tomorrow.’

That was nearly two years ago, and after his reinstatement he tracked to the F-15 Eagle, his first choice for an airplane.

“I would say the quality that brings me to our HMD pitch, we are going to combine align ok, fine align, so deselect align here and run the course align we are gonna go to our HMD pitch, we are going to contain exit record, we are recording on the RMM, we are gonna hit align. When you do this the HUD is basically blanked, all you are doing with that is superimposing them on each other. ‘have you done this in the SIM? You have, ok.’ Then you go down long left for greater than two seconds. What you’ll see is align, aligning, align ok, fine align, so deselect align here and you should be good to go, any questions?” asks Knill.

“Then I visited the University of Colorado, Boulder, and realized that I actually did want to go to college,” Frank said.

He decided it wasn’t just any college, but a service academy – one of the big three, as he calls them: West Point, the Naval Academy, or the Air Force Academy. Frank began applying himself in his studies; taking all advanced classes in the classroom to the cockpit as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, finds his way to Kingsley Field for their first time at the controls of an F-15 Eagle.

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“I was literally walking out of the gym and I got a phone call and a
Oregon Soldier mentors Olympic hopefuls in chasing their dreams

Story by David Vergun, Defense Media Activity - Army

“A marathon is like a war,” said Maj. Dan Browne, a 2004 U.S. Olympic runner and member of the Oregon Army National Guard. “I noticed things about their facial expressions and how their stride looks,” he continued. “Because of my experiences in running, I kind of understand this means they’re tired, (or) this means they need to be worked a little bit harder.”

Regarding the physical component, Browne said his runners have had high-altitude training as part of their regimen to better increase lung capacity for endurance. After high-altitude training, athletes have more red blood cells so there’s more oxygen-carrying capacity and also the perced efficiency is much less.

That’s why athletes often undergo high-altitude training before big events,“ he said. Browne’s Soldiers have good training venues. They train among Jerry Schumacher’s Bowerman Track Club in Portland and Alberto Salazar’s Nike Oregon Project in Beaverton, Oregon.

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Dan Browne (left) coaches distance runners for the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program. His Soldier, Spc. Paul Chelimo (right), finished 7th in the world in 8:00.76 during the men’s 3,000-meter race at the World Indoor Track & Field Championships in Portland, Oregon. Several Soldiers that Browne coaches, including Chelimo, will participate in the Olympic Track and Field Trials, July 1-10, in Eugene, Oregon.

This race was even more competitive than the U.S. Olympic Trials will be this summer,” said Browne.

For instance, Chelimo faced Olympic silver medalists Galen Rupp and Eric Schumacher. Galen Rupp and Eric Schumacher are former U.S. record holder in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Also, first place finisher Rupp was the winner of this year’s Olympic Marathon Trials in Los Angeles. The other competitors were of similar caliber, Browne noted.

However, coming in second is just about as good as first because only the top two of the 12 competitors went on to the current Indoor Track and Field Championships at Portland’s Oregon Convention Center, later that week.

“My gosh, I was so proud. I was jumping up and down,” Browne said about Chelimo advancing with Team USA.

As far as prestige goes, the World Championships are just behind the Olympics, Browne said.

As for Chelimo, “he showed a lot of character and endurance,” Browne said. This race “shows he’s got Army Strong in his blood.”

Chelimo admitted that he was nervous the whole week prior to the race, “but being nervous helped,” he said, “because you’re not taking things for granted.”

As far as prestige goes, the World Championships are just behind the Olympics, Browne said.

Chelimo and other Soldiers will participate in the Olympic Track and Field Trials, July 1-10, in Eugene, Oregon. He will be trying out for the 5,000-meter event.

“Incidentally, his strongest event isn’t the 3,000 but the 5,000-meters,” said Browne.

“By the end of this year, I should be in top shape and ready to go for the Olympics,” said Chelimo. “You don’t want to go into Trials inexperienced. This has been amazing for me, Nationals and Worlds. Getting through the rounds in both has been a great experience.”

Browne added that Chelimo is tough mentally, physically and emotionally. That’s a tribute to him and to his Army training.

“It’s resiliency and readiness 101, and he accomplished this tremendously difficult mission,” Browne said.

For more information about the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, visit their website at www.armymwr.com/wcap.
Support units practice specialty skills for AT in Iowa

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 141st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spent two-weeks in February focused on practicing their individual Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) skills at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The 141st BSB used their annual training to develop the unit’s medical, mechanical and logistical capabilities in a school-based environment.

Above Left: Sgt. Bobby Steward (left), a medic, assists Capt. Nicole Foster, a physician assistant, both with Charlie Company, 141st BSB, as she intubates an airway on a training mannequin at the Medical Simulation Training Center (MSTC) at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, February 10. Medics of the 141st BSB used their two-week annual training to meet the national Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) annual requirement of 48-hours of classroom and hands-on training.

Above Right: Pfc. Trevor Skoien, a mechanic with Bravo Company, 141st BSB, prepares an engine for removal at the Sustainment Training Center (STC) at Camp Dodge, in Johnston, Iowa, February 4. Mechanics and logisticians of the 141st BSB worked with STC instructors to increase their individual abilities in a hands-on learning environment.

Accidents increase as temperature rises

By Lt. Col. Robert Fraser, ORNG Safety

Safety has a direct correlation to unit and individual readiness. The readiness and success of the Oregon National Guard is dependent on a variety of factors such as funding, training, education, equipment, with the most important being personnel. By preventing accidental loss of our Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians, Families and vital resources through risk mitigation, we aid in the readiness and success of the force. Units and individuals should be ready for whatever event or situation will come next.

Risk mitigation is important during the coming spring and summer seasons. As the temperatures rise every spring, there’s a corresponding increase in fatal accidents. Soldiers, Airmen and their Family members are sometimes a little too eager to get back to the fun activities warm weather can bring: motorcycles, road trips, water activities and relaxation with friends that often include alcohol. Summer is rapidly approaching and changing weather conditions will open the door for risk. Soldiers and Airmen are undoubtedly going to enjoy their time away from the office, so it is incumbent upon leaders at all levels to ensure they’re equipped to make smart decisions. Sharing safety information with your Service Members now will help them mitigate the hazards in whatever they do.

Beginning in April, the Oregon National Guard Safety Office will release separate campaigns for National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month in May. Get ready for the season; start planning now for a great time with friends and family. Use the tools available from the Oregon Department of Transportation Trip Check at http://tripcheck.com/Pages/RCMap.asp or the Travel Risk Planning System (TRIPS) at https://trips.safety.army.mil/. The online assessment will guide you through filling out your TRIPS worksheet step by step. TRIPS will assist you in calculating your travel route times and distances, it will provide the risks associated with your trip, and it will automatically format your TRIPS assessment into a PDF and send it to whatever email address you specify.

Have a safe spring and summer season. Think safety at work and at home!

Motorcycle training from TEAM OREGON

Whether you are already riding or want to learn how, Team Oregon has the training you need!

Basic Rider Training (BRT) – 15 hours

No experience necessary. Get your motorcycle endorsement.

Intermediate Rider Training (IRT) – 8 hours

Some experience necessary. Get your motorcycle endorsement.

Rider Skills Practice (RSP) – 5 hours

Techniques for cornering, emergency braking and collision avoidance.

Advanced Rider Training (ART) – 6.5 hours

Refine cornering skills on the tight curves of an enclosed track. Register at team-oregon.org or call 800-545-9944.

Cost of the course may be reimbursed by the Oregon Army National Guard Safety Office, call (503) 584-3320.
 Origins of the Portland Air Base

An aircraft maintenance hangar under construction at the Portland Army Air Base in 1941. U.S. Army plans called for one hangar in order to hasten completion of new air bases.

PORTLAND, Oregon – The clacking keys on a borrowed manual typewriter in the Army Corps of Engineers field office at the base construction site heralded the birth of the Portland Army Air Base (PAAB). But even before the Army sent the first equipment to the site, a bachelor officers quarters, three barracks and a mess hall in the Portland Army Air Base (PAAB) were started. On December 20, 1940, the first buildings connected these two road and utility lines and it was ready to receive the occupation of the PAAB. And in late October, the 123rd Observation Squadron on April 18, 1941.

Months later, the squadron was federally activated and deployed to Gray Field at Fort Lewis, Washington, to support the Pacific Northwest in conducting maritime surveillance. The squadron flew one of the first wartime missions on December 7, 1941, after Pearl Harbor.

The Portland Army Air Base was established as a separate component of the U.S. Air Force in September 1947 and, as part of a larger reorganization, the 123rd was redesignated as a fighter road and utility lines connected these two areas.

On November 21, 1940 the Army awarded three Portland companies (George H. Buckelew, Hauser Construction and Natt McDougall) the contracts to build the 60-acre cantonment area for the new Air Corps station. The contractors were to accommodate an Army pursuit group. The first time an air defense mission had been envisioned for Portland. The work and materials were valued at $1,142,050.00 and the construction placed a lumber order for three million board feet. Actual construction at PAAB began on December 20, 1940. The first buildings started were a bachelor officers quarters, three barracks and a mess hall in the cantonment area. The base hospital and technical buildings soon followed.

The original buildings were constructed to support a garrison of 2,392 enlisted men and 275 officers. But even before the Imperial Japanese attack on U.S. forces in the Pacific in December 1941, new plans were announced for some 90 more buildings to accommodate an increase in expected strength up to 3,600 enlisted men and 400 officers. Army funds provided not only for the construction of new base facilities, but also for significant improvements to the existing airport as well. These enhancements became part of the Portland airport infrastructure and included the widening of paved runways from 150 feet to 400 feet (better to accommodate larger four-motor powered bomber and transport aircraft), additional taxiway construction (helping enable simultaneous movement to/from runways and/or better dispersal of large numbers of aircraft) and the accompanying airfield lighting along these newly paved surfaces.

The Army also took on maintenance responsibility for this new and improved infrastructure. With all the new base facilities and improvements to the airport, Portland soon became a major air installation in the Pacific Northwest. But before Soldiers arrived for duty at the newly activated air base, supplies began to arrive, a lot of supplies, on automatic requisition. They quickly piled up and costly demurrage began to accumulate. Stromme requested help and in response the Army sent the 255th Quartermaster to help with two officers and 20 men in the initial cadre. Delving into the received goods, the Men found a large amount of medical equipment that required checking and receipt, so Stromme requested help again and Fort Lewis sent a medical detachment. Ordnance and Signal units then arrived from McChord Field. Portland AAB was beginning to take shape!

Meanwhile, as the base began to emerge, News teams flocked to Portland to report the dramatic changes. In February 1941 to help their Italian allies against the British. As Stromme declared war on December 8, 1941, Imperial Japan was placing pressure on resource-rich European colonial territories in Southeast Asia. It was war for the United States and for the Pacific Northwest that Portland Army Air Base was being built!

To be continued.

ORANGE celebrates 75th Anniversary

The Oregon Air National Guard has been proudly committed to honor, community and excellence for 75 years. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we reflect on our history with stories that mark the journey from where we began to where we are today.

Our history began just prior to World War II when the call to arms was made. We had to respond to the Pearl Harbor attack and were ready to launch the 123rd Observation Squadron on April 18, 1941.

Since then, the Oregon Air National Guard has continued to protect the skies of the Cherry Blossom State and has played a crucial role in our nation’s conflicts ranging from the Korean War to the Cold War and beyond. On September 11, 2001, we were one of the first to respond to the terrorist attacks with increased air defense on the West Coast.

Our F-15 Eagles maintain an Aerospace Control Alert as sentinels of our nation’s airspace. These pilots and aircrew from our Oregon Air National Guard are prepared to fly for the United States.

In addition, our Airmen maintain surveillance of the skies using ground-based radars and control centers. Disaster response personnel train, train and prepare for disasters throughout our state and nation.

We are proud to celebrate 75 years of service to our nation.}

The Oregon Air National Guard

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Photo courtesy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District

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