Oregon Military Department dedicates new headquarters building


In attendance to help dedicate the facility were Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett; Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; and Heidi Moawad, Public Safety and Military Policy Advisor to the Governor; among other community and military leaders.

“We at the City of Salem have some first-hand experience working with the Oregon National Guard during the recent water advisory,” said Mayor Bennett. “We are extremely fortunate that your headquarters is in our backyard, so to speak. Your commitment to service, both nationally and locally, makes an immeasurable impact, especially here in Salem.”

The new headquarters building is named after Maj. Gen. White, honoring the legacy and service of the Oregon National Guard’s longest-serving adjutant general. Until the time of his passing in 1941, White had served nearly 27 years as adjutant general, dating back to Feb. 1, 1915. Decedents of Maj. Gen. White were also in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

“Major General White had a robust and exemplary military career in the Oregon National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Stencel.

Oregon Military Department dedicates new headquarters building

Demobilization ceremony held for 1186th MP Company

SALEM, Oregon – The 1186th Military Police Company, Oregon Army National Guard, was recognized in a demobilization ceremony, Oct. 14, 2018, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

Approximately 30 Citizen-Soldiers were mobilized in May 2017 for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS). The Soldiers provided Personal Security Details (PSD), protecting high-profile individuals.

Scheduled to attend the ceremony and welcome the Soldiers home will be Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast, Land Component Commander, as well as other community and military leaders.

The 1186th MP Company is based in Salem, Oregon. The unit has often partnered with local law enforcement agencies for training. The 1186th MPs partnered with district and federal agencies to provide security, crowd management and traffic control during the 58th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., in January 2017.

This unit has previously deployed overseas twice to Afghanistan in 2011 and to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2004. The company also provided domestic operations support in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The unit is comprised of Soldiers from Portland, Salem, Keizer, Beaverton, Lake Oswego, West Linn, Gresham, Monmouth, Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Central Point, Oakland, Roseburg, Redmond, Milton-Freewater, Ontario, and Nyssa, Oregon. A few Soldiers are from Vancouver, Aberdeen, and Everett, Washington.

Story continued on Page 6
Reflecting on accomplishments, preparing for the future

As 2018 comes to a close, I would like to reflect on the past twelve months and express my appreciation to all members of the Oregon Military Department for an outstanding year of hard work and dedication. I cannot be more proud to be part of such an exceptional organization that continues to live up to our motto of “Always Ready, Always There!”

Whether through the many deployments or other treacherous conditions calling into action, you remain steadfast in your obligation to make our way. Both Army and Air components continued to support overseas mobilizations, provided more than 66,000 gallons of water to Oregonians during the summer water crisis, contributed pivotal manpower and resources to contain efforts of forest fires, and played a critical role in search and rescue operations across the state.

Our state employees are integral to all of our military efforts, whether through emergency coordination, facility support, working state budgets, or ensuring service members are placed on State Active Duty.

Furthermore, through persistent work and support of our elected leaders, we were able to get tuition assistance for Soldiers and Airmen attending state universities and colleges in Oregon. As leaders and learners, this allows for continuing education without further financial burdens to them and their families.

As we all look forward to next year, we recognize that it will be even more challenging. The operations tempo greatly picked up in April and will continue to at least the fall of 2020. In addition to several large-scale mobilizations, we are preparing for extensive training throughout the next several years. Anticipating the years to come, the key for each and every officer and NCO is to improve. Are you ready for that? Are they up to the task? Are they up to the task?

The readiness stand-down is an ongoing event that will continue across to ensure best practices in support of individual readiness.

“it’s an honor for us all to serve, and I know we are all proud to be a part of the Oregon National Guard, so let’s share our experiences,” said Prendergast.

I encourage you to take as much vacation with friends and family as time allows. We owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude for the sacrifice they make in supporting us through the challenges of military life and public service. They make you successful, which in turn makes the Oregon Military Department successful. I look forward to all of us making 2019 a phenomenal year! Always Ready! Always There! Statewide roadshow emphasizes readiness as top priority

Land Component Commander Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV is leading an effort for the Oregon National Guard to increase readiness with stand-downs across Oregon that will take a pause from training to emphasize the importance of individual readiness. On Sept. 9, one of his stops was at Camp Withycombe along with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Fosch for the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Oregon National Guard to visit Soldiers with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Prendergast said readiness is the number one goal for the stand-downs, but that’s really all about putting people in boots in formations. He said the key is for Soldiers to tell the story of what it means to be in the Oregon National Guard because they’ll go to their friends, tell them about what makes their experiences positive, and bring their experiences to their friends, tell them about what the Army and Air Force, the Department of Defense or the National Guard Bureau.

In the Army, the key question is, “Are you going to be there?” In the National Guard it’s “Are you going to be there?” Prendergast said.

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Colonel Day promoted to oversee domestic operations


Most recently, Day was assigned as the Director of Operations (13) for the Joint Domestic Operations Command, where he led the development of joint military strategic plans, operations and exercises for the Oregon National Guard’s role in emergency preparedness.

Day holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Humboldt State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Oregon. He graduated from the U.S. Army War College in 2012 with a Master’s in Strategic Studies. He completed Advanced Joint Professional Military Education II (JPMED II) in 2014. His other military education includes the Army Officer Candidate School, the Armor Basic Course, the Infantry Officer Advance Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and the Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Day is a fully qualified pilot and is Dual-Status Command (DSC) qualified. Day began his military career in 1987 with the active duty U.S. Army at Fort Hood, Texas. He went on to serve as a tank and scout platoon leader at Fort Lewis, Washington. He joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1992 and served in a variety of command and staff positions in armor and infantry units.

Throughout his career in the Oregon Army National Guard, he has served as company executive officer, company commander, intelligence officer, battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer. He also served as the operations officer and battalion executive officer, and deputy brigade commander for the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

He deployed with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry from company through brigade with overwhelming success.

Story by Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard welcomes new State Command Chief

SALEM, Oregon – Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel has stepped into a new position as the Oregon Air National Guard State Command Chief after serving as the 173rd Fighter Wing Command Chief since 2015.

As the State Command Chief, McDaniel is assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Oregon, and serves as the personal adviser to the Oregon Air National Guard commander on all issues regarding the welfare, readiness, morale, and proper utilization and progress of the enlisted force. McDaniel is the ranking enlisted leader in the Oregon Air National Guard.

It is very humbling,” said McDaniel. He added that this opportunity is an accumulation of the experiences he has had since joining the active duty Air Force in 1980.

McDaniel began his career as a corrosion control specialist, and performed that job for 10 years before switching career fields and becoming a dental manager at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. In 1992, McDaniel decided to leave the Air Force and pursue a civilian career. Five years later, he returned to the service, joining the Oregon Army National Guard as a structural repair technician with the 173rd Fighter Wing.

“When we came home,” McDaniel noted, having grown up in Klamath Falls and graduating from Klamath Union High School.

During his 19 years with the 173rd Fighter Wing, McDaniel held multiple positions, including supply manager, maintenance support section supervisor, material management flight superintendent, logistics readiness squadron superintendent, operations group superintendent, and finally his current position as the wing command chief. “I am just a product of Kingsley Field,” said McDaniel, crediting the Airmen of Oregon for his successes. “Having outstanding Airmen in our organization allowed us to be who we are. You take care of them, they will take care of you and this is an accumulation of that.”

McDaniel said he’s had many people help shape and develop him to where he is today. “Everything we do is based on lessons we learn through experiences,” he said.

“One of my first supervisors back in the 1980s was an old master sergeant … he was tough, but he taught me some valuable lessons,” said McDaniel with a laugh.

McDaniel related one of those lessons he said he takes with him every day. “I worked with a non-commissioned officer who was new, but he was responsible for a large group of people,” said McDaniel. The supervisor then asked him if he was aware of the trouble one of the junior Airmen in the shop had found himself him. He was, but unsure where the conversation was headed. That was when his supervisor presented him with a letter of counseling. “I didn’t do anything!” To which my supervisor answered, “Exactly,” said McDaniel. McDaniel said this taught him the importance of always taking care of the Airmen below him.

And that is exactly what McDaniel hopes to continue in his new position. McDaniel said he’s been formulating goals for his role as the State Command Chief.

Relationship building is his first focus. He noted that he would like to help educate the Airmen of both the 173rd and 142nd Fighter Wings on the difference of cultures and missions between the two wings.

“Our missions are different, our templates are different, our manning documents are different … I want to help educate each other on what those differences are and how we can work together as a team,” said McDaniel.

His second goal is focused on emphasizing what it means to be in the profession of arms.”

Sometimes I think we focus too much on trying to be like a corporate entity,” he said. “We can definitely learn from the civilian sector, but we need to make sure we are careful to not cross that line and forget what it really means to be in the profession of arms.”

McDaniel assures us that he will never forget Kingsley Field and the experiences that have shaped him. He noted a few areas that he would love to visit in his civilian career.

“On the wings,” said McDaniel. “You live the culture of the Wingman … you actually put a verb conjugation to the core values,” said McDaniel. “And our amazing community support.”

McDaniel said this next position is the “last adventure in our military career” noting the team effort with his wife, Jeannie, of 38 years.

When asked about a legacy,” said McDaniel. “I get a chance to continue to take care of Airmen … and I don’t take a day for granted, my wife and I never do.”

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NEWS

Demobilization ceremony held for 1186th Military Police Company

Family, friends and community members take part in a formal demobilization ceremony honoring Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1186th Military Police Company, Oct. 14, 2018, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Approximately 30 Soldiers in the unit deployed to Afghanistan where they provided Personal Security Detail (PSD), protecting individuals or groups of individuals.

Weapons teams compete for top honors

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

PORTLAND, Oregon – Weapons Loaders from the 142nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron competed for the highly-prized Sasquatch ‘Hoki’ trophy during the October Regularity Scheduled Drill (RSD) at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Oct. 14, 2018.

The competition brought the four quarterly award winning teams together to square off for the overall 2018 fiscal year title. A total of six weapons were loaded from missile carts onto F-15C Eagles, as the three member teams were tested for their accuracy and speed for a comprehensive proficiency score.

In the end, the ‘Red Team’ of Airman 1st Class Eric Janson (left) Staff Sgt. Benjamin Jacobson (center) and Staff Sgt. Morgan Annas (right) were graded overall winners.

Kaiser Permanente NW receives ESGR Award


CLACKAMAS, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard presented Kaiser Permanente Northwest with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) awards during a ceremony on Sept. 13, 2018, in Clackamas, Oregon. Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, and Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Dennis Klein, Oregon chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) presented certificates to hospital representatives while describing the ongoing support that Kaiser Permanente has provided to the Oregon National Guard over the past year. ESGR is a Department of Defense program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component Service Members and their civilian employers regarding their military commitments.
Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers return from Middle East deployment

SALEM, Oregon -- The Oregon Army National Guard and the Vietnamese National Committee for Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) held a memorial ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2018, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore. A platoon of more than 20 Citizen-Soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company (Golf), 1-189th Aviation Regiment, conducted more than 80 medevac missions.

The detachment augmented the South Dakota Army National Guard’s Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, serving under the 1st Battalion, 126th General Aviation Support Battalion and the 449th Combat Aviation Brigade. Over the course of the deployment, Detachment 3, Golf Company, flew more than 200 combined hours and conducted more than 80 medevac missions. The unit also conducted numerous training events with U.S. forces and members of the Finnish, Australian, Canadian, Italian, German, Danish, Spanish militaries, among other Coalition partners.

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Soldiers with Detachment 3, G Company (Golf), 1-189th Aviation Regiment, salute the United States flag during a demobilization ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Salem, Ore., Nov. 4, 2018. Over the course of their deployment, Detachment 3, Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, flew more than 200 combined hours and conducted more than 80 medevac missions.

The visit included dialogues to discuss the relationship between VINASARCOM and the Oregon National Guard as emergency managers and to reaffirm their commitment to an enduring and constructive State Partnership. The delegation also toured Oregon National Guard, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, and U.S. Coast Guard facilities related to emergency management and emergency response.

The relationship between VINASARCOM and the Oregon National Guard as state partners and the lead military agencies for emergency management in their respective country and state was established in September 2011 via a memorandum of understanding to advance bilateral defense cooperation through U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) and Vietnam Bilateral Defense Dialogue (BDD). The relationship recognizes that building and maintaining capabilities as emergency managers in times of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) is for the benefit of all countries and promotes stability, prosperity and domestic resiliency in the entire region.

The partnership between the Oregon National Guard and VINASARCOM was made official in November 2012 as part of the National Guard Bureau-sanctioned program. The State Partnership program complements broader U.S. engagement with Vietnam in pursuit of shared priorities such as disaster relief, education, health, trade and the environment. The program directly supports the broad national interests and security cooperation goals of the United States by engaging partner nations via military, socio-political, and economic conduits at the local, state, and national levels. 

Sonya Pedersen (left) and Kelly Jo Craigmiles (center), both with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, brief a delegation of officers from Vietnam’s National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM) on how the Emergency Communications Center works during disaster response, Nov. 14, 2018, in Salem, Ore.

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Oregon Military Department dedicates new headquarters building

The new 55,078 square-foot Joint Force Headquarters building incorporates an open workspace with an abundance of natural light. White led his troops successfully through training maneuvers in California and war games in western Washington, but died on November 23, 1941, after becoming ill.

"General White possessed, as few men did, an ever abiding love for his fellow men and an unflagging devotion for his country. Wherever the 41st Division may go, there also will he go in spirit," said Lt. Col. John T. Murray, with the publishing of Official Order Number 31 shortly after General White’s death.

In 1954, he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of the American Legion.

The new Oregon National Guard headquarters facility is 55,078 square-feet and is situated on an 8.1-acre parcel adjacent to the Anderson Readiness Center on State Street. With a total financial cost of $26 million, this Military Construction (MILCON) project is a combination of federal ($19.3 million) and state ($6.7 million) funding. The project was awarded in July 2016 to Fortis Construction Company and SERA Architects. Construction commenced in May 2017 and occupancy began in July 2018.

"The Oregon Military Department are the foundation of this building, ensuring we take care of our great state’s resources while also being prepared for whatever Oregonians need from us in the future," said Moawad.

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (EOEM) conducted a first-ever nationwide wireless emergency alert test in the state of Oregon on Sept. 16, 2018.

The test, coordinated by FEMA and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will be broadcast via radio, TV, cell phones and wireless carriers. The test was originally scheduled to take place on Sept. 20 but was postponed due to response and recovery efforts after Hurricane Florence.

In Oregon, the WEA portion of the test commenced at 11:18 a.m. Pacific Time, and the EAS portion followed at 11:20 a.m. Pacific Time.

"IPAWS is a national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency alerts and information from emergency officials to the public through radios, TV, cell phones and Internet applications. Although this is the fourth EAS nationwide test, it is the first national WEA test.

"This is the first time a wireless alert has been tested in Oregon, and we don’t want anyone to be caught off guard," said Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps. "No matter where someone is—at work, in their car, at school, the doctor’s office, anywhere—they should hear and see the alert on their phone," said Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps.
102nd CST trains with Oregon Department of Corrections

Members of the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) investigate an unknown substance during a training exercise with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

SALEM, Oregon – Members of the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd CST trains with Oregon Department of Corrections for potential deployment.

The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team recently completed their brigade field training exercise, known as eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC). The training exercise prepares the brigade for supporting federal and joint efforts.

Members of the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) investigate an unknown substance during a training exercise with the Oregon Department of Corrections.

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - A concerning reality of society’s dependence on technology is that information such as bank account passwords and credit card numbers are vulnerable to hacking—no matter the precautions taken.

Support from families, loved ones, and employers make it possible for us to serve our communities, state and nation.

The Air Force network must necessarily remain secret, so as not to tip off the enemy. This is often publicized, it’s inherent in the business that the network.”

The proliferation of technology presents cyber security professionals with thorny issues; one of the main ones is that if an infection enters the body on the smallest finger of a person’s hand, it still infects the entire organism. The “body” of the Air Force network we operate on spans the globe and has millions of connections to other networks—each connection is vulnerable to attack and infection. Hence the need for vigilance at the individual level.

Those basic techniques that people use to take advantage of you—your kids—your money, those are only going to get more advanced,” says Shipley. “So if you can learn the basics behind it, that’s when you can empower yourself to take back control of your devices, your money and your network.”

Of course, like any war—and make no mistake this is a war—there are success and failures. While the failures are often publicized, it’s inherent in the business that the successes and wins are often kept quiet. A recent Air Force Magazine article explains why. “What they do, though, must necessarily remain secret, so as not to tip off the enemy about what the cyber force knows, what it can do, and what it is doing.”

Shipley advises Airmen on how to protect themselves and by extension, help protect the networks they use every day—the base network, the network they conduct operations in.

Finally, for those who want to learn how to protect themselves, Shipley recommends, “just Google it, you will learn everything you need to know.”

An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier with Company A, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, provides overwatch security during the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC), August 6, 2018, at Fort Hunter Liggett, California. The XCTC training was part of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s preparations for a potential upcoming deployment.

173rd Fighter Wing highlights the importance of Cyber Security

“The best takeaway for us and everyone involved is probably you and how you’re going to stay cyber-aware a person is,” said Benjamin Kolar, a cyberspace operations officer in the 262nd.

The 173rd Fighter Wing network is a training exercise, November 14, 2018, in Coos Bay, Oregon. This was the first time the two agencies have trained together, and the exercise enhanced incident response capabilities by furthering interoperability and coordination between agencies.

“We have been training for this type of deployment with our culminating event of XCTC, where the 41st as a whole has superbly performed from the brigade to the platoon level,” said Col. Eric Riley, brigade commander of the 41st IBCT. “The 41st Brigade has been assigned this mobilization and will answer the call to serve, just as it has since World War I. It’s an honor to serve in this historic brigade with such a rich history.”

“Cyber is not going to go away, it’s going to always be so behind the curve when you do,” said Shipley referencing how cyber-aware a person is.

The story explains that circuit boards manufactured in China had small, illicit chips added to them allowing hackers “a stealth doorway into any network that included the altered machinery.”

The chips were added by manufacturing subcontractors in China and became part of a coordinated attack against names recognized the world over, like Apple Inc., and Amazon—says the article.

Cyber is not going to go away, computers, cell phones, it’s not going away and if you don’t start now you’re going to be so behind the curve when you do,” said Shipley referencing how cyber-aware a person is.

The chips that must necessarily remain secret, so as not to tip off the enemy about what the cyber force knows, what it can do, and what it is doing.”

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The Canadian Forces Snowbirds perform their routine in their CT-114 Tutor aircraft during the 2018 Oregon International Airshow, Hillsboro, Oregon, September 28th.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Competitors navigate obstacles during the "Storm The Castle" fitness and recruiting event hosted by the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard, at Wallace Marine Park in Salem, Oregon, Sep. 8, 2018.

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

An Oregon Air National Guard F-15C Eagle, from the 142nd Fighter Wing, based at the Portland Air National Guard Base, takes off during the Oregon International Air Show at the Hillsboro Airport, Sept. 30, 2018.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars post 2666 performs a rifle salute at the Washington County Veterans Day ceremony in Hillsboro.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs


Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The color guard of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 2666 present the U.S. flag during the playing of the national anthem at the annual Washington County Veterans Day ceremony in Hillsboro.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The Oregon National Guard participated in the Albany Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10, 2018, in Albany, Ore.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon National Guard Armored with the 125th STS participate in the Albany Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 10, 2018.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The Oregon National Guard Community Engagement and Regional Events
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OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

First Time: 173rd Fighter Wing hosts Secretary of the Air Force

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
Photos by Staff Sgt. Riley Johnson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KALAMATH FALLS, Oregon — Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson visited the 173rd Fighter Wing Nov. 3-4, 2018, marking the first visit by a sitting secretary since Kingsley Field opened its gates during WWII.

During her visit, Wilson had the opportunity to see firsthand the wing’s mission, which is to train F-15C air superiority pilots to the U.S. Air Force. The base coined the phrase, “The first flight over the local空军。” She also met with Airmen from the base as well as other personnel from the National Guard and Reserve.

One of her key messages for the community and the wing is the emergence of threats with capabilities comparable to the U.S., which she said requires a concerted effort to modernize and re-establish technological superiority. “The thing that’s driving all this is the threat—we’ve returned to an era of great power competition and we have to be prepared for that,” she said.

That means an increase in readiness, an expansion of the number of squadrons, and an increase in the number of Airmen joining the ranks of fully qualified fighter pilots, something the 173rd Fighter Wing executes every day.

Over the last several years the wing has added training airspace making it the second largest range in the entire Air Force, second only to the Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, range. Kingsley Field has also secured the longest lease in the Air Force, until the year 2095, largely driven by strong community support.

“It’s a very supportive community, and that matters to our Airmen and it matters to inspire the next generation of young people to consider the United States Air Force whether it’s active, guard or reserve,” said Wilson.

Secretary Wilson’s history with the Air Force dates back to college, she graduated from the Air Force Academy and served for seven years in the 1980s. She said there are some differences in the service now and one of them is readily evident at Kingsley Field.

“The way we’re doing it is just a self-service,” she said. “Rather than throw it away, rather give it to someone who can use it.”

Alicia Edick, a finance technician. “I’d rather give it to someone who can use it, rather than throw it away.”

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Wilson strap into an F-15D Eagle before a familiarization flight Nov. 4, 2018, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

“It’s a guard unit that has an active association so that is very unique,” she said referencing the active association with the 550th Fighter Squadron. “One of the things that’s different about the Air Force from when I was on active duty is the closeness of the active, guard and reserve. The operating tempo is much higher, but that also means that the integration is even more important today than it was 20 years ago.”

Kingsley added more than 90 active duty troops several years ago, and they help increase the number of student pilots the wing graduates in a year.

Although her visit spanned just over 24 hours she made time to meet with Airmen from the most junior to the higher ranks and she hosted a town hall for more than an hour. The base theater reached capacity and still more people filed in to stand in the back. During her presentation she asked each Airmen to write on a three-by-five card something they would like her to know.

“If there is anything you would like me to know, anything at all, please write it on the card, I will read every one of them on the plane when I leave,” she said.

The final part of her visit was a ride in the back seat of the F-15 Eagle where she traveled to the training airspace to see its scope and to experience some of what the aircraft is capable of.

“It was a great day, it was a really great day,” she said with a smile on her face. “Climbing to 70-degrees nose-high and going from 6,000 feet to 18,000 feet in what seemed like less than 30-seconds—going inverted and just having [Col. Jeff Smith] show me what the jet could do was a lot of fun.”

173rd FW Airman creates “Farmer’s Market”

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KALAMATH FALLS, Oregon — The 173rd Finance Office saw an opportunity to practice generosity and foster healthy eating by creating a “Farmer’s Market” at Kingsley Field, in the late summer of 2018.

Lt. Col. Shana Stroh, the 173rd Fighter Wing comptroller, helps Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson strap into an F-15D Eagle before a familiarization flight Nov. 4, 2018, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

Lt. Col. Shana Stroh, the 173rd FW comptroller who organized a “Farmer’s Market” provides recipes for beet greens, which she donated from her garden, Sept. 4.

Fresh beets were among the items provided during a “Farmer’s Market” organized by the 173rd FW Finance Office, Sept. 4, 2018. The market was a way for 173rd Airmen to donate excess produce from their gardens.

“Way were doing it is just a self-service farmer’s market,” she said. “It’s for people that have extra and who want to give it away to people on the base, and it’s fresh produce.”

All of the items on the table are free-of-charge, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Stroh says there are plans to expand the program and she envisions next year having more produce. She adds that any produce left after the farmers market is donated to the local food bank.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
The 142nd Fighter Wing conducts dual readiness exercise

The training exercise main emphasis tested the Airmen’s ability to work in high-tempo and mission operational scenarios wearing protective MOOP Gear (Mission Orientated Protective Posture), simulating toxic environments after a possible chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear strike. The second day of the exercise focused on a simulated F-15 aircraft accident.

A crucial element the training examined the ability of the unit to function proficiently in hostile and combat environments. Updating and issuing gear to all the Airmen and while working on the basics allowed the entire Wing to refresh and sharpen skills.

“A big emphasis of the training is to have a mental readiness to be able to do the gear, do it properly, and then working (in simulation) in extreme environments,” Col. Adam Sitter, 142nd Fighter Wing commander.

The simulated chemical warfare environment had Airmen launching and recovering the Wing’s F-15 Eagles, to perform transfer maintenance procedures, loading missiles, refueling operations and flight crew tasks. The exercise also included night flying training, allowing Drill Status Guardsmen to work alongside the full-time staff.

As the first day transitioned into day two, Sitter said that the Airmen responded well to the challenges in the exercise.

“Training allows us to evaluate mission readiness for wartime and deployed assignments,” said Sitter.

The second day of training shifted the emphasis to base Firefighting and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams responding to a variety of circumstances with an aircraft accident on the Air base.

As the two-days of training concluded, Wing leadership was able to evaluate accomplishments and areas of emphasis for future readiness exercises, all the while, keeping the all-current mission postures operational.

Kingsley Field hosts local recruiting expo

“I felt that allowing the students and staff of our local schools see the different branches come together in a cooperative way, while demonstrating what service in the Air National Guard and Air Force can actually look like, would help to break down some of the stereotypes,” adds Pierce.

Pierce also saw this as opportunity talk about the newest benefit available to Oregon Guardsman, 100 percent tuition assistance. Oregon House Bill 4035 was signed in April, authorizing 100-percent state tuition assistance for all Oregon Guardsman, and was made available starting the fall 2018 academic year. This benefit pays for tuition and some fees for Airmen and Soldiers attending an Oregon state university or community college in pursuit of an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Pierce hopes to make this an annual event and is already looking at ways to make next year’s event even more successful.

“My biggest goal for this event was to create a successful framework for future Armed Forces Expos; and thanks to the amazing support of members of Kingsley Field we did,” he added.

Students from multiple Klamath County High Schools listen to Staff Sgt. Kevin Gordon, 173rd FW, explain how a refueler truck works during a recruiting expo at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. Oct. 11, 2018.

Klamath Falls, Oregon - Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing hosted a recruiting expo for approximately 200 local high school seniors and juniors from nine schools. Recruiters from the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Army, Air Force, and Navy were all on-hand to share the different opportunities that are available through their respective branches.

Tech. Sgt. Rafe Pierce, a 173rd Fighter Wing production recruiter and organizer of the event says the purpose of this was two-fold.

“Because this training can help people function in a chaotic environment calmly and rationally, and that practitioners may have less stress and anxiety, sleep disturbances and increased energy levels.

For many Airmen that attended this seminar, this is the first time they have tried the training or what Birch calls a protocol.

"I wanted to try iRest to see what it was truly about," Senior Airman Melinda Grounds said. "To me it promised a new experience and a new way to navigate and control my own emotions and thoughts, purposeful practice to maintain a balanced disposition in my own life.

Grounds says the skills this training imparted will serve her in that capacity and that she sees it as a viable approach to managing stress.

"I participated in this at a Yellow Ribbon event after returning from my deployment, " said Staff Sgt. Penny Stross, who largely spearheaded the effort to bring Birch and the iRest training to the 173rd Fighter Wing. "I felt that we all have stress in our lives, especially those of us who are in the military, and I wanted to bring this to our Airmen because mental resiliency is important whether we are at home or overseas on deployment."
The impact on the environment for solar collection is minimal as the panels are mounted on rooftops, not taking up land space with ‘Solar Farms’ of panels.

"We’re installing panels that are 300 watts, or approximately three panels per kilowatt, for a total of 750 panels on the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC)."

When the AFRC was first constructed in 2011, there was an original installation of 18.6 kilowatts, Safe remarked when breaking down the numbers. In September of 2018, an additional 249.6-kilowatt array increased the projected production of 320,233 kilowatt-hours per year. The lifecycle of these solar projects is rated for a 25-year span, factoring in about a 10 percent degradation over this lifespan.

"In 2015, when Executive Order number 13693 was written (by the DOD) it specified that there were targeted goals for renewable energy savings through 2025, increasing efficiency at around two percent and compounded every year after," Safe said.

The DOD and the Department of the Army have recognized the importance of these renewable energy projects and have set up their own funding stream. “That’s how we are funding our solar projects,” Safe emphasized. “The disposition of the funds to the states helps award future projects and it is why we in Oregon have been as successful with other building projects."

By working with local utility companies, the Oregon National Guard armories are factoring in reliable, long-term standards, which will help with project operating costs and long term budgeting. "Under the Net metering agreement with utilities, it will enable the Oregon National Guard to sell excess energy to the DOD’s power grid and reduce energy costs. This alone will save lives while managing renewable resources in the field.

"That’s how we’re headed next, we are going to be looking at what we can do that will build in this type of self-sufficiency," Safe said, as he summarized the continuing plans. "If we are faced with a situation where we can benefit with a large installation training site, like Umatilla, we may want to do a combination of solar and battery storage at the same time."

Not every training site or armory in the state is ideal for using and installing solar panels, but by reducing the cost across the state and using resources efficiently, this will help meet the 2025 goals set by Congress; where military facilities must get 25 percent of their energy from renewable sources.

"When looking at the cost per kilowatt hour and the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) this gives us a clear gauge for the overall value in these solar projects," said Safe. "Moving forward, we want to be as efficient as possible and get the best return on investment for everyone involved."

Over the long run these savings will support all parties looking to plan, budget and offset cost. In the end, having a reliable and predictable energy resource for Oregon Guardsmen to use in response to future public emergencies is invaluable.
SALEM, Oregon – As the Director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) I see how passionate the OEM team and our partner emergency management organizations are about helping Oregonians prepare for emergencies and disasters. Recently, Governor Kate Brown unveiled a plan to improve Oregon’s readiness for a Cascadia Earthquake and Tsunami by 2025.

As part of that effort, the my office has been tasked with developing a plan, in coordination with county emergency management, non-profits, and the American Red Cross, to ensure that 250,000 homes in the Cascadia Subduction Zone region have 2-weeks of emergency supplies by 2021.

For many years, we’ve been talking about the importance of being prepared for 72-hours. While this is a good start, it does not take into account the full impacts from a large earthquake and tsunami, which will leave much of our infrastructure, including transportation routes, communications networks, and water and energy services unusable. Oregonians will have to count on each other and their communities to be safe until responders can arrive.

This is why OEM is focused on efforts to establish a culture of preparedness, where Oregonians have a shared set of beliefs relating to our need to be ready to take care of ourselves, our families and our community during emergencies or disasters.

We encourage Oregonians to be prepared for a minimum of 2-weeks as part of our “2 Weeks Ready” initiative. When more individuals, families and communities are prepared, our emergency responders can better focus their resources on injured and other vulnerable populations immediately following a disaster.

So what does being ready for two weeks mean? It means having the skills and the stuff to take care of yourself and those in your household for at least two weeks following an emergency or disaster. Learning first aid and CPR can go a long way towards individual and family preparedness, as can ensuring your residence is properly insured, you know where utility shut-offs are located, how to communicate and evacuate, and where to get emergency information. There is no “one-size” way to put together two weeks’ worth of supplies since everyone has individual dietary and medical needs. If your family includes children, seniors or pets, you will have additional needs.

Everyone’s kit will look different but for a basic starting point, you can visit our 2 Weeks Ready page at https://www.oregon.gov/OEM/hazardsprep/Pages/2-Weeks-Ready.aspx. This page suggests activities or items to include in your preparedness kit. You probably have many 2-Weeks Ready items around the house and may be more prepared than you think! Being prepared to be self-sufficient for 2-weeks is an achievable goal. Many of the standard preparedness kit items such as flashlights, gloves, hand-crank radios, trash bags and a first-aid kit are already in a 72-hour kit if you have one.

We are asking Oregonians to think about emergency preparedness and talk about it. Have a meaningful conversation with the members of your household to discuss the following:

- Do you have backup transportation methods and routes?
- Who will care for the kids, grandparents and pets if you are unable to get to them for several hours?
- Knowing your neighborhood has medical skills, a generator, a chainsaw, or other important tools or resources?
- Do you have any local state contact?

Designate one person to be the main contact for your group of friends or family. Experience has shown that in the aftermath of large disasters (consider the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan or hurricanes in Southeast U.S. and Caribbean), it may take weeks before help can arrive. While first responders are at the ready to assist wherever, whenever needed, OEM and our partners are encouraging you to create preparedness kits and build emergency skills to maintain self-sufficiency.

The devastation on display in the Florida Panhandle following Hurricane Michael as survivors sought clean water, food, fuel and medical care is another example of the challenge we still face getting more people to take preparedness seriously. As an emergency manager, it’s incredibly frustrating to see these events unfold when you know there are actions and steps people can take to be better prepared.

This is why we are asking you to be ready for a minimum of 2-weeks, with both stuff and skills. Do it a little at a time, you don’t have to get there all at once. OEM, local emergency managers, and partners from FEMA and Red Cross have a host of publications, videos and other resources to help you get 2-Weeks Ready.

Until the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami happen we don’t know exactly how our infrastructure and our environment are going to respond, so it’s important we heed these warnings. Let’s use the available science and forecasts and look for gaps, opportunities, and answers. Oregonians need a culture of preparedness that is sustainable for all hazards, and start building a culture of preparedness into our everyday lives.

Story by 1st Lt. Erin Smith
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Photos by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

REDMOND, Oregon - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 224th Engineer Company, based in Albany, Oregon, worked long days during their Annual Training (AT) to improve roads at the Oregon training facility, Biak.

The thousands of acres that make up Biak Training Center are also open to the public, who use the same roads travelers from the civilian community use. Bryan Nielsen believes the neighbors and the public will be grateful for the improved roads.

Soldiers from the unit received an excellent training opportunity in exchange for their hard work.

Capt. Joseph Zimmermann, commander of the 224th, said the unit reached an Oregon training facility, a National Guard training facility, and then infrastructure is built up out here that the public can use.

The 224th Engineer Battalion, which is a part of the B Company, is done for now, it probably will be back here in a few years and see what they have done and they just stay very excited about it. The work for the 224th Engineer Company is done for now, it probably won’t be the last time Biak Training Center sees them.

“We have a limited on scope of equipment, as one guy would be, so he can’t get done what we can get done. He can maintain to a certain level but it will require us to come back and work on it,” said Zimmermann.

An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier smooths out a freshly resurfaced road at Biak Training Center. An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier with the 224th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, waters down a pile of gravel that will be used to improve miles of roads.
Portland, Oregon - When Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Christopher Webb signed up for the 2018 Military Reserve Exchange Program (MREP), he admitted he had no idea what he was getting into. “I didn’t know what to expect,” Webb said, as he sat in the CERFP building at the Portland Air National Guard Base during the recent October drill weekend, recollecting his experiences the month prior.

Webb, who serves as the Deputy Commander and Director of Operations for the 142nd CRBNF Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., ultimately spent two weeks with British and Irish Soldiers during Exercise Stone Viper, held at Camp Swynnerton near the village of Stone in central England.

Members of the 335 Medical Evacuation Regiment from England and the 253 Medical Regiment from Northern Ireland conducted field-based medical evacuation training over the course of two-weeks.

Story by Master Sgt. Nick Choy
Photos courtesy by Maj. Christopher Webb
142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group

Portland, Oregon - Earthquake country. Cascadia earthquakes are regular occurrences in Oregon that have the potential to cause significant localized damage, and the threat of a Cascadia subduction zone quake by the year 2025 is critical for individuals and families is a safe and fun way to practice what to do when seismic activity occurs.

Oregon Air National Guardsman plays Soldier with UK partners

Participants with the U.S. Military Reserve Exchange Program (MREP) join members of the 335 Medical Evacuation Regiment from England unloading a simulated injured patient.

Largest earthquake drill highlights Oregon’s push for disaster resilience


Students from Rigler Elementary School in Portland, Ore., “Drop, Cover, and Hold On!” during the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill, Oct. 18.

Students from Rigler Elementary School in Portland, Ore., during the Great ShakeOut earthquake drill, Oct. 18.
The 3670th Component Repair Company deactivates after 75 years of service

Former NASA Engineer visits Kingsley STARBASE students

Retired NASA Engineer Norman Chaffee shows students at STARBASE one of the very rocket motors he created, which helped the lunar lander safely settle on the moon’s surface during the Apollo missions during the “space race” of the 1960’s, Oct. 19, 2018.

Neil Armstrong safely land on the moon for the first time—and get them back into orbit for the ride home. In fact, he brought one of them to show the students that they are still in use today, that he brought and set them held to see how heavy it was. “You look like you might be about a hundred pounds,” he said gesturing to a student standing next to him. “This is a hundred-pound thrust rocket, so if you stood on it, you would probably sink a pool.”

He gestured toward another young, slighter student and said, “If you were to do the same thing, I think you may weigh about 60-pounds, this rocket would throw you up really, really fast,” he said with a big smile on his face as he handed the rocket to the student. Since retiring in 1998, Chaffee is part of the Johnson Space Center Education Office specializing in STEM for middle and high school students, which is the focus of the Kingsley Field STARBASE program. His areas of focus while employed at NASA included propulsion and power systems, robotics, biomedical engineering, and systems engineering and integration. That is an example of how he still supports those endeavors through telling students how he came to love science, many of which are fairly humorous.

“I believe I’m a toasting toaster,” he said, using a toaster to hold a beaker upright while heating it up, naturally that worked quite well, he dropped sending a flammable liquid onto the kitchen curtains and walls that had burst into a house fire. Another time he created a mixture that reacted—bursting from the test beaker and leaving a dark purple stain on the kitchen counters and carpet. He later became interested in astronomy, and Chaffee said his parents restored more easily as a telescope does not burn or stain its surroundings.

Following the visit, Alesha Earnest, the Kingsley Field STARBASE Director, said it peaked the interest of many of the students in attendance. “A couple of them said they are going to Mars,” she adds. This is something Chaffee said was very likely adding, “I wouldn’t doubt if a number of you do go to Mars and if not you—your children will.”

Earnest said her favorite part was his enthusiasm for inspiring kids to pursue STEM, “to see his eyes light up when he was teaching the kids, his zeal in sharing his own discovery and wanting to pass that along to these students was my favorite part of his visit.”

Story and photos by John Hughes, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – With the unit colors rolled up and cased for the final time, the 3670th Component Repair Company was formally deactivated during a ceremony on Dec. 7, 2018, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Marking more than 75 years of service, the formal deactivation for the 3670th allowed unit members a final opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments and close an extensive chapter within the Oregon Army National Guard.

The unit was first established on February 24, 1943, as the 390th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company and allotted to the Oregon Army National Guard.

Across its pages Air Force legends are published in 1979, which provides a co-discovery.

The space race of the 1960s is a story that may be resurgent as the Air Force and China says they’ll place an equipment, tactical vehicles and other equipment. We deployed Soldiers with very specific MOS’s (Military Occupational Specialty) that did technical, measuring diagnostics of equipment in the field and other roles with our NATO partners,” said Maj. Matthew Brewer, 3670th Component Repair Company commander.

When not deployed, the unit supported the major commands in the state, both the 82nd Brigade Troop Command and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). They prepared equipment for training, including the 41st IBCT’s recent eXportable Combat Training Capability (xCTC), and preparing them for potential futures deployments.

“The work involved purging night vision devices, gauging up weapons and providing a full spectrum of armament and maintenance support to the elements in our state,” said Brewer.

In deactivating the unit, Brewer said the principal challenge was finding new homes for more than 200 Soldiers that made up the 3670th.

“IT was a pretty big movement of Service Members as we worked with each individual Soldier to find out what they were looking for in a new unit,” Brewer said, describing these case-by-case challenges. “For some, it was keeping their same MOS but others with unique skills we had to find other ways to cross train them into new jobs.”

For some of the Guardsmen, the changes are welcome as this deactivation allows them an opportunity to look at new military career fields. For others, it has been more bittersweet as long-established bonds and traditions formed over many years will now lie in the memories of the unit’s history. Though in many ways, the 3670th will now live on in other units around the state as the Soldiers transition forward.

“During our last drill meeting in September, the key message I wanted them to know is that we have built such a cohesive team and developed so many good Soldiers,” said Brewer. “By building great leaders, we will fill the ranks in other units and carry on the highest principles of the 3670th.”

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Matthew Brewer (center), commander of 3670th Component Repair Company, and 1st Sgt. Robert Bryson (right) case the unit colors held by the unit guidon bearer (left) as Lt. Col. Dustin Ballard (right), commander of 821st Troop Command Battalion, waits to receive the colors one final time during the Oregon Army National Guard’s official deactivation ceremony, December 7, 2018, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. The formal deactivation of the 3670th concludes more than 75 years of federally recognized service dating back to Feb. 24, 1943.

KALAMATH FALLS, Oregon — The space race of the 1960’s is a period in the history of the United States that left an aura of passion and discovery. It spawned famous books that have become part of the fabric of the country, such as Tom Wolfe’s “The Right Stuff,” published in 1979, which provides a co-pilot’s view of the most famous seven astronauts who went into orbit and eventually landed on the moon’s surface. Across its pages Air Force legends are cemented, most notably Chuck Yeager, the storied test pilot who broke the sound barrier but couldn’t break into the astronaut ranks because he didn’t have his college degree. As well as the Apollo moon landing with its timeless video of Buzz Aldrin saluting the U.S. Flag on the surface of the moon in 1969, where it still stands today.

The topic may be resurgent as the Air Force prepares to launch a new space force and China says they’ll place an astronaut on the moon as well. A group of students at Kingsley Field’s STARBASE program had a first-hand introduction to this era when retired NASA propulsion engineer, Norman Chaffee, visited them.

He described for them his career in the heyday of the space race, which included helping design and build the very thruster rockets that helped Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong safely land on the moon for the first time—and get them back into orbit for the ride home. In fact, he brought one of them to show the students that they are still in use today, that he brought and set them held to see how heavy it was. “You look like you might be about a hundred pounds,” he said gesturing to a student standing next to him. “This is a hundred-pound thrust rocket, so if you stood on it, you would probably sink a pool.”

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Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson

173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Ft. Hood, Texas, but was later inactive until June 10, 1945, when it was reconstituted as the 3670th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company and allotted to the Oregon Army National Guard.

Today we reflect on the storied history of the company, from the fields of strife in Europe, Kuwait and Desert Storm, and later as part of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom,” said Brig. Gen. William Prendergast, Oregon Army National Guard Land Component commander, in describing the long history of the unit.

In addition to combat deployments, Prendergast said the 3670th has supported state and other federal missions to include working with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, performing maintenance to allow cadets to have the necessary equipment for training.

Several members of the unit recently returned from a nine-month deployment to Eastern Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. It was the third time that members of the 3670th Component Repair Company deployed to Europe to provide theater-level calibration and repair of critical weapons systems, communications
Black Thursday: the second Schweinfurt raid and the legacy beyond.

The second Schweinfurt raid and the legacy beyond

Black Thursday: The second Schweinfurt raid and the legacy beyond

PORTLAND, Oregon - Maintaining Air Superiority, both domestically and strategically, was paramount, and in this climate, is crucial for the U.S. Air Force in safeguarding the nation. It has been earned and sharpened over time, yet in the skies over Europe, the last six months and early autumn of 1943, it was in serious jeopardy of failure prior to the Third Reich. It was within these crucial days that the early history of American flying men was forged, "when the world hung in the hands of young men" in their B-17 Flying Fortresses.

In reflecting back 75 years, to that pivotal second week of October 1943, "the critical point" for the U.S. Air Forces during WWII, serious lessons were profoundly absorbed, and tough decisions were made. The second wave of intense Allied bombing in Germany, on October 14, more than 3,000 Airmen took part in Mission 115; the Second Raid over Schweinfurt.

The Mighty 8th Air Force

The Geschwader, or Divisions of Bomber Command (OBO) by the Allied forces of the United States, United Kingdom and Canada was intended to destroy the German economy and aircraft production targets essential to keeping the German war machine operating.

The Operation Pointblank order of June 21, 1943, instructed the U.S. Eighth Air Force to bomb the German ball-bearing factories. The 8th Air Force had just learned that Operation Pointblank would not be ready to support the mission due to targeted factories, primarily to take place during daylight raids as air superiority in Europe was achieved.

The campaign for air superiority had been predicated on the Allied invasion of Northwest Europe. On August 17, 1943, the Schweinfurt-Regensburg mission was launched, aiming to destroy the primary ball-bearing factories. The Schweinfurt mission was part of a larger strategy aimed at destroying the German military industry.

With the lead up to Mission 115, the U.S. 8th Air Force Bomber Command began a three-day engagement beginning on October 12. By October 14, 1943, the 8th Air Force had 88 aircraft lost and nearly 900 men with serious losses at nearly 20 percent of the bomber load in order to keep up with the formation.

A large force of 8th Air Force heavy bombers and escorting fighters attacked the ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt on Black Thursday.

War (POW). One of the 366th BG POWs was Lt. Ed L. Massie, who flew as flight engineer aboard 42-30811.

For the crewmembers aboard aircraft 42-30811, assigned to the 366th Bomb Group, 369th Bomb Squadron, they endured the first wave of attacks from Luftwaffe fighters as they entered Germany. The B-17, piloted by 1st Lt. Ralph Peters and co-pilot 2nd Lt. Hughel, came under heavy attack again prior to the targeted bombing run.

In his account of the Schweinfurt mission after the war, Lt. Hughel, flying his fifth combat mission, reported that; "We took rocket hits which resulted in damage to the left wing, severe enough to Salvo the bomb load in order to keep up with the formation."

After taking more damage from FLAK on the bombing run, aircraft commander Peters gave "the ball out", as all 10 crewmen aboard 42-30811 parachuted into enemy territory and all were captured almost immediately. Miraculously, all 10 members of the B-17 crew not only survived the attack on their aircraft, but the parachute jump as well, and became POWs.

For most of the men, the journey from their train fare to the combat bomb mission 24 hours earlier became a blur. Only a few were able to recall the details of the flight and the split second change in mission.

Throughout airfields in England that day, 369th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Airmen of the second wave of bombers were determined to return home. The 8th Air Force would be on the path to victory.

As Caclin described in "Black Thursday," the scene at the Tharheim Airfield late that day was one of devastation. "The feeling of crushing devastation overwhelmed the men on the ground. The 369th Group has ten bombers - 100 men are never coming back."

With the enormous "Black Thursday" losses at nearly 20 percent of the bomber aircraft, the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF) discontinued the deep strike CBO strategy into Germany until longer-range fighter escorts could be developed. It would be five months before the P-51 Mustang fighters would be ready to escort the B-17 and B-24 Liberator bombers and the operations resumed in late February of 1944. As the P-38 and P-47 would give the way to the Mustangs, other major changes within the USAAF leadership were also part of the CBO changes.

In early February of 1944, Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle took command of the 8th Air Force, applying policy changes and requiring fighter escorts with bombers at all times.

Doolittle, the well-known leader who led the first strike over Japan, on April 18, 1942, brought the experienced conviction that the 8th Air Force had needed a "Black Thursday" loss. By spring of 1944, P-51's were clearing the skies of Luftwaffe fighters, thus allowing bomber formations back over target areas for the first time in months. The following D-Day (Landings) day on June 6, 1944, there had been meticulously analyzed and countless deliberations over the incorrect choice of targets. Third Reich's war manufacturing by the 8th Air Force during the Mission 115 bombing campaign. It is widely known by both sides that the five-months bombing gap after Black Thursday offered Germany a break to move ball bearing factories to new locations. Though the pause gave the German military time to move and decentralize production facilities. The advantage for the Allies, and the USAAF, was Operation Overlord, and eventually concluded the war in Europe by the late spring of 1945, culminating to Victory in Europe' on May 8, 1945.

The Legacy Beyond "Black Thursday"

At the conclusion of the war, when the world hung in the hands of young men" in their B-17 Flying Fortresses hobbled to the west and east, many of these camps were forced to move in fear of the approaching Soviet armies. On January 27, 1945, Stalag Luft III, the second of the three Luft III's, was among a group of prisoners at Stalag III-C at Spremberg, Germany. For the second wave of prisoners selected for the 115th mission, the 8th Air Force had released from military duty in December 1945, returning to Anderson, Indiana, and many returned home to the United States to rebuild their lives after securing the freedoms they sacrificed so much for.

In his book, "Kriegie," author and Stalag Luft III POW, Kenneth Simmons, vividly describes the chaos and uncertainty of the first reports of the advancing Soviet Army came into the camp. He told that the Russians are very near at hand, and the Germans are scared to death. The prisoners were told that they are only chance of survival and that we must be held as hostages.

After his capture, "Black Thursday," Lt. Hughel had been a prisoner at Stalag Luft III and was one of the many thousands of U.S. Army Air Force POW's that had survived the long months in captivity and the undemanding circumstances in the camp. Now, facing the bitter cold conditions, he was among a group of prisoners at Stalag III (from the West and Central compounds) that were sent by train to Moosburg, on January 31, 1945, after five days of the march. The remaining POW's (North, South and East compounds) had been transported to Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg. By the time the main group of American prisoners from Stalag III finally arrived on February 10 at Stalag VII-A, it had taken 13 hours demanding nearly 6 hours to cover the distance by rail. Germany due to snowstorms, multiple forced delays and an estimated 84 hours of travel to capture prisoners. Throughout the ordeal, men also risked being shot by German guards and SS officers if they fell out of place or marched in any point. Faith, determination and camaraderie held the men together, pushing them past illness and exhaustion.

"Kriegie," Simmons described their arrival at Stalag VII-A. "Over 3,000 men we sick with influenza, dysentery, colds, and pneumonia. All of us were weakened from the efforts of malnutrition and mental and physical exhaustion.

"By mid-April 1945, the Stalag VII-A prison camp, built to hold 14,000, now had an estimated 29,000 men. Over 12,000 men held to hold 100 men now held as many as 300, all confined in one building. Fortunately, on April 29, the U.S. 14th Armored Division liberated the camp and Third U.S. Army commander, Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., personally greeting the men after being released from military duty in December 1945, returning to Anderson, Indiana, and many returned home to the United States to rebuild their lives after securing the freedoms they sacrificed so much for.

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