In this issue...

41st anniversary honors 100-year history
Pages 8-9

Airmen join Willamette Funeral Honors
Page 13

SPRING 2017

In this issue...

Oregon Guard assists 58th Presidential Inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Nearly 50 Oregon National Guard service members supported the 58th Presidential Inauguration, January 18-22, in Washington, D.C. The Oregon Guardsmen augmented the District of Columbia National Guard as part of Joint Task Force - District of Columbia (JTF - DC), supporting the opening ceremony, swearing-in ceremony, inaugural speech and parade, as well as follow-on events.

Oregon Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police (MP) Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, based in Salem, Oregon, assisted district and federal agencies with security, including crowd management, traffic control, and assisting with the flow of people in and out of the area during the inaugural events.

"It's our job to help ensure people will be peaceful for the safety of the President, and all the people in attendance," said Lt. Richard Smith, a platoon leader with the 1186th MP Company.

In addition, Oregon National Guard public affairs personnel assisted with highlighting the overall National Guard participation in the historical event. These public affairs specialists captured photos and video of the Guard’s participation, and assisted with coordinating news conferences and interviews with Guardsmen.

The Oregon National Guard routinely supports civil authorities when needed during major events and is able to seamlessly integrate with interagency partners.

"Partnering with local, federal security and public safety agencies during the 58th Presidential Inauguration is just one more example of how the Oregon National Guard is "Always Ready, Always..."
Oregon National Guard 351st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs 2017

I recently had an opportunity to speak at the 100th anniversary celebration of the initial activation of the 41st Infantry Division at the beginning of World War I. I listened to the stories from wars in the distant past. I was struck by how the men and women in those stories did not know they were making history. They were trained and ready when the call came from their state and nation, and they performed their jobs with both courage and distinction.

The Oregon National Guard has a constant stream of deployments, redeployments, overseas operations tours and state-side missions that are met by every Service member in this organization with professionalism, enthusiasm and sacrifice. In every combattant command across the globe – whether supporting the Global War on Terror or improving the lives through infrastructure improvements or security – we have Soldiers and Airmen making a difference.

Here at home in Oregon, our ranks continue to be strengthened with the best equipment and gear we can acquire, so that when called upon in response to natural or manmade disasters, our Soldiers and Airmen can answer the call with the utmost professionalism and expertise. Oregonians will know that when there is a challenge at hand, Oregon Guard members are “always ready, always there.”

This is what the Oregon National Guard is all about – it’s about being being skilled and ready so that when natural disasters befall our state, we are there and have answered the call. It’s about developing our skills so that when wars break out in distant countries, we are there to answer that call.

We have a tradition of being where history is made. We will continue to make that call, so that 100 years from now, Oregonians will be able to tell their children stories that are told and that inspire the next generation of Oregon National Guardsmen.

I am proud of the work each and every one of you has done. I fully expect that you will continue these accomplishments as we move forward. It is paramount that we stay ahead of challenges by continuing our training, staffing, mentoring and mission preparedness.

It is equally important that we uphold our core values as the foundation for all we do. I strongly thank you for making the Oregon Military Department a proud, professional, ethical organization. I am constantly reminded by our families, supporters and the citizens of Oregon of how much they appreciate your dedication and patriotism, and I echo their sentiments.

Thank you for your service!

Reunion events planned for combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

Several reunion events are scheduled to take place July 1-4, 2017, for members of the former Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Phoenix V.

This marks the 10-year anniversary of the return of the 41st Infantry Brigade from Afghanistan as part of CJTF Phoenix V in 2006/2007. It was during this operation, that the 41st Infantry Brigade was the largest mobilization of the 41st Infantry Brigade since WWII.

In addition to more than 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen, Phoenix V Task Force also included Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Civilian Police from 19 different countries. While in Afghanistan, the Task Force commanded 7,500 people and was responsible for training the Afghan National Army and National Police.

The members of the Task Force are invited to join the Salem-Kaiser Volcanoes Baseball Team at the 10th Annual Patriotic Tribute Day on the 4th of July. Members of CJTF Phoenix V and their family members will be given complimentary tickets to the game and will be recognized during pre-game activities. A member of the Task Force will throw out the ceremonial first pitch. The Volcanoes staff will open a special area for Task force members and their families. Game time will be at 7:00 p.m. Task force members are not required to wear a uniform but can if desired. In addition, the Volcanoes will be honoring 13 Oregon National Guard “Fallen Warriors” in a formal ceremony with their families present.

Several other events will take place in conjunction with the game. The best way for members to learn about the schedule and sign up to attend is to go to the CJTF Phoenix V Facebook page and click on events which indicate you are interested in attending, or members can email Master Sgt. Angel Smith at angel.m.smith22.mil@mail.mil.
Transgender policy changes continue to shape U.S. Military

ORLANDO, Fla. – In support of the Defense Department’s Instruction 1344.04, Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting, Sept. 11, 2016, at the Portland Air National Guard Base.
Oregon Soldiers proud to contribute to Inauguration team

Continued from Front Page

There,” said Stephen Bomar, director of public affairs for the Oregon Military Department.
Civilian law enforcement officers were responsible for the safety and security of all personnel during the inaugural events. The National Guardsmen provided assistance to local civilian authorities as needed. All National Guard forces supporting the inauguration were sworn-in as Special Police by the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. However, the National

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Tiana Wolfe, public affairs specialist with 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, photographs inauguration events from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter providing security over Washington D.C. during the 58th Presidential inauguration.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Story by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

1-82nd Cavalry troopers gain experience on new Stryker vehicles

YAKIMA, Washington — Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, put one of its newest assets, the Stryker, during New Equipment Training (NET) and fielding in March 2017.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The Oregon Army National Guard is expected to receive approximately 80 Strykers in multiple variations for different missions.

Units in the squadron spent 28 days in the high desert of Yakima Training Center in central Washington getting familiar with their new equipment. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Troops are qualifying on the Reconnaissance variant, and Delta Troop is qualifying on the Mobile Gun System.

Cpl. Tyler Charlebois, with Alpha Troop, 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, who use to operate Strykers during his time as an active duty Soldier, detailed his reunion. “This is our first time rolling out with these trucks and shooting with them, so we’re out here to get a little experience and a feel for it. It’s a perfect day out here and it looks like the guys are doing pretty good.”

1st Lt. Cody Comerford, also with Alpha Troop, has been impressed with the Stryker’s versatility and capabilities. “Currently this is a whole new animal for us. It can go pretty much anywhere, we haven’t got it stuck yet,” he said.

Comerford said that although they’ve run into some issues, their future with these vehicles looks bright.

“They [Soldiers] are liking it, the maintenance is a little rough, but I think once we get it all dialed in it will be a good asset,” he said.

The maintenance section of the squadron’s Forward Support Company spent a much longer time, since January, doing their NET training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to familiarize themselves with maintaining and repairing the new vehicles.

At the tail end of the NET fielding, the Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Vehicles during New Equipment Training, March 22, 2017, at Yakima Training Center, near Yakima, Washington. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team and spent 28 days training in central Washington with their new equipment.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs


Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

1-82nd Cavalry troopers gain experience on new Stryker vehicles

YAKIMA, Washington — Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, test out one of its newest assets, the Stryker, during New Equipment Training (NET) and fielding in March 2017.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The Oregon Army National Guard is expected to receive approximately 80 Strykers in multiple variations for different missions.

Units in the squadron spent 28 days in the high desert of Yakima Training Center in central Washington getting familiar with their new equipment. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Troops are qualifying on the Reconnaissance variant, and Delta Troop is qualifying on the Mobile Gun System.

Cpl. Tyler Charlebois, with Alpha Troop, 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, who use to operate Strykers during his time as an active duty Soldier, detailed his reunion. “This is our first time rolling out with these trucks and shooting with them, so we’re out here to get a little experience and a feel for it. It’s a perfect day out here and it looks like the guys are doing pretty good.”

1st Lt. Cody Comerford, also with Alpha Troop, has been impressed with the Stryker’s versatility and capabilities. “Currently this is a whole new animal for us. It can go pretty much anywhere, we haven’t got it stuck yet,” he said.

Comerford said that although they’ve run into some issues, their future with these vehicles looks bright.

“They [Soldiers] are liking it, the maintenance is a little rough, but I think once we get it all dialed in it will be a good asset,” he said.

The maintenance section of the squadron’s Forward Support Company spent a much longer time, since January, doing their NET training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to familiarize themselves with maintaining and repairing the new vehicles.

At the tail end of the NET fielding, the Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Vehicles during New Equipment Training, March 22, 2017, at Yakima Training Center, near Yakima, Washington. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team and spent 28 days training in central Washington with their new equipment.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 116th Infantry Stryker Combat Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Swenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs
1-189th Aviation honored as they deploy for Middle East mission

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s aeromedical helicopter unit was honored in a mobilization ceremony, January 27, in Salem, Oregon.

Approximately 70 Soldiers, with Company G (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, are scheduled to deploy to the Middle East. The company will provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region using Blackhawk helicopters. The unit is scheduled to complete pre-deployment training at Fort Hood, Texas, before deploying overseas.

In attendance at the ceremony was Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, on behalf of Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR 5th District); Oregon Representatives Greg Barreto (HD-58, Cove), Paul Evans (HD-20, Monmouth), Teresa Alonso Leon (HD-22, Woodburn), Mark Meek (HD-40, Oregon City), Ron Noble (HD-24, McMinnville); Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander; among other community and military leaders.

Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, has a long tradition of answering the call to duty. The unit conducts medical evacuations (medevac), search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression operations utilizing HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters.

The unit previously deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge 7, three times to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

Aviation assets here in Oregon will continue to backfill to support civil authorities throughout the State of Oregon. Units such as Detachment 1, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation, with their UH-72A Lakotas based in Salem; and elements of 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, with their CH-47F Chinooks based out of Pendleton are prepared to assist the state when needed.

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Edwards with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, holds his son, Grant, following his mobilization ceremony, January 27, in Salem, Oregon.

Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit headed to Fort Hood, Texas, where they completed training before deploying to the Middle East. The unit is scheduled to provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region.

Family and friends of G Company, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, saw their loved ones off in HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters, Feb. 2, 2017, at the Deibert Flight Facility in Salem, Oregon. Family and friends gathered near the flight line to wish them well and wave for full spectrum rapid response to all crises and contingencies at home or abroad.

Crews from G Company, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, take off in HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters, Feb. 2, 2017, at the Deibert Flight Facility in Salem, Oregon. Family and friends gathered near the flight line to wish them well and wave for full spectrum rapid response to all crises and contingencies at home or abroad.

Airmen assist search for missing skier

Story and photo by Maj. Chris Bernard, 304th Rescue Squadron

MOUNT HOOD, Oregon – Amidst avalanche warnings and whitout conditions, Oregon Air National Guard Airmen with the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS) and Air Force Reserve Guardian Angel Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron (RQS), both based in Portland, Oregon, combined forces with the Oregon Army National Guard 24th Aviation Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation, to search for a missing skier on Mount Hood, March 9, 2017.

According to the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office (HRCS), Steve Leavitt, 57, was reported missing Tuesday, March 6, when he did not return home from skiing at Mount Hood Meadows. The search began on March 7 and resumed again Thursday, March 9, at first light, according to the HRCS. Despite search efforts, Leavitt was still missing.

HRCS put in a call for assistance, March 8, for specialized rescuers with adverse terrain mobility, avalanche Level-1 Certification, technical rope rescue capability and advanced medical care.

Snow machines, alpine mobility gear, technical rope equipment and cold weather survival gear was among some of the special equipment utilized by 304th RQS and 125th STS rescuers.

In addition to the Air Force Reserve and Oregon Air National Guard, multiple agencies, including the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office, Portland Mountain Rescue, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Patrol and the Crag Rats, were also looking for Leavitt. The incident commander requested Oregon Army National Guard air assets and a UH-72 Lakota helicopter was launched from Salem, Oregon, to assist in the search.

Leavitt’s body was discovered on March 16. Investigators said he appeared to have died after hitting a tree and was buried in deep snow inside a tree well.

Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, and the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, join the search for a missing skier on Mount Hood, March 9, 2017.

Airmen from the 304th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, and the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, join the search for a missing skier on Mount Hood, March 9, 2017.
OEM teams up with Dark Horse Comics to teach preparedness

Story by Paula Fasano Negoie, Oregon Office of Emergency Management


“Without Warning: Tsunami” is the second time that OEM and Dark Horse Comics have come together to collaborate on bringing preparedness messaging to youth. In 2013, OEM’s Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator Alissa Rizzo approached Dark Horse with a proposal. An avid comic book fan herself, Rizzo knew that it was a good way to reach a new target audience. In August 2014, “Without Warning” was released, telling a story of an Oregon teen who reunites with her family after a major Cascadia Earthquake.

The events in Tohoku, Japan in 2011 brought new awareness to the reality of what could happen in Oregon in the aftermath of a Cascadia quake,” said Rizzo.

The first ‘Without Warning’ comic helped to educate young people about what to do in the aftermath of a high-magnitude earthquake. This second comic about tsunamis is a logical follow up and story continuation,” she said.

Rizzo came up with both stories. Dark Horse Editor Shantel LaRocque then scripted and artist David Hahn to have them scripted and illustrated.

“While we are located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600-mile earthquake fault stretching from offshore Northern California to Southern British Columbia, according to scientists and other experts, a large 9.0 or higher earthquake could strike Oregon at any time, which could result in a follow-on tsunami.”

“Dark Horse is proud to support emergency preparedness and Oregon Emergency Management with the Without Warning: Tsunami comic,” said Mike Richardson, Dark Horse Comics president.

“We enjoy partnering with an organization dedicated to making Oregon’s residents safe and prepared for a natural disaster, and are proud to contribute our talent and resources to the cause,” he added.

Without Warning-Tsunami is available online at http://bit.ly/20wesOG. Printed copies can be obtained through local county emergency management offices.

OEM helps counties respond to and recover from severe weather

Story and photo by Oregon Office of Emergency Management Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - Severe weather raged across the state this winter prompting the governor to declare a state of emergency. Communities were pummelled with freezing rain, ice, high winds and blowing snow.

Some counties faced flooding and mudslides. Meanwhile, central Oregon received historic levels of snowfall.

Blizzard-like conditions closed Interstate 84 between Pendleton and Ontario, and between Troutdale and Hood River due to ice storms in the Columbia River Gorge. In addition, wind gusts in the Grande Ronde Valley and foothills of the Northern Blue Mountains reached 75-85 miles per hour.

Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management activated the state Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). OEM staff and state emergency support representatives gathered to assist with resources requested.

State ECC Manager Kelly Jo Craigmiles said that the ECC facilitated resources for affected counties. Ice, flooding concerns, sandbags and snow removal were the biggest needs, although power outages, landslides and avalanches were also a concern.

Governor Kate Brown’s request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration is helping to provide much needed financial assistance to counties that were hardest hit by severe weather. Federal funding is available to state, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by severe storms.

“We will also receive mitigation grant funds to reduce the impacts of hazards statewide,” said Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps.

Damage assessment teams determined more than 16 million dollars in damage met local and state thresholds for the declaration. Ice and debris knocked down trees and limbs into power lines in Lane County taking out hundreds of miles of publicly owned power lines. In Josephine County heavy snow, mudslides, landslides and flooding caused substantial damage.

“Without Warning: Tsunami” is the second time that OEM and Dark Horse Comics have come together to collaborate on bringing preparedness messaging to youth. In 2013, OEM’s Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator Alissa Rizzo approached Dark Horse with a proposal. An avid comic book fan herself, Rizzo knew that it was a good way to reach a new target audience. In August 2014, “Without Warning” was released, telling a story of an Oregon teen who reunites with her family after a major Cascadia Earthquake.

“The need for additional resources raised to the level that Wasco County Emergency Management reached out to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management for support,” said Beachamp. “The request was filled through a joint effort by Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Health Authority and the National Guard.”

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers based in Portland, with the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, and The Dalles, with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment answered the call. The Soldiers operated a Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) M997 Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), providing emergency medical service (EMS) agencies with transportation to access snow-bound residences, and assisted in patient transport. They also used another HMMWV equipped with a snowplow to help clear the parking lot for Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assist first responders during winter storms

Story by Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - The Oregon Army National Guard assisted emergency responders in The Dalles, January 18-20, during the snow and ice storms which closed Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge.

“The recent winter storm event strained resources statewide, including within the Columbia River Gorge,” said Kristy Beachamp, a public health emergency preparedness liaison with Oregon Health Authority. "Deep snow cut off many residences from access via ambulance.”

She said Wasco County Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers provided snowmobiles and cross country skiers to assist with medical responses countywide, but with all neighboring partners also dealing with the storm, the system eventually became overwhelmed.

Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency, which made the National Guard and other state resources available during the winter storms.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assist first responders with during winter storms


The first ‘Without Warning’ comic helped to educate young people about what to do in the aftermath of a high-magnitude earthquake. This second comic about tsunamis is a logical follow up and story continuation,” she said.

Rizzo came up with both stories. Dark Horse Editor Shantel LaRocque then scripted and artist David Hahn to have them scripted and illustrated.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers based in Portland, with the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, and The Dalles, with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment answered the call. The Soldiers operated a Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) M997 Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), providing emergency medical service (EMS) agencies with transportation to access snow-bound residences, and assisted in patient transport. They also used another HMMWV equipped with a snowplow to help clear the parking lot for Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue.
Domestic operations a priority for Oregon National Guard future

The Oregon National Guard recently participated in one of Oregon’s largest ever emergency response exercises called Cascadia Rising. The exercise was designed to simulate a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. Oregon National Guard units supported domestic operations in coordination with state agencies that lead other Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) in Oregon. Oregon has 18 ESFs ranging from transportation to communication to mass care and public information.

“Of course we are prepared for every type of emergency because of the close relationship with Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM is a part of the Oregon Military Department and is located in the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem near the JOC,” said Jones.

According to Jones, the JOC is the focal point for dealing with domestic operations that assist local governments and citizens of Oregon during emergencies. The JOC provides oversight for domestic operations to evaluate all-hazard threats and coordinate plans and programs to meet those threats.

“The JOC is a part of why the Oregon National Guard is ready to support quickly when CBRNE events occur,” said Jones. “It is great to know that we have trained together to become one team when it comes to protecting lives and property in Oregon,” said Jones. “As we continue with exercises, training events and workshops as a combined team, we will continue to improve our capabilities to support local communities in Oregon.”

“With our CBRNE Enhanced Force Response Force Package (CFRFP) from the Oregon and Kentucky National Guard train on various equipment used as part of search and recovery operations during Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon, June 9, 2016. The Cascadia Rising scenario simulated a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) resulting in a tsunami, testing first responders, emergency management and public safety officials in the Pacific Northwest.”

Support Team (CST) that can go in and support local police and fire departments, as well as the National Guard Response Force that can respond with capabilities like riot control, and the explosive ordnance disposal units, along with many other capabilities,” Jones said. The 102nd CST remains on active status to respond quickly when CBRNE events occur. The next step up in that response is the Oregon National Guard’s CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

This unit activates during large-scale contamination incidents to locate and extract victims, perform mass casualty decontamination, and stabilize patients for evacuation.

Nearly 600 Soldiers and Airmen supported the 2015 wildfire season in Oregon, helping fire crews with mopping up hot spots throughout the state. That is why Oregon National Guard leadership has made a commitment to the future of domestic operations. One example can be seen with the reorganization of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Col. (promotable) William Prendergast, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, said that the brigade has the ability to conduct transportation operations, moving people and material in support of the adjutant general, Oregon, and the governor during an emergency. Said Prendergast, “The brigade can also provide leadership and trained Soldiers within the maneuver battalions to be a part of expeditionary response capabilities the Oregon National Guard brings to the table in support of domestic operations.”

Prendergast added that the reorganization of the brigade increases their capability and capacity for both federal and state missions. The growth within the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion increases the number of combat engineers in Oregon, and the addition of a forward support company for the battalion creates another self-supporting task force. “Our brigade engineer battalion can provide engineer operations to clear roads and lines of communication during most domestic operations,” said Prendergast. “They can be used for many different engineer operations like clearing roads and increasing mobility anywhere in Oregon. The battalion can also provide a communication network that gives state leadership the ability to communicate with each region of the state.”

The Oregon National Guard recently participated in one of Oregon’s largest ever emergency response exercises called Cascadia Rising with many other local, state, federal and private emergency response entities to simulate the first four days following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. Jones said the exercise included interaction with Oregon National Guard units that support domestic operations in coordination with state agencies that lead other Emergency Operations a priority for Oregon National Guard future

SALEM, Oregon - The National Guard responds to requests from civilian authorities during emergencies within our country because saving lives and protecting property in the U.S. is part of what the Oregon National Guard does. That mission is called domestic operations and it is a big reason why the Oregon National Guard is working closely with state partners to ensure a coordinated response when it comes to all-hazard threats.

Maj. Cory Jones, joint deputy director of military support for the Oregon Military Department’s Joint Operations Center (JOC), provided oversight for domestic operations to evaluate all-hazard threats and coordinate plans and programs to meet those threats.

“The JOC is the focal point for dealing with domestic operations that assist local governments and citizens of Oregon during emergencies,” Jones said.

More than 8,000 Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are available to support the state during emergencies. The Guard can bring a variety of specialized functions to bear, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) response, mobile medical teams, engineering, aviation assets, and personnel, along with many other capabilities.

“We have resources like the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) that can go in and support local police and fire departments, as well as the National Guard Response Force that can respond with capabilities like riot control, and the explosive ordnance disposal units, along with many other capabilities,” Jones said. The 102nd CST remains on active status to respond quickly when CBRNE events occur. The next step up in that response is the Oregon National Guard’s CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). This unit activates during large-scale contamination incidents to locate and extract victims, perform mass casualty decontamination, and stabilize patients for evacuation.

The Oregon Army National Guard has HH-60M Blackhawk, UH-72 Lakota and CH-47 Chinook helicopters to provide air mobility. The Blackhawk is a medical evacuation air ambulance with flight medics and host capability. The Oregon Guard often uses Blackhaws to assist local authorities with search and rescues. The Chinook and CH-47 Chinook helicopters are used to assist with search and rescues as well, due to their specialized infrared optics that help pilots see in dark or low-visibility situations. Chinook helicopters are equipped to transport personnel and equipment, to include sling-load capabilities for heavy-lifting. All three of these airframes have been used to help state authorities battle wildfires over the years.

Nearly 600 Soldiers and Airmen supported the 2015 wildfire season in Oregon, helping fire crews with mopping up hot spots throughout the state. That is why Oregon National Guard leadership has made a commitment to the future of domestic operations. One example can be seen with the reorganization of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Col. (promotable) William Prendergast, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, said that the brigade has the ability to conduct transportation operations, moving people and material in support of the adjutant general, Oregon, and the governor during an emergency. Said Prendergast, “The brigade can also provide leadership and trained Soldiers within the maneuver battalions to be a part of expeditionary response capabilities the Oregon National Guard brings to the table in support of domestic operations.”

Prendergast added that the reorganization of the brigade increases their capability and capacity for both federal and state missions. The growth within the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion increases the number of combat engineers in Oregon, and the addition of a forward support company for the battalion creates another self-supporting task force. “Our brigade engineer battalion can provide engineer operations to clear roads and lines of communication during most domestic operations,” said Prendergast. “They can be used for many different engineer operations like clearing roads and increasing mobility anywhere in Oregon. The battalion can also provide a communication network that gives state leadership the ability to communicate with each region of the state.”

The Oregon National Guard recently participated in one of Oregon’s largest ever emergency response exercises called Cascadia Rising with many other local, state, federal and private emergency response entities to simulate the first four days following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. Jones said the exercise included interaction with Oregon National Guard units that support domestic operations in coordination with state agencies that lead other Emergency
The origins of the 41st Division began July 15, 1916, with the release of War Department General Order No. 39, combining the regiments and associated units of 16 states to form the U.S. into divisions. The 41st was comprised of units from Michigan, Pennsylvania, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and Nebraska. After the formal organization of the division took place on September 10, 1916, the 41st Division moved into training maneuvers at Camp Greene, South Carolina, and at Campرد in Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). The division was engaged in training maneuvers until March 31, 1917, when it was redesignated as the 41st Infantry Division and embarked for war.

In February 1942, the re-designated 41st Division was transferred to the Philippines, where it remained until December 20, 1941. Following the outbreak of World War II in December 1941, the division was transferred to the Pacific Theater of Operations. In the summer of 1944, the Jungleers of the 41st Division trained and processed more than 260,000 U.S. service members before they were transported to Saint-Aignan, France, where it provided replacement troops for field casualties. One hundred years later, the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, honored its centennial anniversary during a ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

The 41st Division completed jungle and amphibious training in early 1942. The division departed for the Pacific horizon in September 1942 and trained and processed more than 200,000 Soldiers from February 1942 to December 1943. The division was deactivated February 22, 1945, at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

"Consider the change that these Soldiers were part of: weapons such as machine guns, tanks, and even airplanes were the stuff of fiction at the turn of the century," said Edwards. "The 41st Division was on the cutting edge of technology and innovation, and it has continued to change but again, our anticipation and dedication to our duty has remained the same."

During the ceremony, "The constant was our Soldiers’ adaptability to these new weapons, new ways to wage war, and new scales of warfare with our country taking the first steps toward global power."

The division was assigned to the USMC in 1945. The War Department decided on April 1, 1917, that the division would become a replacement division for the 3rd Corps to replace the field casualty losses that had been made by American units in the South Pacific. The division was redesignated as the 41st Division and embarked for war.

"As the sun sets on the first 100 years of the 41st Division, we know that the next 100 years and beyond will be even more promising, more fulfilling, and will continue to be defined by proud and dedicated Citizen-Soldiers of the Pacific Northwest making a difference every single day in service to their nation and the great State of Oregon," said Cripps.

"The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs (Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

"For a century – from fighting on the Western Front to providing support on the battlefield to Saint-Aignan, France, it was the division’s mission to endure the cruel realities of malaria, dengue fever, and other diseases of the jungle added favor, the Soldiers of the division adapted and unfazed to defend the enemy," said Edwards. "Their victories in the Pacific Theater earned the division a new nickname: ‘Jungleers.’ The 41st Infantry Division fought the Japanese in New Guinea when they ordered term of the most vicious jungle warfare of any Allied force during the war. In the summer of 1945, they spent 97 consecutive days in combat in the Battle of Bataan. In the summer of 1944, the Jungleers expelled the Japanese from New Guinea in the bloody Battle of Bismarck. The division then participated in final campaigns on the Philippine Islands before transferring to occupation duties in Japan. The division was inactivated in Japan on December 31, 1945. Having spent 49 months away from U.S. soil, the 41st held the distinction of having the longest overseas service of any other U.S. division.

"Their successes were clearly evident by their accomplishments," said Edwards. "These were ordinary Citizen-Soldiers from the Pacific Northwest who had accomplished extraordinary achievements and outcomes, not just for America, but indeed, throughout the free world.

"Nearly one century ago, the 41st saw more changes to the organizational structure of the division than any other division in the history from World War I to present day during the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary. We know that the next 100 years will be one of many that come to follow for the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the Oregon Army National Guard.

"Re-enactors and artifacts provided by the Oregon Military Museum displayed the history from World War I to present day during the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary ceremony, April 1, 2017. At the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The ceremony honored the 41st Division’s 100-year history and generations of service from World War I to the Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team today. (Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

"As the sun sets on the first 100 years of the 41st, we know that the next 100 years and beyond will be even more promising, more fulfilling, and will continue to be defined by proud and dedicated Citizen-Soldiers of the Pacific Northwest making a difference every single day in service to their nation and the great State of Oregon" said Cripps.

"Sentinel. The 41st Division was one of the first divisions activated for World War I. The division was formed in St. Louis, Missouri, where it provided replacement troops for field casualties. The division was assigned to the USMC in 1945. The War Department decided on April 1, 1917, that the division would become a replacement division for the 3rd Corps to replace the field casualty losses that had been made by American units in the South Pacific.

"The division was redesignated as the 41st Division and embarked for war.

"The most recent deployment of the 41st Division was during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Freedom

"The world changed again on September 11, 2001. It was not long after that fateful day that units from the 41st were deployed. And frankly, we haven’t stopped being busy," said Edwards. "Deployments of Jungleers to Afghanistan and Iraq have been dominating our attention for the past 14 years, each deployment has been different, each mission has been unique. Change has been constant and has accelerated in the past decade much as it has since 1917."
173rd Fighter Wing travels to Arizona for DACT training with F-16s

TUCSON, Arizona – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing and five F-15 Eagles packed up and left the snow and below freezing weather of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and spent two weeks in January training in the temperate Arizona desert. The 173rd FW, Oregon Air National Guard, hosted the Oregon Air National Guard and spent that time flying dissimilar air combat training (DACT).

“The 162nd and 173rd have been flying together for years and years,” said Col. Jeff Smith, commander of the 173rd FW. “In many cases, they come up to train with us in the summer when it is really hot here — and in the winter to try and get away from the snow and ice — so we come down here and get training for our instructor pilots.”

The F-15 pilots flew as adversary air, freeing up the F-16 student and instructor pilots to accomplish the training needed and allow them to continue graduating F-16 pilots.

“While at home we aren’t really able to train much due to the snow and ice, so this is an opportunity for us to trade that student training and continue to produce as many fighter pilots for America as we can,” said Smith.

This training not only benefits the 162nd, but the 173rd pilots, maintainers, and support personnel as well. For the 173rd FW, dissimilar air combat training shakes up the routine and challenges their basic piloting and fighting skills. For those technicians and support personnel, packing up their equipment and performing their skill sets away from home station presents challenges and opportunities for growth.

“It’s something a little different then we do on a daily basis,” said Senior Airman Tyler Stanford, 173rd FW F-15 crew chief. “It helps us train to fight against our adversaries and gives a better mission capability.” Stanford also pointed out that training opportunities such as this facilitate a broader range of learning. Additionally, observing another unit’s operation and daily processes can encourage Airmen to bring back different processes and ideas to improve productivity and efficiencies within their own unit.

“I think we have great examples of how innovation can be sparked by going TDY or deploying; so many little things are different that you can learn from and figure out how we can adapt them to what we do and improve our processes,” said Smith.

173rd assists Fresno neighbors

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – The 173rd Fighter Wing avionics integrated systems shop assisted their counterparts at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, California. Over a week in February two Fresno Airmen made the seven-hour drive to Klamath Falls and brought several pieces of equipment with them.

“I brought radar transmitter parts here because our test station back home is broken and waiting on parts so there is a backlog,” said Staff Sgt. Amandeep Singh, 144th AIS technician.

Without the option to bring the parts here his shop would be forced to send the parts out for depot maintenance, which would most likely take weeks to turn them around.

“It is very helpful,” he said. “It saves a lot of money and we are able to produce good Quality Manuals in three days,” he said.

Essentially, the Klamath Airmen provide a test station during both day and swing shift and Singh and his coworker use it to produce parts that help eliminate a bottleneck in their wing’s flying operation. He went on to say that the use of the station is a big help, but that having the 173rd FW’s experienced Airmen around is possibly more beneficial.

“Their expertise is a bigger support than just being able to use the test station,” he said. “This F-15 airframe is new to us, we are still familiarizing and when we come here we gain a lot of information that is very helpful.”

Master Sgt. Jesus Rodriguez, the avionics section chief, said that they are primarily loaning a test station to the visitors, but when the need arises they can explain their how’s and why’s of tests and procedures, provide guidance, and essentially do some spot training for the Fresno unit as they make the transition to the F-15 airframe.

He’s also quick to point out that this working relationship goes both ways.

“We’ve had to borrow equipment from them before,” said Rodriguez, detailing how the strenuous calibration requirements have sidelined components required to satisfy demands of the flying schedule in the past.

“With a nice give and take because parts are getting harder to get a hold of and some of the test equipment is getting kind of sparse,” he said. All the avionics members within each shop nodded their agreement to this sentiment.

These members paint a landscape of innovation that increasingly relies on collaboration between all of the F-15 flying units to keep operations running smoothly. The Kingsley Field and Fresno units have a history of working together, in late 2013 the California unit brought jets and personnel to Klamath Falls for more than six months as a way to increase student production when they transitioned from the F-16 to the F-15 Eagle. The relationships developed then continue today as both units collaborate, sharing expertise, lessons learned and even tools to keep the fleet airworthy.

Security Forces train in Combatives

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Regardless of age or gender, when an individual joins the ranks of Air Force Security Forces they will spend some time on a mat learning how to protect themselves from an assailant with just their hands — using leverage to gain the advantage a larger and stronger attacker may have.

It’s called combatives, and all security forces members receive this training. Tech. Sgt. Brandon Stroh, the lead instructor for the recent training, points out that it’s not designed to help someone mount an attack on an assailant, and so there is not striking or counter striking.

Its purpose is to quickly subdue an attacker without harming them but with the possibility of pain compliance.

“For those of us in law enforcement, it allows us to survive a fight,” said Stroh. “It’s not about starting one or ending one, it’s important for us to be able to defend ourselves in the fastest way possible.”

Judging from the red faces and the fact that each drill starts with everyone putting in a mouth guard, one can guess that the training is strenuous. There are a lot of choke-holds to cut off both the wind and the blood flow to the brain.

There is also a lot of tapping — the accepted method of communicating “Yeah, you got that just right, and it’s really starting to smart.”

He went on to say that its application goes beyond law enforcement and he encourages people outside of security forces to practice it whether for “self-defense, humility, or just good exercise.”

In any case, if any of these members find themselves in a situation where they need to defend themselves, there’s little doubt that training like this will help do so, as quickly and with as little harm done to themselves or their attacker.
SAVANNAH, Georgia – Approximately 140 Airmen and eight F-15C Eagles from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, participated in the Sentry Savannah 17-2 exercise January and February 2017 at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia.

142nd Fighter Wing joins largest air-to-air fighter training

Sentry Savannah is a joint active and reserve aerial combat training exercise hosted by the Georgia Air National Guard and is the Air National Guard’s largest fighter integration, air-to-air training exercise encompassing fourth and fifth generation aircraft.

On the ramp, the Oregon F-15C Eagles sat alongside F-18 Hornets, T-38 Aggressors, and F-22 Raptors, all with the same goal - to fly, fight, and win. Airmen from operations, maintenance, logistics readiness, and security forces took part in the exercise.

“Having members from multiple units, who don’t normally work together on a daily basis, all working in a close environment, not only shows how well we work as a team to complete the mission, but also allows our members to get to know each other on a personal level,” said Master Sgt. Kevin Stone, the first sergeant for the exercise.

Each area focused on their roles, ensuring the overall mission is accomplished.

“Our job is to do everything we can to maintain a 100 percent effective rate, to make sure that our pilots get the training they need,” Lt. Col. Todd Hafford, 142nd Maintenance Squadron commander.

For the F-15 pilots of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, “Sentry Savannah provides invaluable combat-like training not found in home station training missions,” said Lt. Col. Aaron Mathena, 123rd FS commander. “For our new pilots, this is their first experience in this kind of environment, with multiple aircraft and scenarios.”

Being in a deployed location presents challenges and opportunities for learning not faced at home, which made it an optimal training environment. It was an opportunity to demonstrate the 142nd Fighter Wing’s ability to deploy anywhere.

Mathena said with the expertise, dedication and professionalism of the entire team, they easily overcame any challenges they faced.

The mission of the 142nd Fighter Wing is to provide unequalled, mission-ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime tasking any time, any place in service to our nation, state and community.

Pilots from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, prepare for a training mission from the Air Dominance Center, Savannah Ga., Jan. 28.

142nd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle gets a new wing in record time.

PORTLAND, Oregon – For members of the 142nd Maintenance Group’s Non-Destructive Laboratory (NDI) shop, performing Individual Aircraft Tracking (IAT) inspections keeps the F-15C fleet at the top of their game.

Depending on the determined life expectancy of specific parts, inspections are scheduled on an hourly and/or calendar basis. When an IAT inspection is performed, it is tracked, documented, and a determination is made regarding the next inspection period. If a crack is discovered, the location and orientation is determined, the information is then sent to Robins Air Force Base engineering to provide a disposition regarding repairs that might be required.

In some cases engineers recommend monitoring the defect rather than repairing. This was not the case for the 142nd Fighter Wing’s F-15C Eagle, Aircraft 78-0482, who a new wing was required.

“NDI discovered a crack about a month ago while performing the scheduled IAT inspection. After receiving a disposition back, we contacted depot immediately,” said Col. Christopher Lantagne, 142nd Maintenance Group commander. “We were happy to hear that a wing and the Depot Field Team (DFT) were coming between the holidays, something that from my experience is difficult to get.”

Immediately the 142nd Maintenance Squadron Structural shop worked with the engineering disposition and with Robins Air Force Base engineers to come up with a replacement plan. Several members of the 142nd Maintenance Group including crew chiefs and back shop specialists immediately got to work, and prepared the wing to be removed prior to the arrival of the DFT, who would be performing the swap.

The DFT from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., arrived in record time with the new wing and seven mechanics, consisting of crew chiefs, aircraft sheet metal, aircraft fuel system, and aircraft electrical/environmental system specialists.

The mission of the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group is to provide Programmed Depot Maintenance and unscheduled repair activities on F-15, C-130, C-5 and C-17 aircraft. They are responsible for the repair, modification, reclamation and rework of more than 200 aircraft worldwide. In addition, they prepare and deploy combat Aircraft Battle Damage Repair, crash recovery, supply and transportation teams worldwide.

“It was remarkable how quickly depot was able to get a replacement wing and DFT to us, especially considering the holiday season. On the first day of the team arrival, the wing was off and on the second day the new wing was on,” Lantagne stated.

A normal F-15C wing change can take 10 to 12 workdays. The DFT performed this change in seven days, cutting the aircraft downtime by at least three days and reducing man-hours from 672 hours to 528 hours.

Lantagne also remarked, “With aircraft availability always being a limiting factor in production, structural fatigue is a major concern. Our maintainers identified a crack in the wing, which immediately grounded the jet. Normally it would take six to nine months of downtime to get it repaired. Because of the professional

The Depot Field Team moves the new wing into place.

The Depot Field Team from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group move the new wing into place, Jan. 28, 2016.

The Depot Field Team from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., remove the wing from an F-15C Eagle assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Dec. 6, 2016.

The Depot Field Team attaches a new wing to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Dec. 6, 2016.
By Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal

HERMISTON, Oregon – Out in the rolling hills of north-central Oregon, far from the crowded cities near the coast, Soldiers train to join the U.S. Army infantry. Camp Umatilla, near Hermiston in Oregon, lacks the forested landscape and waterfalls usually associated with the Pacific Northwest. Instead, Soldiers who want to change their military occupational specialty learn infantry skills while rucking past tumbleweeds and eerie-looking symmetrical mounds.

Camp Umatilla is home to the Oregon National Guard’s 1st Infantry Training Battalion of the 249th Regional Training Institute and the only certified Army infantry training academy west of the Mississippi River in the continental United States. The camp was originally built during World War II to serve as a munitions storage area. Exactly 1,001 munitions storage bunkers — now mostly empty — still dot the landscape, visible to travelers on the nearby interstate highway.

Though the history is interesting, infantry course instructors of the 249th RTI are more worried about the future and preparing Soldiers for the demands of service in the infantry.

For those already in or transitioning to an infantry MOS, three courses are taught at Camp Umatilla. Junior enlisted Soldiers who want to join the infantry go through the MOS-Transition course. NCOs who want to transition to infantry go through the Infantry Transition Course. And those Soldiers who are already in the infantry and seek to be promoted can go through the Advanced Leader Course.

Though active-duty and reserve Soldiers in the MOS-Transition course of Oregon National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute train on infantry tactics at Yakima Training Center, Washington, the 249th RTI conducts Infantry Transition courses for Soldiers transitioning to the Infantry Military Occupational Specialty.

Story by
Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cyndi Baltezore, with the 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat California Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cyndi Baltezore, with the 1-185th Combined Arms Battalion, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, waits to execute a platoon raid during the final Field Training Exercise. Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin, the RTI’s infantry course instructor, said the physical difficulty of the job can surprise people, especially when they have to complete the 12-mile ruck march with more than 70 pounds of equipment. “It’s a lot of people coming into this feel that the infantry is just a bunch of mindless people who will run into a fire instead of run away from it,” Snyder said. “But there is a culture shock of what really goes into everything. From mission planning, to execution, to recovery, there are a lot of meticulous things that happen. It’s a very difficult school that we run, but real-life situations are more difficult than what we have here. We can add a little bit of stress — time management stuff, or carry heavy things for long distances — but, at the end of the day, nobody is shooting at them and nobody is getting blown up. We can’t paint that picture of stress and being able to handle it, because we’re not there yet.”

During the capstone exercise, Oregon Guardsmen armed with paintball guns and masks, were attacked by opposing forces during a foot patrol. In the scenario, two Soldiers were wounded and required evacuation. The combat medics had to respond to the threat, treat the wounded, call in a medical evacuation nine-line report, and then lead the casualties onto ambulances. The trainees later simulated loading the injured onto a Blackhawk helicopter that landed at Camp Najaf to assist with the training.

“The main benefit is building some of that muscle memory,” said Master Sgt. William Welborn, chief instructor, 249th Regional Training Institute. “They do tough realistic training. It’s distancing. There’s artillery simulators, it’s a stressful environment that gets them to work hard and think hard.”

The combat scenarios while providing medical evacuation were a memorable way to prepare medics.

“With these guys get into a real life scenario, they’re going to have the mental toughness to push through anything,” Welborn added.

The Pacific Northwest’s weather helped add an element of realism and environmental obstacles. “This year we have been especially challenged by the rain,” Welborn said, with a smile on his face. “But the Soldiers have really powered through and stayed highly motivated. They just don’t quit.”
PORTLAND, Oregon – A trio of Oregon National Guardsmen stand motionless at attention holding M-14 rifles. Then seemingly upon command, they fire three crisp volleys in succession, breaking the morning silence as the gunfire’s refrain resonates over the Mt. Scott hillsides and valley at Willamette National Cemetery.

The custom of firing three volleys is one of the oldest military traditions. It indicates the cease in hostilities between two warring sides to properly clear their dead from the battleground. In a military funeral, it signifies that the member’s weapons are no longer under the command of a higher officer but honor their sacrifice and service.

The firing party is just one element of the ceremony bestowing full military funeral honors. The ceremony also includes the respectful transfer of remains, the playing of Taps, and it culminates in the folding and presentation of the American Flag to the Veteran’s family.

For many years the Oregon Army National Guard and the U.S. Navy Reserves from Swan Island Reserve Center, Portland, have designated specially trained ceremonial honor guard members to perform multiple funerals each day at Willamette National Cemetery. For Airmen, the U.S. Air Force active duty honor guard from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, sent members on Temporary Duty Orders (TDY) to conduct specified services. Yet, beginning in October 2016, Tech. Sgt. John Hughel and Tech. Sgt. John Hughe began full-time duties at Willamette National Cemetery, representing the U.S. Air Force as members of the Oregon Air National Guard.

“Our honor guard team has been increasing in members and color guard events exponentially almost each year since I joined seven years ago,” said Meiningier, Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Base Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). “In the past year, we have had a new expansion set of trailblazer games, to Timbers and Thorns’ soccer matches, as well as elementary school presentations, parades, and Veteran association events.”

For several years, the PANG Team of nearly two dozen specially trained Airmen had requested to augment the JBLM members for local funerals. Finally, with a working detailed and later implemented by Meiningier and Master Sgt. Amy Schmidt, 142nd Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron superintendent, this program was executed with two full-time ceremonial Airmen on duty.

“When calculating lodging, per diem, and other logistical factors, we estimated a savings of over $114,000 a year,” Meiningier noted. “This was a plan put into motion in early 2015, but it was not until this fiscal year [2017] that we were able to begin keeping two full-time service members in place here at Willamette National Cemetery.”

A memo of agreement needed to be drafted between all parties, and then everything was submitted to the National Guard Bureau for approval before given the green light in October.

The financial benefit is just one element of having Air Guardsmen perform the funeral services locally. Beyond the money, the aspect, the dividends are far ranging. In fact, the impression of ceremonial honor guard members on the residential community has been instantaneous.

An overwhelming percentage of those attending a funeral service are civilians with little association with the military. As military ambassadors, the land, the American flag, and the honor guard’s role represents the pride of the Air Force locally, yet its role also reflects the overall professionalism of the armed forces with a joint service team during funeral ceremonies.

A significant first step was Airmen integrating into the mix of Soldiers and Sailors as there is a recognizable esprit de corps forged in the joint team at Willamette National Cemetery, something sacrosanct, embodying every aspect of honoring Veterans with dignity. For many years, the Army and Navy have been providing support to Air Force services with casket and firing party details. It was crucial for PANG members to integrate into the mix with the Army and Navy.

Having been part of the funeral honor program for the Navy over the past dozen years, Electrical Technician Chief Petty Officer James Cameron recalled how the administration at Willamette National Cemetery, something sacrosanct, embodying every aspect of honoring Veterans with dignity. For many years, the Army and Navy have been providing support to Air Force services with casket and firing party details. It was crucial for PANG members to integrate into the mix with the Army and Navy.

“There were various bureaucratic hurdles and it never worked out, but from day one we had a six-man flag folding presentation for several years to PANG Airmen involved.”

“A standard funeral has anywhere from 4 to 10 people involved and折叠 occurring in a service. On the busiest of days, 11-14 funerals are scheduled. With funerals set on the half hour, adding two new permanent individuals made an immediate impact. Willamette National Cemetery opened in 1950. The 307-acre cemetery in the city of Portland, Mt. Scott is one of the most active national cemeteries in the United States as well as one of the most picturesque. It overlooks the city of Portland, and the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Most notably, are the Cascade mountain range marvels of Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens. In July 2016, the cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Unlike Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. and many other national cemeteries with vertical standing stone markers, the low profile granite markers by design at Willamette National Cemetery emphasize and support the natural rolling landscape of the site.

In January 2000, the Department of Defense (DoD) established Public Law 106-57, which allows, upon family request, every eligible Veteran to receive a military funeral honor ceremony. The law defines that a detail should “consist of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran’s parent service.”

Each branch of the military has unique aspects to their funeral services. For the Air Force, a traditional flag presentation sequence is a two-man folding team. The Army and Navy encompass three members for folding and presenting. For those memorials, which include service members killed in action or on active duty, a six-man flag folding presentation deepens the ceremonial ritual. Subtleties abound in other areas with firing party and casket transfer teams. To streamline and build in uniformity, Army service rituals are incorporated and form a succinct presentation.

“This can be a very stressful environment,” Cameron said. “When not participating in a funeral service, the rehearsal and training between services is a critical component to building a cohesive team. One of most remarkable distinctions about the assignments is the autonomy. The innate reliability of team members is extraordinary and include being in place for services, having their uniform spotless and being prepared and on call at all times.

As the senior NCO for the Oregon Army National Guard team, Staff Sgt. Greg Lindstrom holds a profound yet calm atmosphere that allows junior members to contribute to the mission’s success.

“There really is no friction here [among members], and I’ll refer to those with different expertise or training like Specialist (E-5) Maysers and Corporal (T-3) Hoot to add their input to the team success,” Lindstrom said.

Both Maysers and Hoot have attended several honor guard courses and have been part of the Army’s Willamette National Cemetery team for several years. Their ‘leading by example’ approach facilitates an up-tempo, high-standard atmosphere within all team members.

“I like coming to work every day and the people we have in place,” Lindstrom added, “I love the overall atmosphere here, but more importantly, the job has real meaning.”

This environment sets the stage for becoming part of the total joint team. The ability to jump in was also a creative opportunity to develop undefined responsibilities. From building Airmanship skills of leadership, self-responsibility, attention to detail or working in a joint environment, the range of opportunities to grow is limitless.

“We found right away that, to be part of the team, it just made sense to use what was already working,” Meiningier said.

Now nearly half-way through this initial six-month assignment, Meiningier remarked on how the Willamette National Cemetery responsibilities have been a long sought-after professional goal.

“Everyone who joins the honor guard does so with the desire to get to this place at some point in their career; to perform military funeral honors,” he said. “This is what’s it’s all about: the extra and off-duty hours of training, the detailing of the uniform and building camaraderie over the way.”

“My father is buried here, so in so many ways this is a special assignment,” Cameron noted. “It is an honor on many levels to be part of this place.”

The Willamette National Cemetery over the larger group is contagious. Everyone wants to contribute and be part of all the services no matter on how the day goes. Everyone wants to be involved with the site of the property, or weather elements of the day.

“We see a sense of pride in the actual job, but on another level there is a deeper sense of belonging to a team,” Meiningier said. “You cannot help but broaden and appreciate every detail of life when working so close to a group that wants to give their best effort for every funeral service.”

There is repetition and ritual to many aspects of military life. When performing funeral honors, each detail is rehearsed over and over and then performed to the highest level during each service. Focusing on the Veteran and his or her family is the vital attribute.

Touching on the significance of the role honor guardsmen strive to attain, Lindstrom summarized the nature of the mission, “We don’t try to become emotionally attached to the family, but rather, we try and be that pillar of strength for them. Hopefully, what we give back helps support the family and reflects in some way the years of military sacrifice their loved one provided to this nation.”

This sense of support and pride each member brings to the funeral honors detail is distinct to the responsibility. “The passion, precision and expertise I have found with this assignment are like none other in my military career,” said Hughel. “Echoing a portion of The Airman’s Creed, of being ‘faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor,’ it’s a measure of devotion I also hope to carry with me in subsequent stations in life.”
**Guard terminal attack controllers train on new simulators**

**CAMP MURRAY, Washington —** More than 150 Soldiers and Airmen from three states participated in a training exercise at Camp Murray in November to demonstrate the value of new joint terminal attack control simulators. Airmen from the Washington Air National Guard’s 194th Air Support Operations Group (ASOG), based at Camp Murray, were joined by Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team, the California Army National Guard’s 40th Infantry Division, and the Washington Army National Guard’s 81st Brigade Combat Team for exercise ‘Cascade Warrior.’

“This is the realization of a seven-year dream to figure out how to do joint virtual and constructive training that accurately emulates what Airmen and Soldiers need to prosecute the joint fight,” said Col. Jeremy Horn, commander of the 194th Wing that includes the 194th ASOG. “Active duty leaders were there looking at this as a model for the total force.”

The exercise incorporated various integrated systems and simulators including the Air National Guard’s Advanced Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training System (AAJTS) which is a high-fidelity, fully-immersive dome simulator designed to support joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) and Combat Controller squadron-level rehearsal training.

“This system provides capabilities and simulator training that you could otherwise only get at a major field training event,” said Senior Master Sgt. Greg Kassa, simulations noncommissioned officer for the 194th ASOG. “We’ve just touched the surface of the capabilities of this system. This exercise integrated capabilities of Army staff, joint fires observers, and the ASOG. The simulation capabilities are instrumental in bridging any gaps between Army and Air during missions.”

Kassa said the simulation builds on lessons learned dating back over a decade. "We deployed in 2004 and we weren’t as good as we thought we were. When we came back the commander tasked us to come up with a way to train on what we learned on deployment. So a guy from 168th ASOS, Illinois Air National Guard [and I] started working on an integrated simulator training system, and have been continually developing and improving it since.”

Horn praised Kassa for his ongoing work to perfect this system, “Nowhere else but in the Guard can someone basically have the same job for ten years, developing relationships with all of the players that bring this technology together,” said Horn.

When Horn first knew Kassa, “he was already taking the Air Force system that industry provided and figuring out how to use them to train for today,” said Horn. “He cut the close air support response time to two minutes. He’s taken that same innovation and expanded to Army fire systems.”

One Airman who trained in the AAJTS simulator was Master Sgt. Justin Murner, JTAC for the 194th ASOG. “Our JTAC’s can train in this simulator as much as they want, and as much as time permits,” said Murner. “I’ve been in it a few times since we opened it around September. I love it compared to what we used to have. The simulator used to be a simple white screen with a laptop, but now it’s this. This simulator has 270 degree coverage so a JTAC can have a complete in from behind, over their shoulder,” said Murner. When asked about the most significant benefits of the simulator Murner explained, “If we have JTAC trainees bomb their own position while in here, it’s a bad thing, but we can debrief it and learn from it, [and] nobody gets hurt. The likeness of the downloaded maps is one of the coolest things. Additionally the number of aircraft assets on injects you can use are limitless. This system is very flexible,” said Murner.

**Liberty Truck first vehicle to cross new bridge in Clackamas**

**Left:** Elected officials from Clackamas County and Happy Valley, Oregon, pose for a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the Oregon Military Museum’s Standard B Liberty Truck during the opening of the Tolbert Bridge, Nov. 23, 2016, in Clackamas, Oregon. The bridge is replacing the existing at-grade crossing at Lawnfield Road and also includes the reconstruction of 93rd Avenue and 94th Avenue from Tolbert Street south to Clackamas Road and Church Street from 82nd Drive to 94th Avenue.

**Right:** The Oregon Military Museum’s Standard B Liberty Truck crosses the newly opened Tolbert Bridge during a dedication ceremony. The Liberty Truck was the first vehicle to cross the new bridge, which is located in front of Camp Withycombe where the Oregon Military Museum resides.
SPRING 2017 Page 15

OREGON GUARD BIALETHES COMPETE IN WESTERN REGIONALS

The Oregon Army National Guard and other Western states compete in the annual Western Regional Biathlon (WPW) Championship. The WPW involves biathletes from the top eight states, as well as professional biathletes from the Casper Biathlon Center in Wyoming. The biathlon is a combination of cross-country skiing and precision rifle marksmanship.

The competition consists of a 7.5-kilometer ski leg, followed by a standing and prone rifle shooting portion. The course includes four shooting ranges, with each range consisting of five targets. Biathletes must shoot two rounds at each target before moving on to the next range.

The top four finishers in both the men’s and women’s races qualify for the National Championship matches. The National Championship matches are held at the Camp Guernsey Marksmanship Center in Casper, Wyoming.

The Oregon Army National Guard is proud to have qualified four biathletes for the National Championship matches. The biathletes are

1st Lt. Ryan Cooper
Tech Sgt. Travis Voyeur
Pfc. Travis Cooper
Maj. Rebecca Walsh

These biathletes represent the highest level of marksmanship and skiing skills in the Oregon Army National Guard. They are trained to compete at the highest level and are ready to represent the Oregon Army National Guard on the national stage.

Journey to ‘President’s 100’ begins with TAG Match marksmanship competition

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

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard is looking for a few good shooters to compete in the annual, statewide marksmanship competition known as the Adjutant General (TAG) Match. Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state will gather at Camp Umatilla in Hermiston, Oregon, September 8-10, 2017, to compete as individuals and as joint teams of Soldiers and Airmen from across all 54 states and territories who compete with various service rifles and pistols at the highest levels.

Winners from the Oregon TAG Match can go on to compete in The Chief, National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC) Postal Match Championship. The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC) sponsors the competition to promote basic individual rifle and pistol marksmanship skills and to level the playing field by limiting the course to three times a rifle marksmanship section between each lap. The biathlete should use his and her own rifle. They must use one rifle for the course and then fire at least one rifle. The rifle must have a 500-meter zero and be set up for that distance. The rifle must have a scope on it.

The course consists of four stops on the course with four stops to shoot. Again, five rounds per shot, with two shots in the prone position and the other two fired while standing. Each missed target again resulted in a penalty loop of 150 meters.

“You have the potential to ski up to 20 penalty loops in a pursuit race,” said Walsh. Despite the pressure of competition, the biathletes said they just enjoyed the experience of being able to participate.

“It’s a very complex sport of moving and shooting with a high, high heart rate,” said Tech Sgt. Travis Voyeur, National Guard Biathlon trainer. “Most of the Soldier athletes will be shooting at approximately 180 beats when they hit the mat.”

The key to finishing well is to do well in as many different ways as possible. As a competitor and coach, Walsh said that is the most difficult part. “Being able to put them together, get it to sync and have a good day shooting and have a good day skiing it’s just the hardest thing,” she said. “But when it comes together and you have that perfect race, nothing is better.”

Service members from the nine states competed in two races. The first race was the sprint race, a 10-kilometer ski for men and 7.5 kilometers for women. Skiers compete separately. The second race is the pursuit race, 30th place in the men’s pursuit race); and 1st Lt. Ryan Stapleton (33rd place in the men’s sprint race), 30th place in the man’s pursuit race).

“Each day gets a little bit easier. Having the support group is really important,” said Jenness. “I would say just keep going,” Jenness said. “Each day gets a little bit easier. Again, I don’t have a lot of experience or practice, so, the more I do it, the better I will get.”

Competitors, both novices and veterans appreciate the camaraderie that comes with being a biathlete.

“National Guard Biathlon is a tight knit family,” Cooper said. “We really care for each other, and really look after each other. Having the support group is really encouraging.”

There are four finishers for both males and females from each state competing advanced to the National Championship matches held in May detailing entry requirements. In the meantime, units may direct questions to Sg. Maj. Geoffrey Miotke, with G3 operations, at (503) 584-3616.
On April 18, 1942, the Doolittle Raid was launched from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet for the Doolittle Raid of Japan, April 18, 1942.