Oregon Airmen train with civil counterparts at PATRIOT South exercise

Staff Sgt. Vincent Gutierrez (center) with the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, participates in crowd management training at the Guardian Center of Georgia during the PATRIOT South exercise, March 4, 2019. PATRIOT is a domestic operations disaster-response training exercise conducted by National Guard units working with federal, state and local emergency management agencies and first responders.

PERRY, Georgia - Buildings are crumbling, citizens are disoriented, and a town is on the brink of chaos. A natural disaster of unprecedented proportions has struck the area, and local emergency response crews have become overwhelmed. This is the scenario that was laid forth for a team of Air National Guard Security Forces personnel during the PATRIOT South 19, held in part at the Guardian Centers in Perry, Georgia, March 5-7, 2019.

PATRIOT is a National Guard Bureau-sponsored domestic operations (DOMOPS) annual training exercise. It brings together over a thousand participants from more than 30 states, coming from multiple local, state, and federal civilian organizations, along with members of the armed forces, in order to train together on large scale disaster response scenarios. This year, Security Forces Airmen from the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings (FW) of the Oregon Air National Guard had the opportunity to participate in what for some is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"I've been in [the military] for about 23 years, and this is the first time I've been able to partake in an exercise of this size," said Chief Master Sgt. Jason Schroeder, the Security Forces manager for the 142nd Security Forces Squadron. "It's been a great experience, and I would highly recommend anyone to participate in future exercises like this.'"

Story continued on Page 12
Joint training helps prepare for disaster response

Above: Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (far center), Adjutant General, Oregon, salutes the American Flag during a 21-volley Rifle Salute and playing of Taps as full military honors are rendered for the State Funeral for Dennis M. Richardson, Secretary of State of Oregon, at the Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Oregon, March 6, 2019.

Above: Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, presents the American Flag to Cathy Richardson, during the 21-volley Rifle Salute and playing of Taps as full military honors are rendered for the State Funeral for Dennis M. Richardson, Secretary of State of Oregon, at the Oregon State Capitol, Salem, Oregon, March 6, 2019.

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

SALEM, Oregon – Nearly 30 Oregon National Guardsmen and a representative from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management participated in a three-day Joint Recovery Operations Integration (JRSOI) course taught by U.S. Northern Command instructors, Jan. 7-9, 2019, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

JRSOI is the process for receiving and tracking military personnel and assets deployed into the state to assist with damage assessment and recovery operations following an emergency or disaster. The JRSOI process ensures that the right people and equipment get to the right place at the right time to aid in relief efforts.

The JRSOI course emphasizes integrating military support and operations under a unified incident command.

"The National Guard is a resource to the state and we are only in support of the state and the Office of Emergency Management," said Don Zwart, an instructor with U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the Office of Emergency Management, "state and we are only in support of the state and the Office of Emergency Management.

"In a Cascadia type event, the ability to help and save the citizens of the State of Oregon is dependent on our forces, military or civilian, into the state that can help," said Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Michael Moffitt, in charge of planning and training exercises (J7) for the Joint Dominics Operations Command (JDOC). "Soldiers and Airmen with emergency response roles across the state had the chance to brainstrom and learn from our partners to more strategically position our planning and procedures for any emergency."
SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Donna M. Prigmore assumed command of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) in a change of command ceremony, Jan. 5, 2019, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. She succeeds Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel who is scheduled to deploy in 2019 as the Deputy Command Chief, looks on during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 5, 2019, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Prigmore is the first woman to command the Oregon Air National Guard.

Prigmore is the first woman to command the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG). In her new role as the Air Component Commander, she will be responsible for more than 2,400 military and civilian personnel who support the operational readiness and mission readiness of the two Oregon-based fighter wings, the 173rd FW in Klamath Falls and the 142nd FW in Portland. In his outgoing remarks, Kriesel described the challenges he faced as 21st Century Airmen. “We have the best air training space in the country. It also involves developing cyber capabilities and growing opportunities with other institutions. With her vast experience and working in the community, Prigmore hopes to leverage added potential for the Oregon Air National Guard.

"Expanding our partnerships with organizations like the FBI, the Oregon Fusion Center, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Oregon Technology Institute...just to name a few," Prigmore said. When she began her military career in 1982, Prigmore first enlisted to serve on active duty in the Air Force as an electronic technician. Subsequently, after four years on active duty, she joined the Oregon Air National Guard and in 1990 and obtained her officer commission from the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee. Additional assignments eventually took her to Oklahoma with the 173th Air Lift Wing, serving as a cost analysis officer and later to the 176th Wing in Alaska, first as the service flight commander and then as public affairs officer. Her proficiency and comprehensive work background eventually brought her to Salem, Oregon, in her current role as the 142nd Wing commander.

Prigmore is keenly aware of the opportunity to lead at this critical juncture in the ORANG’s nearly 80-year history as she addressed those in attendance. "I assume this trusted position with enthusiasm, gratitude, and honor," said Prigmore. "To the men and women of the Oregon Air Guard, we will aim to continue to be the best wing in the Oregon National Guard. As your next leader, as an organization, we will focus 100 percent of our attention on the future. Part of that future where we involve ourselves toward the next generation of aircraft will be flying the F-15E Eagles at both Klamath Falls and Portland. It also involves developingcyber capabilities and growing opportunities with other institutions. With her vast experience and working in the community, Prigmore hopes to leverage added potential for the Oregon Air National Guard.

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"To the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard, you define readiness, execute operations, and serve as the Air Force’s eyes and ears as total force warfighters," he said, while elaborating the increased role all Service Members face in the 21st Century Airman. "We are all part of an agile, deployable military, lethal as required – ready to support our allies and partners.

Just hours before heading out the door, Kriesel emphasized that these demands also required him to wear his former Terminal Expeditionary Wing Commander role critical to success or failure in peacetime, natural disasters and combat operations. Over the course of his commission in the air force, hitting the wall in the fight has defined not only his assignments but also the pace he has brought to these roles. Soon after completing Aviation Training at the University of Washington in 1986, he graduated from the U.S.A.F. Officer Training School in 1989 and began flying the A-10 Thunderbolt, piloting combat missions during Operation Desert Storm in 1990. Thereafter, he transitioned to flying the F-15 Eagles, and in time, joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 2009. No stranger to intense situations and quick to volunteer for vigorous assignments, Kriesel deployed to Iraq during his time as the Oregon Air National Guard’s ‘Guardian Angel’ in May of 2018, simultaneously “wearing three hats,” during the four months in country.

"You can easily fit the entire (land area) of the United States over four times inside the continent of Africa," he said, drawing parallels to parallel benchmarks. "From the tip of Djibouti, all the way down to the far end, it is like the extent of Maine to Miami!"

In detailing this broader mission scope, Kriesel described three areas of prominence that require the full attention of coalition partnerships in the East Africa region. "For this assignment, Kriesel’s aim is to build on his past success with his mission in the CJTF-HOA, while promoting regional security and long-term stability. This also involves preventing conflict in the region and safeguarding the U.S. and other coalition interests."

Building a longer-term security and stability goals, coalition partners need to continue to foster trust with local communities and non-governmental organizations. From establishing clean water resources to building schools and improving medical treatment facilities, coalition partners will remain engaged in multiple East Africa countries.

In his outgoing remarks, Kriesel detailed the opportunities for assignments like these are few, so you’ve got to excel in the joint and coalition environment," Kriesel stated, explaining the expectations with the CJTF-HOA assignment. "I think my background and experience allowed someone like myself to be ready to take on this type of assignment."

In a broader sense, this is the same impression he worked to impart during his leadership role for the Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard. "As the senior ranking Air Force general key for our Airmen, the pace in both global and domestic operations (here) at home is not slowing down," Kriesel said, stressing readiness and resolve for all currently serving military members. "This is why we need to be good teammates; we have to work together to complete the task; at home or downrange.

In summarizing his time as the Oregon Air National Guard Commander Kriesel said, "We wear the uniform to get ready to do something," stressing the demands that all Citizen-Airmen need to embrace. "These include all aspects of training, physical fitness, leadership development and working in the local community."

"I want our Airmen to know that importance of setting clear goals," he said, describing his leadership expectations for all serving Oregon Air Guardsmen. "By allowing (our) Airmen to attack their mission, the resources they have and can build upon: success is inevitable!"
Oregon Air Guardsmen mobilized to support critical overseas assignments

PORTLAND, Oregon - For nearly two decades, Citizen-Airmen have been responding to overseas contingency operations following the 9/11 attacks. The assignments have been as varied as the Airmen that have been called upon to fulfill them, all the while building new global partnerships and strengthening traditional alliances.

As 112 Oregon National Guardsmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing prepare to deploy, they continue to fill critical overseas missions with the United States African Command (AFRICOM), the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) and other international destinations. They are forward-deployed to face the newest challenges during a mobilization ceremony held March 2, 2019, at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon.

For the members of the 142nd, the deployment window will range over the course of the next year beginning this fall. For nearly two decades, Citizen-Airmen have been trained for prior to deploying. Some of the threats and conditions he has experienced, Jacobs said, in describing some of the threats and conditions he has trained for prior to deploying.

The investment with years of training, the means and equipment to be able to do so at home, will play a pivotal role during the deployment for many of the Airmen heading overseas.

Acknowledging the tools and assets the Airmen will need to continue to do their overseas mission, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden said that, “I've thought about our jobs are special, and you can call them our jobs, and lean on each other for support as you return with a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices they made along the way. As you head out abroad, you do take your unique skill sets and years of experience,” said Oregon State Treasure Tobias Read, describing the range of tasks that the Airmen will face.

The biggest challenge most Airmen and their families will face are the missed birthday parties or graduations, and those important day-to-day moments that can’t be captured using video chats or mobile devices. Representing Oregon Governor Kate Brown during the ceremony, Read wanted the deploying families to be reminded that they would have support during this deployment.

“We try to help you out here with your loved ones and we will all be here with you to welcome them home again,” said Read.

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

2-218th Field Artillery Battalion hosts high school students for recruiting event

WARRENTON, Oregon - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, partnered with recruiters to organize a “Guard for a Day” (GFAD) event to integrate potential recruits into unit activities over a drill weekend, March 1-2, 2019, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

The GFAD participants, all high school students considering enlistment, were given the opportunity to ask questions of service members and to become familiar with the equipment used by the artillerymen as they conducted occupation training.

“Everyone’s been amazing,” said Jeremiah Green, a student at Sprague High School in Salem. “I’ve thought about our jobs are special, and you can call them our jobs, and lean on each other for support as you return with a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices they made along the way. As you head out abroad, you do take your unique skill sets and years of experience,” said Oregon State Treasure Tobias Read, describing the range of tasks that the Airmen will face.

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As they build new skill sets working with international partners, the Airmen will hopefully return with a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices they made along the way.

“Not all the Airmen are great drivers. We're not going to change that overnight,” said Staff Sgt. Lyndsay Ettig, a GFAD coordinator. “Sometimes we forget that our jobs are special, and you can call them our jobs, and lean on each other for support as you return with a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices they made along the way. As you head out abroad, you do take your unique skill sets and years of experience,” said Oregon State Treasure Tobias Read, describing the range of tasks that the Airmen will face.

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Story and photos by Sgt. Jennifer Lena, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

2-218th Field Artillery Battalion hosts high school students for recruiting event

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden delivers remarks to mobilizing Oregon Air National Guard members at the Portland Air National Guard Base, March 2, 2019.

Addressing the Airmen, their families and co-workers in attendance at the mobilization ceremony, Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, described the challenges and responsibilities for those deploying as well as those “keeping the home fires burning.”

“Some of you, this will be your first deployment and you, as well as your families, will face challenges that you have never experienced,” Stencel said, describing the opportunities for the Airmen to grow while family and friends support their sacrifice.

He also called upon experienced Airmen to step up to new demands, “Your leadership skills will be put to the challenge and in the process, you will rise with the occasion and grow as leaders.”

The significance of the ceremony reinforced the commitment and continued service of Oregon National Guard members over the years. These Service Members play a critical role in preserving freedom abroad as they leave our full-time civilian jobs and families.

During his remarks to the Airmen, Oregon Air National Guard Col. Adam Siller, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, drew the extended line from the 1700’s to this present-day deployment window.

“Though we don’t have a formal ceremony, it is all of us; your immediate family and your Oregon family,” he said.

The training not only benefitted the Soldiers of the 2-218th. “It allowed them to spend some time away from their computers to see what we do on our weekend,” he said.

Students also learned how to operate weapon systems, how to escape a rolled tactical vehicle and how to maneuver during a simulated firefight lead by soldiers of the 2-218th. "Everyone’s been amazing," said Jeremiah Green, a student at Sprague High School in Salem. "I’ve thought about our jobs are special, and you can call them our jobs, and lean on each other for support as you return with a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices they made along the way. As you head out abroad, you do take your unique skill sets and years of experience," said Oregon State Treasure Tobias Read, describing the range of tasks that the Airmen will face.

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Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson (center), Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard, pauses for a photo with Staff Sgt. Crystal Lopez (left) along with Governor Kate Brown (right) following the unit’s mobilization ceremony.
Airmen, after they provided radar approach officially welcome back the Kingsley Field 2018 at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, welcomed home a team of 15 Airmen from 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron during a demobilization ceremony, Jan. 4, 2019.
WARRENTON, Oregon - The constant sideways rain accompanies Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1186th Military Police (MP) Company as they train at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton, Oregon. The MP Company, made up of 154 Soldiers from Salem and Hood River, operated together during a four-day period, beginning on Jan. 31, as they prepared for their mission essential task list (METL) certifications this year.

The roar of High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) was only matched by the nearby Pacific Ocean’s waves. As a loud simulation grenade matched by the nearby Pacific Ocean’s waves, six Soldiers with the 1186th MP Company conducted a variety of weapons training.

With one squad driving HMMWVs and the other squad - with 1st Platoon, 1186th MP Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade - on foot, the Soldiers were split up to simulate different scenarios.

The Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, prepare for a 92nd Regional Training Institute at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon, February 1, 2019.

As they prepared for the upcoming training, the Soldiers had the opportunity to practice room-clearing procedures and weapons training.

As a team leader with 1st platoon, 1186th MP, Sgt. Ken Clark remarked that the longer drill weekends allowed for a more robust training period, bringing together Soldiers from Salem and Hood River. Prior to the change in training format, the two groups only trained together during their two weeks of annual training.

"It gives us the availability to work with a broader array of individuals, and we get to see people we don’t usually see," said Clark.

The MOUT training is an example of the company using the longer weekend to work at full capacity. Each platoon dismounts into the village in different iterations, all accompanied by realistic sounds and conditions from blank ammunition rounds, simulated explosions and mortar rounds. Each group reacts to assaults by ambushing opposing team forces. Afterwards, during an after action review, the Soldiers examine what they have learned from the experience.

"The MOUT training gives a more three dimensional environment to the training rather than just looking at it on paper. A big thing with training is to remind the Soldiers that we live in a three dimensional world, and if you’re not training in a three dimensional world then you are not training," said Clark.

There is going to be a lot of confidence building with live-fire "chaos way!" Accuracy is only as good as the operator. It takes training to be able to operate the total system. With basic knowledge, any Soldier can take the controls.

"The CROWS is user-friendly. The basic knowledge needed is simple to do and easy to understand," Tetone said.

The station consists of a display unit, switch panel with menu options, joystick, a LED screen and control grip as a secondary source of information. "It’s like a video game. The next-generation can easily adapt to this technology," said Spc. Christopher Burcell, a gunner.

The Soldiers also conducted room entering and clearing training in the Shoot House.

Four-time veteran, Master Sgt. Patrick Lynch, a chief instructor with the 24th Regional Training Institute at Camp Umauma, was one of the trainers at the Shoot House.

"We started training with a single team, entering a room and making sure it was clear, then we moved on to squads entering and clearing," Lynch said.

The process is taken in steps making sure the Soldiers know their job and trust others to know theirs. Confidence also comes from positive reinforcement given by Lynch.

"You know the squad leader is ready. You know the team leader is ready and he knows you are ready. Then go!" Lynch told one team.

Standard operating procedures are necessary for teams to act as a cohesive unit and to ensure safety and success.

"We are learning this is how it’s done. This is what we are doing and there is no deviation," said Spc. Ian McGowan, a saw-gunner.

The Soldiers train at a crawl, walk, run pace.

"We begin with a dry run, then simulation, then with live-fire," Lynch said.

The live-fire rounds are marking cartridges, like a paintball, leaving chalk marks where they hit. The Soldiers are close together while simulating scenarios.

As the Platoon Sergeant of 3rd platoon 1186th MP, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Baxter welcomed the four-day training opportunity and foul weather with a smile.

"It’s not always training, we ain’t training," said Baxter.

During a four-day period, beginning on Jan. 31, 154 Soldiers from Salem and Hood River, Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Steven Garbarzy, a military policeman with 1186th Military Police Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, conducts room clearing at Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton, Oregon, February 1, 2019.

Sgt. Troy Koski and Spc. 1st Class Roger Montavon hold one of the shadowboxes that they presented at the Oregon Veterans Home.


"Our medals are a representation of the sacrifice our veterans have given," Koski said.

The recipients were presented the medals and other items for the veterans from the 1186th MP Company. The presentation was held in honor of veterans who served their country and during the Cold War and Vietnam.

"The THE DALLES, Oregon - Six residents at the Oregon Veterans Home in The Dalles were honored on a ceremony on Nov. 15, 2018, when two Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard presented the military medals and other awards to five veterans. A World War II medic who served in the south Pacific, a retired colonel with more than 26 years of service, a veteran of the Cold War, and three Vietnam veterans received their military awards in shadowboxes.

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Montavon and Staff Sgt. Troy Koski, made the official presentation of the shadowboxes containing the medals. Both Soldiers are assigned to the Fort Dalles Readiness Center. The veterans home staff had procured the medals and other items for the Guard members to present to the five former Soldiers on behalf of the staff.


Yet another day of training would be in the books, but the Soldiers look forward to the opportunity to train together again.

"The atmosphere was positive, because they go out and on missions they’re not always going to have the best conditions available," said Clark.

Baxter stated that the damp atmosphere and conditions helps prepare the company mentally, because they go out on missions they’re not always going to have the best conditions available.
1249th Engineer Battalion Retirees

SAVE THE DATE

Let’s get together! Essayons!

Hall of Honor Ceremony and Christmas Dinner at the Oregon Gardens
Friday, December 9, 2019

Please email Col. (ret.) Bill Schutz at: william.j.schutz@gmail.com
You can also email CSM (ret.) Bill Van Natta at: bgcduck@msn.com
(Send us your phone number and address)

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - The Klamath Basin sits at more than 4,000 feet of elevation and gets its fair share of snow during the winter months. Thanks to plowing operations the 137th Fighter Wing continues to train pilots all through the winter months without delay. If a snowstorm deposits more than one-half-inch, plowing operations begin no matter the time and as often as not it’s the middle of the night.

A significant part of winter readiness is having all of the snowplows ready for that next big storm and the mechanics at the vehicle operations work hard to ensure they are ready.

It’s a job that is growing increasingly more interesting as the years pass, for one thing many of the parts for the older plows are not available any longer and these mechanics cast a net far and wide trying to find a vendor or maybe a cast off from another base they can scavenge for parts.

That may make one wonder if it makes more sense to upgrade the fleet to newer models with readily available parts. They are quick to point out, however how valuable these machines are, “they are easy to work on because they are all-mechanical and they rarely break down,” said Senior Master Sgt. Isacc Nunn, the shop superintendent.

However the natural enemy of snow plows are the uneven surfaces hidden beneath smooth snow and when a plow inevitably runs into them it causes damage that these mechanics have to fix.

A day in early January is an example as Nunn flags an O.D. Green snowplow with damaged roll-over gears. The “roll-over” as the plow operators refer to it is the mechanism which rotates the plow and allows it to push snow either to the right or left by rotating vertically 180-degrees.

For this repair Master Sgt. James Childs points to several parts waiting by the snowplow, “we were able to find these from a company in Canada.” However, there is one part they couldn’t find and he’ll make that in-house.

The ability to do that stems from a depth of experience few shops share. Tech. Sgt. John Walling quickly tabulates some of that experience, “If you add up me, Sergeant Childs, Sergeant Nunn, [Master] Sergeant [Michael] Krouse—we probably have at least a hundred years of experience between the four of us.” Each of those four grew up working on cars and machinery long before they were old enough to join the ranks of Kingsley Field Airmen.

The fact that they have the equipment to make the parts is also rare and stems from a time when they needed a part that was damaged in the line of duty and they couldn’t find it anywhere. Childs is an accomplished machinist and he knew he could make the part with the proper tools, their commander at the time agreed and they purchased a milling machine and metal lathe that get used quite often.

“I think we are pretty fortunate not only to have the background experience that we all bring to the table but also having management support us and buy us this equipment,” said Childs. “We’re set up so that we can pretty much deal with anything that comes through our door,” added Walling.

Getting this particular plow out the door requires Childs to build a new support beam with brackets and a shaft support. It takes several days as he works around his primary responsibilities, to cut, weld and machine a new part. But unless the next big snowstorm arrives with in a day, this snow plow will be ready for it.
Oregon National Guard soldiers learn arctic survival from northern neighbors

The Oregon National Guard Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, coordinated with Canadian Army Reserve soldiers with the Royal Westminster Regiment, 39th Brigade Group, to conduct a Cold Weather Combat Training exercise November 22-27 in the B.C. mountains. 

“The U.S. is our partner and the navy is the book end up operating together with our partners in the Canadian military,” said Maj. Louis Givens, Oregon Army National Guard chief of staff. “We have a strong relationship that we approach the same things from different perspectives. Understanding each other brings the picture and how we think differently is a huge advantage.”

The Oregon and Canadian soldiers trained real-world interoperability by fully integrating with their peers. So, it was paired with a Canadian Soldier to understand the exchange of knowledge and skills.

“With Soldiers on both sides being integrated, they’re most likely to learn those different perspectives in a very short period of time,” said Maj. Macinnon. “They both get to understand the different language we have: cultural references, acronyms and terminology, having different equipment, understanding how the different command and rank structures work.”

“They were able to share their experience with our soldiers and have experienced what our soldiers have to be able to share our knowledge with us.”

Canadian Army Reserve Lt. Col. Clinton Barber, 1st Battalion, 226th Infantry Combat Battalion, and R WESTMR R, emphasized the importance of understanding different interoperability perspectives.

“Through active participation in light infantry engagements we continue to build our relationship with our NATO nations,” said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Greg Chan, NATO nations, “and build our survivability skills while cultivating relationships between our National Guard and Joint Forces (NG-JF) organizations.”

“We worked together to learn how to build and operate in a survival environment and in joint and combined military operations.”

The Oregon Guard Soldiers spent the first day of training, January 25, at the Chilliwack armour, becoming familiar with the Canadian army’s tactic/tent/bivouac system and their group operations. “The Soldiers were able to familiarize themselves, get both groups out and start setting up camp,” said Givens. “This was the first time we’re working together as a team.”

“We had a cold and rainy day where we had to consider the weather conditions,” said Capt. Thomas Winter, 1st Battalion, 226th Infantry Combat Battalion, and R WESTMR R. “We had a lot of woken up early to begin the day’s events. We had an opportunity to train with the Canadian Rangers during this exercise.”

“With the Ranger patrol group during Westie Avalanche Exercise, January 26, E.C. Manning Park, British Columbia, Canada.”

“Some of us may never have to operate in this terrain or weather conditions, but it gives us an opportunity to work together and understand how to operate in this type of condition.”

“We’ve been able to share our knowledge and learn from each other, which will help us all in the future.”

The Oregon and Canadian soldiers spent the remainder of the exercise with the objective to take their some of the highest quality training, learn how to manage and regulate your body heat in austere conditions, win the support of the Canadian people in Western Canada. “Part of this exercise included establishing a tactical bivouac in austere conditions. Once we were done with the exercise, the Canadian soldiers ended up being his new friends,” said Givens. “The Canadian soldiers ended up being his new friends, and we overcame some stereotypes. So, I feel more Canadian and the same things and we overcame some stereotypes.”

“From a tactical perspective, it’s always good to enhance Soldier’s skills and emotional awareness in an unfamiliar environment,” said Roberts. “We find a few new skills and new experiences to help us manage, motivate, and support our company.”

“We are the same, the two militaries are pretty similar, at the end of the day, my kit is just as good as your kit. It gives an opportunity to work together and understand how to operate in this type of condition.”

“Being around staff sergeants and being in a leadership role, most of the Oregon Soldiers had never been snowshoeing before this experience. Their introduction to it was a 12-kilometer march across snowy path this launch from Farnham Lightning. Canadian and American Soldiers took some hunting the toboggans up and down the peaks and valleys of the monument path by snowshoeing and tugging more snow by the hands of the soldiers.”

“We were all cold and tired, but we laughed and joked about it, and in that moment you wouldn’t want to be anywhere else,” said Givens. “As an infantry soldier, there was camaraderie in sharing the misery.”

“Living and working with the Canadians taught us how to manage and regulate your body heat. The Canadian and American Soldiers learned to make the best of the situation and how to continue to work together.”

“I think differently is a huge advantage.”

The Oregon Soldiers said they want to continue this relationship with their Canadian partners and be more prepared for more training opportunities to train with them again in the future. “It’s important to know the knowledge that’s been shared during the exercise and what we overcame some stereotypes.”

Many of them made new friends that they plan to stay in touch with.

“The two militaries are pretty similar, at the end of the day, it’s just gear, doing the same thing.” said Canada Army Reserve Capt. Riley Turner, with Alpha Company, R WESTMR R. “Being around staff sergeants and seeing different leadership styles was a good learning experience. We worked well together and I made new friends—not pointing to each other.”

Vega agreed saying, “We are the same, there’s really no difference. Two armies can come together. We may have different armies, different units, but we all came together at the end of the night knowing about the same thing, and we overcame some stereotypes. So, I feel more Canadian and Canadian Army.”

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PORTLAND, Oregon - As the stubborn winter weather kept its chilly grip on the Pacific Northwest, Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing provided a warm welcome to the top leaders of the Air National Guard during the Regularly Scheduled Drill (RSD) weekend, March 2-3, 2019.

Acting as the official host, Oregon Air National Guard Col. Adam Sitler, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, introduced Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, the Director of the Air National Guard, along with Air National Guard’s Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson, to the unit’s Airmen during a tour of the Wing.

During the tour of the base, Sitler emphasized to the top Air National Guard leadership team the critical mission tasking and operations the unit provides to the U.S. Air Force in defense of homeland security for the Pacific Northwest region of the nation.

This is a great honor for the 142nd Fighter Wing and the Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing, said Chief, Fighter Wing, Chief, Colonel Anderson, and many of the key staff members from the Air National Guard Readiness Center,” he said. “Our senior leaders have been seeking feedback from the field, which is why they schedule visits to Wings like ours.”

Formulating, developing and coordinating the policies of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Rice is responsible for implementing the plans and programs that involve more than 180,000 Guard members and civilians.

The reach of his accountability extends over all 50 States, and additionally into the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. This includes more than 90 wings and 175 geographically separated units across 213 locations.

During the daylong tour of the Air Base, Rice was able to talk directly with Airmen and senior leaders to discuss operational requirements and gain insight into specific mission duties. This included a briefing of the Aerospace Control Alert facilities, aircraft maintenance, followed by visits to Civil Engineering and Security Forces Squadrons.

While visiting the 129th Special Tactics Squadron, Rice and Anderson reviewed aircrew situation questions in regard to ongoing details involving the career fields within the Special Operations Combatant Angel and Special Tactics Squadron (STS) units. Rice noted the importance of the dual mission that the STS has, especially acknowledging the “O&M-Ops (military operations) responses.”

“I want to recognize how well your team has connected the dots when it comes to responding to these challenging and emerging logistical challenges,” he said, describing how hurricane response operations require “21st Century Airmen need to get out of the trenches of mission planning.” This is unique from Flag exercises, which have inflexible scenarios given to units when they attend.”

While JBP-H maintains fifth-generation fighters, it still supplies permanent aircraft-ground equipment to cater for exercising fourth-generation aircraft. Senior Master Sgt. Noel Demello, Sentry Aloha maintenance planner, said that the readily-available equipment significantly lowers expenses because it reduces the need to airlift personnel and large-volumes of supplies used to generate aircraft.

Not just iterations of the exercise, more than 20 personnel from the 154th Mission Support Group were activated to operate the HNAC dining facility and provide around-the-clock meals, including “midnight chow,” for hundreds of Airmen. Tech. Sgt. Priscilla Kim, 154th MSG dining facility manager, said this was the first time her Airmen had been asked to take on this tasking this large and it provided them much-needed experience for upcoming deployments, slated for next year. The freshly-cooked meals also saved time for exercise participants and cut down costs of overall training.

Due to the unpredictable nature of aircraft operations, mission planners always need to be prepared to for the possibility of an aircraft mishap. Sentry Aloha flights were suspended for one day, in response to a civilian aircraft crash into the waters by Honolulu airport. The pilot, an exercise contractor, was able to successfully eject before impact and received care within minutes of landing.

“It was extremely proud to see how well we worked together after [the aircraft] went down shortly after takeoff last week,” said O’man. “It was awesome to find out civilians from the community pitched in almost immediately to lend a helping hand in his recovery until the Coast Guard arrived. These extraordinary efforts by normal citizens is truly what makes me proud to be an American.”

The 199th Fighter Squadron is part of the 142nd Wing, the largest wing in the Air National Guard. The Hawaii Air National Guard is comprised of nearly 2,500 Airmen whose federal mission is to be trained and ready for federal or active duty Air Force operational missions.

“Continual participation in events like this makes us a stronger force,” said Col. Sean Sullivan, Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Operations Group commander. “This type of training is essential, not only for the pilots, but for the training and expertise of the maintainers, the aircrews and our airfield managers. It’s a lot more than the pilot flying the airplane to make that happen, and these exercises are a crucial part of us getting ready to get better, as a team and as an Air Force.”
Commander of Air Combat Command pays a visit to the 173rd Fighter Wing

Over three days he visited with Airmen and got up close and personal with the F-15 aircraft where 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen took him from the top wing surface to beneath the landing gear bay.

Holmes is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in F-15 variants A, B, C, D, and E—and that’s every F-15 in the U.S. arsenal.

“I flew the F-15C ... before converting to the Strike Eagle, but all of that was before 9/11,” he said.

With that in mind Kingsley maintainers gave him a first-hand view of the modern configuration of components and wiring in the F-15C. After briefing him on his experience combined with his degree in electrical engineering it presumably makes it a little easier to grab some of the boxes with bundles of wires spider-webbed across them.

“It is rare for the ACC commander to visit this AETC wing, but Holmes explained to a group of local civic leaders that the entire inventory of U.S. Air Force combat aircraft fall under his purview including 173rd Fighter Wing F-15s. In a moment of speaking his heart is here to look at his airplanes. It also provided a chance to meet with many of the local unit of the 173rd Fighter Wing who many are surprised to find out does not just include the pilots of the— the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron.

“The squadron Commander was an amazing opportunity for current and future 173rd Fighter Wing leaders to gather and facilitate discussions that will strengthen Kingsley’s future,” said Lt. Col. Jason Nalapa, 114th Fighter Squadron commander. “The course not only provided the next generation of commanders the required tools, but it also provided an environment for the sharing of experience. The first day of the course included discussions on performance reports, documentation, and resource management led by local wing subject matter experts.

“After the first year of taking command of the wing there were so many things I said ‘this would have really helped to know when I started,’ and so I challenged a group of people and the result is this course,” said Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander. “Facilitating the course at the squadron leadership level aligns it with the initiative tasked by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen. David Goldfein, to teach leadership.

“The squadron is the beating heart of the United States Air Force’s most essential team,” Goldfein said in a letter to Airmen. “Our vision demands that ‘squadrons are the command role.’

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PATRIOT South 19 exercise, March 5, 2019.

Security forces Airmen from Georgia, Oregon, and West Virginia Air National Guard practice crowd management training at the Guardian Center of Georgia during the PATRIOT South exercise, Mar. 4, 2019. PATRIOT is a domestic operations disaster-response training exercise conducted by National Guard units working with federal, state and local emergency management agencies and first responders.

Traditionally, Security Forces units haven’t had medical personnel embedded within their teams during DOMOPS. Tech. Sgt. Breland Reed, a medical technician with the 142nd FW CBriere Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), would see that.

“CERFP is shifting. We’re transitioning from a CBriere response to an all-hazard response unit,” said Reed, explaining that the shift would increase their responsibility to Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT) providing Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capabilities. USAR is one of the operations that Security Forces can assist with during disaster response, providing security for emergency responders, so teaming up seemed logical.

“We need each other to be able to go and do our door-to-door mission during a natural disaster that displaces a lot of people, or causes an evacuation,” said Reed.

In addition to developing new working relationships with fellow Airmen, Reed also commented on building working relationships with fellow emergency responders, so teaming up seemed logical.

“We’re here to help, care, aid, and comfort those affected,” said Schroeder, commenting on what the ultimate purpose of the PATRIOT exercise for his Security Forces was, to assist civilian populations in times of need.

Ceremonially, the simulation has the National Guard practicing for a domestic response, providing security for first responders. Schroeder added that receiving this training now, is absolutely critical for his Airmen to be prepared in the event they are called to respond to a real-world disaster.

“When civil first responder resources are stretched too thin, a state’s governor has the ability to activate the National Guard to provide assistance.”

“Being a part of the National Guard, we take an oath to our state,” said Schroeder, explaining that, when activated for domestic response, his unit goes in to assist setting up operations to provide “safety and security for the people affected in the area.”

Members of Oregon police and fire agencies joined the Oregon Airmen in Georgia, continuing a developing partnership.

“Any time we see a major natural disaster, we see the Guard there helping us,” said Lt. Damon Simmons, Portland Fire & Rescue. Simmons believes these types of exercises are important for various agencies and departments, so their first introduction isn’t in the middle of a catastrophe.

“We were going to need them to have worked with us before, so they understand our procedures, they understand exactly how we operate,” said Simmons. “So, when the public needs us, when we’re called to serve, we’re one team working together to get people what they need, in their time of need.”

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“With BAYEX, we wanted to bring as many teams together as possible. So we have Civil Support Teams from Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Southern California joining our team here in Northern California,” he said.

This included working side by side with local, state and federal agencies to include; the FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, San Francisco Office of Emergency Management, the California State Office of Emergency Management and several other organizations.

Civil Support Teams are instrumental in providing significant personnel and equipment to assist local and state agencies in the event they become overwhelmed by major disasters or a large-scale terrorist attack. Specifically, CST units have the technical capabilities to identify chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) materials.

The biggest challenge, said Serena, was coordinating not only the multiple agencies participating, but also synchronizing five different agencies while implementing the training requirements spread-out during the week.

“Fort Baker provides an interesting foundation for working together in possible situations, communication and common sense,” Serena noted, as he described the main objective of the Bay Area exercise. “Just getting that time with other teams, how we all operate differently and building a familiarization with each other is key.”

As important as the training conditions and sites are for readiness, these new relationships will help provide the foundation for working together in possible real-world situations.

“The critical objective is interagency cooperation,” Serena said. “We know that if there is something really big, we will be requesting out of state assets to come in and support us.”

“We have a whole spectrum of technology that we can bring to bear, we can identify chemical, biological agents, along with some radiation, and in select instances explosive ordinance,” Giesbrecht said. “Most teams are certified in rope rescue and confined space operators when you total it up, we’re quite a package!”

The exercise concluded with nearly 50 simulated casualties being contaminated on a Ferryboat at the Richmond, California pier. Local firefighters working with the CST members set up two decontamination processing stations to treat both victims and first responders. As they moved through the wash and ambulatory assessment stations, resources and personnel were simultaneously put to the test.

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“This is the most important part of this exercise,” Serena said. “We know that if there is something really big, we will be requesting out of state assets to come in and support us.”

Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Randall Lynch, 102nd CST commander (right) reviews a training plan with the Fire Chief of Richmond, Calif., during BAYEX19, Jan. 31, 2019.

Looking out over the City of San Francisco from the Golden Gate National Recreation Area at Fort Baker in Sausalito, the Civil Support Teams had the flexibility to spread out over a large area, a necessity when working with radiological sources.

“Fort Baker provides an interesting training location with great scenery,” Serena said. “In the past, we have had wonderful success working with the National Parks Service.”

Training with other CST units is a critical element to enhance mission capabilities. In the event of a terrorist attack on a large target or multiple areas, other CST members from other states would be needed to immediately assist. The design of the BAYEX19 training allowed teams from neighboring states to play an active role at multiple, actively used sites around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Building on a sense of teamwork, Oregon National Guard Maj. Richard Hosmer, 102nd CST deputy commander, said that working in California multiplies the scope and mission capabilities.

“In the event of a large scale disaster, all the teams coming together could sustain operations for over a week,” he said. “When we combine all the other local agency partners, we’re able conduct relief and process operations until more resources can come behind us.”

National Guard CST’s consist of nearly two dozen, full-time Soldiers and Airmen and are designed to sustain operations in a 72-hour time frame. Maintaining a level of readiness allows these members to respond rapidly in the required timelines. By combining teams from out of state for BAYEX19, this ability to maintain a weeklong mission in various locations was put to the test.

“This is also a requirement by the National Guard Bureau that we train with other CST’s for real-world contingency actions,” Hosmer said.

Hosmer added that coming down to train in California with other CST’s accomplished multiple training requirements in one exercise.

For the Oregon Guard members, one of the test scenarios was integrating into a combined team to search around the Fort Baker recreational area. When the group found an unknown chemical substance in a shuttered WWII storage bunker, they thoroughly moved from room-to-room to analyze the simulated contamination to ascertain the substance.

Spending nearly an hour in their chemical suits, Oregon National Guard Sergeants Jeffery Mayes and Kayla Carey conducted testing and verification of several unknown materials. In these types of situations, communication and common training techniques are critical to ensure that proper identification of any substances is documented for familiarization.

Earlier in the week, training sites for BAYEX19 were established at a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, and the legendary Alcatraz Prison. Oregon team members also took the lead during an exercise around the historic artillery bunkers at Fort Baker, isolating materials scattered along nearby hiking areas with all-encompassing views of The Golden Gate Bridge.

The addition of working with combined teams allows all members to enhance skill sets by sharing previous experiences. Newer service members can rapidly reduce their learning curve by teaming up with other CST Soldiers who have expanded their knowledge bases.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Kayla Carey (right) 102nd CST Conducts decontamination training exercise for unknown agents during training at San Francisco, California, Jan. 30, 2019.

The training requirements to become a CST member are extensive, said First Sgt. Don Giesbrecht, 101st CST, Idaho National Guard. “Being on a CST team (for new members) in just the first year takes six to eight months to become proficient.”

For other members, such as science officers, the training can take more than a year and a half to complete. To bring the full capabilities of what CST members can accomplish takes training exercises like BAYEX19.
Testing the limits: Oregon Soldiers push themselves towards medical careers

Story by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

OREGON—Capt. Russell has known Bolte. “He’s a great teacher and was instrumental during the Operation Maple Resolve exercise, guiding the Canadian’s on how a designed medevac flight crew is set up and works,” said Capt. Daniel Russell, commander of G Company, 1-189 Aviation. Capt. Russell has known Bolte and Harrell before he became the company commander. “It has helped us develop them as forerunners for other challenges. Knowing that they both applied to medical school was just one of the realm of possibility for either Soldier.”

“Their personalities in many ways are quite different,” Russell elaborated. “I’ve known Avery (Capt. Harrell) since we first joined the unit. He’s humble and soft-spoken, but I watched him become more assertive and grow as a leader, especially since the recent deployment because he was put in charge of multiple platoons in multiple locations.”

As careful, detailed and diligent as Harrell’s personality is, Russell described a few of their distinctions.

“(He’s) outgoing and a natural teacher and was the one to make friends with his other medical counterparts during the (Maple Resolve) training,” Russell laughed, recalling his sister’s disposition. “He got the nickname “Hero” because he ended up getting most of his medical missions, both training and real-world, mostly by chance during the exercise in Canada.”

Roadways to new challenges

The unique circumstances that brought Harrell and Bolte to study at OHUS, will allow them to stay in uniform, as they transfer to Medical Command in Salem, retaining their affiliation with the Oregon National Guard. For Capt. Vu, the pathway to elevating his military medical career was through the Interservice Physicians Assistance Program (IPAP).

Before becoming a member of the Oregon National Guard, Vu first served with the Nebraska Army National Guard, deploying to Kuwait in 2010 and Iraq in 2011 as a Medical Service administrator. Though he thrived in his responsibilities, he quickly realized he wanted a more active role with direct patient care.

“The desire to train and directly assist patient recovery made me realize that I wanted a personal connection,” he said. As a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Vu discover the Army’s IPAP and applied after returning from his Iraq deployment. The Phase I program was at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, consisting of basic medical science courses and deepens a student’s knowledge of critical medical concepts. For his Phase II, he spent more than a year at Fort Polk, Louisiana, supporting the base medical rotations requirements to graduate with a Master’s in Physician Assistant (PA) studies in 2014.

“I was really lucky, the Army National Guard only has about 10 seats each year for this program,” said Vu. “It was over two and a half years of school, all paid for by the military, all the while, I was on active duty and finished with ‘Zero’ education debt.”

Now as a PA with the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1249th Engineer Battalion, Vu has 12 medics under his guidance and is quick to profess the benefits of the IPAP.

“I want to get my troops the best resources and training available; whether it’s to become a PA or enrolling in other medical schools, it is all about developing our Soldiers,” said Vu.

The ability to not only keep Army Guardsmen in uniform but to advance their skills, is a win-win for the ORNG.

“We (Harrell) both have the same approach toward being in the Guard,” said Bolte, “It would be easy for us to get out of the Guard and just go to medical school and come back in later, but we like being part of this organization.”

For Harrell, he sees his grandfathers as having foreshadowed his own career. Both of his grandfathers served in WWII, one was a bomber pilot and the other was a submariner who eventually became a physician.

“In essence, that became my philosophy as an aviator; to get medical care as quickly as possible to where it’s needed,” he said, echoing the spirit of the ‘Dustoff’ motto, synonymous with life-saving aeromedical evacuation. “When I have your wounded.”

For all of these three Soldiers, practically for Harrell and Bolte, they also share a determination much like one of their more famous University of Oregon alumni and Track and Field Olympian, Steve Prefontaine.

“To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift,” Prefontaine said, when describing his desire to surpass previous distance running achievements. It’s the same ambition found in all three Soldiers: to not rest on today’s accomplishments, but an aspiration to test one’s own limits while pushing towards new challenges.
SALEM, Oregon - Since 1858, the Oregon National Guard has maintained fundamental physical fitness standards for Soldiers. Over the years, with multiple revisions, and changes in the interpretation of physical fitness, a benchmark is needed to gauge the readiness of the force.

According to Gen. Stephen Townsend, head of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, “The current Army Physical Fitness Test measured muscular strength and endurance, but the existing fitness test does not adequately measure the physical attributes needed for the battlefield.”

To prepare 21st Century Soldiers for challenges on the battlefield, the U.S. Army is in the field testing phase of the new Army Combat Fitness Test. The Oregon Army National Guard’s 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is one of just 63 selected battalions taking part in the testing phase.

The participants are made up of all three U.S. Army components: Regular Army, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve. According to Lt. Col. Russell Gibson, commander of the 741st BEB, “We get to help Oregon in the process of the implementation, and we get to help the Soldiers.”

The purpose of the test is to improve Soldier physical readiness, reduce injuries, and enhance mental toughness and stamina. The test consists of six events measured from 60 to 100 points. Each event is consecutively performed with just a few minutes of rest in between:

- Three repetition maximum deadlift; deadlift the maximum weight of 140 to 340 pounds a total of three times.
- Standing power throw; requires a Soldier to throw a 10-pound medicine ball overhead and backwards for distance.
- Sprint-drag-carry; which includes a 50-yard sprint, 50-yard backward sled drag, 50-yard lateral shuffle, 50-yard kettlebell carry, and 50-yard sprint.
- Leg tuck; completing as many as possible in two minutes.
- Two-mile run; measured for time.
- The test is scored in three categories: black “heavy,” gray “significant,” and gold “moderate.” Scoring requirements are determined by the physical demands of the unit or the individual’s occupation, regardless of age or gender,” said ACFT project officer, Sgt. 1st Class Gared Ward, Bravo Company, 741st BEB.

“The sprint-drag-carry is the one that makes you try harder. You’ve got to dig a little deeper. The test is designed to design movements a Soldier may experience while deployed,” said Ward. “Being able touck, dive, run, jump, pull yourself up, and get out of the way of harm is a better way to be when you are in that [combat] situation.”

Unique to the ACFT, all graders must be certified in order to administer the test. A mobile training team from the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School instructed a three-day grader certification course in December 2018. Seventy-four Oregon National Guard Soldiers, as well as 17 Soldiers from other states, completed the course to become certified graders. There are three levels of grader certification: grader, master grader, and master grader instructor.

Capt. Raymond Jones, with 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, participated in the grader certification course. Normally scoring in the 285-295 range on the APFT, he said that he feels the new test is a solid measure of Soldier fitness and worth implementing.

“I passed every event, but there are some things I need to work on. I need to work on the hand-release pushups and the standing power throw,” he said.

In March, 219 Soldiers from the 741st BEB took the test for the first time. Despite the unusually cold conditions, the Soldiers were positive about starting the test. “It was a lot more rigorous and intense. Everyone was a lot more exhausted compared to the old APFT,” said Spec. Aedan Stein, a combat engineer with the 741st BEB. Stein recommended cross-training or high intensity interval training to help prepare for the test.

Oregon National Guard Soldier selected for West Point

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion conduct the leg tuck portion of the Army Combat Fitness Test, March 2, 2019, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.

“Get Ready, Begin” Oregon Soldiers try out the new Army Combat Fitness Test

“"I am a little nervous about the academic portions. I’ve always excelled at academics, and I know I can do well,” said Rissel. Rissel says she is planning on studying biology and is looking forward to competing for a spot in the medical field. “I want to go to medical school. I’m going to try for it, but we’ll see,” she said.

According to the West Point Public Affairs Office, only two percent of each graduating class from West Point will be allowed to enter medical school upon graduation. Participants must be endorsed by the U.S. Military Service Academy Medical Program Advisory Committee and seek their own admission to a medical school.

Preparing to be a West Point cadet, her teachers and recruiters have been advising and encouraging her throughout this two-year process.

“Mrs. Johnston looked over so many of my essays and has done so many recommendations for me,” said Rissel. “My platoon sergeant at drill and my recruiter have been helping me this whole time.”

Rissel is dedicated to her goal and, with the assistance from her teacher and fellow Guardsmen, she is preparing for the demands that await her at West Point.

“"This is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I couldn’t think of anything better for me to start my career,” said Rissel. Officially nominated Rissel.
Harvey Fink: A sphere of influence throughout Oregon’s military

to show my appreciation for the men and women of the 142nd Fighter Wing for what they’re doing,” he said to her.

According to Prigmore, Harvey was true to his word. About a week later, a full-page color ad came out in the Oregonian thanking the Air Force for their service.

“That day was the beginning of what became a lifelong friendship between me and Harvey,” Prigmore said.

Prigmore said Harvey spent much of his personal resources and time taking care of the military and surrounding community. Over the years, he attended National Guard conferences held all over the country, sponsored networking events for the military and local community, and used his business and political connections to assist the Oregon Guard.

“Harvey was a man with a huge heart for people, and especially for military folks,” Prigmore said. “He was the best ambassador the Oregon National Guard ever had. He relentlessly spoke highly of the Guard’s [sic] contribution to our local, regional and national communities.”

“Much of Harvey’s beliefs were forged through his younger years, as some of Harvey’s family members were Holocaust survivors, which led to a deep appreciation for the United States and all its liberties and privileges,” Prigmore said.

Lawrence said her father also had a unique way of helping people and guiding folks through times of ambiguity and uncertainty.

“He is also an important trait for our future leaders to build especially when thinking about the new generation of Soldiers entering our armed services,” Lawrence said.

To commemorate Australia-New Zealand Army Corps Day, or (ANZAC Day). McCormick accompanied the delegation from Oregon to Port Moresby in April 2005. Rees said McCormick made quite an impression on his Kiwi hosts — later that year, McCormick would be appointed U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand, a post he held until January 2009.

A true patriot, Harvey just wanted to make a difference and help, Rees said. Over the years, Harvey forged deep, lasting friendships with many throughout the Oregon National Guard — to the point where he was invited to, or attended, most senior-level command, dedications and retirement events.

“He was a man with a huge heart and always went the extra mile to see what he could do for others,” Prigmore said. “He was not only a business leader, but a mentor as well.”

Harvey Fink: A sphere of influence throughout Oregon’s military

A young Harvey Fink during his active duty service as a weatherman.

Story by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Air National Guard Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – A year ago, the Oregon Air National Guard lost a man who many in the organization referred to as a good friend, supporter, and mentor. Portland business owner and philanthropist Harvey Fink passed away on February 2, 2018, and while he has been gone a year, his sphere of influence throughout the organization lives on in the myriad of lives he touched and influenced in positive ways.

“I think my father’s biggest contribution to helping grow future leaders was in role modeling selflessness,” said Lawrence Fink, youngest of Harvey’s three sons.

“My father was truly passionate about the people associated with the military and particularly the Oregon National Guard, and there was hardly anything my father would not give to help that community be successful,” Fink added.

Lawrence, who served as a member of the active duty U.S. Army, and in the Washington and Oregon National Guard, said her father, Harvey, remains a trusted business partner also gained him special access to many up and coming leaders in the Oregon Air National Guard — even serving as a close personal mentor to many.

Major Maj. Gen. Gary Dean was one of those individuals close to Harvey. Dean served as the first African-American squadron commander, then wing commander for the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Oregon.

“Harvey Fink was an amazing American and embraced the Oregon National Guard,” Dean said.

Dean, who went on to serve at U.S. Air Force Pentagon, and eventually in a two-star billet as commander of the 1st Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base, said Harvey Fink often referred to him as his “adopted” fourth son.

“When I think about Harvey, I think of goodness,” Dean said. “He was gracious to everyone, he stood up for what he believed, and stood for the values that make our nation great. I was glad to call him a friend and mentor.”

Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard agreed. She recalled the first time she met Harvey Fink via phone shortly after the attacks of September 11, 2001, when he called with an idea.

“Hi, my name is Harvey Fink,” Prigmore recalled him saying. “I want to place a full-page color ad in the Oregonian newspaper so I can place a full-page color ad in the Oregonian. Place a full-page color ad in the Oregonian and show my appreciation for the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard.”

According to Prigmore, Harvey was true to his word. About a week later, a full-page color ad came out in the Oregonian thanking the Oregon Air National Guard for their service.

“One day he called me up and said ‘Piggys’,” Prigmore said, referring to Prigmore’s father. “He said ‘I want to place a full-page color ad in the Oregonian and show my appreciation for the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard.’”

Prigmore said Harvey spent much of his personal resources and time taking care of the military and surrounding community. Over the years, he attended National Guard conferences held all over the country, sponsored networking events for the military and local community, and used his business and political connections to assist the Oregon Guard.

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