More Oregon troops deploy

**Aviation and maintenance units prepare for duty in Afghanistan and Iraq**

By Capt. Michael Braibish, Deputy Public Affairs Officer, Oregon National Guard

Cpt. David Doran, Commander of Det. 1, D Co., 113th Avn. BN (foreground), will lead 92 soldiers during a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The unit will train in Ft. Sill, Okla., before forward deploying to Afghanistan. The mobilization ceremony was held in Pendleton, Ore. on Jan. 3.

See full story: Aviation Unit, on PAGE 4. See also Oregon Troops: Where are they now? on PAGE 5

Also see related story, Guard Soldiers reach 24-month in service cap on NEXT PAGE.

**3-116 and G-Troop, 82nd CAV deploy to Iraq**

G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry, with about 150 soldiers arrived at their forward operating bases in Kirkuk for three-hundred-sixty-five days of boots on the ground. Kirkuk is in northeastern Iraq roughly 155 miles north of Baghdad and 95 miles south-east of Mosul.

On Dec. 28, Lt. Col. Dan McCabe, command- er of the Oregon battalion, assumed authority for the Kirkuk Regional Air Base from the 1st Bns., 14th Infantry Bri- gade. It’s the first time since World War II that a commander of the 3rd Heart has assumed com- mand of an area of opera- tions in a combat zone.

Prior to the transfer of authority, the 1st of the 14th, known as the Dragon Battalion, helped orient the Oregonian men and women of those things you can’t think about,” said Spec. Troy Bagnell, of Albany, Ore., currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, who are now focused on the duration of the deployment, which will span through the up- coming Iraqi elections.

“I thought about it — but then it’s one of those things you can’t think about,” said Herb. “There’s the possibility that it will get into you [the stress]. The more you think about it, the more it eats at you and then the more it eats at you and then when it’s time to do the job, you hesitate, or you can’t do it.”

Now sitting on the perimeter of Falluja in the evening light, Herb was excited to go into the city. Word just came that he, Spec. Spike Olson, Spec. Kris Peterson, and Sgt. Joseph Howell would be backfilling for a squad lost to death and injuries due to at- tacks by insurgents.

“Herb knew the injured men and the one soldier who gave his life to help save his squad. He considered them friends. He had fought with some of them in Najaf, and patrolled with others on the outskirts of Taji. So when they came in from the battle hurting, Herb was upset.

Plus...

Governor’s New Year’s message, pg. 3
News briefs, pg. 10, 11... and a whole lot more!

**Governor’s New Year’s message**

Spec. Troy Bagnell, of Albany, Ore., currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, holds an IV bag for a soldier wounded in an attack.

“I was really pissed off,” said Herb in a matter of fact tone. “They had just killed one of my friends so I was excited to go in and do something rather than sit on the perimeter.”

Assault on Falluja

ORARNG troops consid- er their fate, mission

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Chey, State Public Affairs Office


Full story on FOLLOWING PAGE.
Christensen Eulogized as a ‘real hero’ by fellow soldiers

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff

Family, friends and coworkers held a memorial service for Spec. Jeremy Christensen on Dec. 7 at New Hope Community Church, with an interment shortly following at Willamette National Cemetery.

Christensen was killed Nov. 27 in Ad Diwliyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol vehicle. He was a member of the Oregon National Guard for six years, and decided to enlist in the active duty Army following the 9-11 terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He was assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. Governor Ted Kulongoski, who attended the service, evoked memories of the Pearl Harbor attack, which occurred on the same day, 63 years earlier.

“We remember Pearl Harbor both because of the enormity of the tragedy... but what often gets lost when we remember the ‘day that will live in infamy’ is the pain of individual families,” Kulongoski said.

The Governor also talked about the strength of Christensen’s heart, as well as vital qualities he sustained in a childhood auto accident.

“He was a fighter,” Kulongoski said. “And he fought his way back to health.”

Christensen began his military career in the Oregon Army National Guard, as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, headquartered in Portland, Ore. After six years, he joined the inactive National Guard, and activated beginning of this eight year contract. Immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 9-11, Christensen enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he realized his dream of becoming a M1-A1 tank gunner.

Christensen is survived by his mother, Linda Hakes and stepfather Rick Adamek; brothers Jeremy Hub bard, George Hunt, Jr., and Adam Beykovsky; all of Oregon; sisters Katie Hatfield, WA; twin sisters April and Amy Beykovsky; grandmother Janice Entenmann and stepmother Kathy Beykovsky.

Guard Soldiers reach 24-month in service cap

Some troops return home, others choose to stay

Story by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns,
39th Brigade Combat Public Affairs

The formal round of Oregon Guard Soldiers who have reached their 24-month service cap for high operation tempo days returned to Oregon December 13, 2004, from deployments in Iraq. A law enacted by congress shortly after 9-11 limits a Guard or Reserve Soldier’s active duty obligation to 24 months within a five-year time span. The law was established to help avoid the abuse of reserve forces.

The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry sent home a total of 60 soldiers of the 95 who qualified to return to the States. Thirty chose to stay in Iraq, while another five were sent back for an indefinite tour of duty as a result of complications.

Battalion Commander Daniel Hendrickson spoke to soldiers during a recent awards ceremony and explained that he respected their decisions to leave Iraq.

“Some chose to return home,” Hendrickson said. “Others have poor children and families to return home and not have them killed. You may get on the plane and you’ll go on the deployment and on previous deployments – that has earned you the right to come home, ” said Hendrickson. “You all have families and families come first because they will be here after this career is over.”

Soldiers from Oregon who qualified to return home served on the Sinai Peninsula as part of a multinational observers force that was established in a peace agreement brokered by former President Jimmy Carter between Egypt and Israel in 1979.

The Soldiers returned to their civilian lives after completing their deployment in Egypt but were mobilized again eight months later for duty in Iraq to fill out the 2-162 IN BN, headquartered in Cottage Grove, Ore.

Hendrickson said he wished soldiers would stay because he didn’t like breaking up a good team but he understood their choices.

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Almost every day I am greeted by people who see me in my uniform, and go out of their way to thank me for my service and sacrifice in the defense of our state and nation. I have made an effort over the past year to ensure that I pass these compliments on to the soldiers or airmen of the Oregon National Guard. I ask that in your daily lives, if you are approached by well-wishers, you do the same thing. I believe that by passing on these compliments and gratitude, the members of our organization will find a renewed sense of our mission and purpose in shaping the future of our world.

I had the opportunity to visit Oregon National Guard soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan in December, 2004, and was able to witness their training of Afghan National Army soldiers. As you now, many of the Afghan soldiers are already combat veterans. Lt. Col. Dave Eneyeart and the members of his Embedded Training Team are tasked with turning them into a professional army, while at the same time engaged in combat operations. They and other members of the 76th Brigade, of the Indiana National Guard, have been doing a superb job, and are several months ahead of schedule. These soldiers will come back to Oregon and assist the 41st Brigade in its preparation for deployment to Afghanistan in 2006. They will eventually continue the invaluable training of the new Afghan Army.

This is yet another example of Oregon Soldiers and Airmen who are serving around the world, having a profound effect on both whom they serve with as well as the people they assist. We are well known for our professionalism and our service to our community, state, and nation. If I could edit the dictionary, I would place a picture of an Oregon Soldier or Airmen next to the definition of ‘selfless service’.

I will be sure to let you know if I hear anything from the soldiers or airmen of the Oregon National Guard who see me in my uniform, and go out of their way to thank me for my service and sacrifice in the defense of our state and nation. I have made an effort over the past year to ensure that I pass these compliments on to the soldiers or airmen of the Oregon National Guard. I ask that in your daily lives, if you are approached by well-wishers, you do the same thing. I believe that by passing on these compliments and gratitude, the members of our organization will find a renewed sense of our mission and purpose in shaping the future of our world.

As I get out and talk to people, I am finding that there are still a lot of questions about Lt. Gen. James’ “Vanguard Initiative” to consolidate and reorganize our military forces. Some of you out there still think that your leadership here in Oregon is playing “a I have a secret” game with you. I want to try and explain again in this article what is driving this initiative and where we are right now.

Here is what was directed: Initiatives came out of the Office of the Secretary of Defense to transform the United States military in order to respond to current and future developments. This transformation process would redefine missions, restructure military organizations and exploit emerging technologies.

Advances in technology will significantly reduce the type and quantity of equipment we need for our mission. As a result of this, the Office of the Secretary of Defense has directed each service component to develop plans to address these transformation issues. Lt. Gen. James, Director of the Air National Guard, has tasked each state to develop proposals to restructure their forces and consolidate assets/units where possible, to satisfy the Secretary of Defense’s requirement.

States with two or more flying units, flying similar aircraft were directed to develop “significant” restructuring proposals in order to save the Air National Guard federal missions. Failure to develop options, could severely compromise a unit’s or state’s ability to maintain its opportunity to pursue future missions.

Here is what your leadership did: Our leadership had the option of sitting back and doing nothing or work within the constraints of Lt. Gen. James’ initiative to develop proposals that were in the best interest to the Air National Guard and the state of Oregon.

Initial negotiations with the National Guard Bureau produced guidelines resulting in options that were thought to be too restrictive and limited our ability to maintain our federal mission. As a result of this a task force was formed to come up with a proposal that would work for our state. The proposal was to combine the two flying units and still maintain a training and alert mission.

It’s good once a year to sit back and reflect on all the sacrifices our fellow servicemen have made over the years and what it means to be a member of the National Guard and a soldier.

On Dec. 13, 2004 the National Guard celebrated its 368th birthday. The National Guard was born in 1636 – when the Massachusetts General Court ordered that three regiments be formed from militia units in 15 towns to protect settlers against the threat presented by the Pequot Indians. The North, South and East regiments totaled approximately 1,500 citizen-soldiers. Having citizen soldiers was considered so important by the writers of the United States Constitution that the National Guard is the only military force mentioned by name in the United States Constitution: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 16. The Army National Guard now has about 350,000 soldiers in units dispersed all over the country in 3,500 different locations. The Air National Guard has more than 106,600 officers and enlisted personnel who serve in 88 flying units and 280 independent support units.

What does this mean to me? For 368 years we, the National Guard, have supported our states and our nation. We have reported for duty to help with all sorts of natural and man made disasters in our state and in our nation. The National Guard has served in every war this nation has fought, beginning with the revolutionary war and continuing till now when there are currently 100,000, with 10,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen who are deployed overseas in 44 countries and 34-percent of the U.S. force in Iraq are members of the National Guard. Those citizen-soldiers and airmen serving both overseas and here at home are carrying on the proud tradition of the National Guard, serving both our state and nation.

As we begin the New Year I am very proud of what we have done and what we are doing for our state and for our country. I encourage everyone to be proud of their service, whether you are serving here at home or in some far away place. Please share your pride with the citizens of Oregon and thank them for their continuing support.

Happy New Year,
Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe, Command Sergeant Major, Oregon National Guard

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Governor, State of Oregon and Commander-in-Chief, Oregon National Guard
Oregon Army Guard, Austrian pilots form mutually beneficial alliance

Using the Austrian Air Force’s fully modernized UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopters, the Oregon crews received valuable training from the Austrian flight instructors. With an emphasis on power management and leveraging the unique elements of mountainous terrain and weather patterns, the Austrians shared important techniques and procedures which crews can directly draw upon to execute high-altitude rescue missions in Afghanistan.

The exchange program also gives many Oregon Guard soldiers the rare opportunity to explore Europe and expand their cultural awareness. Austria, a country slightly smaller than the state of Maine, has numerous mountain ranges and glaciers. Nearly 90 percent of the population is German-speaking and considered the predominant language. The capital city of Vienna, is graceful in every respect, and has produced many famous writers, composers, scientists, and other historians. Though small, it is a beautiful city to behold, holding ranks with other picturesque iconic cities such as Rome, Paris, and London.

Not to be forgotten, Oregon has a lot to offer the visiting Austrians. For some, it could be their first time in the United States. Col. Stefan Zott, an accomplished aviator with more than 20 years of military service, is the senior pilot and crew chief for the two units. He embarked on the trip with enthusiasm and a strong desire to grasp as much U.S. military doctrine and operational structure as possible, asking everyone he met to share their knowledge.

“You have a good system, and we want to learn from it,” Zott said.

Phase I of the instruction commenced Oct. 15, during the second week of October. It was appropriately dubbed “Oregon Carpet Skies Flight.” The primary purpose of the Austrian visit was familiarization with U.S. aviation procedures, aeronautical navigation, sight and vision of night vision goggles, known in the business as “NVGs.” Each day the crews underwent a combination of academics and flight instruction in various environments in the aircraft and systems, before moving on to the Tech School, where they practiced, also known as “TPPs.” They received exposure to the same Program of Instruction that American aviators receive, which can be considered as “TPPs.”

The Austrians quickly surmised the extended operational mission capabilities of NVG flight. Flight Instructors CW4 Rick Chacon and CW4 Greg Schroeder worked with crews each day to ensure students understood the complexities of the Army’s most challenging mode of flight. The Austrians quickly proved themselves to be agile and eager students.

“I truly enjoyed the crews we moved the crews out to Pendleton, Ore., home of the Oregon Army National Guard’s newest and most modernized aviation battalion. The Austrians expressed a high appreciation for the diverse topography and climate of Eastern Oregon. While the NVG crews continued their instruction, the gunners began familiarizing themselves with the CH-47 “Chinook” helicopter’s aircraft and crewmembers. After instruction from members of Det. 1-113 Aviation on weapons systems, range requirements, and gunnery procedures, they visited the Yakima Firing Center and the Boardman Range, to test their skills and accuracy. Lt. Col. Zott worked closely with crews from Det.-1, 113th Aviation’s “Dust Devils”, to acquire recommendations for range construction and weapons systems selection back in Austria.

The Austrians also visited key landmarks and met many people during their visit. Each crewmember had excellent mastery of the English language enabling them to draw heavily on their experience. Above all, Pendleton proved to be the favorite location for many. With its sparse population and friendly townspeople, the Austrians acclimated and assimilated quickly. The simplicity of Pendleton reminded them of their homeland, and captured their rural hearts.

The military and cultural exchange proves beneficial in many ways. According to Col. Tim Kelly, State Army Aviation Officer, both Army aviation organizations are gaining an important skill set that enables them to do their jobs better, and the good will and friendship established between the two partners will have long-lasting positive impact on future deployments.

“We hope to formalize this program and continue to prosper from the information and cultural exchange.” Kelly said.

Aviation unit may spend one year in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

Story and Photos by Capt. Michael Brubash, Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

Two Oregon Army National Guard units received mobilization orders and are now preparing for deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The deployments will bring the total number of Oregon’s citizen-soldiers mobilized to more than 1,600.

Detachment 1, Delta Co., of the 113th Aviation Battalion, was the first of the two units to mobilize on Jan. 3, 2005, at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in Pendleton, Ore. Known as the Dust Devils, Det. 1, Delta-13 will join their command element from the Nevada Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

Members of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) with the elite members of the Austrian Training Team assembled near the military post and training area located in Hochfilzin, Austria. The town of 1,100 inhabitants will host the World Biatlon Championships in 2005.

Staff Sgt. James Tournay, of the 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance), performs frequent rescues around the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers.

Crews can conduct hoist operations in confined areas otherwise inaccessible to other rescuers. This training allows aircrews to respond to stranded and injured persons quicker, resulting in fewer lives lost.

The Afghan National Army’s NVG helicopters, roughly equivalent to the cost of one U.S. Navy ship. Despite its force structure, they offer the visiting Austrians. For some, it could be their first time in the United States. Col. Stefan Zott, an accomplished aviator with more than 20 years of military service, is the senior pilot and crew chief for the two units. He embarked on the trip with enthusiasm and a strong desire to grasp as much U.S. military doctrine and operational structure as possible, asking everyone he met to share their knowledge.

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“We hope to formalize this program and continue to prosper from the information and cultural exchange.” Kelly said.
In Najaf, the small city located in an unfinished five-story building, Moore's calculations were half-finished hotel found its fate entangled with the lives of these soldiers from Oregon. It had become a stronghold for the platoon — a central location to kill enemy fighters, and a place from which to call in precision close air strikes. They appropriately nick-named the building The Apache Hiltz. Its' designation was a mixed label of a once wished-for future and the moniker of a military company now responsible for the security of the Imam Ali Mosque.

Directly in front of the hotel was the mosque where Sadr’s Militia was holding out. The domed shrine laden with gold-leafed shingles is seen by the Muslim community as the holiest site, second only to Mecca. The Shrine was so sacred and valuable to Muslims, officials would not allow soldiers to fire upon it, even if being fired at.

"Any target that was [inline] with the Mosque had to be cleared through higher authority," said Sgt. John Moore, of Portland, Ore. Between the two opposing strongholds, there is an open space measuring approximately 300 meters deep and 200 meters wide. It was once home to an open-air market, teeming with local artisans and vendors selling everything from fresh vegetables and pottery, to rugs, linen, and furniture.

The area, which had probably been used as the village’s gathering place for hundreds of years, had been, in a matter of weeks, reduced to a no-man’s land filled with scrap metal, heaps of garbage, and dead bodies. Soldiers refer to it as the Bone Yard.

The "[insurgents] would run across this place with rocks propelled from grenade launchers or small arms," said Spec. Spike Olsen pensively. "We laid out guys day after day, after day, after day."

Herb: “It makes you think maybe this is God’s way of working it all out”

Herb then jumped back into the mix and worked it all out. “It was weird how it crossed my mind,” said Herb pensively. “He was born and then died...it would be within the next 24 hours. I was sure when they would go in but they knew it would be within the next 24 hours. Peterson and Herb both began getting their things working it all out.”

Back in their tent, Peterson, Olson, Howell and Herb all began getting their things in order for the city. They weren’t exactly sure when they would go but in they knew it would be within the next 24 hours. Peterson carefully inventoried and checked his equipment. He made sure he had the right amount of ammunition, grenades, water, and food. “It’s kind of funny you know,” said Peterson as he was throwing items into his assault pack. “You tell people back home you’re bored but then things like this happen and you realize you take that boredom for granted.”

Oregon National Guard troops keep watch over holy mosque in Najaf

The Oregon Sentinel

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns, 36th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

NAJAF, IRAQ — In Najaf, the small platoon from the Oregon National Guard was located in an unfinished five-story building. Unlike the accommodations in Fallujah, they at least had a roof over their head. At one time, planners had intended the building to be a lavish hotel for tourists who would come to see the holiest of Shiite Muslim cities in Iraq.

But war changed all their plans, and the half-finished hotel found its fate entangled with the lives of these soldiers from Oregon. It had become a stronghold for the platoon — a central location to kill enemy fighters, and a place from which to call in precision close air strikes. They appropriately nick-named the building The Apache Hiltz. Its' designation was a mixed label of a once wished-for future and the moniker of a military company now responsible for the security of the Imam Ali Mosque.

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Herb: “It makes you think maybe this is God’s way of working it all out”

It had all happened earlier that day when Herb went to the medical tent to have his legs looked at. They were swollen, and when he pushed his fingers into the flesh of his puffed-up limbs, the soft tissue stayed in place — flattened, rather than rising back up as healthy skin normally would. As the medics were looking at him, they received a message that wounded were coming in. No one knew how many injured would arrive or how grave the situation was, but it meant Herb’s condition would have to wait until later for a complete analysis. The medics needed to make room and prepare for those coming in.

“They didn’t know how bad it was,” said the Oregon native. “I had to get out. I had no shoes and no shirt on.”

So Herb, being the trooper that he was, threw on his body armor and evacuated the tent. Once Herb was outside, the Bradley fighting vehicles rumbled in like hurricanes, and the chaos began. Soldiers yelled for help to medics needed to make room and prepare for those coming in.

The area became a central location where Sadr’s Militia would move troops and supplies into and out of the mosque. The Oregon soldiers positioned machine guns side by side in two rooms on the fourth floor, and expended nearly 40,000 rounds over the course of five days in an effort to hold their position despite daily barrages of rocket, mortar, and sniper fire coming from the Bone Yard and from the mosque.

“There were so many bodies,” said Olsen looking off in the distance, “that the dogs came out at night to eat.”

“Could you hear them fighting over parts,” he continued. “Keep in mind, this is normal for us. They didn’t kill the dogs because, according to one soldier, it was a matter of sanitation, and as another soldier put it, (the dogs) kept the stink down.

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Peterson continued packing while Olsen prepped his weapon a few feet away. “All I know is that I’m going to shoot a lot of ammo because I’m not going out on one of those birds (helicopters) and neither is Spike, right Spike?” said Peterson uneasily, glancing over at his buddy, who was also checking through his equipment.

Spec. Tom Herb, of Lebanon, Ore., (left, center foreground), and Spec. Peter Brady, (right, foreground), help carry wounded soldiers to waiting helicopters for evacuation.

Oregon National Guard Troops

January/February 2005
One Brick at a time

The Village of Srayov is located in the Kampong Thom Province, in central Cambodia, about 35 miles North of the capital city of Phnom Penh.

Making a difference

North West Medical Teams (NWMT) is a non-profit organization founded in the early seventies. It regularly deploys teams all over the globe to tend to the medical needs of third-world countries year round. I didn’t realize how blessed we Americans are with the wealth and high standards of our own nation — or the concept of accountability for our neighbors — until I visited Cambodia in October, 2004 as part of a NWMT team.

It is surprisingly easy to make a difference in someone’s life. In fact “Change a Life, For Good” is the motto emblazoned across the back of the shirts our 15-member team wore as we stepped off of the plane in Phnom Penh. During the bus ride to our motel in the waterfront district, several of us were taken aback by the standard of living completely different from what we Westerners are accustomed to. Indeed, what most of us experienced during the short bus ride was pure culture shock.

Most of the streets are not paved and are littered with garbage. Children play in and around the neat piles of kitchen and animal waste. Businesses and homes are crammed together along cramped streets overflowing with buses, cars and thousands of bicyclists all hurrying to and fro. For the most part, the rickety-looking lean-to houses are constructed of found materials topped with rusty tin. Cooking stoves are large wok-shaped pans that appear to be decades old.

The proud people dress in a style that appears very out of place, given the setting. Actually, it looked like a bunch of American second-hand clothing stores sent them all the inventory they couldn’t sell ten years ago. Most of the women wear long dresses and scarves. The younger females, whom, not unlike their counterparts in the West, dress as vanity leads them. Majority of the children are half-dressed, and most of the people do not wear any shoes.

The one thing that intrigued me the most is that all of the people we saw did wear one thing in common — smiles, which seem to come easily to these simple people. I kept having to remind myself that what I was seeing through my bus window was real, and not some documentary on the Discovery Channel.

The next day we visited a place called “The killing fields.” Along the pathways of the digging are pieces of human bone, clothing and teeth. One of the dentists in our group leaned over the inventory they couldn’t sell ten years ago. Most of the women wear long dresses and most of their supplies and equipment were paid for the cost of the trip themselves, and most of their supplies and equipment were courtesy of the company. They wore out three air compressors, and experienced many frustrations. But here they were, doing what was probably the most meaningful work of their professional lives.

“Not that there is nothing here in new.” Said Marie Mann, a tough-as-nails team leader who works as an office manager at a dental office in Tigard, Ore. “It’s not like we can go down to the local machine shop and buy parts for an air compressor.”

On the last day of labor at the orphanage I worked at keeping the other construction crewmembers supplied with mortar and brick. Mike Criscione, DMD, also known as ‘Doctor Mike’, a dentist from Lake Oswego, Ore., came outside and watched our work. “It’s not like we can go down to the local machine shop and buy parts for an air compressor.”

“You don’t know how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do.” — Mother Teresa

Photo by Tonya Christopher

An artist of the orphanage instructs Hooper on the proper technique of brick-laying.

Photo by Tonya Christopher

Alongside the dirty, unpaved, rut-ridden roads was a small village. I have seen poor towns and neighborhoods in Mississippi, but this village had them all beat. Most buildings contained businesses on the lower level, with living quarters above. I noticed that several places sold fluid in glass soda pop bottles. The unwary (and thirsty) traveler would need to be cautious in this regard.

The ride to and from the killing fields was a real eye-opener. At one point along the road, we made our way slowly through some standing water. It made the roadway very slick. I think we all held our breath as the driver maneuvered the tour van (if you can call it that) through the small lake. I thought about us actually breaking down right there and having to leave the comfort and protection of the van. Not so much that we would be harmed by the locals, but in this foreign place, my senses were so heightened that I came to expect we all held our breath as the driver maneuvered the tour van (if you can call it that) through the small lake. I thought about us actually breaking down right there and having to leave the comfort and protection of the van. Not so much that we would be harmed by the locals, but in this foreign place, my senses were so heightened that I came to expect...
Charity event involves Portland Police, Oregon Guard, community volunteers

PORTLAND, Ore. — (December 18, 2004) About a hundred Portland area volunteers were able to give something back to their community in December during a Holiday Food Basket drive organized by the Portland Police.

Members of the Sunshine Division, a charitable arm of the Portland Police, along with Portland area volunteers, off-duty police officers, members of the Civil Air Patrol, the Salem 4-44 group, and individuals from the Oregon Air and Army National Guard spent most of the day delivering holiday food baskets to deserving families and individuals in and around the Portland area.

The event was held on a chilly Saturday morning, with volunteers rallying at the Northeast Precinct headquarters on NE Burnside in Portland. The event culminated several months of planning and donations by local agencies and companies. Food baskets contained an 8 to 10-pound turkey, stuffing, canned vegetables, a bag of potatoes, and other ingredients needed to put together a holiday feast. Other donations included toys, stuffed animals, and several Christmas trees, which were strapped to the roofs of several of the 30 or so WAMX's (Humvees) supplied by the 41st Brigade.

Sgt. 1st Class James Gresham, of the 41st Engineer Battalion was enthusiastic about the event, but like a professional soldier, he kept his perspective.

"It gives us [soldiers] a chance to give back to a community that has given us so much." Gresham said.

For months leading up to the event, vendors like Fred Meyer, Franz Bakery, and others donate items which were stored at a warehouse. Air National Guard volunteers, then transported all the items to the distribution site the night before the event. The boxes were put together by Civil Air Patrol cadets early in the morning, before the volunteer drivers arrive at 7:30 a.m.

Drivers were given addresses and neighborhood maps by Eric Vosler, President of the Precinct Advisory Council. By 8:30, a line of cars and Humvees 90-deep snaked around the block. In the line, a blue 15-passenger van with Oregon Air Guard license plates. Master Sgt. Chris Williams, 142nd Mission Support Group First Sergeant, jumps out to help load some of the food baskets.

"This is a great effort," Williams said. "I felt very warm inside knowing that I was able to help make someone's holiday much better because we gave them something they needed. That's what the holidays, and life, are all about."

Lt. Col. Scott Winegar of the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade, who is also a Portland Police Lieutenant said the effort was a huge logistical challenge.

"This was the first year we had the National Guard involved in distribution," Winegar said. "But I was overjoyed at how it all turned out."

Typically, distribution is handled by off-duty police officers and citizen volunteers. This year in addition to individuals from the community and the police department, personnel from both Army and Air National Guard helped out.

"The thing about being a 'Citizen-Soldier' is that the men and women of the Oregon National Guard are already in the community service business," Winegar continued. According to Winegar, several soldiers were in 'paid' status that day, but toward the end of the event, they approached him and asked if they could donate the pay they received that day to the Sunshine Division.

"This speaks so highly of the guard and guard families," Winegar said.

After the boxes of food were loaded into each of the vehicles, the volunteers dispersed throughout the community, winding along narrow southeast Portland streets. Driving one of the Humvees, Gresham notes that this event was not unique.

"We [soldiers] try to get involved in as many charity events as possible," he said.

Portland Police Officer, and member of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th ACS, Bob Clevering, (right), briefs National Guard members and Portland CAP cadets on the details of building the holiday food baskets, and how they are to be delivered.

Giving Back

Above: Sgt. 1st Class James Gresham (background) and Staff Sgt. Ryan DeMars, both of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, deliver holiday food baskets to Portland area residents on Dec. 18. Left: Bears and other toys donated by the Portland Police's Sunshine Division await deserving children. Pvt. 1st Class James Aheens of the 1249th Engineer Battalion (background) helped distribute holiday food boxes.

Photos and Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

Orphanage benefits from NWMT’s visit

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

quilts that were given to us by a friend of one of our team. Every child got one. There was enough smiles and hugs to go around, and although we were instructed not to cry by Anna Blake, the team coordinator from Cambodia, we exhausted all our resolve to hold back our tears as we boarded the vehicles that would take us back to the city, Taipei airport, and eventually America.

There were two commuter trucks waiting for us that day and I boarded the one nearest me. I was exhausted, both physically and mentally. As we backed out of the orphanage’s driveway, I could see the devastation of the child who brought me bricks while I was working on the scaffold that one day. He ran out to the street and stopped about 20-feet away from the truck, looking up towards me. I knew he couldn’t see me because it was already dark outside, but he knew I was in the vehicle.

As the truck pulled out of the driveway, I started thinking about the children singing Happy Birthday to me and smiled through my tears.

Sgt. 1st Class Gayle Hooper is the Survey NCO in the S4 Shop at HHC, 41st Brigade. She joined NWMT for their trip to Cambodia in October 2004 after learning about the trip during a visit to her dentist. Dr. Richard Zeider earlier this year.

If you are interested in donating your time or effort to NWMT’s ongoing worldwide relief and humanitarian efforts, please visit their website at www.nwmedicalteams.org.

If you would like to get involved in future food basket drives, or would like to make a donation to the Portland Police’s Sunshine Division, contact Wayne Kuechler at 503-823-2102, or via e-mail at wayne@sunshiniedivision.org.

Quilted mats created by the members of NWM (left and middle) and a bag of cookies (right) were presented to the children at the orphanage. The children also received a Ziplock plastic bag containing freshly baked Russian tea cookies.

Page 7
Letters to the Editor

Care packages really do make a difference for troops in Iraq

This was sent to an Oregon citizen who sent a Christmas package to Iraq. They heard back from the soldier and were extremely proud to hear that they had a positive effect on his holiday season.

I just wanted you to know we received a nice letter today from Staff Sgt. Kelly R. (Roy) Caudle. He said that our two packages, received on Dec. 24, were the first mail he had received since being in Iraq and that he was overwhelmed to get them. That pretty much got to me, that he hasn’t been getting any other mail and that we made his Christmas. He is in Iraq for the 2nd time, first time the ‘91 war.

Thanks for putting this program. We intend to follow up with additional letters and packages to Staff Sgt. Caudle. It would be nice to know if there are other Oregon Guard personnel who might have been missed the first time around and who we ought to send a package to. None of them deserve to be left out.

Sincerely,
John Lloyd

German citizen brings warmth to wounded Oregon soldier

Dear Kay,

You would not believe it, we have found him — in the last minute. We looked around and he was no longer in the ICU. Someone — in the last minute. We looked around and he was no longer in the ICU. Someone told us that he was going to Ramstein for transportation to Walter Reed. As we arrived on the buses, a soldier told us he was off with the first bus. A few minutes later we saw that the first bus was parking in front of the other bus. So we asked if we can go into the first bus, and here we found Pvt. 1st Class Matt Braddock lying on a stretcher. He and other wounded soldiers were going to Ramstein, then to Walter Reed.

As Kathy Gregory, the manager from the Fisher House and I found him in the bus and told him that we have greetings from Kay Fristad, Deputy Public Affairs Officer from the Oregon National Guard. He had tears in his eyes. We showed him his backpack filled with a blanket and all the things he can use, and the special pillow (from a Texas High School). He tried to give his hand! He was so overjoyed and you could see that he had no idea that someone in Germany was looking for him. I must say, to find someone in the last minute and give him the feeling that he is not alone was great for us all. In this few minutes something has changed in us! We had not the time to speak with him. The bus driver told as that we must go out of the bus.

Oregon is so far from Washington, D.C., I do not know if someone could visit him. I will ask Lynette if someone from our group can visit him in Walter Reed. Please let me know how he is doing if you hear something. I will do the same.

I am always glad if I can help you and do something for our American friends.

Wilhelmine Aufmkolk, Germany

Fisher House and I found him in the bus and here we found Pvt. 1st Class Matt Braddock, who is currently recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. For more information on Ms. Aufmkolk’s group, Soldier Angels, please visit www.soldierangels.com.

Deployed Oregonians feel ignored by Sentinel

Dear Editor,

Apparely, since the box full of “Sentinels” came to us from Iraq, from the address at the State Headquarters, someone in the State of Oregon is aware that we are currently deployed there. However, from reading your newspaper, it is also evident that this person is NOT you. From cover to cover, we scan your publication in our unit. Your ability to write articles and take pictures — acting as your “man on the scene” — is invaluable to our mission, and helps us tell the Oregon National Guard’s story with both accuracy and timeliness.

The rest of us know that the most elements of the Oregon National Guard, we are doing more than ever in our operational history — the global war on terrorism, post-9/11 land and air operations, deployed troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, to name a few — and are doing it with very limited resources. This is the primary reason we need your help to tell YOUR story. As for your assertion that the Sentinel has not included your unit in the paper, we would call your attention to the July/August 2004 issue, where the 3-116th is prominently featured in an article on the front page. At the bottom of that same page was an article on G-Troop, 3-116th, and a group of their units, halting from Belfal, Ore. Our Managing Editor, Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy personally visited both units, taking pictures and interviewing several individuals for the stories we published in that issue.

Perhaps you are correct that back issues of the Oregon Sentinel are available online in downloadable PDF format at www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPAPI/publications.shtml. Our current issue (Jan/Feb 2005) contains yet another feature story on G-Troop, 3-116th, with information culled from the Snakebite newsletter.

This is not the only way to receive information for our publication, when we need to cover various units, but when units do not submit stories and photos, we are forced to take what we can get.

We are sorry you feel the way you do about the Oregon Sentinel. It has always been our goal to produce a first-rate publication — filled with useful and pertinent material — that reaches our soldiers. We believe we take our entire organization to make this publication what it should be. It is, after all, your newspaper, and it will only amount to whatever you put into it. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,
At your Staff, The Oregon Sentinel

Memorial dedicated to Spec. Nathan Nakis

The American Legion, Post 10, dedicated a memorial plaque to Spec. Nathan Nakis at the Oregon Army National Guard armory in Albany, Ore. on Jan. 9. Nakis, who was a member of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, was killed during a vehicle accident on Dec. 16, 2003 in Mosul, Iraq.

Above: ORARNG troops at the dedication outside the Armory in Albany, Ore. Right: Nakis’ memorial plaque.

Corrections

On page 11 of the November/December 2004 issue of the Oregon Sentinel, the story on Spec. Jesey Claebout stated that she would be deploying in Iraq in the near future. According to Capt. Mark K. Haydt, 142nd Fighter Wing, 3rd Wing, Assistant Operations NCO for the 741st CSB at Camp Withycombe, she will be attending the fast track Officer Candidate School, and will be returning to the unit in Clackamas, Ore., as one of their officers.
Oregon Air Guardsman awarded the Bronze Star

By Maj. Mike Allegre, and
Staff Sgt. Amy Elker, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND AIR BASE, Portland Ore. (December 12, 2004) — During his three-month tour in a contested zone in Iraq, Senior Master Sgt. Marc Savy was busy serving in a dangerous region. Like many American military members, he flirted daily with severe injury and death.

Savy led a multi-national force team in and around Kirkuk, Iraq – doing work very much unlike his full-time job as superintendent of the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Air National Guard member to receive the Bronze Star. He was presented the prestigious medal during a special ceremony held in the base’s main hangar, Dec. 12, during the air base’s drill weekend.

As the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engi- neer Squadron’s EOD Flight Chief at Tallil Air Base, Savy and his team were exposed daily to extreme danger, hostile bombing and mortar attacks while clearing over 40,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance, which threatened coalition forces and secu- rity patrol, Savy led the only multi-national EOD team in the Southwest Multi-National Division, which protected more than 12 square miles near Tallil.

Serious ordnance were the left- overs strewn everywhere from both wars. We cleared real estate to accommodate the expansion of the air base for future and current operations,” Savy said. “We ac- complished a huge task with little command guidance and I happened to guess correctly on what the engineers had planned. Luck and timing was the key.”

The U.S. Air Force noted that in one instance Savy disregarded repeated Iraqi insurgent ambush threats and attacks while responding to dismantled roadside explosive devices on a main supply route to Baghdad. His team dismantled explosive devices that threatened critical U.S. convoy operations. While conducting clearing operations in southern Iraq, Savy’s team helped prevent insurgent’s use of 17 rocket propelled gre- nades and 600 hand grenades.

Savy was presented the medal by Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, Com- mander of the Oregon Air National Guard, as members of his family and more than 400 ORANG members watched.

“If it had not been for the efforts of you and your team, our brothers and sisters in the Army and Marines would be in far greater danger,” Cunningham said. “You shown the rest of the force, and the nation, that there are no longer weekend warriors in the Oregon National Guard and Reserves. We’re all military professionals.”

An ORANG member for over 12 years, Savy said while he is happy to receive the medal, he was just doing his job.

“I just happened to be in an opportune time and place and was fully supported by two rotational sets of command personnel,” Savy pointedly said. “We’d show up at a site and the Army would be happy to see us, and we’d be happy to see them. We got rid of their problem and they made sure we didn’t get shot!”

The Dragon Battalion will remain on station until the end of the Iraq War.


Oregon troops to ensure Iraqi elections go smoothly

Continued from FRONT PAGE

government is performing well, all of it geared toward maintaining secu-

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To prior entering Iraq, the unit spent several days at a staging area in Kuwait. An advance team flew to their FOBs, and the remainder of the troops then made their way by convoy through Iraq to Kirkuk. Along the route soldiers reported received indirect fire from mortars, but the attacks were more intended to dis-URGENTLY FORWARDED FROM KIRKUK.

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Letters
From The Front

From the Editor

Fellow Oregonians,

I am enclosing several photos from a recent mission with Bravo Company, 2-162 Infantry. The mission was executed from dawn until about two o’clock in the afternoon. Capt. Demian Sanmiguel, Commander of Bravo Company, whose typical work home in Oregon is as a Eugene Police Department Officer, led a combined task force that included civil affairs, tactical human intelligence team, and most importantly for the mission, an Explosive Ordnance Team.

The mission involved confirming intelligence that insurgents had “booby-trapped” a newly developed soccer field in Tarmiya. The enemy had allegedly used unexploded ordnance to construct a mined soccer field with the goal of destroying children as they played soccer, then holding the Americans responsible for the damage.

After meeting a young girl who offered us tangerines at the encouragement of her mother, we offered her and her brother a soccer ball. Her mother then told us, initially through her son’s broken English and hand signals, then with the aid of our translators that she had witnessed men between two and four o’clock in the morning planting explosives in the berm located just in front of her home bordering the soccer field.

Thanks for your interest in the ongoing work the Oregon National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry. These stalwart citizens miss home over these holidays but are doing their best to bring the holiday spirit here with artificial trees in their windows, holiday cards and decorations on several of the doors and a Christmas Eve feast that should rival the great Thanksgiving dinner provided by the mess sergeant, Sgt. Videos and the excellent caterers here. We all greatly appreciate your support during this season. Thanks for your support.

Arnold V. Strong
Major, Infantry
Public Affairs Officer, Oregon National Guard

An Iraqi boy proudly plays with his new soccer ball on the now cleared field while Oregon Guard Troops (background, left) prepare for the return trip to base.

Guard Bureau increases enlistment bonuses

WASHINGTON — In response to continued recruiting difficulties, the National Guard is tripling the cash bonuses it will pay to some new recruits and for current Guard soldiers willing to re-enlist.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, unveiled new initiatives intended to boost the Army National Guard’s lagging personnel rolls. Blum briefed reporters at the Pentagon. Among the initiatives:

• A $15,000 bonus for new Guard recruits who will have served in the military, triple the previous figure.
• A $15,000 bonus for Guard soldiers who will have served for six years, also three times the previous amount.
• A $10,000 bonus for recruits who have never been in the military, up from $5,000 and now the largest bonus the Guard has offered such recruits.

“Those are big incentives,” Blum said. “We’re putting our money where our mouth is.”

The Guard and Army Reserve are struggling with recruiting problems related to the Pentagon’s reliance on part-time military personnel to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 40% of the 148,000 U.S. troops in Iraq are Guard and reserve troops usually train one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer. But thousands are now serving full-time combat tours of a year or more.

“We’re in a more difficult recruiting environment,” Blum said. “There’s no question.

The National Guard’s new measures come on the heels of a second consecutive month of recruiting results. In November, the Army Guard fell about 1,000 recruits short of its goal of 3,925. The shortfall follows an even larger gap in October when the Army Guard missed its target by more than 30%. The military’s recruiting year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

The Army Guard needs to recruit 63,000 new soldiers this year. Last year, it missed its target by about 7,400 recruits. Blum said that the Army Guard is supposed to have 350,000 soldiers but now has 340,000. For many years, Blum said, Guard commanders had covered shortfalls in troop levels by padding their rosters with soldiers who had exited the Guard. Blum said he has banned that practice to have an honest accounting of how many Army Guard soldiers are available across the country.

The Army Guard and Army Reserve have been under great strain since 9/11. Almost a third of the Army Guard — 102,876 soldiers — is mobilized for duty around the world. Since the war on terrorism began, Blum said, the Army Guard has averaged about 100,000 soldiers on active duty every day.

To bolster its rolls, the Guard is adding 1,400 new recruiters, bringing its force to a total of 4,100 across the nation. The Guard has added 480. All 1,400 should be in place by February.

Lt. Gen. James Helmsly, the Army Reserve’s top general, told the press in a recent interview that Army Reserve recruiting was in “precipitous decline.” Helmsly said that the downturn, if not reversed, could generate discussion of a return to military draft.

PANG: Don’t forget your vehicle stickers

As the new year begins, it’s time to think about registering personal vehicles at the Portland Air Base. Photocopies of the vehicle’s current registration, proof of insurance, a valid military identification of the owner/driver, and a valid driver’s license are required for registration renewal. For new cars, information about the make, model, color, and license number of the vehicle are also required.

Visit the Office of Contract Coordination, at the Portland Air Base’s Pass and Registration Office, people who have purchased a new vehicle need to first register it in the state, and have proof of current insurance coverage before applying for a base sticker.

If you have any questions on this policy change, please contact the 142nd SFS Pass and Registration office at 503-335-4226.

2005 will focus on auto safety awareness

According to Lt. Col. Marilyn Woodward, Joint Forces Headquarters Safety Manager, about 2,200 people have completed the online Defensive Drivers Course. They have not yet taken the course are encouraged to do so. It can be found at: www.safety.oregon.gov.

The majority of reported accidents for Army and Air in FY-04 were vehicle and personal injuries.

For those planning a long trip, the AS-IS-1 (POV) risk assessment tool on the US AR-Safety Center website contains pertinent information. It may also be accessed by non- army personnel at http://safety.army.mil. Army units will be receiving FY-05 Safety Campaign items in mid-January. This year’s theme is “Be Safe — make it personal. Make It Home; from War, Work or Drill.”

Woodward will be developing accident prevention campaigns in 2005. Those focusing on accident trends that affect both the Army and Air components.

For more information contact Lt. Col. Marilyn Woodward at 503-584-3931 or via e-mail at marilyn.woodward@or.ngb.army.mil.

Governor’s website pays tribute to fallen Oregon soldiers

Governor Ted Kulongoski’s office has launched a web page honoring fallen Oregon National Guard soldiers.

The link, located on the official site for the governor’s office, honors soldiers and marines killed in Iraq and Afghanistan during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.


Governor’s Food Drive will run through February 2005

The Governor’s office, in partnership with The Oregon Food Bank, have announced that the 2005 Governor’s Food Drive, dubbed “Feed Oregon’s Hungry” will be extended through the month of February.

The point of contact for the Oregon Military Department is Ms. Danette Rozell or Ms. Tracy Ann Gill. They can be reached by mail at: P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309, or by e-mail at danette.rozell@or.rock.army.mil or tracyann.gill@or.rock.army.mil.

For more information, please visit www.oregon.gov/fooddrive.

Congressional bill may help guard, reservists with pay woes

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., proposed a $1 billion plan on Jan. 14, 2005, to reimburse National Guard and Reserve troops for wages lost during service in Iraq.

Bayh said that about 40 percent of the 410,000 part-time service members who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq in the last three years earned less than they did in their civilian jobs. That puts financial hardships on their families, he said.

“Our soldiers should not have to choose between love of family and love of country,” Bayh said.

Bayh said he would introduce a bill in the Senate when the Congress resumes in Washington D.C. on Monday.

Bayh’s proposal would funnel $636 million over five years to troops to pay discrepancies between their civilian jobs and their military salaries. The rest of the money would be used to restore lost pay credits — companies that already provide the difference in salary.

Bayh said that because “the rules of the game have changed,” Bayh said.

Historically, troops have been deployed for no longer than six months. Troops in Afghanistan and Iraq are being kept there for up to two years.

From Baghdad,

Capt. Demian Sanmiguel, at sunrise near Baghdad, after meeting the EOD team.

From the Editor

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

January/February 2005

The Oregon Sentinel

Page 10
**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan, Dec. 3, 2004** — Behind nearly every door in Afghanistan, there is a civilian employer who is waiting for an employee to return. Most civilian employers support their service members by holding positions for them, while some even maintain insurance benefits. The百花 and retired deployed citizen-soldiers maintain with their employer, the better their reintegration is likely to be upon deployment.

"Troops need to take the time to involve their employers in what they are doing," said Maj. Gen. Steve Read, U.S. Army Reserve readiness commander. "If soldiers keep their employers informed and abreast of what’s going on, the employers will tend to be more receptive.

The first step in keeping employers informed is communicating with them. "We want veterans," Booker said. "We want veterans." Booker encourages interested individuals to contact him with any questions or to obtain an application, which is slated to be held in Portland, Ore. for its annual conference on April 30, 2005.
Deployed Oregon soldiers look forward to care packages sent from home

The Oregon National Guard has compiled a list of items requested by soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Chocolate should not be sent because of the intense heat of the desert, however, hard candies will usually survive the transit. Sunscreen, shampoo, lotions, etc., should be placed in plastic zip-lock bags as they tend to leak during shipment.

For recreation, donors are encouraged to send items that will take the soldier’s minds off any stress and discomfort they may be experiencing. It is against military regulations for soldiers to possess pornographic material. It is also advised that possessing such material in Iraq is disrespectful to the sensitivities of the Muslim culture.

Although the military discourages the use of tobacco, the soldiers have requested it on several occasions. Tobacco products are frequently traded between soldiers for other supplies, or traded with the Iraqis for information.

Items are listed below, divided into categories consisting of food, care, recreational items, and miscellaneous.

**FOOD ITEMS**
- Beef jerky
- Salted peanuts
- Trail mix
- Sunflower seeds
- Powdered drink mixes (Kool-Aid, hot chocolate, Gatorade, instant coffee)
- Sugar and creamer packets
- Cookies
- Bean dip and chips
- Crackers

**CARE ITEMS**
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Shampoo
- Moisturizer
- Cough drops
- Foot powder
- Multi-vitamins (Centrum, One-A-Day)
- Brown t-shirts
- Black socks

**RECREATION**
- Hand-held electronic games (small travel-size games are the best)
- Books and magazines
- Local newspapers (even if they are outdated by a week or so)

**MISCELLANEOUS**
- Small flashlights
- Batteries of different sizes
- Phone cards (AT&T and MCI are best)
- Stationary and envelopes
- Postcards and writing pads
- Pens and pencils
- Cigarettes (Marlboro, Camel)
- Chewing tobacco (Skoal, Copenhagen)
- School supplies for Iraqi children

Items can be sent to the following addresses:

**AFGHANISTAN:**
- 2nd BDE ETT
- 76th IN BCT
- Camp Phoenix
- APO AE 09356
- Attn: 1st Sgts. Donald Weber

**GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA:**
- JTF GTMO
- 1186 MP Company
- APO AE 09356
- Attn: Capt. Trent Klug

**IRAQ:**
- L-Co., 151 Aviation
- Camp Anaconda (LSA)
- Balad, Iraq
- APO AE 09291
- Attn: CWO Doug Walker

- 1st CAV DIV
- 39th BCT
- G-Troop/1-163 IN BN
- 116th BCT FWD
- OP OID
- APO AE 09359
- Attn: Capt. Terus Chinen

- HHC/3-116 CAV
- 116 BCT FWD
- APO AE 09368
- Attn: CSM Joseph Brooks

- A Co/3-116 CAV
- APO AE 09368
- Attn: Capt. Dominic Kotz

- B-Co/3-116 CAV
- 116 BCT FWD
- APO AE 09368
- Attn: 1st Lt. Christopher Warren

**TIPS AND INFORMATION FOR SHIPPING CARE PACKAGES:**
- A shoebox-sized package usually takes about ten days to ship overseas. The larger the package, the longer it takes to ship.
- Make sure the contents are evenly distributed within the package.
- Make sure your return address is legible, and located in the upper left corner of the package. Those return addresses that contain a company or organization name may be returned to the sender for security reasons.
- Use clear packing tape on the outside of the boxes. No string or twine should be used.
- Do not use Styrofoam packing. If something is fragile and must be packaged in soft material, the military recommends unburned, unsalted popped popcorn. The popcorn can be eaten by soldiers, Iraqi children, or birds and stray animals and will not cause a waste disposal problem.
- Include a note on the inside of the box to have the addressers distribute the package to a soldier who has not received mail.
- You must fill out a U.S. Customs Declaration form detailing the contents of your package.
- The U.S. Post Office recommends using their shipping boxes for a flat rate of $7.70, or you can order their CAREKIT04 by visiting www.usps.com/supportingourtroops/.
- For more information on how to pack items, you may visit www.anysoldier.com.