Oregon CERFP trains to respond during emergencies

1186th Military Police mobilize for Afghanistan

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s 1186th Military Police Company, based in Salem and Hood River, Oregon, was honored in a mobilization ceremony, May 25, 2017, in Salem, Oregon.

Approximately 30 Soldiers are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS). The Soldiers were selected for a special mission to provide a Personal Security Detail (PSD), protecting individuals for the International Security Assistance Force in support of the theater operational commander and other high profile personnel.

The Military Police (MP) Soldiers spent their three-week annual training in May 2017 at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Oregon, working on warrior tasks, battle drills, combat life-saver training, weapons qualification, and then focused on specific training for their PSD mission.

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Pre-Mobilization Training Assistance Element (PTAE), a team of eight Soldiers that have experience from prior deployments, conducted the training at Camp Rilea.

“We’ll work with units ahead of time to create a package of training suited to the unit’s specific mission,” said Sgt. Nick Wolchowsky, an instructor with the PTAE.

The training is fresh on the mind of one Soldier who recently graduated from Military Police training and was completing her first annual training.

“I’m the newest add for the deployment,” said Pvt. Alex Broussard, an MP with the 1186th MP Co. “I look forward to going to a new country with my unit and look forward to the experience I’m going to gain.”

Story continued on Page 4
Command: Every successful mission requires teamwork

When I was a cadet, I had to memorize “Schofield’s Definition of Discipline” which goes like this:

“The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, it is likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instructions and to give contributions in such a manner and in such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey. The one mode or other of dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander: He who feels the respect which is due others cannot fail to inspire in them for himself; while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his superiors, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself.” — Major General John M. Schofield in an address to the Corps of Cadets, U.S. Army Military Academy on August 11, 1879.

The underlying principle is that each person should be treated with respect that is due. Each person has a role, a number of skills and capabilities, and certain decisions to make about his/her performance in the organization. Enabling each person to contribute can be as simple (and as complex) as understanding that everyone needs to feel valued and treated with the respect that any other member of the unit gets. It equates to fair treatment. Being ignored or treated differently than others in the unit produces alienation and decreased desire to contribute.

A two-way street: reflections on respect and leadership

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new position will not in 2010 and again in 2016. The military originally elected in 2004 and re-elected over criminal and civil matters. He was Oregon, exercising general jurisdiction related military law matters, and perform legal personnel training, readiness and the technical supervision and rating of Advocate General of the Army concerning Judge Advocate advisor to The Judge in the Army National Guard, the other Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve promotion to the rank of brigadier general Judge Advocate, is scheduled to be State JAG promoted to brigadier general position with NGB

In this role, he was responsible for strategy, planning and probate, and domestic relations. During that period, of military service during his retirement ceremony, May 6, 2017, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.


State JAG promoted to brigadier general position with NGB

Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Hill receives his one-star general officer flag during a promotion ceremony, June 4, 2017, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Hill, the Oregon National Guard State Judge Advocate, was selected to serve as the Assistant to the Chief Counsel, U.S. Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau.

"A true Citizen-Soldier, Col. Hill’s selection is a testament not only to his accomplishments in the Oregon Army National Guard, but also to his proven abilities and years of service as a circuit court judge in Umatilla County," said Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencial, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Hill was born in Pendleton, Oregon, in 1966, and attended school in Hermiston, Oregon. He received his Juris Doctorate from Willamette University College of Law in 1986, his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Oregon State University in 1983, and his Associate of Arts degree from Blue Mountain Community College in 1981.

Following graduation from law school, Hill was the Legislative Aide to "Chuck" Norris, State Representative, District 17, and a U.S. Army (retired). Following the end of the term, he worked for Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Oregon. In his civilian employment, he has been serving as the assistant general counsel of the Oregon Army National Guard. Hill’s private practice consisted largely of business law, real property law, estate planning and probate, and domestic relations. During that period, Hill was at different times concurrently the elected Municipal Judge for the City of Hermiston, the City Prosecutor for the City of Hermiston, and an appointed half-time Circuit Judge pro tem.

Hill mobilized twice with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard. He was the Task Force Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) in 2005 during domestic support operations following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He then deployed as the SJA for Joint Combined Task Force Phoenix V in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2006.

Hill has held a variety of military positions, most recently appointed by Governor Kate Brown as the State Judge Advocate, Oregon National Guard, in 2013. He has been serving as the assistant adjutant general since June 2014. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with five Oak Leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M and 20 devices, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Continued from Front Page

"I've been doing this for 11 years and look forward to going back to Kabul," said May 2, 2017.

The 1186 MP Company deployed to the United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Qatar, and Kuwait for deployment to Afghanistan, May 18, 2017, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

"It’s a NATO environment and you work beside military units from around the world," said Capt. Richard Smith, who will command the 1186th platoon while deployed. "This job is 100 percent paranoia; watching your sector and your buddies, keeping your situational awareness up at all times."

Several Soldiers received PSD training prior to the annual training at Camp Rilea and were able to help mentor the other Soldiers. The annual training was a chance for the deploying platoon to work through real world situations based on current tactics and in-country social norms. The platoon of Soldiers was able to work through many situations in a training environment that included the surrounding towns near Camp Rilea.

"If we didn’t have this training prior to mobilizing, we wouldn’t be as bonded," said Spc. Jacob Labato, a driver with the 1186th MP Co. "PSD is brand new to me and this has been a crash course on PSD."

The 1186th MPs are no strangers to tough training scenarios. In August 2015, the 1186th MPs spent 12 days conducting live-fire exercises and simulated battle scenarios at the National Training Center (NTC), in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The unit also partners with local law enforcement agencies for training. They recently partnered with district and federal agencies to provide security, crowd management and traffic control during the 58th Presidential Inauguration, January 18-22, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

The unit is scheduled to complete additional pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying overseas.

The deployed Airmen were from many career fields and represented nearly every organization at Kingsley Field.

"I have been in contact with the deployed members of the command section and I am proud of the job that they have done," said Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd FW command section deployment manager. "They have really worked hard and served in a way that represents our wing very, very well."

The first 173rd FW Airmen departed in October of 2016; and six have returned as of May 5, 2017. Klamath Falls community members and Kingsley Field Airmen gathered at the Crater Lake – Klamath Regional Airport on May 2 to welcome home Master Sgts. Osten Coaty and Monika Wilder, who are both 173rd FW Airmen.

"I couldn’t imagine what transpired at the airport," Coaty said of the more than 60 people from the local community gathered to welcome him and Wilder home when they stepped off an aircraft. "Our community goes above and beyond to make us feel welcome."

Coaty, a chaplain assistant with the wing, deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates.

"Coming home brings a huge sense of relief and accomplishment," Coaty said. "I wanted to do as much as possible over there for the 4,000 Airmen stationed there."

Strings of 12-hour days and few days off over his six-month deployment left him tired upon his return but also satisfied with the accolades earned, including the first Inspector General (IG) inspection in 25 years, which netted his section an "outstanding" rating and several best practices.

"I received nothing but support throughout this deployment and it is a great feeling to be home," Coaty said.

For many, these deployments are part of military service, something the Oregon National Guard emphasizes in the mission statement, which reads, "A ready force, a ready force...

"A Company, 641st Aviation deploys Soldiers to Middle East

Ten Soldiers with Company A (-), 641st Aviation Regiment are scheduled to deploy to the Middle East to perform transportation missions utilizing the C-12 fixed-wing aircraft.

Left: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Company A (-), 641st Aviation Regiment, were honored in a mobilization ceremony June 28, 2017, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Townsend will command Company A (-), 641st Aviation Regiment, while deployed to the Middle East.

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Maj. William Townsend holds his son, Thomas, following a mobilization ceremony June 28, 2017, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.
102nd Civil Support Team helps secure Boston Marathon

BOSTON, Mass. – Members of the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) added another elite event to their ever-growing resume; supporting the 121st annual Boston Marathon on April 17, 2017.

“It’s a pretty high-profile mission, all of us here are happy to be a part of it,” said Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Jamel Mercado, a survey team chief with the 102nd CST.

Oregon National Guard Cpl. Jeffrey Mayes, a survey team member with the 102nd CST, said he was the first to volunteer for this mission, “I got the email and I was the first one to respond, ‘Let’s go to Boston!’ I’m super stoked and ready. Maybe one day I will run in the Boston Marathon.”

Last year, the 102nd CST supported the attack, or any other attack in the United States. When we are in need, our Citizen-Soldiers are there.”

Oregon’s 102nd CST members were assigned as members of Joint Hazard Assessment Teams (JHAT) during the marathon. Both Mayes and Mercado were paired up with Army Explosive Ordnance technicians and first responders (either police or firefighters) to form teams of three. The teams then roamed around their respective sectors keeping both the general public safe and relaying pertinent information to the task force as necessary.

“Mayes echoed the sentiment, saying “We have the same job title, but we all do things a little differently,” said Mayes. “I can learn things here that we can take back to our team.”

We have the same job title, but we all do things a little differently,” said Mayes. “I can learn things here that we can take back to our team.”

“The CST brotherhood is a small community and many of the Soldiers and Airmen working the marathon have either worked missions together or attended training together.”

“It’s almost like a family reunion,” said Mayes. “I’ve seen about five folks that I went to my initial training with.”

Lulay said the experience has been nothing but positive. “It’s been nice here, they’ve taken great care of us, they prepared us well, and the training here has been professional and hopefully maybe we can have them come and help us sometime.”

Mercado believes the best thing about the CST is truly serving his community, “I’ve been overseas to Iraq twice and Afghanistan once, and now I can truly say when I put on a uniform, I’m doing something that’s going to better my neighbors potentially, keep my community safe.”

Story by
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Military Department held a ground breaking ceremony for the new headquarters building in Salem, Oregon, June 16, 2017.

The Oregon Military Department’s purpose is to administer, house, equip and train the Oregon National Guard - a ready force to support the governor and a ready force to the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army.

The Oregon National Guard has a long tradition and history dating back to 1843. The National Guard is found in both the U.S. Constitution and the Oregon Constitution. The tradition and history of the Oregon National Guard is based on the basis of its motto, “When we are needed, we are there.”

Nearby 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen currently serve in the Oregon National Guard throughout the state, ready to respond to any contingency, natural or man-made, at home or abroad.

The new 55,078-square-foot facility is scheduled to be completed in June 2018. Total cost of the project is estimated at approximately $25.48 million. The facility is designed to ensure operational flexibility, reduce operations and maintenance costs, and minimize the need for future remodels.

“The overall project is funded by both federal and state matching, and provides a positive impact for our Oregon economy,” said Stephen Bomar, director of public affairs for the Oregon Military Department.

Facility construction will address Green Energy requirements that will total 1.5 percent of the construction budget, and will meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold and State Energy Efficient Design (SEED) requirements.

In addition, the building will meet seismic Essential Facility requirements for immediate use following a seismic event, and will be co-located near the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to streamline civil-military emergency response coordination.

The project is contracted by Fortis Construction Company and SERA Architects.
Oregon Army National Guard assists search and rescuers

Above: An Oregon Army National Guard Blackhawk (HH-60M) helicopter, with G Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, arrives to assist with evacuating an injured hiker who fell while climbing near Devil’s Kitchen on Mount Hood, May 7, 2017. Inset: A Soldier guides the rope from the ground while a patient is hoisted into the aircraft, as rescue hikers observe. “The sound of chopper blades is always accompanied by a sigh of relief,” said Timothy Ozerkov, with Portland Mountain Rescue, who was on the scene responding to the incident. “It would have been a lot more difficult for us to take the patient down the mountain by hand, especially with how fast he was deteriorating. We appreciate your help so much.”

Photos by Timothy Ozerkov, Portland Mountain Rescue, Team 1

Left and Above: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers in an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter assisted Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office with a Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Salmon River area, August 6, 2017. The SAR was a coordinated effort between Portland Mountain Rescue, Mountain Wave, Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue, Inc., AMR RAT team, and more than 30 volunteers that pulled an all-nighter to rescue an injured hiker. The ground crews located the hiker and provided first aid until the Blackhawk helicopter arrived and transported the patient to the hospital.
741st BEB breaks down barriers

Combat engineers from the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), conducted training at Camp Rilea, March 4, 2017, where they practiced building and breaching obstacles. Part of that training included using explosives to clear obstacles.

Alpha Company commander, 1st Lt. Eric Krause, said the 741st is a new unit in the 41st IBCT, and that the Army is moving toward utilizing more BEBs.

“If there is something in the way, we clear it so the infantry can get through - like breach a mine field or open up a door, or whatever else is out there,” Krause said.

1-186th Infantry trains at Biak

The 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted a three-day training exercise consisting of multiple elements including movement-to-contact, medical evacuation, and other infantry tasks, as well as incorporating multiple support elements. These exercises help Soldiers at all levels in the unit learn to work together more effectively, enhancing their capabilities to respond to any mission they may receive.

Above: An Oregon Army National Guard infantryman, with 1-186th Infantry Battalion, pulls security during a battalion-level field training exercise (FTX) at Biak Training Center, near Redmond, Oregon, April 20, 2017.

141st BSB medics learn medevac

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

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Skidmore (left), crew chief with Golf Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, gives an aircraft safety briefing to medics with Charlie Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during medical evacuation training, April 8, 2017, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. Medics learned the proper procedure for safely loading and unloading patients onto an HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter.

Soldiers hone infantry skills at RTI

Photos by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, 249th Regional Training Institute

Above: Soldiers provide support-by-fire during a night mission at the Advanced Leader Course conducted by the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute in Umatilla, Oregon, May 9, 2017. Below: Sgt. Andres Yambo, with 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, gives a sector of fire to Sgt. Richard Isom, with 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, during a react-to-sniper simulation lane at the Advanced Leader Course conducted by the 249th RTI in Umatilla, Oregon, April 10, 2017.
Oregon National Guard hosts elite Air Assault and Pathfinder courses

**Air Assault**

"Line one on rappel," is the call of Soldiers and Airmen as they prepare to lower themselves down a vertical wall. "Line one on today," is the response from below, acknowledging readiness for the descent.

More than 200 Soldiers and Airmen from across the U.S. participated in the annual Air Assault course held at Camp Rilea in Warrenon, Oregon, May 26-June 9, 2017. Air Assault-qualified Service Members are inserted into hard-to-reach areas where a small contingent is needed to conduct air-mobile operations. A Mobile Training Team (MTT) of instructors, from the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, traveled to Oregon to facilitate the training. The two-week course consists of three phases in a crawl, walk, run process. Phase One includes physical training and classroom instruction to familiarize trainees on aircraft, medical evacuation, combat assault, and Pathfinder operations.

"In the classroom, Soldiers learn aircraft operations, including familiarization with different aircraft, their assets and their capabilities," said Capt. James Sturges, executive officer assigned to the MTT for the Air Assault, Pathfinder and Rappel Master courses.

Out of the classroom, the Soldiers are pushed to their physical limits. The "Day Z" obstacle course is the first physical test Service Members must pass to stay in the course and continue with the training.

"We began with 266 Soldiers and had 60 drop the first day," Sturges said. "It’s not about strength, they don’t know techniques to navigate the obstacle course."

Each obstacle must be completed according to the instructions given. Some obstacles have a no-fail requirement, meaning it must be completed in order to stay in the course.

"I prepared for this course for two months. I did a lot of running but not enough upper body strength training. Most of the people failed the rope climbing drill on the first day," said Oregon Army National Guard Cadet Sasha Tulett, a human resources specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Command, assigned to the annual Air Assault course held at Camp Rilea in Warrenon, Oregon, June 6, 2017.

"During Phase Two Two Soldiers must complete a timed 6-mile march while carrying a 55-pound ruck. Sturges said, "They also learn about sling loads and rigging inspection of loads suspended from the aircraft."

"Learning new skills and being pushed to the limits is the best part of the course," said Harless. In Phase Three, Soldiers begin rappelling from a 70-foot tower during the Pathfinder course held at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, May 26-June 9, 2017. The Service Members are trained in air-mobile operations through classroom instruction and hands-on practice.

"Pathfinder students said the difficult part of the course was the short time frame of the course challenging and interesting. Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Evan Robison, assigned to B Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Infantry Regiment, was one of the few under-class Pathfinder participating in the course. He said, "I was able to learn different operations I have never been a part of before. The best part of the training is understanding how operations are conducted and what is needed to perform each operation." Pathfinder students said that the course was challenging and difficult but keeping a "strong will and mindset" was key.

"This course is the hardest I have ever been in. It is a good academic challenge; you need to know algebra, geometry, and trigonometry," said Staff Sgt. Isaac Lund, with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "Drop zone survey was the hardest section; the hardest test was the nomenclature test. You had to give the exact name in Army terms, verbatim, no short cuts."

Supplies, personnel and equipment are always needed to support U.S. Army operations. Pathfinders help ensure these deliveries reach their destination.

"The job of the Pathfinder is to guide aircraft into a drop zone, they find a path from air to ground for parachutes, personnel and vehicles," said Staff Sgt. Josh Cavalas, a Pathfinder instructor assigned to the Warrior Training Center in Fort Benning, Georgia.

"Soldiers and Airmen from across the U.S. participated in the U.S. Army Pathfinder course at Camp Rilea in Warrenon, Oregon, May 26-June 9, 2017. The Service Members are trained in air-mobile operations through classroom instruction and hands-on practice."

Pathfinder instructors check wind and weather conditions during the Pathfinder course at Camp Rilea in Warrenon, Oregon, June 7, 2017. The students learned how to negotiate the terrain and use the tools that were given to them to complete the course.

"High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said. "High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said.

"The end of the course consists of the most difficult part of the course," said Harless. "The hardest test was the nomenclature test. You had to give the exact name in Army terms, verbatim, no short cuts."

"I compensated for wind drift, but the wind died down just as it was dropping," said Cavalas. "The wind died down just as it was dropping." Cavalas said overall success depends on attention to detail; following instructions and doing exactly what they are told, and be in the right uniform at the right time with everything on the packing list. "High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said. "High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said.

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"In the classroom, students are pushed to their physical limits. The "Day Z" obstacle course is the first physical test Service Members must pass to stay in the course and continue with the training. "We began with 266 Soldiers and had 60 drop the first day," Sturges said. "It’s not about strength, they don’t know techniques to navigate the obstacle course."

"During Phase Two Two Soldiers must complete a timed 6-mile march while carrying a 55-pound ruck. Sturges said, "They also learn about sling loads and rigging inspection of loads suspended from the aircraft."

"Learning new skills and being pushed to the limits is the best part of the course," said Harless. In Phase Three, Soldiers begin rappelling from a 70-foot tower during the Pathfinder course held at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, May 26-June 9, 2017. The Service Members are trained in air-mobile operations through classroom instruction and hands-on practice. Pathfinder students said the difficult part of the course was the short time frame of the course challenging and interesting. Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Evan Robison, assigned to B Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Infantry Regiment, was one of the few under-class Pathfinder participating in the course. He said, "I was able to learn different operations I have never been a part of before. The best part of the training is understanding how operations are conducted and what is needed to perform each operation." Pathfinder students said that the course was challenging and difficult but keeping a "strong will and mindset" was key.

"This course is the hardest I have ever been in. It is a good academic challenge; you need to know algebra, geometry, and trigonometry," said Staff Sgt. Isaac Lund, with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "Drop zone survey was the hardest section; the hardest test was the nomenclature test. You had to give the exact name in Army terms, verbatim, no short cuts."

"I compensated for wind drift, but the wind died down just as it was dropping," said Cavalas. "The wind died down just as it was dropping." Cavalas said overall success depends on attention to detail; following instructions and doing exactly what they are told, and be in the right uniform at the right time with everything on the packing list. "High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said. "High standards are expected; missing one item as small as a single sock will cause the Soldier to be sent home," Sturges said.
550th Fighter Squadron activated

Kingsley Airmen journey to Israel to support F-15 gun maintenance

Kingsley Airmen journey to Israel to support F-15 gun maintenance

Renitalizing Air Force squadrons

Revitalizing Air Force squadrons

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon—In the continuing efforts to help reshape and improve the U.S. Air Force and how it conducts business and responds to challenges, the Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF), Gen. David L. Goldfein, appointed a team to gather as much information and new ideas from Airmen as possible.

“I believe that it is at squadron level where it can succeed or fail as an Air Force... It’s where Airmen are developed. It’s where Airmen and families thrive. It’s where training and innovation occurs. And I believe it’s where we make the most difference as leaders,” according to Goldfein.

The plan is being conducted in four phases. Phases one and two, were conducted by determining first what needed to be looked at using climate, readiness and inspection data followed by a retention survey and a 20mm gun system in perfect working order.

20mm Gatling rotary gun which can fire at a rate of 6,000 rounds a minute, during a combat mission.
Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, ushers ordinance journeyman with the 142nd armament systems mechanic for the 142nd jet as in a real-world deployment scenario. that essentially gets the deceivingly heavy Group superintendent. Sgt. Daniel Conner, 142nd Maintenance weapons loader’s dream. being part of a weapons competition is a glory. Although there’s no monetary prize, Portland Air National Guard Base, May 7, 2017. High-stakes weapons loading is a annual Weapons Load Competition at the add a little friendly competition. get the pulse racing, especially when you air missiles on a hot tarmac is the thing to pursuits can look, well, a little tame. For the epic flow of a Northwest river. But since, becoming its own exercise. The exercise was conducted between sites at Volk Field Air National Guard Base, Camp Douglas and Fort McCoy Total Force Training Center. “This is an exercise that allowed them more hands-on training with the tools of their trade,” Smith said. “At Fort McCoy, with the support of the (Improved Explosive Device/Asymmetric Warfare Team) and the spaces available, we are able to add more realism to give these EOD members the kind of training they need to stay on the cutting edge of readiness for future responses.” EOD members attended from Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin. “Bringing all these Airmen together here to train really provides an excellent opportunity for them to share ideas and information,” said Senior Master Sgt. Gilbert Holcomb, 115th EOD Flight, 142nd Fighter Wing. “That’s why I thought Exercise Audacious Warrior was the perfect name for the event. It really anchored us down and made us jammer drivers in the business out here. It really gave us the opportunity to train at Fort McCoy.” “We’ve certainly learned a lot in our time training in (this exercise),” Tourtelloutte said. Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Dean Telecsan, with the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight, review a training scenario on Aug. 17, 2017, during Exercise Audacious Warrior at Fort McCoy, Wis. The exercise, coordinated by the Wisconsin Air National Guard’s 115th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Flight and the Fort McCoy Counter Improvised Explosive Device/Asymmetric Warrior Team, trained more than 20 EOD Airmen from National Guard installations nationwide, focusing on core skills in the EOD career field. Since the early 1950’s weapons loading has been the same without the support of the Counter Improvised Explosive Device/Asymmetric Warfare Team. “Every time we come here, Nic and his team help us drive better scenarios that build the skills of our Airmen,” Smith said. “In our business, better skills can save lives.” The Counter Improvised Explosive Device/Asymmetric Warrior Team was established at Fort McCoy in spring 2014 through a contract by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security to prepare service members for asymmetric threats. “Our ultimate goal is to help with (Service Member) survivability when they are deployed,” Casey said. “We provide unique training that can be customized to any region of the world to meet any unit’s training requirements and more.” Staff Sgt. John Tourtelloutte with the 104th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD Flight at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Mass., said he appreciated the opportunity to train at Fort McCoy. “We’ve certainly learned a lot in our time training in (this exercise),” Tourtelloutte said. Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Airman Maintenance Squadron, aircraft armament ordinance journeyman, participates in an F-15 Eagle weapons load contest to see which team can properly and safely load six missiles onto three separate aircraft, May 7, 2017, at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Sweat and spears: Airmen compete in weapons loading challenge

PORTLAND, Oregon – Runners crave the early morning trail run. Kayakers search for the epic flow of a Northwest river. But if you’re in the military, civilian weekend pursuits can look, well, a little tame.

For the Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing, preparing and loading lethal air-to-air missiles on a hot tarmac is the thing to get the pulse racing, especially when you add a little friendly competition.

The 142nd Fighter Wing conducted their annual Weapons Load Competition at the Portland Air National Guard Base, May 7, 2017. High-stakes weapons loading is a high-drama endeavor. Winner-take-all the glory. Although there’s no monetary prize, being part of a weapons competition is a weapons loader’s dream.

“The weapons load competition demonstrates the capabilities and dedication to win the race,” said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Conner, 142nd Maintenance Group superintendent.

The load competition brings three teams of airmen and leaders together to load three aircraft, creating a race with a tightly choreographed set of movements that essentially gets the deceivingly heavy munitions loaded underneath the wing of a jet as in a real-world deployment scenario.

“We’re preparing for the real world by loading of aircraft in a deployed scenario,” said Master Sgt. Darnell Barnhart, aircraft armament systems mechanic for the 142nd Fighter Wing.

As Tech Sgt. Jay Aebi, aircraft armament ordnance journeyman with the 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, ushers the AIM missile toward its temporary home: a supersonic F-15 Eagle fighter jet, it’s a race against time. He’s got a small team sweating, swirling like bees in a coordinated dance, prepping and loading a nest of projectiles to its rightful owner.

“Our F-15 is the perfect platform for our homeland defense mission. It is truly one of the world’s most lethal weapons delivery systems,” said Conner. “The weapons load crews maintain and load the aircraft. I compare their job to sharpening the sword.”

Although speed is a factor, the crews were evaluated on task assignment, accuracy and regulation compliance. The crew that completes the load the fastest with the least amount of discrepancies is crowned the winner. Though the weapons loading happens at a fast clip, there is a large margin of safety built into the process, a critical safeguard for the projectiles with destructive power.

“We’re always training for these things to be live. So anything unsafe could be catastrophic,” said Tech Sgt. Elijah Olsen, aircraft armament systems mechanic for the 142nd Fighter Wing and evaluator for the competition.

Weapons loaders keep score: key metrics help decide who is allowed to prove their skills in the competition.

Olsen explained how it works. “The one man is the crew chief. He makes sure the team is loading correctly and safely and carries a checklist around with an updated checklist as he updates throughout the process. The two and three man prepare and load the aircraft.”

Since the early 1950’s weapons loading competitions have been a long-standing tradition with crews in the Air Force. These competitions were developed from load operations, populated area responses for IEDs, and more. “This was not an inspection for these Airmen; it was an exercise to allow them to improve their abilities and learn from each other.” Smith said. “They also used the simulation training available at Fort McCoy, completed land-navigation, combatives training, and held active-shooter drills in (this exercise).” Tourtelloutte said.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jared Perine, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Lotus's resolve and resiliency,“ said Capt. Aaron LaMont, who served as the project officer for the WIC assignment. “Just when you go on the road, you see what it’s like to be world-wide deployable.”

The intense planning for WIC, like all the other assignments away from home station, begins 120 days in advance, with key areas assigned to make sure everything is covered when it’s time to load up and move out.

“We start by mapping out how many people are needed, then assign key POC’s (Points of Contact) within our maintenance department, finance, logistics, communication and other areas,” LaMont said. “Once we know what we need to bring then we go over the rules and responsibilities.”

LaMont, like many of the Redhawks, was serving on his third temporary duty assignment (TDY) this year, while a handful of others were on their fourth. The intense planning for WIC, like all the other assignments away from home station, begins 120 days in advance, with key areas assigned to make sure everything is covered when it’s time to load up and move out.

“The training is different because our role here [at WIC], is the part of aggressors or non-American tactics, but it allows us to see the combat environment from a different approach than at home,” said LaMont.

Training tactical leaders has a long history at Nellis. The Unites States Air Force Weapons School was first established in 1949, as veteran flyers of WWII formed the cadre to help instruct the next generation of pilots. The ‘Red Air Support’ role provided by the 142nd Fighter Wing helped to also support the instructor pilots in the weapons school.

“Nellis is the hub for tactics and training and has the best air space in the world,” LaMont explained. “For the most part, the weather is great and reliable. Almost every aircraft in the Air Force inventory is involved in the course work and that simulates the combat environment necessary for this training.”

When moving the 142nd Fighter Wing’s F-15 Eagles from Portland’s cooler and damper climate, to the Nevada desert conditions, the aircraft needed time to make the transition. On the flight line, the maintenance Airmen knew the first few days would be busy.

“It takes a couple of days for the jets to get acclimatized to the environment, settle-in and start working more consistently,” explained Master Sgt. Haina Searls, an avionics technician. “The same thing I noticed when we got to the UAE (United Arab Emirates), the first week was hard on avionics, but then the jets really started to cooperate with the dryer weather, performing superbly.”

As important as getting the aircraft functioning at a high rate, it is equally important to get a good mix of the staff for the WIC assignment. Seasoned veterans, like Searls, feel it is important to bring a good number of Drill Status Guardsmen (DSG) that can spend time building skill sets.

“Our intent is to get 40 percent of our DSG’s on extended temporary situations,”he said. “With our nine avionics members here, five are traditional Guardsmen, and the other four are deployed.”

The Redhawks were called upon to travel to support the Weapons Instructor Course like none other in the Air Force, allowing the student to integrate training with airframes both new and old.

“When I joined the Air Force, that was the first time I ever found myself flying alone,” Schenk recalled. “It’s been 13 years since I watch a B-52, and it has been awesome, I don’t want to miss a second of the action. I hope to learn as much as I possibly can from any of the details it leaves the air base.”

Working the swing shift, Schenk and his comrades found themselves turning jets in the dark, late at night and often into early morning hours, only to have an early start with the day’s first alert mission.

“We have a good group of guys, everyone is stepping up, and the shift hours it involves just helps mix it in,” he said. “When we deployed to Romania in 2015, our work schedule was often just as varied and demanding.”

The cumulative effect of deployments, temporary duty assignments, schools and daily undertakings with the home station alert mission has built a skilled, trained and prepared group. Even though Schenk is part of The North American Aerospace Defense Command alert team in Portland, the WIC assignment is his third diversion from his normal 24-hours on, 48-hours off, continuous schedule over the past two years.

“I really love it and get a great sense of accomplishment from working on the alert mission,” said Schenk. “When you get the opportunity to go and work with other Air Force units, whether it be U.S. or other nations, it’s great because we simultaneously learn from each other.”

Major Bradley Young echoed the same sentiment as he concluded his final days in the WIC program. The long months of training have prepared him to take his flying to the next level and incorporate the knowledge with his colleagues with the 142nd Fighter Wing.

“The Weapons School has been an amazing experience,” he said. “I am very much looking forward to taking everything I’ve learned and bringing it back to the Redhawks.”

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LaMont, like many of the Redhawks, was serving on his third temporary duty assignment (TDY) this year, while a handful of others were on their fourth. The hard work has been evident as the jets are meeting their flying responsibilities and the Airmen are taking on the challenges with fluctuating shift hours and last minute schedule changes.

“Obviously the more flying we do it’s harder on the aircraft and the more toll it puts on maintenance, but those guys are awesome, the jets are clean and ready to go,” said LaMont. “When it all comes together, we’re able to be successful from the plan we built in advance.”

The Nellis experience:

As the sun begins to set at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Nick Rutgers, assigned to the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, prepares his F-15 Eagle for a late day sortie, June 8, 2017.

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Oregon Soldier competes at national Best Warrior Competition

By severe weather and would be the first of many physically demanding challenges the 14 competitors would undergo on Day 2 of the competition.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash navigates the obstacle course during the 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, July 18, 2017, at Camp Ripley Training Center, Minnesota. He competed at the national level after earning the title of Oregon Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and was then selected as the Region VI NCO of the Year. He is an infantry platoon sergeant with D Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He has served in the Army for 16 years and deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Ash is Combat Infantryman, Expert Infantryman, Air Assault and Pathfinder qualified. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Oregon.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Scooy, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

CAMP RIPLEY, Minnesota – As heavy rains fell, 14 Soldiers from 12 states battled it out at Camp Ripley in the 2017 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition, July 17-20, 2017.

Competitors who made it through their unit, state and regional level competitions vied for the title of Army Guard Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. The competitors came from Arkansas, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington D.C., Washington state, and Wisconsin.

"Making it this far in the competition has been a surprise," said Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, an infantry platoon sergeant with D Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Ash was the oldest competitor in the NCO division during the Oregon National Guard Best Warrior Competition held in August 2016 at Camp Riple in Oregon. He went on to be selected as the Region VI NCO of the Year before competing at the national level.

"I really didn’t expect to win the state competition, it was just to challenge myself," said Ash. "Much to my surprise when I was announced the winner of that competition and heading into the region competition, I thought, ‘OK, cool, I made it to the next level!’"

The grueling four-day competition in Minnesota stood as a hard won test designed to stress the competitors' physical and mental agility," said Sgt. Maj. Darin Mjeon, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the overall competition.

"We’re going to stress these competitors, but not break them," Mjeon said at the start of the competition. "Ultimately, we’re going to select the top NCO and the top Soldier to represent the Army National Guard at the all-Army Best Warrior Competition later this fall.”

The competitors said the events lived up to those expectations.

"They had us running, I think yesterday, for about 20 hours, moving constantly. The day before that it was pretty similar," said Sgt. Grant Reimers, a heavy vehicle operator with the Nevada Army National Guard's 1859th Transportation Company. Other competitors felt similarly.

"It's definitely been one of the most challenging things I've ever done," said Staff Sgt. Dustin Rotter, a drill sergeant with the Tennessee Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 175th Infantry. But for Rotter, one of the most challenging parts was simply the other competitors.

"The other competitors, they're all a bunch of great guys and here you have the cream of the crop of the [Army] National Guard," he said. "You could just roll the dice, pick any one of them, and they're going to compete and represent well at that next level."

Competitors were cut from targets with a variety of weapons, tackled numerous physical challenges on the obstacle course, called in artillery fire, performed medical tasks, ran a 13-mile ruck march, as well as numerous other physically demanding events.

"You just don’t get the opportunity to train like that, especially for me being a truck driver," said Reimers. The competition challenged each competitor in different ways, but for many the mental challenges were just as difficult as the physical ones.

For Staff Sgt. Daniel Sebo, a combat medic with the Minnesota Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 175th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), that mental challenge was toughest during the night land navigation course. Starting just after 3 a.m., competitors had to use a map and compass to guide them to several pre-determined points over large distances.

"As soon as you start walking through the woods, it’s cold and you're soaked and your hands are dead," said Sebo. "At that moment you’re thinking to yourself, ‘Do I really want to do this?’"

For Reimers, that feeling came earlier in the competition, when competitors were required to run an unknown distance while encountering numerous tactical challenges along the way.

"My knees hurt and there was so much weight with the [body armor] and the Kevlar [helmet] and I was like, ‘Man, this pretty much sucks,’” he said.

However, competitors leaned heavily on each other to make it through the competition.

"They showed up here as competitors, but they’re now competitors that said Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wortham, the senior enlisted advisor of the Minnesota National Guard, "We’re all here throughout this competition was competitors turning into comrades, cheering each other on, and in-turn supporting each other."

For Wortham, that was most evident during the 13-mile ruck march.

"When that last competitor came across that [finish] line with that ruck, his whole pack of comrades were there with him, there to cheer him along the way," he said. "That just speaks to the values of what these Soldiers mean to each other."

Wortham said the reason for that support was simple.

"It’s really great when you can all embrace the suck together. We said, ‘It just helps all around, embracing just how hard these events are. You can laugh and joke and get over it that way.’"

But competitors supported each other in other ways.

"We all brought our expertise together from our specific areas," said Sebo. "Whether it was [infantry] or truck drivers or medics, [we could] combine that knowledge so that when it came to the competition we all could put our best foot forward. We all really grew together as a team and that camaraderie developed."

The events also challenged competitors to think on their feet.

"By design [the competitors] received very little guidance and very little direction," said Wortham. "We did that because we wanted to make sure they could think on their feet."

Sebo said that was especially true during the crew served weapons event, which required competitors to move between positions using machine guns and other weapons to engage targets.

"The only direction was, really, grab an ammo bag and engage your enemy with any weapon available,” he said.

In the end, Sebo was named the NCO of the Year, while Reimers was named Soldier of the Year.

"I just couldn't stop smiling,” said Sebo, of his win. "It was a bit of a surprise.”

"Honestly, I couldn’t really believe it,” he said. "Throughout the competition, talking with some of the other guys, the competition was really steep. I had no idea I was going to win it.”

Reimers agreed.

"I didn’t do as well as here I thought I should have, I have to hone in my skills to make sure I’m ready to go for the all-Army competition.”

Sebo had similar thoughts.

"It's a big competition,” he said. “It's a big stage. There's definitely going to be a lot of training going into it.”

Both will move on to compete in the 2017 Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition, scheduled for October, where they will compete against Soldiers from throughout the Army to be named the Army’s Soldier and NCO of the Year.

"I’ve got a lot of training to do,” said Sebo. "I didn’t do as well here as I thought I should have, so I have to hone in my skills to make sure I’m ready to go for the all-Army competition.”

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ORNG Youth ChalleNGe Program graduates 53rd class

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

BEND, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program (OYCP) graduated its 53rd class on June 14, 2017, at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon. OYCP is a statewide, accredited alternative high school that serves all of Oregon. The graduation ceremony featured 131 students from several different high schools across Oregon who underwent a rigorous five-and-a-half-month in residence phase. The students will return home and continue with one year of active mentorship following their graduation.

“We are so grateful for our educators and staff, as well as pride filled for each and every individual graduate and their efforts. Congratulations to all,” said Dave Stuckey, Deputy Director for the Oregon Military Department. The ceremony drew hundreds of family members, friends and community supporters of the graduating cadets from across the state. OYCP is one of 37 nationwide National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Programs and has been recognized as one of the premier programs in the country. The OYCP program is cost-free to cadets and their families and has successfully graduated more than 4,600 cadets since its inception in 1994. The voluntary, 17-and-a-half-month program provides youth who are at risk of not completing their high school education, both male and female, ages 16 to 18, from urban and rural areas of Oregon, with another opportunity to succeed.

Cadets work through a two-phase program, beginning with an intensive five-and-a-half-month residential program during which they develop life-coping skills, perform volunteer community service work and attend academic classes. While in the program, cadets continue their education, develop life skills, and create a plan, outlining clear and organized steps to keep them along the path of success following graduation. The second phase of the program consists of one year of mentorship. During this phase, cadets receive encouragement and support as they implement their plans to re-enter their home environments.

Details about the Oregon National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program are available at www.oycp.com or by phoning (541) 317-9623.

The Oregon National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program (OYCP) drill team performs with their rifles during a graduation ceremony in Redmond, Oregon, on June 14, 2017. The OYCP program, which is run by the Oregon National Guard, helps students recuperate high school credits and learn valuable life skills in a military training environment.
Joint council seeks to foster a culture of diversity

The Oregon National Guard (ORNG) Joint Diversity and Inclusion Executive Council (JDIEC) advises senior leadership to create and foster an organizational culture where diversity is valued as a factor of personnel readiness and a combat multiplier.

The vision of the JDIEC is to achieve an organizational culture that values and respects all Soldiers, Airmen and Employees of the ORNG, free from prejudicial barriers, stereotypes and restrictions.

ORNG begins with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) Diversity Strategic Plan. The purpose of the ORNG JDIEC is to align with the NGB Diversity Strategic Plan, ORNG Strategic Plan and ORNG JDIEC Strategic Plan. These goals include: leadership commitment and policy development; career management; diversity awareness education and training; community outreach and involvement; recruiting and retention.

Being part of the ORNG JDIEC is where you can make a difference to promote the ORNG JDIEC initiatives and carry out the National Guard Bureau’s diversity goals and objectives. Council members have equal voices in council discussions, regardless of military rank or position. Their role is to serve as an ambassador, change agent, mentor, educator, organizer, and diversity champion. All of these attributes are used to apply the purpose, vision, and mission of the ORNG JDIEC.

Council attendance and participation is open to all Soldiers, Airmen, and Employees of the ORNG, Brigades, Wings and JFHQ are encouraged to have representation by an authoritative delegate with the ability to communicate and carry out the council purpose, vision, and mission.

The ORNG JDIEC will be comprised of (at a minimum):
- State Diversity and Inclusion Advisor (SDIA)
- Equal Employment Manager (SEEM)
- Wing Human Resources Advisor (HRA) – Air
- State Human Relations and Equal Opportunity (HR/EO) Officer – Army
- Brigade and Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) Equal Opportunity Advisors (EOA)
- Equal Opportunity Professionals – Air

Members of the Joint Diversity and Inclusion Executive Council (JDIEC) pose for a group photo. The JDIEC gathers regularly to develop goals and implement plans that foster an organizational culture where all Soldiers, Airmen, Employees and Family Members are valued and respected.

- ARNG and ANG Recruiting and Retention Command/Office
- Land Component Command Sergeant Major
- Brigade Command Sergeant Majors
- Wing Command Sergeant Major
- Wing Command Master Sergeants
- Senior Enlisted Advisors (State, Brigade, Wing levels)
- JFHQ Public Affairs (PA) Representative
- State Family Program Director or designated representative
- Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM)
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Counselors
- Behavioral or Psychological Health Professional
- The Assistant Adjutant Generals (Army and/or Air) and the Director, Manpower and Personnel (HRO) serve as executive advisors to the council. The chairperson and vice-chairperson, in coordination with the executive advisors, will develop the council meeting agenda. The agenda will be distributed to the council members prior to each meeting.

In January, council members attended a Diversity and Inclusion Workshop in Reno, Nevada, for the JDIEC Southwest and Northwest Regions. Approximately 130 people attended from both regions. The Northwest Region includes: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. The Southwest Region includes: California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. Representatives from NGB, Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson, Special Assistant to the Chief of NGB for Diversity, and Ms. Shirley Copeland, Chief of NGB-Diversity and Inclusion, were in attendance at the workshop to receive feedback, answer questions, and present information. The conference addressed successes, challenges, trends, best practices used in each state, and the way ahead for the Diversity and Inclusion Program. Limited funded resources were discussed in finding ways to accomplish their mission and meet the intent.

Are you and your family ready for when disaster strikes?

SALEM, Oregon – It occurred 317 years ago and while there’s no way to know when the next Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake might hit, it’s a good idea to be prepared.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone is a 600-mile fault that runs from northern California to British Columbia, about 70-100 miles off the Pacific coast shoreline. The last Cascadia quake occurred in this fault on January 26, 1700, with an estimated 9.0 magnitude. Currently, scientists predict that there is about a 40 percent chance that a megathrust earthquake of 9.0+ magnitude in this fault zone will occur in the next 50 years.

News media attention about Cascadia has generated awareness and created some fear. But, Althea Rizzo, geologic hazards specialist with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), says that fear is often based on the unknown. Knowing what to do, and how to be prepared for a large-scale earthquake, or a disaster, can help to mitigate fear and empower people to take action. That action, says Rizzo, includes putting together a plan and emergency kits to be “72-Week Ready.”

For many years, OEM has promoted the importance of being prepared for 72 hours. This is a good start, and helpful in the event of short-term power outages or natural disasters. But, remembering that an earthquake and tsunami will leave much of the area’s transportation routes destroyed. Oregonians will have to count on each other in the community, in the workplace and at home in order to be safe until responders can reach you.

There is no one correct way to put together two weeks’ worth of supplies as people have individual dietary and medical needs. If your family includes children, seniors or pets, you will have additional needs for them. According to Rizzo, people are more prepared than they might think.

“Probably already have many of the things you need, such as flash lights and leather gloves,” says Rizzo. “Pick up a couple items every payday and check out garage sales and thrift stores for tools and gear. Look in the garage, closets and drawer for items before adding to your shopping list. Being prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks is an achievable goal. You can get there over time.”

Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management suggests approaching the goal by thinking about what you need to be ready for an earthquake (or any disaster) in the first two minutes, two hours and two days after it occurs. For example:

What to do in the first two minutes?
- Drop, cover and hold on.
- Stay in place until the shaking stops; be prepared for aftershocks.

What to do in the first two hours?
- Check immediate surroundings for anyone injured and in need of help.
- Evacuate, if necessary; if out of your home, determine if it is safe to enter.
- Follow your family communication plan (communicate with your out-of-state contacts).

What do you do in the first two days?
- Use resources in your preparedness supplies as needed.
- Check with neighbors/community members to determine who has what skills/resources, and work together to make sure everyone is safe and comfortable.

What do you do in the first two weeks?
- Add/replace necessary items to your emergency kits.
- Organize community members to assist with disaster recovery in your neighborhood.
- Being prepared to be self-sufficient for two weeks is an achievable goal. Many of the standard preparedness kits items such as flashlight, gloves, hand-crank radio, trash bags a first-aid kit are already in your 72-hour kit. The bigger thing to think about is food and water: prepare your pantry, prepare to hydrate.
- Providing preparedness kits and education is the best way to bounce back after a disaster. Have a meaningful conversation with the members of your household to discuss the following:
  - Do you have backup transportation methods?
  - Who will care for the kids, grandparents and pets if you’re stuck on the other side of the river for several hours?
  - Where will you meet your family? At school, the park, the corner of the neighborhood?
  - Do you have an out of state contact? Have a conversation with your family and friends and have one person designated to be the main contact for your group.
  - The Oregon Office of Emergency Management has many tools and resources to be prepared for a Cascadia quake and other disasters. For more information visit their website at www.oregon.gov/OEM.
PORTLAND, Oregon – Former 123rd Fighter Squadron member, 1st Lt. Ernest P. Wakehouse, was always interested in cars and airplanes. Born in 1922, he was an Iowa farm boy who grew up during the Great Depression.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. He went through Basic Training three times when his military records were slow to arrive. He completed his Pre-Flight courses in December 1943, having logged 10 hours of dual in a Piper Cub.

Ernie and his brother Bob, two years younger, were assigned to Class 44-J in San Antonio, Texas. They went to Missouri for Primary Flight Training in the Fairchild PT-19 trainer, then to Independence, Kansas, in June 1944 for Basic Flight Training in the Vultee BT-11 “Valiant” and North American BT-14 “Yale” trainers.

Ernie and Bob were next assigned to Advanced Single-Engine Flight Training, Foster Field, Victoria, Texas. Ernie was initially selected for Multi-Engine Advanced Training, his commander telling him it would better prepare him for a post-war career in the airlines. Ernie convinced the colonel that he should be sent to Single-Engine Training, wanting to stay with his brother.

During their time at Foster Field they witnessed an aerial display by Dick Bong, the Air Corps’ World War II “Ace of Aces.” Ernie and Bob flew the North American AT-6 “Texan” advanced trainer and Curtiss P-40 fighter at Foster Field. Ernie added nearly 200 hours to his logbook. The two were awarded their pilot’s wings in December 1944.

Following leave they served at various transition bases in Georgia and Florida, flying the AT-6 trainer. Ernie met his life-long friend and future 123rd Fighter Squadron member, Greg James, at a basketball game in Florida in 1945.

They then moved on to Venice, Florida, where they were in North Pacific P-51 Mustang fighter transition training when the war ended.

Returning to Oregon at the war’s end, Ernie attended Oregon State College (now University), then opened an auto repair shop in Portland, named Wakehouse Motors.

During the post-World War II years, Ernie joined the Oregon Air National Guard, serving in the 123rd Fighter Squadron (an original unit of the 142nd Fighter Group, now Wing), based at the Portland Airport. He flew the T-6 Texan trainer/utility, F-5 Mustang fighter, and C-47 transport. In June 1949, he was promoted to first lieutenant, a rank he held until his retirement.

In September 1951, Ernie was one of the first pilots from the 123rd FS ordered to Korea. He flew his first combat mission flight from K-10 K-10 airbase at Chinhai, South Korea. Moving to K-16 airbase, Seoul City Airport, he flew his first combat mission on September 12, 1951, in which he flew in the number four position of four aircraft, his friend, Greg James, being one of the other Mustang pilots in his flight that day.

Ernie was now a member of the 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, 18th Fighter Bomber Wing (FBW), Fifth Air Force. The Air Force had pulled Mustangs from the U.S. and the Philippines for the job in Korea. Ernie found dirty (muddy wheel) gun flashes streaks on fuselage sides, streaks on wings from machine gun fire, but mechanically sound, Mustangs based there.

The 18th FBW was composed of four squadrons: 12th Fighter-Bomber Squadron (“Foxy Few”), 39th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (“Cobra in the Clouds”)/“Fighting 39th”), 67th Fighter-Bomber Squadron (“Fighting Cocks”), and No. 2 Squadron (“Flying Cheetahs”), South African Air Force (SAAF). All flew the North American F-51D Mustang (the South Africans transitioned to the U.S.-supplied Mustangs from their British-built aircraft).

Many of the pilots sent to Korea were WWII veterans with only multi-engine combat experience. Their transition to Mustang combat tactics, especially ground attack, sometimes came at a cost to those inexperienced pilots. One South African pilot, a four-engine flying boat pilot before the war, crashed a fully combat-loaded Mustang into parkland when he failed to apply right rudder to compensate for the right-turning propeller on the American-engined Mustang.

Ernie credited the Mustang maintenance crews with doing a great job of keeping the aircraft flyable. Mustangs were single flight “of four aircraft (two “elements” of two aircraft each) participated in a close air support mission. Twenty-four aircraft flew on “bridge bunting” missions, with one flight circling over-head as Combat Air Patrol (CAP).

Ernie flew on five and a half-hour MIG CAP mission over a downed B-29 bomber north of Pyongyang. The flight circled overhead at 2,000 feet to provide protection from enemy ground forces and air-traffic until Air Sea Rescue could arrive and pick up the B-29 crew.

Ernie was nearly shot down by a Mig-15 on one mission. On another his flight leader led the aircraft into a box canyon, then back out, with horizontal enemy tracer fire aimed at them.

Near the end of his tour Ernie became a flight leader. He often checked out new flight leaders, many of them regular Air Force officers.

Ernie flew his final combat mission in Korea on December 16, 1951. He had flown 100 missions in the F-51 Mustang in ninety days. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and several Air Medals for his service there. His total flight time in the Mustang amounted to approximately 600 hours. He logged night, combat, instrument time.

He separated from the Air National Guard in July 1952, preferring to return to the automobile business. Ernie owned Wakehouse Motors, a successful Portland car dealership, for forty years. He sold import cars (Fiat, Lancia, Triumph, MG, Saab) and recreational vehicles.

Following retirement, Ernie often attended meetings and reunions of the American Fighter Aces. Though not an Ace himself, he was a guest of WWII Mustang Ace Clayton Kelly Gross. He met most of the famous WWII American, British, and German Aces. He was also a featured speaker at “The Gathering of P-51 Mustangs and Legends” in 2007.

Ernie’s airplanes included a Beechcraft 35-335 Debonair, a Beechcraft S35 Bonanza, and a Learjet 24A. He was very proud of his aviation group membership in Columbia Aviation Association and the Oregon Pilots Association, and his relationship to the military.

He was also proud of his military service and the recognition afforded him by 142nd Fighter Wing officers such as Col. Mike Bieniewicz.

Ernie passed away on April 25, 2016, at the age of 93. He died peacefully at home, where he was receiving hospice care for lung cancer. He is buried near to his bride, June, at Skyline Memorial Gardens in Portland, Oregon.