In this issue...

Company G, 1-189th Aviation mobilizes more troops

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-2 Cody Stupfel with Detachment 3, Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, holds his daughter, Teagan, following his mobilization ceremony, Sept. 29, 2017, in Salem, Oregon. Stupfel is among more than 20 Citizen-Soldiers who deployed to the Middle East where they will provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region using Black Hawk helicopters. Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 6

Big changes for former Umatilla Army Depot, Camp Umatilla

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

The federal government uses a process called Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) to reassess the military’s space and training needs measured against best uses for budget. During recent BRAC changes, Umatilla Army Depot, located at the junction of I-84 and I-82, in Eastern Oregon, has been divided into parcels. One parcel will be turned into a wildlife conservation refuge. A second will become a Umatilla County industrial zone to aid in the economic growth of the area. A southwest parcel will become Morrow County industrials lands, with the remaining portion going to the Oregon National Guard for use as a training area with big plans for the future of the site.

The history of the Umatilla site dates back to 1940, when the Army selected a 16,000-acre plot of northeastern Oregon sage land for a new munitions depot and general supply storage. Construction work began in January 1941, and 10 months later, on October 14, 1941, officials opened the U.S. Army Umatilla Ordnance Depot, named for the Umatilla Native American Tribe, while further construction continued for 8 months. Workers transformed the prairie site into a complex of warehouses, munitions magazines, shops, and office buildings connected by a web of paved roads and railroad tracks - essential elements for shipping and receiving. The first ordnance shipment arrived on October 27, 1941. During its more than 70 years in operation, the Depot grew to almost 20,000 acres and continued to support World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and Desert Storm.

In addition to its conventional munition and general supply missions, the Depot received a new mission in 1962 - receiving and storing chemical munitions. Between 1962 and 1969, the Depot received various types of chemical munitions. The Oregon National Guard began... Continued on Page 12
I want to thank each and every one of the Oregon Military Department for your hard work and efforts this year. As we look back on the 2017 calendar year, please ensure that you those who support you in this endeavor, whether they are an employee, friend, or family member. We are all fortunate to be part of such a highly recognized and remarkable team. Every year the Oregon National Guard continues to accomplish multi-faceted assignments and missions without hesitation, here at home and abroad.

This time of year also affords us an opportunity to pause and reflect on last year’s hardships and accomplishments, and identify areas in need of improvement. Challenges lie ahead and we must know our liabilities in order to meet our reporting obligations. We need all of our members to individually assess their mental, physical and professional readiness and take personal responsibility for assuring they are ready to support our State and Federal missions. As we seek to improve ourselves and our organization, we should also remember the stories of Guard members who came before us. We stand on their shoulders, and we can learn a lot from their experiences. The Oregon Guard has a rich and proud history and I encourage you to learn more about it. This year the Oregon National Guard commemorates the 100th Anniversary of entering World War I. From January 1918 to June 1919, our State’s longest serving Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George A. White, served alongside fellow Oregonian’s in France to liberate Europe on the Western Front. In a letter sent home in September 1918, White wrote, “We are all very proud of the way Oregon has kept right behind every patriotic activity, for I see the old state meets every new demand. It is a privilege to have come into the service from such a state and it is going to be as great a privilege to have such a state to return to.” For more than 100 years, as we have mobilized and welcomed home Soldiers and Airman who have served with such pride and honor to continue to show pride in our service, and we are proud to serve Oregon! Continue to improve and be proud of your organization and your story. Thank you for keeping up the legacy of service and I look forward to together meeting the challenges that lie ahead in 2018!

**/story and photo by Spec. Timothy Hardin, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

**CORVALLIS, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce W. Conley was honored in a retirement ceremony at the Corvallis Armory, September 22, 2017.**

Conley was the first Oregonian to attain the highest enlisted soldier position in the Army National Guard and served more than 35 years in uniform.

“As many of you know, Sergeant Major Conley has had a distinguished career serving as the Oregon State Command Sergeant Major, moving to serve as the 10th Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major,” said Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vincent Jacques, senior enlisted advisor for Oregon’s Joint Domestic Operations Command.

The location of the ceremony was special to Conley because it was where he served as company first sergeant, with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, starting in March of 2001.

“That brings us full circle,” said Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Conley, Land Component Commander. “A simple Citizen-Soldier, a school teacher and infantryman, who earned the highest levels of NCO leadership in the National Guard.”

Upon completion of Basic and Advanced Individual Training, Conley attended Oregon National Guard Basic School with a follow-on assignment at Fort Lewis, Washington, to 3rd Platoon, A Company, 2-75 Ranger Battalion. He held positions as a rifleman, grenadier, automatic rifleman, senior squad lead and team leader. In 1986, his last year of active duty, he was placed on special duty orders at Huckleberry Creek Mountain Training Camp as a company grade instructor. Upon completion of his initial enlistment, he left active duty and joined the Oregon Army National Guard.

His first assignment was as squad leader with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, based in Tigard, Oregon, and then moved to a new assignment as company first sergeant with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, as a platoon sergeant. His next leadership assignment was in Command Sergeant Major Course and then as company first sergeant with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.

In October 2001, Conley was selected as command sergeant major of the 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, headquartered in Cottage Grove, Oregon. In that same month, the battalion was activated into federal active duty and deployed with the 39th Brigade Combat Team of Little Rock, Arkansas, and attached to the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Bravo Company, of the 2-162nd Infantry Battalion, received the Presidential Unit Citation – one of the highest awards given to a military unit – for their heroic actions in the Jolan District of Northwest Fallujah during some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq war from, Nov. 3 to Nov. 24, 2004. The battalion returned to the U.S. in late March of 2005.

Upon completion of his tour in Baghdad, he was selected as command sergeant major of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Under Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, the 41st Brigade Headquarters deployed as the Headquarters (HQ) for Task Force Phoenix V in Kabul, Afghanistan. Conley was then appointed as the Oregon State Command Sergeant Major in July of 2008 before being appointed the Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard in 2012.

Conley has received the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with “4” device, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Medal, Oregon Distinguished Service Medal, Oregon Meritorious Service Medal, Oregon Faithful Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with “M” device, Oregon Emergency Service Ribbon, and The Oregon Superior Soldier Ribbon.

Conley has also been awarded the Ranger Tab, Senior Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Expert Marksman Badge, Expert Infantryman’s Badge, and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

Conley was awarded the Oregon National Guard Commendation Medal at the ceremony. He explained that out of all the medals he could be awarded, he wanted one from Oregon on the day of his retirement because that is where his heart lies.

Conley received letters of congratulations and gratitude from President Donald Trump, Governor Kate Brown, and Senator Ron Wyden.

“I want to take a few moments today to thank my friend, bruk Conley, and to honor his long distinguished career as he retires from the Oregon National Guard and rides off into the sunset,” wrote Wyden in a prepared statement for the Congressional Record.

His wife Laura, his five sons, and other relatives were in attendance, as well as 190 current or former members of the Oregon National Guard.

Conley addressed everyone personally in his farewell speech, telling everyone to circle around rather than stay seated.

He listed names of service members who died in action or who lost their lives while serving during his career.

“Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my distinct honor and pleasure to present to you the first time Command Sergeant Major Bruk Conley retired,” Jacobs said to conclude the ceremony, amidst loud applause and tears from friends and family.

**CSM Conley retires after distinguished career**
**Command Story by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis**

Oregon National Guard, Portland

**Oregon Military Department Public Affairs**

When Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jennifer Pardy was selected as the Director of Staff for the Air Component Command (ACC), she said it was a matter of “timing” and “fit.”

Pardy’s career grew as she worked her way up through the military, from Sergeant to Colonel. And she’s proud of the impact she’s made, knowing she’s contributed to the mission and the people who supported her efforts.

She attributes her leadership style to the many people who helped her along the way.

**Career Path**

Pardy’s career began while pursuing a degree at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York. After 3 years, she graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army National Guard. She then served in a variety of leadership roles, including platoon leader, operations officer, and executive officer. She also served as a platoon leader in the 263rd Quartermaster Company, 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division in Louisiana. Later, she served as operations officer and executive officer in the Oregon National Guard’s (ORNG) 41st Infantry Brigade. She was deployed to the 9th Ward of New Orleans, delivering supplies to those affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

After returning home, Pardy attended George Washington University, receiving a Master of Science degree in Strategic Studies in 2008. She then served as the Director of Operations (Op Ops) in the 142nd Fighter Wing, where she managed plans, training, and mobilizations as the director of operations (Op Ops) and managed the Oregon National Guard’s role in emergency response as the Joint Domestic Operations Officer (JDO). She also helped plan, coordinate, and implement the initial set-up of the CBNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERP) and Enhanced Response Force (HERF) for FEMA Region X.

**Mobilization Experience**

Pardy’s military career began while pursuing West Point at a prep school, New Mexico Military Institute, where she decided to take advantage of the early commissioning program in 1983. She went on to serve as a platoon leader in the 263rd Quartermaster Company, U.S. Army Reserve, while earning a Bachelor of Science degree in K-12 education at the University of Texas El Paso. She then joined the active duty U.S. Army serving as a platoon leader and tactical control officer in the 52nd Air Defense Artillery. Before becoming the executive officer, plans officer, assistant

**Conclusion**

Pardy’s career continues to evolve, and she’s passionate about ensuring that the Oregon National Guard is ready to respond to any challenge that comes its way. As she looks to the future, she’s excited about what the next phase of her career will bring.

**Timeline**

- Pardy was selected as the Director of Staff for the Oregon National Guard in 2017.
- She served as an operations officer for the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., from 2007 to 2013.
- Pardy was a Battalion First Sergeant in the 41st Infantry Brigade in 2005, serving in the 9th Ward of New Orleans, delivering supplies to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- Pardy is married to an active duty U.S. Army Soldier, and her four children are proud of their mother's service.
U.S. Soldiers and Airmen participate in Bangladesh Disaster Response Exchange

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Corey Ray,
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs Office

The eighth annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (PR DREE), came to a successful close during a ceremony on Oct. 12 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The theme of the five-day exercise was civil-military integration and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HA/DR) in preparation for a massive earthquake. The event was co-sponsored by the Bangladesh Armed Force Division (AFD), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM).

United States Army Pacific (USARPAC) sent 15 Soldiers and Airmen from the USARPAC headquarters battalion, the 8th Theater Sustainment Command and the Oregon National Guard, which has a state partnership with Bangladesh.

“I do believe over the last five days you have developed some a collective understanding among yourselves and built up networking for improved interactions, which will help effective coordination while working together for disaster management,” said Air Vice Marshal Masihuzzaman Semniah, AFD, during his remarks at the closing ceremony.

The event brought together more than 1,400 participants from 13 nations, as well as dozens of government, non-government and international organizations. Personnel worked together either through a phased tabletop exercise (TTX) in Dhaka or a field training exercise (FTX) held in Mymensingh, while testing out earthquake preparedness plans, response capabilities and human management design.

The PR DREE, which has been held annually since 2010, built on the command and control organizational design.

Col. Jenifer E. Pardy, Director of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard, stressed the importance of networking for improved interactions, which will help effective coordination while working together for disaster management.

“More the we practice and prepare as partner nations, the better prepared we are to assist each other when the next disaster strikes,” she said.

Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Demian San Miguel has attended the PR DREE in Bangladesh for the last three years and said, “Every year the exercise gets better and better. Instead of the pillars of individual excellence, there was excellent coordination across all agencies.”

He went on to say that the increased interaction and immediate feedback to participants’ questions made the event successful. The inclusion of college students, who study disaster management, brought an exciting, fresh perspective to the event.

“This was like the Grammy Awards of disaster response exercises,” he said.

The TTX familiarized participants with an earthquake scenario, their various roles and responsibilities, and the numerous themes of the exercise. Throughout the course of the week, participants were assigned to expert matter cell groups where they deliberated over emergency response scenario injects. These multi-national, interagency teams developed search and rescue response procedures; coordinated logistic support; verified shelter/refuge plans and procedures that are currently in place; and increased coordination between international and domestic organizations and agencies.

After three days working through strategic-level scenarios, TTX participants gathered at the Bangladesh Staff College in Dhaka to review a dramatic operational execution of the plans during an earthquake field training exercise by emergency responders.

Pacific Resilience is USARPAC’s main platform to engage, partner with and prepare our allies in the region in a “whole of government” approach using military and civilian plans to plan and execute DREEs and other HA/DR events.

Bangladesh delegation visits Oregon Guard disaster response sites

From left to right, Maldives Capt. Mohamed Inayath, National Defence Force; Aminath Shaufa project officer, Maldives National Disaster Management Center; Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jarrod Kendric, aviation officer, and Maj. Gregory Ramirez, Medical Teaching Team Officer in Charge, Oregon Army National Guard, discuss disaster response plans during a table top exercise, Oct. 11, supporting the 2017 South Asia Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The South Asia Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange is just one of many exercises that ensure the United States is prepared to assist its global neighbors.

Sonya Pedersen, operations and preparations manager with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, briefs a delegation of Bangladesh Army officers on how the Emergency Communications Center works during disaster response, Sept. 25, 2017, in Salem, Oregon. The Oregon National Guard hosted a Bangladesh Army delegation as part of the State Partnership Program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)
Oregon Air Guardsmen assist with Irma relief

Story by Tsgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 125th Special Tactics Squadron departed Sept. 8, to provide humanitarian support for Hurricane Irma relief in Florida.

This domestic support mission comes just five days after members of the same elite group returned home after providing assistance in Texas for Hurricane Harvey.

The 15 Oregon Air National Guardsmen flew from Portland Air National Guard Base on a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft en-route to Hurlburt Field, Florida. The Airmen are tasked with conducting rescue operations and reestablishing airfields that may become inoperable due to the hurricane.

“They are special operations forces, so these are individuals who are able to go into some pretty intense combat situations and are able to take some of those survival skills and put them into use in a domestic operation like surviving a hurricane and participating in rescue and recovery,” said Col. Duke Pirak, Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

The teams are trained to conduct air traffic control in austere conditions for extended periods of time. This allows airfield to both bring basic necessities into the disaster zone as well as exfiltrate survivors from the area to safety.

“It’s an absolute privilege for us to be involved in something like this. We are very proud of being America’s dual use force. We’re essentially deployed in place to serve state and local authorities but also to serve the president in the overseas fight,” said Pirak.

Pararescuemen are the only DoD asset that is specifically-trained and equipped to conduct rescue and recovery operations. During Hurricane Katrina alone, pararescuemen conducted 2,500 documented rescues. They are typically deployed from a ship to help recover stranded survivors.

Survivors of a natural disaster could be stuck inside their homes, attics or cars for days and hungry, tired, thirsty and in some cases, hypothermic and in need of medical treatment.

“They are special operations forces, so these are individuals who are able to go into some pretty intense combat situations and are able to take some of those survival skills and put them into use in a domestic operation like surviving a hurricane and participating in rescue and recovery,” said Pirak.

“Among the equipment being used for the mission are three inflatable zodiac boats with submersible engines, fuel, water and medical supplies. The boats are highly-mobile and roll up and pack into the back of a truck, can be inflated once on site, and conduct rescues within 30 minutes of arrival. These boats can also be configured to air-drop, if necessary, to access remote locations where there are no roads.

The group will be deploying with six passenger fleet trucks; military vehicles capable of going into high water situations much more readily than most civilian vehicles. These can be used for ground mobility and for rescue ops.

“They’ll be responsible for a number of things out there. Most notably to go down and establish safe airfield operations, to participate in air traffic control and to participate in rescues themselves,” said Pirak.

All military members will be outfitted with gear that will allow them to operate in a wide range of conditions and geographical locations. In a situation with flooding, it’s critical to have proper personal protection from possibly highly-contaminated water. Members of the 125th plan to employ a dry suit that prevents the water from getting next to the skin.

Whenever conducting search and recovery operations, one of the primary concerns is the safety of the servicemember even as they are helping others.

“I’m unbelievably proud of all that are participating in this operation and also very thankful for the incredible support of the rest of our organization at home to get them ready to go. I’ll be praying every night that their operations are safe and effective and that we get them back home as soon as possible,” said Pirak.

Get Ready Salem helps Oregon citizens prepare for emergencies

Left: Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jamel Mercado, team chief of the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST), Joint Force Headquarters, Salem, Oregon, gives a high-five to Hannah, age 3, at the Oregon State Capitol building, Sept. 12, 2017. Members of the 102nd CST participated in the “Get Ready Salem” event, part of National Preparedness Month to raise awareness about emergency readiness. The 102nd CST aids first responders in identifying and mitigating chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive materials.

Right: Tom Dalke (left) poses with his daughter-in-law, Robin Dalke, a volunteer for the Salem Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and John Carey, program manager for the East Salem CERT, at the Oregon State Capitol building, September 23, 2017.
Construction for Maj. Gen. George White Headquarters is underway

Construction on the new Joint Force Headquarters building is underway, adjacent to the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. The 55,000-square-foot building represents new values for the Oregon Military Department in the building process, in the environmental performance standards, and in the way the organization collaborates within itself and with partner organizations.

The current Joint Force Headquarters building is commonly known as the “Coppertop,” due to its copper-colored metal roof, was built in 1990, reflecting a National Guard force and a Cold War mindset of cheap, abundant energy. Though the environment was less rigid then, the standards and early ‘90s, our awareness of environmental impact and the availability of efficient building technologies have grown by leaps and bounds in the last nearly 30 years. As the organization has grown, the building has become crowded with key leadership being placed in other buildings in Salem for lack of space under one roof or even in a building that is close by.

Before the first shovel of dirt was dug up, the process for the new Joint Force Headquarters building goes back to a much older and more cooperative way of designing and building. How old? Think cathedrals.

“The new way of contracting a build is actually a bit of a throwback to the way very old, large structures were built, like cathedrals,” said Joe Gill, project manager, for the new headquarters. “The design-build process of the structure was involved throughout the entire process and collaborated with the building.

In more recent history, government building projects operated on a system commonly referred to as “Design, Bid, Build.” The government agency would hire a designer to design the building, then they would put the design up for bid and the lowest bidder would get the contract. The trouble with that is there were nearly no quality builders, who may provide a better build at a higher cost, were immediately out of the bidding.

“The only requirement for getting the government contract to build a building is to be licensed and bonded,” said James Willeford, head of construction for the Oregon Military Department. “A couple of guys and a truck can get licensed and bonded, and as long as they make the lowest offer, they can get the job.”

With their current site on the South Dakota Army National Guard’s complex, there was limited room to expand the headquarters. To work within the space, the Oregon Military Department decided to build the new headquarters in phases.

“In the beginning, we used to refer to it as Design, Build, Bid,” said Gill. “It was a more cooperative way of working together as a team and work out how we would give 100-percent power rather than making a decision while staying under budget.”

“The Design, Bid, Build method is inherently risk averse and uncooperative,” said Willeford. “All parties are forced constantly to be looking at how to protect themselves from litigation rather than building a great structure. The result is usually cost overages and a lower quality product in the end.”

“With very old “Design, Build” process, however is cooperative in nature.

“With Design, Build, there is only one contract with a designer and builder who work together with us as part of a team during the whole process,” Willeford said. “We provide certain performance standards like how much light we want in a given space, or what the power profile with be and they create a design to accommodate those specifications. Then as the build is progressing, if there is a change, we come together as a team and work out how we can accommodate our intent while staying under budget.”

“Normally, a portion of a building will be built to essential structure standards, which is the highest possible standard for seismic codes.

“With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event, ” said Gill.

“With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event,” Gill added that the generator is a big step in assuring we can operate after a Cascadia Subduction event.

“The new build also keeps an eye on the future and greater care to the environment and the increased interconnectedness between cooperating agencies. They are also built with an eye on the future and greater care to the knowledge that the state most greatly benefits from the Oregon National Guard’s presence and help in natural disasters, especially with the potential for a Cascadia Subduction event looming in the future.


"With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event," said Gill.

In more recent history, government building projects operated on a system commonly referred to as “Design, Bid, Build.” The government agency would hire a designer to design the building, then they would put the design up for bid and the lowest bidder would get the contract. The trouble with that is there were nearly no quality builders, who may provide a better build at a higher cost, were immediately out of the bidding.

“The only requirement for getting the government contract to build a building is to be licensed and bonded,” said James Willeford, head of construction for the Oregon Military Department. “A couple of guys and a truck can get licensed and bonded, and as long as they make the lowest offer, they can get the job.”

With their current site on the South Dakota Army National Guard’s complex, there was limited room to expand the headquarters. To work within the space, the Oregon Military Department decided to build the new headquarters in phases.

“In the beginning, we used to refer to it as Design, Build, Bid,” said Gill. “It was a more cooperative way of working together as a team and work out how we would give 100-percent power rather than making a decision while staying under budget.”

“The Design, Bid, Build method is inherently risk averse and uncooperative,” said Willeford. “All parties are forced constantly to be looking at how to protect themselves from litigation rather than building a great structure. The result is usually cost overages and a lower quality product in the end.”

“With Design, Build, there is only one contract with a designer and builder who work together with us as part of a team during the whole process,” Willeford said. “We provide certain performance standards like how much light we want in a given space, or what the power profile with be and they create a design to accommodate those specifications. Then as the build is progressing, if there is a change, we come together as a team and work out how we can accommodate our intent while staying under budget.”

“Normally, a portion of a building will be built to essential structure standards, which is the highest possible standard for seismic codes.

“With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event,” Gill added that the generator is a big step in assuring we can operate after a Cascadia Subduction event.

“In the change to the addition in the change to the building process, the new building will reflect a difference in agency values. Perhaps the most obvious of these changes is greater concern for the larger environmental impact of each building when compared to the standards of the late ‘80s and early ‘90s. The new build will use a mix of high-efficiency building techniques and materials with photovoltaic solar panels to achieve a Net-Zero energy standard - which means that it will create as much power as it uses throughout the year. The new site’s rainwater collection system will collect water during the rainy months for use as irrigation during the dryer summer months, reducing the demand for city water. The new build also keeps an eye on future emergencies, specifically a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake event.

The building standards are referred to as essential structure standards, which is the highest possible standard for seismic codes.

"With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event," said Gill.

With a 100-percent power generator, and the building standards, we are aiming to be able to back up and running very quickly after a Cascadia Subduction event.

Oregon Army National Guard mobilizes Citizen-Soldiers for Middle East deployment

Continued from Page 1

Oregon Army National Guard mobilizes Citizen-Soldiers for Middle East deployment

SALEM, Oregon — The Oregon Army National Guard honored Citizen-Soldiers in a mobilization ceremony, Sept. 29, 2017 at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Oregon.

A platoon of more than 20 Citizen-Soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, was mobilized to deploy to the Middle East to assist with aerial medical evacuation support. The platoon will be jointed their parent unit, the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, in the Middle East and will be deployed for approximately one year.

These Soldiers are largely from the Willamette Valley area (Salem and Portland) and deployed in late 2017 as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The current Army National Guard mobilization is in response to the increased Middle East events and security situation and in support of Operation Inherent Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The 189th Aviation Regiment is deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Oregon Army National Guard mobilizes Citizen-Soldiers for Middle East deployment
The 173rd Fighter Wing conducted a demobilization ceremony Nov. 4, 2017, formally recognizing wildland fire fighters and the 56 Kingsley Field Airmen who deployed during the wing’s first ever large-scale deployment throughout 2017.

The group of Kingsley Field Airmen deployed under a new process called Reserve Component Periods (RCP) in which they support the active component with operations throughout the world.

Nearly 100 Kingsley Airmen helped fight wildfires including those near Crater Lake National Park and the Chetco Bar Fire, which has burned over 191,000 acres.

“The National Guard is known three missions; the war fight, the home front and our partnerships,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, who was among the official party.

“Today we recognize Airmen who supported two of these missions,” Stencel continued. “Some of them, both in the same year.”

This RCP sent Airmen to countries around the world including United Arab Emirates, Djibouti, Qatar, Jordan, Germany, and Kuwait among others.

Stencel also recognized the families and employers of the deployers.

“First, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation to those of you who supported our troops while they were deployed...if not for the flexibility of the employers and the support of the families that hold their lives together while they were gone, our Airmen would not have been able to serve.”

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

Rep. E. Werner Reschke was also part of the official party and spoke to the Airmen and their families thanking them and welcomed them back home.

“I would like to extend a job well done to the deployed Airmen as well as those who have assisted in the wildlires,” Reschke said. “It is my privilege to be here and to offer my personal thanks and the gratitude of your state for your work that you have done and continue to do, well done. Welcome home.”


In addition to the deployment to the Okefenokee and the Chetco Bar fires, nearly 100 Kingsley Airmen also deployed to Kuwait among others.

Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing take part in their demobilization ceremony, Nov. 4, 2017, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. The ceremony formally recognized the wildland fire fighters and the 56 Kingsley Field Airmen who deployed during the wing’s first ever large-scale deployment throughout 2017.

Airmen for their service in written letters.

“I consider it one of my highest privileges as a United States Senator to represent the men and women of our armed services,” Wyden wrote. “I am truly proud to know that Oregon Air National Guard members continue to represent our great state and country throughout the entire world.”

The first 173rd FW Airmen in October of 2016 and the last returned home September 2017.

Brothers in life, brothers in arms reunite downrange

Saying goodbye to family members before a deployment can be stressful. But rarely does a service member cross paths with a sibling while downrange; this recent uplifting experience was the case for two brothers on separate paths.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Kevin Roche, 737th Air Expeditionary Squadron operations director, and Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Roche, G Company, 1st Battalion, 189 Aviation Regiment, medical evacuation helicopter pilot, found each other at an undisclosed area for approximately three hours to catch up and enjoy each other’s company.

“It was a surreal experience,” said Brian. “Had you asked me in January if I would be able to see my brother halfway across the world, I’d have told you flat-out, no. There was a strange sense of normalcy in a region that is anything but.”

Their father passed away earlier this year and the last time the brothers saw each other was at their father’s funeral. Brian, who deployed at the beginning of the year briefly returned home to be with family during the burial.

According to Kevin, his mother became very emotional after witnessing photos of their reunion.

“The idea of being deployed in a combat environment and crossing each other’s paths never occurred to us,” said Kevin. “Our missions didn’t particularly line up but seeing each other this close to the holidays and sharing our experiences since our dad passed away was very meaningful to me.”

Their father served as a U.S. Marine for a full career. The Roche brothers knew they were on track for military professions and followed in the footsteps of a long line of relatives who served their country dating back to World War I, Kevin explained.

“Our wives were ecstatic to see the two of us together,” said Kevin. “This was just a reminder that even though we are away from that part of the family, we are not necessarily away from all of the family.”

Kevin has been in the Air Force for 16 years and his home station for the last 10 years has been with the Minnesota Air National Guard, 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, Minn. He is the 133rd Operations Support Squadron commander and he pilots the C-130 H.

Brian was one of 70 soldiers who deployed to Southwest Asia with the Oregon Army National Guard from Salem, Ore. He flies the Sikorsky HH-60M Black Hawk, a four-blade, twin-turboshaft utility helicopter.

Brian has been flying with a folded casket flag in his aircraft since his father’s passing. He was able to pass this along to Kevin in person during the reunion, and now it’s flown all over the theater, in multiple types of aircraft, and on different missions.

Between the two of them, they share a total of seven deployments.

“I’ve spent a good portion of my life trying to be just a fraction of the man that my father was. Getting a chance to see my brother while deployed reminds me that we’re doing all right.”
Oregon National Guard partners with Chinese for Disaster Management Exchange


Winter 2017 flooding in Peru.

response to a third country suffering a disaster.

Multinational Coordination Center (MCC) was established.

a disaster response capabilities during the 13th annual U.S.-China Disaster Management Exchange (MDE), Nov. 16-18, 2017.

U.S. Army Pacific hosts an annual U.S.-China Dialogue to foster mutual trust and understanding with the PLA while sharing lessons learned to improve disaster response capabilities in the Pacific region.

You don’t want to wait to form working relationships during a crisis, you must do it beforehand and that’s why this is so important,” said Gen. Robert B. Brown, U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General. This year, the DME consisted of an operational, academic discussion (OAD), a tabletop exercise (TTE) with a Multinational Coordination Center (MCC), and a practical field exercise (PFE) to study hand-over and other coordination between U.S. and PLA Units. The DME scenario simulated a response to a third country suffering from severe flooding and was based on actual world damage assessments from the Spring 2017 flooding in Peru.

By sharing our experiences, techniques and best practices we all improve our ability to respond quickly and effectively because ultimately this is about saving lives and minimizing human suffering in disasters,” said Gen. Robert B. Brown, U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General.

More than 20 Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the PFE, including vertical engineers of the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment (EUDET) and members of the Joint Logistics Force (JLFT) as well as Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea. The PLA participants had little time to complete the tasks, which was intended to equalize both sides.

The first day of the PFE focused on urban searches, locating and extracting casualties in different scenarios. The second day focused on sharing building collapse scenarios to temporarily support small building through temporary shoring. The third day focused on search and rescue techniques using drills, power saws and jackhammers to access confined spaces where casualties are trapped. By using this method, we can use our equipment to move and transport them to safety,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencil, Adjutant General, Oregon, Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Joseph Couch, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, assists Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

The cohesion has just been incredible, everyone did their job very flexible. They can make the plan any time the situation is changed.” SiHua said another takeaway for the PLA team was the concept of using a casualty collection point (CCP) to gather the injured in one location for triage and evacuation.

The Soldier of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Oregon National Guard Staff Sgt. Joseph Couch, with the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment, assists Joint Logistics Force Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea. The PLA participants had little time to complete the tasks, which was intended to equalize both sides.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) from Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.

Soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and the Oregon Army National Guard’s 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment work together to drill through concrete in order to extract simulated casualties from rubble at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center, November 17, 2017, in Warrenton, Ore.
142nd Medical Group conducts lifesaving training for volunteers

Valuable lifesaving training was conducted during the October drill at the 142nd Fighter Wing with the Oregon National Guard’s chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives, enhanced response force package, or CERFP team that work with civilian authorities to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

The civilian group involved in today’s training was the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) is a collection of licensed healthcare professionals who have registered to volunteer in response to Federal, State, and/or local emergencies.

“Today we get to showcase what we do as military organization and how we go about our processes of packaging, triaging and medical treatment of patients in a mass casualty scenario,” said Senior Airman Andrew Chapman, a triage medic with the 142nd CERFP.

A number of individuals from the 142nd were tasked to play the casualties for this particular exercise to help the SOLV-OR volunteers get a realistic experience, with a variety of simulated wounds and dramatic volunteer acting.

Patients were brought into triage areas via field gurneys or by foot to be evaluated by the staff which wrapped up the day long exercise at the Field Triage and Casualty Collection point.

“It was good training for us as well as the SERV-OR team were able to give us a presentation on what they do and their background,” Chapman continued, “The only other outside non-military organizations we’ve recently worked with was the Portland Fire Department at their training facility to see how they train and use their facility.”

Members of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group CERFP facilitate a mock mass-casualty scenario in which SERV-OR volunteers utilize newly learned skills to effectively triage and transport patients with a variety of simulated injuries at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oct. 14, 2017. 

Airman awarded Bronze Star

Story and photo by
Tech. Sg t. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing

Master Sgt. Garron Dahle, combat control craftsman for the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), Oregon Air National Guard, received The Bronze Star, November 4, 2017 for accomplishments while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan.

Dahle received the medal from Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

“You’ve heard me talk about every airman a leader’ in this organization, and Garron epitomizes that,” said Stencel.

Dahle was assigned to the 21st Expeditionary Special Tactics Squadron, Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component, Afghanistan, from Sept. 1 to Nov. 15, 2015.

In his Bronze Star Citation, Dahle was credited for his contribution to a successful combat operations mission in directing airborne assets in support of ground schemes of maneuver for his special forces team, serving to eliminate insurgent strongholds and helping to restore order to the volatile regions of Afghanistan.

Dahle’s wife, Rachel Dahle was recognized during the ceremony for her deep devotion and continued support to her cadet.

The Bronze Star Medal was established in 1944 and is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the U.S. Military. It is awarded to members of the armed forces who distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious service in a combat zone.

The 125th STS organizes trains and equips special tactics forces worldwide to integrate, synchronize and/or control the elements of air and space power in a deployed environment. It also provides long-range operations and logistical planning, and deploys command and control elements during tactical force employment or deployment.

With this award, Dahle joins an esteemed group of Bronze Star Medal recipients in the Oregon Air National Guard.

173rd honors WWII POW with flyover

Master Sgt. Garron Dahle (right), combat control craftsman for the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS), Oregon Air National Guard, receives The Bronze Star, November 4, 2017 for accomplishments while engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan. Dahle received the medal from Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, during a ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Oregon F-15s conduct elephant walk

Oregon F-15s conduct elephant walk during a combat readiness exercise at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., November 22, 2017. The exercise included 13 F-15s launching after a 24 hour notice. (Photo by Tech. SGT. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)
HURRICANE MARIA RELIEF

173rd Fighter Wing Airmen deploy in support of Hurricane Maria relief

Story by
Master Sgt. Jennifer Shivar,
173rd Fighter Wing/Public Affairs

Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing deployed in support of relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria’s trek across the island of Puerto Rico.

Maj. Michael Balzotti and Master Sgt. Michael Moore from the 279th Air Traffic Control Squadron deployed to Ponce, Puerto Rico a city on the southern coast of the island.

Tech. Sgt. Brad Kortum, Staff Sgt. Jeff Ochoa, Senior Airman Robert Gillard, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Bowman from the logistics readiness squadron, and Tech. Sgt. James Mossett from the maintenance group, are all in Savannah, Ga., supporting the state-side hub for relief efforts.

Guardsmen across the nation are often referred to as minutemen. This is because historically they can be ready in a minute. This was clearly demonstrated with the wing’s response to the call for assistance.

“We found out on a Thursday and processed them out on Friday and Saturday,” said Tech. Sgt. Erika Meng, 173rd Fighter Wing Plans and Integration Office.

Balzotti said that he and Moore flew to Missouri to fill a team left short-handed by other deployment commitments overseas. They spent a single night state-side and then planned to proceed to Puerto Rico, but were stalled by further poor weather on the island.

“We flew to Savannah, Ga., because another rainstorm flooded the airport on the 16th [of October],” he said.

The estimated length of the deployments range from 24 to 60 days.

“We were earlier able to begin equipment setup the 19th and began controlling aircraft on the 21st,” Balzotti said.

Once the air base became operational an array of aircraft populated the airspace including many helicopters for aid delivery as well as medical response, Air Force transport aircraft delivering aid, as well as civilian and commercial aircraft.

Maj. Michael Balzotti, the 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen deployed in support of relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria's trek across the island of Puerto Rico.

“The team is not compartmentalized, they lend a hand to the disaster response,” he said.

“Probably the greatest concern is the electrical grid, which allows for interoperability between the two agencies, providing a system, which allows for interoperability between the two agencies with internet, telephone, and radio communication.

“Building on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, civilian and military first responders could not talk to each other on separate systems. The JSCC is a 20-foot mobile communications system, which allows for interoperability between the two agencies, providing a streamlined system for the emergency responders.

“We took a strictly military, combat communication squadron to Katrina that required a larger force to operate,” Johnson said, comparing the two hurricane response deployments. “With the JSCC, it is lightweight, versatile and we only need eight people to run 24-hour operations.”

The Airmen train monthly for specific situations like this, setting-up in the field, self-sufficient with generators, a ton of diesel fuel, food and the ability to shelter 50 people in a Secure-Inside Vehicle tower is set up in Ponce, Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria. Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing were sent there to support the restoration of the air traffic control services following Hurricane Maria.

Above: Local villages destroyed by Hurricane Maria, near the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Right: A mobile air traffic control tower is set up in Ponce, Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria. Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing were sent there to support the restoration of the air traffic control services following Hurricane Maria.

142nd Fighter Wing deploys in response to Hurricane Maria

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. John Hughey,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard members from the 142nd Logistical Readiness Squadron work together with Airmen from the New York Air National Guard as they load a C-17 Globemaster III, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Sept. 29, 2017.

PORTLAND, Oregon - In the aftermath of three devastating hurricanes that struck Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean region of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, eight Oregon Air National Guard members deployed to Puerto Rico, Sept. 29, in response to Hurricane Maria.

To restore vital communications capabilities, the Oregon Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Communications Flight (CF), will be providing emergency communications for both the National Guard and civilian first responders.

Oregon Air National Guard members from the 142nd Logistical Readiness Squadron work together with Airmen from the New York Air National Guard as they load a C-17 Globemaster III, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Sept. 29, 2017. Eight members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Communications Flight deployed to support Hurricane Maria relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Hurricane Maria’s devastating effects have overwhelmed the electrical grid and downed most of its telephone wires in Puerto Rico. Utilizing the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) will provide satellite service while interlacing communication assets between the two agencies with internet, telephone, and radio communication.

Building on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, civilian and military first responders could not talk to each other on separate systems. The JSCC is a 20-foot mobile communications system, which allows for interoperability between the two agencies, providing a streamlined system for the emergency responders.

“Heading out the door, we’re fully self-sufficient with generators, a ton of diesel fuel, food and the ability to shelter wherever we need to work,” said Master Sgt. Gus Johnson, noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the rapid deployment team.

When the Oregon Air National Guard deployed to Katrina, they did so with 40 members and supported the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team. With a group of eight, the CF members are a marked contrast to how we responded when deploying 12 years ago to the Gulf Coast.

“We took a strictly military, combat communication squadron to Katrina that required a larger force to operate,” Johnson said, comparing the two hurricane response deployments. “With the JSCC, it is lightweight, versatile and we only need eight people to run 24-hour operations.”

The Airmen train monthly for specific situations like this, setting-up in the field to support domestic operations for other civil authorities.

“The team is not compartmentalized, if someone happens to fall out during the mission, another team member can easily step in and work on the system,” he said.

According to the Army Col. Les McElrny, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau, the Puerto Rico National Guard had two on the island, which they took down to protect them before Maria hit. Each system costs about $1.5 million, in total, six more JSCC systems will be added for this hurricane response.

“Probably the greatest concern is the state of the infrastructure when we get there,” Johnson said. “We’ve been packed and ready to go for the past few days so this is a great opportunity to go and assist.”
Big changes for former Umatilla Army Depot, Camp Umatilla

Continued from Page 1

utilizing the Depot as a local training area in the early 1980s where it constructed and operated a number of small arms ranges and stored and maintained military vehicles. In 1988, the Depot was identified for realignment under BRAC, which relocated the Depot’s conventional ammunition and general supplies missions to other U.S. depots and installations. As a result of the 1988 BRAC decision, the Oregon Military Department worked collaboratively with the formally recognized Local Redevelopment Authority, consisting of leadership from Umatilla County, Morrow County, Port of Umatilla, Port of Morrow, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in an effort to preserve a permanent training center that would accommodate the National Guard. These redevelopment planning efforts were reinvigorated by the decision to ultimately close the depot as a result of 2005 BRAC legislation.

The chemical agents stored at the Depot began in the fall of 2004 and the last stockpiled tons contained filled with mustard chemical agent were incinerated on October 20, 2011. The formal closing of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot occurred on August 1, 2012, and resulted in the Department of the Army declaring 19,729 acres of property as an excess to its future needs.

On November 27, 2017, The Adjutant General, Oregon, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a license that dedicates 7,500 acres of the former depot’s 19,729 acres as a new Oregon National Guard Training Center. This new training center, now named Camp Umatilla, will support the annual military training requirements of the Oregon National Guard as well as military units from other services. It is also home to the 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI). The 249th RTI is the Oregon National Guard’s premier training institute for forging exceptional leaders and is a leader in the nation for conducting infantry transition and advanced infantry leader training.

In anticipation of transforming the former chemical depot to a new training center, the Oregon Military Department has recently invested $2 million in infrastructure improvements to the 1940s era installation and is in the early stages of investing another $25 million dollars in facility improvements over the next few years that include sewer line repairs, new water distribution system, road realignments, security fencing, administration and office space enhancements, new classrooms, as well as lodging and dining facility improvements.

Eric Manus, the senior project manager for the Camp Umatilla construction projects, is excited for the future of the site and has already laid a good amount of the infrastructure groundwork to support the future projects.

“A lot of the facilities and infrastructure out there haven’t been updated in decades if at all,” Manus said. “We have already been out there working projects to modernize the infrastructure so that we have a solid foundation for building renovations over the next several years.”

Melissa Burns, one of the project managers for the Camp Umatilla projects, said one of the key priorities as they begin to give the whole site a much needed modernization, is keeping with the governor’s priorities and standards for the environment.

“The water out on the site comes from wells,” Burns said. “So we want to make sure that our renovations throughout the process reflect that the site is in a desert and that water is precious there.”

Jim Willeford, head of construction for the Oregon Military Department, said that balancing the needs of the Oregon National Guard with the needs of our neighbors and the historic value of the site is key to the building process.

“On one part of the former site, there is going to be a nature reserve,” said Willeford. “So as we train out there, we want to have plans in place so that we can balance getting our training done with having minimal impact on the surrounding land and wildlife. We also want to preserve some things like the old parade grounds for their historic value, at the same time reducing the amount of manicured and irrigated lawn area. This will reduce our consumption of well water for irrigation.”

Willeford also said that the modernization has to be balanced withtrying to preserve the sites historic structures.

“It will be a fun project for us to refurbish the old munitions buildings,” said Willeford. “Many of the buildings on that site date back to WWII and maintaining that heritage is really important for both the military and the local community.”

Dave Stuckey, Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department, said he is very pleased with the direction that the projects are going for Camp Umatilla.

“Being able to breathe new life into Camp Umatilla is a great investment for our agency, as it provides a way for us to train in a great environment and allows us to accommodate training for other military units throughout the country,” said Stuckey. “It also keeps with our larger goals of modernizing our facilities to make them better suited for modern war-fighting needs and support during times of emergency with greater care and consideration for the environment.”

Photo courtesy Oregon Military Department Installations

Infantry Soldiers help restore former gravel mining area

Story and photos by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Public Affairs

EUGENE, Ore. – Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of A Company “Atlas,” 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, supported their community, Nov. 19, 2017, with an outreach project to restore a former gravel mining area to its natural habitat. The Soldiers helped the Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah reintroduce native plants to the area known as Turtle Flats near Eugene.

Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps care for and enhance the park’s habitats and trails. Atlas Company Soldiers were able to support that effort by spending a day at their local planting trees.

1st Lt. Alan Mishler, Atlas Company commander, worked with Mieko Aski, the trails and volunteer coordinator for Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah, to organize support that involved planting the native trees in their natural habitat.

“We were here to help the community by getting out to show our job isn’t just to deploy and help during emergencies, but also to support the communities we live in,” Mishler said. “It feels great and it’s nice to have the opportunity to give back.”

Aski appreciated the willingness of all the Soldiers to lend a helping hand and said they were able to accomplish a lot.

“We’re always happy to have strong groups of people come out and it’s wonderful to see these guys out here,” said Aski. “It is great to get a group that follows directions well and is willing to do hard work.”

Spc. Evan Clark, an infantryman from Eugene, said he enjoyed getting some fresh air and doing something for the community.

Staff Sgt. Clinton Stayton, assistant operations noncommissioned officer with Atlas Company, agreed. He said it was great to have a chance to do something positive for his community.

“We’re Citizen-Soldiers who belong to the community, and projects like this help show the community we’re people who care that can be trusted,” said Stayton.

Photo courtesy Oregon Military Department Installations
REDMOND, Oregon – Members of 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, took their reconnaissance-variant Strykers out for a three-day training event, Oct. 21, at Biak Training Center near Redmond, Oregon. This was the only second time since receiving the new Stryker that they’ve been able to do so, following the initial assisted visit to Camp Rilea in Bend, Oregon, received their last 19 Strykers to complete their inventory prior to Thanksgiving.

The new equipment provides new job opportunities for Soldiers. Due to the changeover from Humvees to the Stryker, the unit is looking to add Soldiers to their ranks with the 2SU designator (signal support specialist). These Soldiers are responsible for maintaining radio and data systems for the Strykers, and 19th (cavalry scout) squadrons are looking to add more to their pool of officers so they can fill these roles.

According to Capt. Sean Younk, who served as master of ceremonies, the Final Retreat ceremony held at the Oregon Military Academy last Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, The unit is tasked with a reconnaissance type mission where they act as the forward eyes and ears on the battlefield.

“CVA for a Day” sneak-peek looks at training with the unit. One group was current Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers looking to potentially switch their military occupational specialty (MOS) to join the unit, the other was a group of high school-aged youth looking at joining the Guard following their graduation. In total, nearly 60 participants attended between an earlier event in Lebanon, Oregon, and the event at Biak Training Center.

Ft. Ethan Welch, an infantryman, found out about the event after being contacted by several members from 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, “I came with an open mind. We started with an early wake-up, went on a recce, got to experience calling for support, just knowing their weapons and the capabilities of their Strykers.”

He currently resides in Bend, Oregon, and potentially living close to his unit would be beneficial, but even if he decide to not to join the squadron, he still walks away with new knowledge, “They are a valuable assets (Strykers) and it was good to see how they do things, I know how to call in for support, I know their capabilities.”

Captain Younk commented at a bit at home after being called upon to dismount and help provide personnel security for the Land Component Commander, Brig. Gen. Bryan Edwards, during a portion of the training.

“I found out an hour before, so it was kind of a surprise,” he said. “I’ve never seen a general before, let alone escorted one or ridden in a Stryker with one.”

Sgt. Jacob Meyers, a crew chief (small arms/ artillery repairer) also attended the “CVA for a Day” event. He previously deployed with 1st Battalion, 25th Infantry, Afghanistan 2014-2015, and has been trying to get back to this unit since the deployment. Meyers said he had a good experience downstream being a driver for 3rd Platoon, Charlie Troop.

“I knew what to expect since I had been with the unit before,” he said. “I got out of the unit right before they got the Strykers.” Meyers currently works to diagnose broken weapons, but because technicians complete the actual repairs, feels his job is a bit obsolete. He’s looking for something more dynamic and something that keeps him busy. He says he often ends up assisting with supply in his current unit. "I want a job where the description of MOS actually is what you do," he said. “I decided to come to Bend because these are the guys I deployed with, I already knew Charlie Troop.”

The squadron is scheduled to complete an upcoming exercise with 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), during the month of November. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron transferred under the 81st SBCT command last winter after formerly being a part of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). Although structured under a Washington Army National Guard brigade, the unit remains in Oregon under the operational control of 82nd Brigade Troop Command when not deployed.

1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, is made up of units from Bend, Lebanon, Prineville, Redmond and The Dalles, Oregon.
SALEM, Oregon — The Oregon Army National Guard’s 1249th Engineer Battalion invited their local community to participate in the first-ever “Storm The Castle” fitness and recruiting event at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2017.

Soldiers and Salem-area residents paired up in two-person teams to compete in a five-kilometer run and military style obstacle course. The teams performed military tasks at seven stations along the run route.

The name of the event was inspired by the Corps of Engineers logo, a turreted medieval castle that symbolizes fortifications and architecture. All of the units from across the 1249th Engineer Battalion (from Seaside to Albany, Ore.) came together and put their skills to work constructing and managing multiple obstacles for the course. The engineers also provided equipment displays, safety personnel, and teams to compete alongside community members in the race.

“We wanted to do a high-speed recruiting event but we also wanted to specifically showcase the skills of our engineers to this community,” said Lt. Col. Marc Mouser, 1249th Engineer Battalion commander.

“What better way than to build obstacles and have people run through them, as well as showcase a lot of our equipment.”

The obstacle course stations included low crawling, tire crossing, throwing simulated hand-grenades, individual movement techniques, litter carrying, and pounding engineer stakes. The final station featured obstacles constructed out of wood, in which competitors had to navigate through windows, high leg-over beams, balance beams, and over a six-foot wall.

Shawna Jepson, of Salem, Oregon, said she wanted to come out and run with Soldiers as a show of support. She brought her teenage sons to the event for a friendly family competition.

“I thought this would be a fun event. If I win, they [her sons] have to keep the house clean for a whole month,” Jepson said with a laugh.

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command (RRC) provided some entertainment with a rock climbing wall, pugil stick arena, live music and a recruiting booth.

“This is kind of an historic event for the Oregon Army National Guard,” said Master Sgt. Scott Dickey, with RRC. “In the 18 years I’ve been in recruiting, I can’t remember a battalion-wide event like this. For the battalion to put on a typical race, the backdrop of their community is a great idea. It attracts the demographics we’re looking for to join the Army National Guard: we’re looking for competitive individuals who are physically fit.”

Capt. Anabel Oteiga de Radillas, assistant operations officer with the 1249th and a recruiting officer with RRC, said the goal of the event went beyond recruiting.

“The competition definitely builds esprit de corps amongst our ranks from all the units in the battalion and interacting with the public builds positive community relations as well.”

The battalion commander said he hopes to make “Storm the Castle” an annual event.

“I’m really pleased with the turnout,” said Mouser. “We’ve got a lot of people out here, so it looks like it’s going to be a great success.”

Henley High students pursue personal growth through Junior ROTC

School curriculum is traditionally summed up by the colloquial “three R’s: readin’, writin’, and ‘rithmatic.” Those three areas demand the lion’s share of the resources that school districts around the 50 states have to dedicate to their students. It’s a tried and true approach and helps to prepare students for higher education or a job.

However, the general consensus is that students need to be able to walk away with a broader learning than just these basic concepts to be truly successful. One program that looks beyond the basic education concepts of the “three R’s” is the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps that is found in many schools around the country.

Col. (retired) John Woodward, the senior instructor for Jr. ROTC at Henley High School, sees the commission of this program this way. “The mission of the program is to build better, more successful citizens,” he says. “The way I think we can do that is by helping them build character and understand how important that is including things like service and being a part of your community.”

This emphasis on community is clearly seen during a commander’s call where all of the cadets gather in formation in dress blues and many are recognized for their hours of community service.

Matt Edwards, a senior and the cadet vice commander, has amassed 170 hours of service to his community during his three years. He says it is important to him for a number of reasons, not least of which is his potential of attending the Air Force Academy after graduation.

During the ceremony the cadet wing Commander Comer Dixon introduces the leadership team for the assembled cadets. This structure mirrors that of an organized wing such as the 173rd Fighter Wing located just a few miles from the school. Dixon says that the hardest part of her job is “getting cadets to do what they are supposed to, when they are supposed to do it.” Something that she believes will give the best preparation for management in the real world, well beyond the graduation.

Dixon says that is true for much of what she has learned in the program. “We learn a lot of useful stuff. Kids say, ‘why don’t we learn stuff we will use in the real world’ well, in here, we do.”

The curriculum touches personal financial management, the science of our weather, history of flight and a capstone project of choice for seniors and much else.

Dixon says she wishes to pursue a career in the Air Force as a trauma surgeon and her capstone project is with Sky Lakes Medical Center where she will see the medical profession first-hand.

When the senior non-commissioned officer in charge, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Wigen who retired from active duty as a pilot, is the senior instructor for the Jr. ROTC DR-931, at Henley High just outside Klamath Falls, Ore.

The color guard for the Henley High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps posts the Oregon Flag and the unit flag during a commander’s call, Sept. 20, 2017. The ceremony presents the cadet leadership and the instructors an opportunity to communicate with all of the cadets at one time and it gives them a reason to don their dress blues for a day of school just outside the town of Klamath Falls, Ore.

Col. John Woodward, retired, cuts the cake with a saber to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force with his cadets, Sept. 20, 2017. Woodward, who retired from active duty as a pilot, is the senior instructor for the Jr. ROTC DR-931, at Henley High just outside Klamath Falls, Ore.

program cuts across many of the cliques common to high school and that when it happens in the classroom it also bleeds over into the rest of their school life.

Ultimately he hopes to see these students move on to the good character stated goal of the programs. Some will go on to serve in the military but many will not.

“A lot of people think that the program is a recruiting tool for the Air Force, but it isn’t; in fact, the number of cadets who go on to serve is about the same as the school as a whole,” said Wigen.
Oregon Army National Guard logisticians from across the state gathered for the 2017 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 4-8, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The weekend conference gave logisticians a chance to network while becoming familiar with updated policies and procedures.

The workshop covered a range of topics from property management and budgeting, ordering and issuing all classes of supplies, to vehicle management and dispatching, among many others. Classes included hands-on practical exercises and computer-based training with the systems logisticians use to order and track their supplies. A portion of each day was set aside for the battalions in both the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 82nd Brigade Troop Command to collaborate in preparation for upcoming operations.

“We have certain types of units in the state that require a higher state of readiness due to their missions and this workshop will help those units do their part towards that goal,” said Col. Sean Nikiela, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG).

Master Sgt. Christian Watts, operations NCO for DCSLOG, said the supplemental training is especially important due to the 50-60 percent turnover rate for supply sergeants every year.

Newly hired supply sergeant, Sgt. Justin Symons, with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, said the workshop was very informational for him. He gave up his commission as a part-time armor captain to obtain a full-time Active Guard Reserve job.

“Understanding the whole entire picture gives me more of an idea of what needs to happen and everything I need to be tracking,” he said. “Seeing the new ordering systems and learning changes in different processes benefits everyone whether they’ve been doing this for two months or two years.”

Sgt. Alyssa McEvoy, supply NCO with A Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, was hired on Oct. 1 as a new supply sergeant. She spent six years doing supply tasks as a traditional part-time Guardman with a few tours on active duty operational support and temporary technician status. She welcomed the opportunity for refresher training at the workshop.

“It’s always good to reassure that I’m doing things correctly and that I’m not missing something,” she said. “It’s been helpful to make connections with other experienced supply sergeants in my battalion to fill that knowledge gap.”

Watts said the most important aspect of the workshop is the chance to network and “put faces to names” with other logisticians that are geographically spread out across the state.

“We try to pair senior logisticians with junior NCOs,” he said. “The goal is to bring new supply sergeants and seasoned supply sergeants together to mentor, share knowledge and best practices.”

Retired Chief Warrant Officer-4 David Willis, a supply systems analyst for USPFO, said both new and experienced supply sergeants need dedicated time to learn the GCSS-Army system beyond just the online courses that are required to gain access to the site.

“It’s designed to be a cost-saver to the government by providing better asset visibility, enabling logisticians to do more lateral transfers instead of making new purchases,” he said.

Sgt. Rusty Earl, budget program analyst for DCSLOG, said both new and experienced supply sergeants need dedicated time to learn the GCSS-Army system beyond just the online courses that are required to gain access to the site.

“A lot of training is required for this transition to ‘G-Army.’ It’s the new basic standard that every supply sergeant should know,” said Earl, who is a member of the Oregon Army National Guard logisticians Maj. Carmen Barteling (left), Staff Sgt. Brent Neer and Sgt. Kaila Talley, attend classes during the 2017 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 6, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The workshop brings together logisticians from units across the state to network and share best practices.

“I learn something and get a new perspective every time I come here,” said Willis, a former supply sergeant before serving 29 years as a property book officer.

While networking and mentorship is the intent of the workshop every year, this year focused heavily on training with the Army’s new Global Combat Support System (GCSS-Army). The program was implemented in June 2016 to combine six separate maintenance and property accountability functions into one centralized web-based program.

“It’s designed to be a cost-saver to the government by providing better asset visibility, enabling logisticians to do more lateral transfers instead of making new purchases,” he said.

Sgt. Rusty Earl, budget program analyst for DCSLOG, said both new and experienced supply sergeants need dedicated time to learn the GCSS-Army system beyond just the online courses that are required to gain access to the site.

“A lot of training is required for this transition to ‘G-Army.’ It’s the new basic standard that every supply sergeant should know,” said Earl, who is a member of the team that helps train and assist units with logistics.

The workshop also gave DCSLOG subject matter experts a chance to address questions from the field in an open-forum.

Capt. Richard Helzer, service management NCO for DCSLOG, said that the interactive feedback from unit supply sergeants is vital to making necessary improvements that affect readiness across the agency.

“These Soldiers work really hard,” said Helzer. “It’s about the only job in the Army where you have pecuniary liability and you have a direct impact on the readiness rating of your unit. It’s a big responsibility.”

While many believe supply sergeants also play a role in Soldier retention.

“Soldiers will have a positive view of their unit if their logistical needs are taken care of,” he said.

At the awards banquet on Dec. 7, many individual logisticians were recognized for going above and beyond in their work. Among those recognized were Sgt. Kevin Coelho, supply NCO for D Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, who earned the Oregon Unit Supply Excellence award, and Sgt. 1st Class Victor Maxfield, logistics NCO for 1249th Engineer Battalion, who earned both the Oregon Battalion and State Supply Excellence trophies. Three logisticians were recognized on the occasion of their upcoming retirements; Master Sgt. Ken Outfleet, Master Sgt. Linda Cassle and Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Robertson.

Every year, logisticians who have made significant contributions to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps are inducted into the Order of Saint Martin, part of the Regimental Awards Program for the Association of Quartermasters. This year, Mr. Willis and Sgt. 1st Class Jack Chase were inducted into the order.

“Recognizing these logisticians for excellence in front of their peers builds camaraderie and esprit de corps in their field of specialty,” said Lt. Col. Jessica Dunn, logistics readiness officer for DCSLOG. “We could not be where we are at our current level of readiness as a state without their hard work and dedication.”
French community honors Oregon's 41st Division

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

A celebration of the 41st Division’s presence in the Cher Valley during World War I nearly 100 years ago, took place on November 11, 2017. While the 41st did not send the full division to France, the number of Soldiers sent through the French region had a significant impact on the Cher Valley and the local country communities beset by war on a vast scale.

Volunteer Chapeau, historian for the French Region of Vallee du Cher et du Remorantinsais, said that between 1918 and 1919, nearly 300,000 Soldiers rotated out of the 41st Division, stationed in the area for training before moving to the front lines to replenish units who had taken casualties. The interchange between the local villagers and the Americans left a lasting imprint on both cultures and countries.

“The town of Noyers, with about 1,800 inhabitants at the time, welcomed up to 30,000 American Soldiers in January 1919, resulting in a clash of civilizations. Initially, there was a lot of mistrust, but the barriers fell quickly between the two peoples. Friendships were created. Couples formed, leading to Franco-American children,” Chapeau said.

Leading up to the event, French historians erected three exhibits, showcasing the 41st Infantry Division’s presence there in WWI. The first was an exhibit of camp life at Three Provinces Roadside Park and rest area at Noyers-sur-Cher, where visitors can see a diorama of uniforms and equipment used in a Soldier’s daily life. The building and the site were inaugurated during the November 11 ceremony on the commemoration of the century since the U.S. military presence in Cher Valley.

The second exhibit included five vehicles dating from the First World War; two taxis of the 1919 era, a truck Berliet, were on display at the technical services of Noyers-sur-Cher through November 13. Lastly at the Noyers festival hall, throughout the week the Cher and a member of to the Military Archaeological Circle of Saint-Amandois, shares an incalculable number of artifacts related to the Cher and a 2,000 year old burial storage container that revolutionized blood transfusion as it allowed storage and shipment of packets of blood, keeping them safe for transfusion for four days. Additionally, weapons, helmets, flags and more gave insight to the day-to-day life of the period.

In attendance to participate in the event was Dan Sokol, president of the 41st Division Association; David Funk, 41st Division Association ambassador; retired Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, who served for 28 years in the Oregon National Guard, and his wife, Diane. They brought with them a flag and plaque that became a permanent part of the display at Noyers-sur-Cher.

During his remarks at the commemoration, Dan Sokol emphasized the importance of honoring history as a way of honoring those who made it.

“The centennial anniversary of the activation and mobilization of the units that became the 41st Infantry Division is a milestone and a good time to acknowledge the division Soldiers for their exceptional accomplishments. As an integral component of the American Expeditionary Forces in the First World War,” said Sokol. “In Oregon, the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team bears the lineage and honors of the 41st Division. With that comes a responsibility to preserve the history, to learn the lessons, and to honor the accomplishments for which our predecessors fought, toiled, and bled.

He further highlighted the 41st Division Association’s aim to recognize and preserve our shared history.

“We look forward to building on the strong friendships established at this event. Your efforts inspire us and reinforce the responsibility we have to preserve our shared history. You have generated interest in many who have served in the 41st Infantry Brigade to visit the Cher Valley in appreciation for the history you are preserving,”

Retired Brig. Gen. Steven Beach said, “It is important to keep the memory of those who gave their lives. This is an important way to forge and maintain alliances. Very strong friendships and partnerships were established and renewed during World War I,” said Beach.

The United States and France are allies and we owe the French gratitude for their willingness to help us in our fight against the British during the founding of the United States. We have repaid the debt over the years, keeping the ties strong. The Soldiers sent from Northwestern States to the Loire-Cher valley in 1917 shared time and endeared themselves to the citizens of that region.”