

Oregon Sentinel

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Oregon Guard memorializes former member killed in Iraq

Spec. Jeremy Christensen transferred to the 'Big Army' following the 9-11 attacks



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General of the State of Oregon, salutes Spec. Jeremy Christensen's flag-draped casket during memorial services at Willamette National Cemetery Dec. 7.

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Austrian, Oregon helicopter pilots collaborate

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Guard helps make holidays special for needy families

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... and a whole lot more!

More Oregon troops deploy

Aviation and maintenance units prepare for duty in Afghanistan and Iraq



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

Capt. 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.

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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack White, 116th BCT PAO

The 3rd BN, 116th CAV Color Guard unfurls its flag during transition ceremonies at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

By **Capt. Michael Braibish**,
Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

More of Oregon's citizen-soldiers arrived in Iraq in December to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, bringing the number of Oregon National Guard soldiers deployed to Iraq above 1,250.

The 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, known as the 'Third Herd', with nearly 400 soldiers, and

Dragon Battalion, helped orient the Oregonians who are now focused on the duration of the deployment, which will span through the upcoming Iraqi election.

"It's great to be here. The rides went great; totally perfect," said McCabe. "In the short term we're here to make sure the election goes off without a hitch.

"But our main long-term goals are to see

See **Oregon troops** PAGE 9
See also **Sidebar** on PAGE 5

Assault on Falluja

ORARNG troops consider their fate, mission

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

FALLUJAH, IRAQ — (December, 2004) Spec. Thomas Herb, 20, of Lebanon, Ore., was a no bull kind of guy who never took any guff from anyone. He knew his job and he was as squared away as any soldier could be when it came to knowing what to do on the battlefield, and getting it done right.

When Herb first heard he was going to Fallujah, Iraq, he thought for sure he was going to die. He just knew it. It was the first time he'd felt that sure of something. But he very quickly and deliberately began pushing the needling thoughts out of his mind. After all, he had a wife back in Oregon who was nine months pregnant with his son.

"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 when it's time to do the job, you hesitate, or you can't do it."

Now sitting on the perimeter of Fallujah 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 attacks 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.



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."

See **Herb** PAGE 5

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 internment shortly following at Willamette National Cemetery.

Christensen was killed Nov. 27 in Ad Duilayah, 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 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, referring to life-threatening injuries 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, for the duration 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 Hubbard, George Hunt, Jr., and Adam Beykovsky, all of Oregon; sisters Katie Hanson of Wash.; Twin sisters April and Amy Beykovsky; grandmother Janice Entenmann and stepmother Kathy Beykovsky.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office
Fallen Soldier Memorial for Spec. Jeremy Christensen at New Hope Community Church.

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 final 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 rehabilitation due to battle injuries.

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

"You guys have paid your dues on the deployment and on previous deployments - that has earned you the right to go 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.

"This team is known as one of the top two battalions in the 1st Cavalry Division," said Hendrickson. "That's coming from [Division Commander] Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli and [Assistant Division Commander of Supply] Brig. Gen. Hammond."

The Soldiers who returned home served and fought in some of Iraq's most tumultuous areas to include Eastern Baghdad's Sadr City, Adhamyiah and Taji, a city located just 20 miles north of Iraq's capital. Other elements of the battalion fought in Najaf and aided in Fallujah with the 1st Cavalry Divisions, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. The 2-162 as a whole has lost nine Soldiers and seen 51 wounded in action.

"We've lost good men - they've been wounded and they've been killed but none of you quit. You did the right thing," said Hendrickson speaking to Soldiers. "I will savor every moment I have shared with you both bitter and sweet."

The 30 Oregon Soldiers who chose to stay will be paid an extra \$1,000 a month as incentive from the Department of Defense for each month that extends past their 24-month obligation.

Soldiers returning home were processed through Ft. Hood, Texas, spending five days in a series of debriefs before returning to their families in Oregon in December, 2004.

The rest of the battalion will remain in Iraq to complete its scheduled one-year 'boots on the ground' rotation. Officials anticipate the rotation will culminate sometime in March, 2005.

Recruiting & Retention News

By Sgt. 1st Class Gower D. Talley,
Marketing NCO,
Oregon Army National Guard

The Oregon National Guard has always considered itself a family. We are proud to have multiple generations of soldiers and airmen, along with their siblings, children and spouses, joining our ranks. Oftentimes entire circles of high school or college friends put on a green or blue uniform. Usually one brave person takes the plunge, gains the pride and benefits of being a member of the National Guard, and ends up bringing family and friends along for the ride. These referrals are most often done as a 'favor' for friends and family looking for employment or educational opportunities.

For the next few months, the Oregon National Guard will return the favor. Oregon Guard members who refer their friends or family to their unit's recruiter will receive a thank you - in the form of a tangible reward - when that person enlists. The program differs from unit to unit, so check with your recruiter for the details.

Check with your local recruiter for more information.

Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley,
Marketing NCO, Oregon Army National Guard

Sgt. 1st Class Talley's article will be featured as a regular segment in upcoming issues of the Oregon Sentinel. He can be reached at gower.talley@or.ngb.army.mil.

Pirak named 'Pilot of the Year'



The Pilot of the Year Award, which is given by the First Air Force, recognizes excellence among Air National Guard and Air Force pilots assigned to air defense units in the U.S., was awarded to Oregon Air National Guard pilot Maj. Duke Pirak. Pirak received the award due to his commitment to improve the ORANG's overall F-15 fighting capabilities in support of Homeland Defense and to help bring the new AIM-9X missile into the Air National Guard's weapon's inventory. The award was presented to Pirak (r.) on Dec. 12, 2004 by Col. Brad Applegate, (l.), Commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Dyer,
142nd Multimedia

As you read through the pages of this edition of the **Oregon Sentinel**, you'll see that Oregon's citizen-soldiers and citizen-airmen continue to serve the state and nation with distinction. They are also vital contributors to world affairs.

In October, the people of Afghanistan held their first elections, free from the Taliban. On Jan. 30, 2005, for the first time in decades, the people of Iraq will go to the polls and chose the future leaders of their country. These representatives will form a parliament that will draft a national constitution in the coming year. We are witnessing not only the birth of a new democratic nation, but the beginnings of what will hopefully be a model for the rest of the Middle East.

The act of voting is done with relative ease and comfort in our American democracy, but it's a hard-fought, hard-won battle for the vote in Iraq as shown in two articles from Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns.

Bruns tells the stories of Oregonians from the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry who fought side-by-side with their active duty counterparts, Marines, and Iraqi forces for the cities of Najaf and Falluja - both pivotal battles against the insurgent forces in Iraq.

In Iraq today, all efforts seem focused on making elections a success. More Oregonians have arrived in Iraq; the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry and G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry are now on duty in Kirkuk. More soldiers are bound for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan; F-Troop, 82nd Cavalry and Det. 1, Alpha-Co., 249th Aviation Battalion are en route to Iraq, and Det. 1, Delta-Co., 113th Aviation Battalion has mobilized for duty in Afghanistan. More soldiers from the 3670th Maintenance Co. will mobilize in Feb. 2005, and as of this issue, about 141 airmen are stationed around the world in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The work of the Oregon National Guard is well recognized - Senior Master Sgt. Marc Savy, from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard, earned the Bronze Star for duties superbly performed in Iraq, and Maj. Duke Pirak has been named Pilot of the Year for 1st Air Force.

But the integrity and spirit of the Oregon National Guard is also seen in service to communities around the world and at home. Sgt. 1st Class Gayle Hooper ventured to Cambodia with Northwest Medical Teams, bringing vital medical care and assistance to a village in that developing nation. Here at home, dozens of Oregon's Soldiers and Airmen teamed up with members of their local communities in Dec. 2004, donating their time and efforts to those in need.

Once again, the men and women who comprise the Oregon National Guard have demonstrated their value to the state, the nation, and the world. For this, we thank you.

From The Editor



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

Command Message

Wishing Oregonians a Happy New Year



As we end 2004 we pause to reflect on a year full of challenge, change and opportunity. I am optimistic that in 2005, Oregonians will continue to build on our state's successes, while overcoming the challenges life often brings.

Oregon is the most wonderful place to live, with its natural beauty and resilient citizens. We have communities that pull together in tough times to preserve the things that make them special, like the citizens of Fossil who rallied to save their library, the coalition in Dallas who made it possible to build a new neighborhood park and the community members in Ashland who came together to save arts and sports programs for youth.

Also, as we think about the year ahead, it's important to remember our soldiers and their families in our thoughts and prayers. They have, as Oregonians have always done, stepped up to their duty. They and their families have made tremendous sacrifices so that we may enjoy the benefits of a free and safe America.

I hope Oregonians will share my enthusiasm for the future and challenges that lie before us. As we move forward to 2005, I encourage Oregonians to get involved, find that volunteer opportunity and help one another. Together, we can build a better Oregon where all of our dreams are fulfilled.

Please enjoy a wonderful and safe New Year Holiday and best wishes for the year ahead.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Governor, State of Oregon and Commander-in-Chief, Oregon National Guard

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 know, many of the Afghan soldiers are already combat veterans. Lt. Col. Dave Enyeart 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 Afghani 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'.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Acting Adjutant General, State of Oregon



As I get out and talk to people, I am finding that there are still a lot of questions about Lt. Gen. James's '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 use to complete 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 ever possible, to satisfy the Secretary of Defenses 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 units or states 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 mis-



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith, State Command Chief Master Sergeant

sion. The proposal was then submitted and favorably received by the National Guard Bureau. However, as of right now nothing has been decided.

Here is where we are: The bottom line is your leadership was tasked by the NGB to come up with a plan for the state. A proposal was put together and submitted to best meet the intent of the Vanguard Initiative. Your leadership is doing everything they can to keep our units intact and maintain our federal missions. At this time there has not been any decisions made on what direction we will take. I will promise you, any information that comes down that affects our force you will hear about. I am not here to hide anything from you. What affects you affects me. You will know what I know when information flows our way.

I write this in hopes that this will bring a better understanding of what was thrust upon us, and what we are doing to respond to the initiatives put before us. We are just trying to do the best we can for the state to keep all units and organizations intact. I urge you to talk to your leadership if you still have questions on the Vanguard Initiative. In the meantime we should all focus on our mission at hand, and remain the most professional and best-trained Airmen in the world.

I will be sure to let you know if I hear anything from our commanders.

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 some 100,000 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



Command Sergeant Major Thomas Moe, State Command Sergeant Major

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

THE SENTINEL WANTS YOU!

**We want your stories
We want your pictures**

Submit them to:
The Oregon Sentinel
c/o: Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us

See Editorial side-bar on page 8 regarding submission requirements.

Oregon Army Guard, Austrian pilots form mutually beneficial alliance

Photos and Story by
Lt. Col. David A. Greenwood,
HHC 41st Brigade

The Oregon National Guard is engaged in an exciting and rewarding military exchange program with the Austrian Ministry of Defense. In the case of Oregon Army Aviation and the Austrian Air Force, both are seizing the opportunity to learn valuable flight skills that will greatly enhance their respective mission capabilities. For Oregon, it means an excellent opportunity to foster an important relationship in support of the NATO International Partnership for Peace program.

The Austrian Air Force is small by any measure. Their annual military budget is roughly equivalent to the cost of one U.S. Navy ship. Despite its force structure, they bring plenty to the table. For example, the Austrians recognized the need for professional military education long before the United States formed an army. The Weiner Neustadt castle has served as a centerpiece for Austrian military education and training for nearly 1,000 years.

Oregon Army National Guard Aviation elements began the exchange more than a year ago. The focus for American crews is to enhance their technical competencies in rotary-wing high altitude flight. Located in Central Europe, Austria affords a spectacular backdrop for enhancing skills for flying in mountainous locations. A good example is the 12,461-foot Mt. Grossglockner in the Tyrolean Alps, and area rich in towering mountains and massive glaciers. Moreover, with mountaineering a popular national sport, the Austrian Air Force has plenty of experience rescuing injured climbers and wayward hikers.



Staff Sgt. James Tournay, of the 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance), performs scheduled tail rotor maintenance on a UH-60L "Blackhawk". Tournay was the primary trainer and crew chief flight instructor while the Austrian crews trained in Oregon.

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 rescues back in Oregon.

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 metropolises snuggled into the Alps. Nearly 90-percent of the population is German-Austrian with German spoken as the predominant language. The capital city of Vienna, is grandiose in every respect, and has produced many famous writers, composers, scientists, and other historical figures. Indeed, it is a beautiful city to behold, holding ranks with other picturesque iconographic cities such as Rome, Paris, London, and Madrid.

Not to be forgotten, Oregon has a lot to offer the visiting Austrians. For some, it was their first visit. Lt. Col. Stefan Zott, an accomplished aviator with more than twenty years of military service, is the senior member of the Austrian exchange party. He embarked on the trip with enthusiasm and a strong desire to grasp as much U.S. military doctrine and organizational structure as he could, 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 in Salem, Ore. during the second week of October, 2004. It was appropriately dubbed "Operation Cascade Night". The primary purpose of the Austrian visit was familiarization with U.S. aviation procedures, aerial gunnery, and the ubiquitous night vision goggles, known in the business as "NVGs". Each day the crews underwent a combination of academics and flight instruction, studying differences in the aircraft and systems, before moving on to the Techniques, Tactics, and Procedures, also known as "TTP's". They received exposure to the same Program of Instruction that American crews undergo upon completion of flight school at Ft. Rucker, Ala.

The 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance) conducts frequent rescues around



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 Biathlon Championships in 2005.

the state, many at night. Maj. Tom Lingle, commander of the unit, requires all of his crewmembers to attain NVG qualification to enable them to perform complex aviation operations day or night. The NVG's provide sufficient imagery to fly Nap-of-the-Earth (NOE) under extreme low-light conditions. 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 Austrian NVG's, like their aircraft, are the latest generation — the state-of-the-art AN/AVS-9 NVG's provide optimal visual acuity, field of view, and light amplification — but just having the new equipment is not enough. Because the equipment is so new, the Austrian crewmembers experienced a serious learning curve. Once immersed in the familiarization program in Oregon, the Europeans quickly surmised the extended operational mission capabilities of NVG flight. Flight Instructors CW4 Rick Chagnon 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.

Phase II moved the crews out to Pendleton, Ore., home of the Oregon Army National Guard's newest and most modernized aviation facility. The Austrians gained a new appreciation for the diverse topography and climate of Eastern Oregon. While the NVG crews continued their instruction, the gun-

neries crews 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 military organizations are gaining important skill sets that enables them do to their jobs better, and the good will and friendship established between the two partners will have long-lasting positive impact on all the participants.

"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 Braibish,
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-113 will join their command from the Nevada Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of family and community members crowded the eastern Oregon AASF to bid 93 local soldiers farewell as they prepared to depart to Ft. Sill, Okla., where they will train for about six weeks before forward deploying to the Middle East. The soldiers will take five CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters with them to support airlift operations in Afghanistan.

Oregon governor Ted Kulongoski presided over the ceremony, and he presented

a state flag to Capt. David Doran, the detachment commander, which will be flown at the Dust Devil's deployed location. In exchange, Doran presented the governor with a framed unit guidon.

Gov. Kulongoski displays the unit colors from each deployed Oregon Army National Guard unit in his personal office, to serve as a reminder of the citizen-soldiers serving in the Global War on Terror.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., the Acting Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, and Phillip Houk, Mayor of Pendleton, accompanied the governor at the ceremony.

Byrne boosted the soldiers' spirits by reminding them of the support they receive from all Oregonians.

"As you say goodbye to your families and prepare for the months ahead please remember that a grateful state and nation prays for your safety, supports your work, and waits to embrace you upon your return," Byrne said as he addressed the assembly.

"Oregonians are grateful for your service to our nation and to the cause of freedom." He continued.

The second unit to receive mobilization orders is the 3670th Maintenance Company based at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. The second and third platoons

comprising a total of 72 personnel will mobilize on Feb. 5 to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After mobilization, the platoons will train at Ft. Bliss, Texas for a brief period before they forward deploy to Iraq. Tentative plans include duty in the city of Kir Kush, just east of Baghdad. The unit specializes in the maintenance and repair of heavy equipment.

"I have complete confidence in my soldiers," said Capt. Nicole Brugato, the unit's Company Commander.

The soldiers went through Soldier Readiness Processing at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem on Jan. 8 and 9, 2005. An SRP evaluates the soldiers to ensure they are medically qualified, have current training, and that their administrative affairs are in order.

Of the more than 1,600 mobilized soldiers, about 1,265 are on duty for operations in Iraq. There are also about 50 soldiers on duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and roughly 120 are involved in operations in Afghanistan.

Nearly 4,500 of Oregon's citizen-soldiers and about 2,000 citizen-airmen remain in Oregon to meet any state needs for National Guard support.



Members of Det. 1, Delta-Co., 113th Aviation, stand in formation while Gov. Ted Kulongoski (background) delivers his address. The mobilization ceremony was held Jan. 3, 2005 at the AASF #2 in Pendleton, Ore.

Oregon National Guard troops keep watch over holy mosque in Najaf

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns,
39th 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



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns

Sgt. John Moore, of Portland, Ore., plots an enemy Rocket position on the north side of Fallujah. Moore's calculations were accurate to within 12 meters.

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 nicknamed the building *The Apache Hilton*. 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 rocket-propelled grenades and small arms," said Spec. Spike Olsen pensively. "We laid out guys day after day, after day, after day."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns

Spec. Orvil Lee, 50, of Beaver Creek, Ore., and Spec. Chris Johnson of Corvallis, Ore., take up positions and peer through their scopes looking for enemy targets in the distance. Their position had fallen under attack by enemy rockets.

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."

"You could 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, they (the dogs) kept the stink down.

Oregon Troops: Where are they now?

Nearly 1,600 of Oregon's citizen-soldiers are deployed or mobilized. These are the units deployed, the number of soldiers with the unit, and the unit location:

- Det. 1, Lima Co. 151 AVIM; 15 soldiers; Balad, Iraq

- 2nd Bn. 162nd Inf.; 700; Baghdad, Iraq

- Embedded Training Team, 41st SIB; 16; Afghanistan

- 1186th MP Co.; 46; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

- 3rd Bn, 116th Inf.; 399; Kirkuk, Iraq

- G Troop, 82nd Cav.; 150; Kirkuk, Iraq

- F-Troop, 82nd Cav.; 90; Ft. Polk, LA - deploying to Iraq

- Det. 1, A Co., 249 AVIM; 9; Ft. Bliss, TX - deploying to Iraq

- Det. 1, Delta Co., 113 AVIM; 93; Ft. Sill, Okla. - deploying to Afghanistan

- 2nd and 3rd Platoons, 3670th Maintenance Co.; 72; currently on alert to deploy to Iraq

In addition, more than 141 of Oregon's citizen airmen are deployed around the world as individuals or in small groups in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Herb: "It makes you think maybe this is God's way of working it all out"



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns

Oregon Guard Soldier Spec. Spike Olsen, 24, of Lake Oswego, Ore., prepares his weapon before a mission to Fallujah, Iraq. Olsen and three other Oregon soldiers were sent to fill in for a Cavalry squad that had been wounded in a previous attack.

Continued from **FRONT PAGE**

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 boots 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 carry wounded. Herb quickly ran over and pulled the first soldier out of the vehicle. And to his surprise, it was someone he knew. The young soldier had been shot in

the shoulder by a sniper.

The second soldier he helped carry into the medical tent had three armor piercing rounds in his chest that had gone through the front plate of his body armor, and lodged in his back. Herb hurriedly pulled open the man's vest to administer aid, but was cut short.

"We took rolls of acrylic gauze and went to put it on his chest but the Captain said he was dead," Herb said.

Herb and some other Soldiers respectfully carried him behind the tent and prepared his body for transport to the rear.

Herb then jumped back into the mix and helped others who were wounded. He started an intravenous bag, helped some Navy Seals work on a soldier who was hovering dangerously close to death, and administered aid to others with shrapnel wounds.

"We just made sure they were stable until it was time to take them to the hospital," Herb said.

Amidst the turmoil, a helicopter approached the landing zone, thrusting a whirlwind of sand in every direction. The Oregon Guard Soldiers and Cavalry medics carefully lifted the stretchers and began loading the wounded onto the helicopter.

Herb thought about his son he had yet

to meet.

"It was weird how it crossed my mind," said Herb pensively. "He was born and then I see all my friends get shot and killed."

After a pause, Herb continues. "It makes you think maybe this is just God's way of 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 in but 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."

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.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns

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

Making a difference

One brick at a time



Photo by Tonya Christopher

Sgt. 1st Class Gayle Hooper, (l.), stands with her new friend, one of the orphans at the Children of Promise Orphanage in the village of Srayov in Cambodia.

ORARNG Soldier's efforts with Northwest Medical Teams in Cambodia a life-changing experience

North West Medical Teams (NWM) is a non-profit organization founded in the early seventies. It regularly dispatches 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 NWM 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.

By Sgt. 1st Class Gayle Hooper,
HHC 41st Brigade
Special to the Oregon Sentinel

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 digs are pieces of human bone, clothing and teeth. One of the dentists in our group leaned down and took a real close look and exclaimed, "That's a number 30."

Alongside the dirty, unpaved, rut-ridden roads was a small village. I have seen poor

"It's not how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do."

— Mother Teresa

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 fuel 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 the unexpected. After we hit the pavement, we all let out a sigh of relief. As we entered a nicer area of town, the driver had to pull over to close a hatch that had obviously sprung open during our trial on the bumpy road in the village. Evidently he wasn't the only one who didn't want to get out of the vehicle back in the village. As the driver left the van, I did something that kind of surprised me. I found myself instinctively reach into my lap

for my M16. Obviously it wasn't there, (I doubt I could have snuck one past security in the Taipei airport), but the instinct to reach for my weapon surprised me. What also surprised me was the overwhelming feeling of vulnerability I felt when I realized it wasn't there. Given the reason our team was there, having a weapon — however secure it would have made me feel — was superfluous.

The next day we found ourselves constantly surrounded by children, incessantly imploring us to purchase the books or trinkets in order to finance their meager existence. On that particular day, there was an election which resulted in a newly-elected leader of Cambodia. That night the streets were closed down and there was a great big fireworks display. As I stood there and watched the pyrotechnic display, I couldn't help but ponder the stark contrast between the classes in this country. Here was an expensive fireworks display celebrating the country's political election, while homeless children and impoverished citizens eked out a meager existence along dirty, crowded streets.

Two days later we packed our bags and made our way to the small village called Srayov in the Kampong Thom Province. Our main objective was to see as many locals as possible, and to remove all the tooth decay and repair their teeth as best as we could. I was one of the more fortunate ones, assigned to work with the construction crew, building an addition to the Children of Promise orphanage. Each day (throughout the five days of hard labor), you couldn't tell when it was quitting time because there wasn't any sudden rush to leave the village. After a day filled with mixing cement and mortar and neatly placing brick after brick we hung out with the children, playing silly games and listening to them teach us Cambodian words. The children are so easily entertained, and are genuinely satisfied with our presence. Laughs come so easily to them, but they all



Photo by Tonya Christopher

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

around and climb back down only to repeat the process all over again. His performance would put many of the "rock wall" climbers at my gym to shame.

After just a few days of hard work without any rank structure, phones or computers, you begin to appreciate the simplicity of life in these small Cambodian villages. The people are not driven by time, but rather by events. Their focus is making the event happen, not squeezing the event into a given time frame. I had a birthday occur during the trip, and unbeknownst to me, one of the other team members told the children. After work that evening, they gathered around me and sang "Happy Birthday". After listening to them sing four times, I implored them to please stop.

While working with the construction crew, I took numerous water and rest breaks, visiting the dentists who were toiling away at their craft. These are highly-trained and highly-paid medical professionals, accustomed to working normal hours, in sterile offices, while wearing crisply-starched suits and bright white lab coats. Here they were working 12 to 14 hour days, sometimes working for hours on end without any breaks. None of them were being paid a dime for this duty. In fact, many of them paid for the cost of the trip themselves, and most of their supplies and equipment were donated. They wore out three air compressors, and experienced many frustrations. But here they were, doing what was probably the most rewarding work of their professional lives.

"The problem is that nothing here is 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 for a while. He told me that a 14 year-old boy in his chair had a hole in every tooth. He said that he had already pulled the first four front teeth, and had to stop because his assistant was crying so hard. That assistant was Mann.

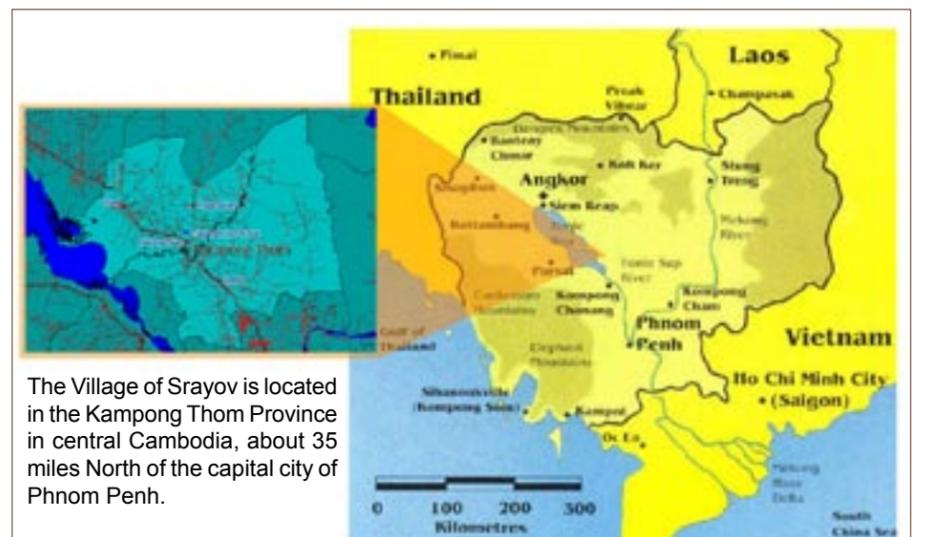
On the last day we handed out donated See **Cambodian orphanage** on NEXT PAGE



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gayle Hooper, HHC 41st BDE

Two Cambodian boys play outside the Children of Promise Orphanage.

take work very seriously — especially the boys. In fact, one day, a little boy from the nearby village took on the task of being my apprentice, bringing me bricks one by one. This was not an easy task, as I was high up on a platform. He negotiated his way up and through the scaffolding, carrying a single brick in one hand, while negotiating the climb with the other, until reaching the top, where he neatly deposited the brick in a pile at my feet. He would smile at me, turn



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.

Map courtesy of www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cb.html

Charity event involves Portland Police, Oregon Guard, community volunteers

Giving Back

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-H 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 HMMWVs (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.



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



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 Ahrens of the 1249th Engineer Battalion (background) helped distribute holiday food boxes.

“These events are great... It helps us think outside the uniform.”

“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 neigh-

borhood maps by Eric Vosler, President of the Precinct Advisory Council. By 8:30, a line of cars and Humvees 50-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



Staff Sgt. Ryan DeMars carries a holiday food basket in front of the Peaceful Villa apartment complex. Approximately 15 deserving families and individuals in the complex located in Southeast Portland received the donated food baskets.

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 outline 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/.

— Officer Bob Clevenger, Portland Police Sunshine Division event organizer, and member of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron



Portland Police Officer, and member of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th ACS, Bob Clevenger, (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.

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.

Riding shotgun with Gresham was Staff Sgt. Ryan DeMars.

“This is a blast,” DeMars said.

After delivering a food basket to one elderly woman, DeMars and Gresham head to another apartment in an adjacent building. Moments later, the woman comes running up, profusely thanking the soldiers for their delivery. In her hand, a Ziplock plastic bag containing freshly-baked Russian tea cookies. She hands it to De Mars, thanking him again.

“I’ve been doing this kind of volunteer work for 13 years, and it doesn’t get any better than this,” DeMars said, holding the baggie of cookies.

Event organizer, Portland Police Officer Bob Clevenger, who is also a member of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron at Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., hopes more people can get involved in future holiday basket distribution.

“I want more folks to do this,” Clevenger said. “It helps us think outside the uniform [police or military], and gets us out into the community so we can help those less fortunate than ourselves.”

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@sunshinedivision.org.

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 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 on 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 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 us 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 us that we must go out of the bus.

Oregon is so far from Washinton, 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

Wilhelmine Aufmkolk was asked by Kay Fristad to try to locate Pvt. 1st Class Braddock after he was injured in an IED attack on Jan. 13, 2005. A care package was delivered to Ms. Aufmkolk to pass on to 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,

Apparently, since the box full of "Sentinels" came to us here in Iraq, from a mailing address at the State Headquarters, someone in the State of Oregon is aware that we are currently deployed here. However, from reading your newspaper, it is also evident that this person is NOT you. From cover to cover, we scoured your hastily thrown together paper and were dismayed to find that despite the fact that we are deployed to Iraq, you failed to mention that we even exist. Those of us who have been in "Eastern Oregon's Own", the 3/116th CAV (AR) are quite accustomed to the monthly snubbing we receive at the hands of "The Western Oregon Sentinel." Some of our younger soldiers, who have not had the privilege of years of reading the Sentinel and hoping that one day it would mention the entire battalion that resides on the other side of the state, are quite demoralized by your lack of coverage. The rest of us are just used to it.

But those younger soldiers, who never knew the newsletter back when it had the proud name of "The AZUWUR" believe you have an unhealthy fixation on Camp Rilea and everything that comes from the Willamette Valley. Not that there is anything wrong with soldiers or facilities that reside on the western side of our fine state. As a matter of fact, we as a whole, admire the soldiers from the Willamette Valley for

their willingness to volunteer for hard and dangerous duty. We also admire the facilities on the western side of our state, though we seldom ever see them. We would just like to point out that despite your shortsightedness, there is another side to your state and that side of the state includes a battalion full of proud Oregonians who are currently deployed in Iraq. Oregonians who would like to request that you stop sending us copies of the "Western Oregon Sentinel" at taxpayer's expense. Unless of course you find it in your heart to include them in the paper. Somewhere. Anywhere.

Maj. William Cole,
HHC/3-116/116th BCT (FWD)
APO AE 09368

Dear Maj. Cole,

We believe that there are many individuals in the Oregon National Guard, both land and air components, who wish there were more coverage of their units' fine accomplishments appearing in the pages of the Oregon Sentinel. But the truth of the matter is, we cannot be everywhere at all times. This is why the UPAR (Unit Public Affairs Representative) program was instituted.

Your UPAR can act as a liaison between your unit and JFHQ, informing the PAO what is going on in your unit. Their 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.

Like 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 3-116 was prominently featured in an article on the front page. At the bottom of that same page was an article on G-Troop, 82nd CAV, one of your sister units, hailing from Bend, 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 not aware that back-issues of the Oregon Sentinel are available online in downloadable PDF format at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml>.

Our current issue (Jan/Feb 2005) contains yet another front-page story on the 3-116, with information culled from the Snakebite newsletter.

This is not the optimal way to receive information for our publication, when we need to cover various units, but when units do not submit stories and photos directly to us, 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 information — that can be enjoyed by our readers.

We believe it takes 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,
Editorial Staff,
The Oregon Sentinel

Corrections

On page 11 of the November/December 2004 issue of the **Oregon Sentinel**, the story on Spec. Jessy Claerhout stated that she would be deploying to Iraq in the near future. According to Staff Sgt. Paul Carrier, 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.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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The Oregon Sentinel

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage.

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the **Oregon Sentinel**, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the **Oregon Sentinel** staff members listed below.

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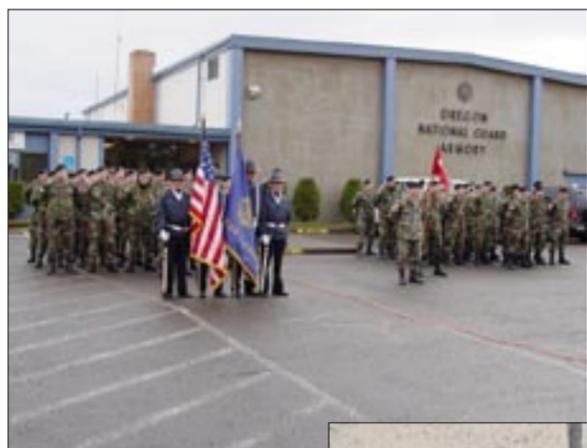
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Memorial dedicated to Spec. Nathan Nakis



Photos courtesy of Capt. Marcus Williams, Company Commander, B-52 ENBN

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-Co., 52nd Engineer Battalion, was killed during a vehicle rollover on Dec. 16, 2003 in Mosul, Iraq.

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



Oregon Air Guardsman awarded the Bronze Star



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon Dyer, 142nd Multimedia

Senior Master Sgt. Marc Savy receives the Bronze Star from Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Dec. 12, at the Portland Air Base.

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 combat 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 An Nasiriyah — doing work very much unlike his full-time job as superintendent of the 142nd Fighter Wing's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Flight at the Portland Air Base. In Iraq, he

and his team located and disarmed explosive devices that kill at random.

In recognition of his exemplary service and tireless leadership, from March 2 to May 20, 2004, Savy became the first known Oregon 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 hanger, Dec. 12, during the air base's drill weekend.

As the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer 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 security patrols. Savy led the only multinational EOD team in the Southeast Multi-National

Division, which protected more than 12 square miles near Tallil.

"This hazardous ordnance were the leftovers 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 accomplished 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 and responded to disarm roadside explosive devices on a main supply route to Baghdad. His team disarmed explosive devices which threatened critical U.S. convoy operations. While conducting clearing operations in southern Iraq, Savy's teams helped prevent insurgent's use of 17 rocket propelled grenades and 600 launchers.

Savy was presented with the medal by Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham, Commander 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've shown the rest of the force, and the nation, that there are no longer weekend warriors in the National Guard and Reserves. We're all military professionals."

An ORANG member for over 12 years, Savy said while he felt "quite honored" 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 said pointedly. "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 Bronze Star

The Bronze Star Medal, created on Feb. 4, 1944, is awarded to any person who distinguishes themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement while serving in armed conflict against enemy forces.



Graphic courtesy of www.perscomonline.army.mil

P r e s i d e n t
Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the award by Executive Order 9419 during WWII. His decision was motivated largely by Gen. George C. Marshall, who said the Air Medal — which was adopted two years earlier to distinguish air crew members who distinguished themselves through bravery or acts of heroism — was having an adverse reaction on the morale of ground troops.

Marshall went on to say in a memo to President Roosevelt; "The fact that ground troops lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance."

As a result of a study conducted in 1947, the policy was implemented to authorize the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star Medal to soldiers who had received the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II. The basis for doing this was that the badges were awarded only to soldiers who had borne the hardships that resulted in Gen. Marshall's support of the Bronze Star Medal. Both badges required a recommendation by the commander and a citation in orders.

On Aug. 24, 1962, President John F. Kennedy amended the Executive Order to expand the authorization for the award to include individuals serving with allies of the United States.

Oregon troops to ensure Iraqi elections go smoothly

Continued from FRONT PAGE

local government is performing well, all of it geared toward maintaining security in our AO."

The Dragon Battalion will remain on station until after the Iraqi elections Jan. 30, and the significance of the elections and all duties assigned to the Third Herd is readily recognized by the soldiers.

"It's my feeling that historically this period of time surrounding the election in Iraq has the significance and potential to affect the entire world," said the 3rd Herd's Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Brooks. "One of our hardest challenges will be to continue with the successes of the 1st of the 4th, but also to make sure every soldier is up to the task and prepared with every asset we can provide them so they can succeed."

Prior to 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 they received indirect fire from mortars, but the attacks were more intended to harass them rather than engage them.

Occasional attacks on the FOB have had no damaging effect. A member of the 3rd Herd's Headquarters and Headquarters Company said insurgents made ineffective attacks on KRAB on Jan. 4.

"We had a couple rockets go over the FOB," said Spec Fred Casner, "and early today an [improvised explosive device] was exploded by the enemy after the last vehicle of a convoy passed it. No one was hurt and no vehicles were damaged."

Despite the attacks, Oregon's citizen-soldiers are prepared for their one year tour in Iraq.

Both G Troop and the 3rd BN, 116th CAV are assigned to the 116th Brigade Combat Team led by Brigadier General Alan Gayhart of the Idaho Army National Guard.

Air Force recognizes spouses, employers with commemorative pins

Story By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample,
USA American Forces Press Service,
Special to the Oregon Sentinel

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 2004 — Air Force leaders unveiled a new pin at the Pentagon today to recognize the contributions of military spouses.

The pins are part of the Air Force's Your Guardian of Freedom program that aims to create awareness and support for the Air Force mission.

Air Force Undersecretary Peter B. Teets said the Air Force Spouse Pin program is designed to honor and recognize spouses of active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve airmen, as well as the spouses of Air Force civilians, "for the sacrifices they are making in supporting the ongoing war on terrorism."

In creating the Spouse Pin, Teets said, officials recognized that "clearly one of the strongest possible support members is the spouse of the airmen."

He noted that when airmen are deployed for several months, "that's the time when that support structure really does kick in, and our spouses play such an important role."

The pins were well received by spouses like Air Force Maj. John Bertha, who now understands clearly how difficult life is for military spouses.

When his wife, Air Force Maj. Valerie Bertha, deployed for three months during Operation Iraq Freedom, he was left to take care of their two girls. With hardly a smile, he described his experience as being "very tough."

"We have a one-and-a-half and three and-a-half year old who are always on the move," he said. "When you are with them, parenting is a full-time job."

Bertha said his situation was only made worse by the fact that he serves full time in the Air Force. He said had it not been for the support he received from Air Force supervisors, family and friends, "I would not have gotten through it."

"The challenge," he said, "was much more than I had anticipated in raising children and trying to maintain the defense of



Graphic courtesy of YGOF.com

New Air Force "Your Guardians of Freedom" program is giving away pins to recognize contributions by Air Force spouses. Employer and parent pins are also available via the same program. Pictured above is the spouse pin.

the nation as an active-duty member."

Sandra Forney, wife of Tech. Sgt. Glenn Forney, also recognizes that being married to a service member is difficult.

However, she supported her husband throughout his 26-year career because "he has an important job."

Her husband is with the D.C. Air National Guard and works as a fuels operations supervisor for the 113th Logistics Readiness Squadron, 113th Wing, at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Forney said his wife supported him during deployments in support of Operation Northern Watch in Turkey and also while he served in the United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Iron Falcon.

Forney also served in Operation Noble Eagle since 2001, supporting his unit's aircraft flying Combat Air Patrol missions over the Washington, D.C., area.

Holding his wife's hand, he said the Spouse Pin program helps give spouses the recognition they need.

"It's been many years where they (spouses) didn't get any," Forney said. "Its good

to see the Department of Defense reaching out to spouses for all that they do."

Sandra said the pin bears special meaning because the Air Force recognizes "all that spouses go through."

The Forneys have been married for 30 years. She said her husband left for boot camp five days after they were married and they spent the first three anniversaries apart. On Nov. 12, the couple will celebrate this anniversary together. "He's taking me away somewhere special," she said.

Sandra, who raised their three children mostly alone, explained that loneliness is the hardest part of the job of being a spouse. "Dealing with everything on your own you never realize how much your spouse does until they are not there to do it," she said.

Meanwhile, Kathleen Westbrook, was so proud to receive today's award that she had tears in her eyes as her husband attached the special pin on her lapel. She said she is happy to be married to a service member and called today's event "a very big honor and a very proud moment."

"I said that I wasn't going to cry," she said.

With her support, Senior Master Sgt. Paul Westbrook, a reservist with the 459th Air Refueling Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, volunteered for duty at Royal Air Force station Mildenhall, United Kingdom. There, he served as a C-141C load master during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Like she has done for the past 11 years, Kathleen said she has no regret being married to the military. She said she stands by her husband and the men and women of the armed forces.

"I'm here to support my husband and the rest of the military that are out there protecting our country," she said.

More than 300,000 Parent Pins and some 55,000 Employer Pins have been handed out thus far, officials said.

If you are interested in receiving a spouse, parent, or employer recognition pin, please visit www.yourguardiansoffreedom.com. If you are a recruiter, or have questions about the program, you may call 703-695-2414.

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. Demain 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 Tarniya. 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 translator, 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.



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



Maj. Arnold Strong, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Officer, takes time to pose with several Iraqi children near the site where the EOD team unearthed and detonated an IED laid by insurgents. An Iraqi mother alerted the troops of the buried "booby trap".

We asked the Emergency Ordnance Demolition team to inspect and were rewarded with a confirmation. The EOD team, with the assistance of Sgt. Preston T. Washington, of the Oregon National Guard, identified the bomb, wired it, then cleared the area of all the children surrounding the area and got us all back. We then detonated the ordnance, clearing the ground so the kids could return to playing soccer.

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.

From Baghdad,

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 for 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 have served in the military, triple the previous figure.
- A \$15,000 bonus for Guard soldiers who will re-enlist for six years, also three times the previous amount.
- A \$10,000 bonus for recruits who have never served in the military, up from \$6,000 and now the largest bonus the Guard has offered such recruits.

"These are big incentives. We're putting our money where our mouth is," Blum said.

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 soldiers. In peacetime, 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 poor 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 of 56,000 by almost 7,000 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 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 Helmly, the Army Reserve's top general, told the press in a recent interview that Army Reserve recruiting was in "precipitous decline." Helmly said that the downturn, if not reversed, could generate discussion of a return to a 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.

According to Connie Collins, at the Portland Air Base's Pass and Registration Office, people who have purchased a new vehicle need to first register it with 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. Those who have not yet taken the course are encouraged to do so. It can be found at: www.safety-serve.com/armg/.

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-MIS-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 for JFHQ 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.

The Governor's web site is located at <http://governor.oregon.gov/>. Look for the link to "Oregon's Most Honorable", or go directly to the page, located at <http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/soldier/ong.shtml>.

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.ngb.army.mil or tracyann.gill@or.ngb.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 make up the pay discrepancy between their civilian jobs and their military salaries. The rest of the money would be used to reward — with tax credits — companies that already provide the difference in salary.

The bill is needed 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.

Educational benefits info for Guard, Reserve on Military.com

Military.com has a link on their website which provides timely information about educational benefits offered to members of the National Guard and Reserve. You can request information packets about scholarships, find accredited schools approved for the GI Bill, or earn an online degree.

For more information, or to receive your 2005 Guide to Educational Benefits, please visit www.military.com/Education/Lead1?ESRC=guide022304_edu8.se.

Act covers bonuses, increased benefits for military

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5, 2004 — Increased education benefits and more flexibility in awarding bonuses are among the quality-of-life improvements targeting National Guard and Reserve service members in the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

The act, signed by President Bush Oct. 28, also provides for changes in how guardsmen and reservists are mobilized and deployed.

"I am encouraged that the (Defense) Department, working with Congress, has enacted a number of provisions that will fundamentally change the nature of Guard and Reserve service," said Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall Nov. 3.

During an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service, Hall explained many changes contained in the authorization act were vital to bring reserve component benefits more in line with active duty benefits, particularly since troops from both components are generally serving side by side in combat zones.

"We had a much different benefit structure for the Guard and Reserve and active duty, which was all right when you're not mobilized and when you're in a drilling status," Hall said. "But when you are mobilized and you're serving ... in the foxhole alongside your active duty brethren, we have to ask, 'Are the benefits the very same?' And they haven't been."

One significant change concerns various types of bonuses and proficiency pay. The act generally doubles or triples reserve component bonuses, bringing them closer to active duty amounts. It allows re-enlistment bonuses to be paid more than once and to be paid in a lump sum.

The act also covers an accession/affiliation bonus of up to \$6,000 for reserve officers, changes rules concerning foreign-language proficiency pay, and adds a \$2,000 bonus for reserve component members who convert to a critical skill.

In the past, education benefits for reserve component troops were considerably below those for active duty troops, even when RC service members were activated for extended periods. That is now changed, based on how long a reserve member is activated, Hall explained.

Members who have been activated more than 90 consecutive days will now receive 40-percent of the active duty monthly rate under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, or \$401 a month for those attending school full time.

The rate goes up to \$602, which is 60-percent of the active duty rate, for those activated more than one year. For those reserve component members activated at least two years, the rate jumps to 80 percent of the active duty rate, or \$803 per month. Active duty service members must generally serve at least a four-year enlistment to earn full benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

Hall mentioned that he hopes to see education benefits increase also for those drilling reservists who aren't activated.

Other significant changes contained in this year's authorization act concern how reserve component troops are mobilized and how they're managed while they are mobilized.

The act now allows the military services to mobilize their RC members for training. In the past, a common scenario was to activate guardsmen or reservists, send them away from home for training and then

deploy them to an operational mission.

"Well, in many cases what that involves is that the mobilization process is not necessarily just 12 months boots on the ground," Hall explained. "It might extend up to 18 months. And, of course, that's time in which guardsmen and reservists are away from their families and employers."

New rules contained in the authorization act allow RC members to be activated just for training, then demobilized until they're needed for operational missions.

"What we hope to do is cut down the total amount of mobilization because we can do training when it's available, when the guardsman wants it and when their employer wants it," Hall said. "That is a huge change that I think will help the mobilization process. I think it's welcomed by our components, and it's welcomed by the individual guardsmen and reservists."

This authorization act also eliminates the so-called "180-day rule." Under previous accounting guidelines, reserve component service members who were mobilized for more than 179 days had to be counted against active duty statistics, Hall explained. This particularly caused problems in terms of end-strength goals and ceilings on specific pay grades.

Hall said the new rules better satisfy the needs of the reserve component and the active duty services. "The rules we had were good for another time and another place," he said. "But this is transformational; it's more integration and a great step forward."

Guard members encouraged to keep employers informed

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan, Dec. 3, 2004 — Behind nearly every deployed National Guardsman or Reservist, 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 better the relationship these deployed citizen-soldiers maintain with their employer, the better their reintegration is likely to be upon redeployment.

"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 ensuring they know the initial time frame for a deployment, when the deployment is expected to start and approximately how long it will last.

All National Guardsmen and Reservists fall under the guidelines of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. This act provides strict guidance for both service members and employers. Some employers choose to go above and beyond what USERRA requires.

"There have been some employers who have continued health insurance during deployments, or at least until the service members are able to pick up their TRICARE benefits," said Master Sgt. Gregory Jacobs, Army Reserve Affairs retention noncommissioned officer for Afghanistan. These benefits help the families who are left behind, and they help the soldiers by easing the stress a deployment can induce.

To recognize those employers who go out of their way to support armed forces personnel, there are various awards at both the state and federal level.

"In the civilian world there really are no awards," said Lt. Col. Charles Kirchen, Army Reserve Affairs officer in charge for Afghanistan. "To many employers, it is a big deal to get these awards."

It's up to the individual service members to recommend their employers for awards. This can be done through the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Web site. But there are other ways to show appreciation as well.

"Soldiers can show their appreciation very easily," said Capt. James Carmichael, 221st Ordnance Company commander, an Army Reserve officer based out of Fort Wayne, Ind. "Something as simple as having

a flag flown in their honor and presenting it with a certificate can mean a lot to an employer."

In addition to small tokens of appreciation, service members should continue to communicate with their employers throughout their deployment.

"Stay in touch with them, let them know you're all right," advised Sgt. Maj. Scott White, Reserve Affairs senior enlisted adviser for Afghanistan. "Employers are just as concerned about the well-being of their soldiers as anyone else -- they want to know you're being taken care of."

In the end, it all goes back to communication, said White. "If you're up front and honest with your employer," he said, "they will be able to support you better."

For more information please visit www.esgr.org.

Army Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl is assigned to the 17th Public Affairs Detachment.

Soldiers, airmen must keep units updated on status changes

The National Guard Joint Force Headquarters is asking all National Guard families to make sure their personal records are updated.

Any changes in familial status (marriage, divorce or separation, and births or deaths), or changes in address and phone numbers should be given to the guard member's respective units so that contact information at the headquarters is updated accordingly.

These changes are important so that military records can be kept updated, and interested parties don't have to go knocking on four different doors to find someone, according to Kay F. Fristad, Public Affairs spokesperson.

Families are encouraged to contact their unit clerks to update any changes in their records.

VA distributes new ID cards to combat identity theft

The Department of Veterans Affairs has designed a new identity card for veterans to safeguard confidential information. The card, known as the Veterans Identification Card (VIC), will have the veterans' photos on the front and identify them as enrollees in the VA's health care system. The card includes the words "service connected" under the photo, if the veteran has a service-connected disability. Veterans can request the new card at their local medical center. The processing will take five to seven days once eligibility is verified. The veterans' existing card remains valid until the new card is received.

Oregon Guard needs runners for marathon

The Oregon National guard is looking for marathon runners to compete at the National Guard Marathon Championships in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 1, 2005.

Historically, Oregon has been one of the best teams in the nation. The individual overall marathon champion has come from Oregon six out of the last seven years. In the last five years Oregon has placed first as a team twice and second as a team three times. Oregon has had a runner on the All-Guard team every year for the last twenty years.

The top runners at the National Guard Marathon Championships will go on to represent the National Guard on the "All-Guard" team. This team competes at events all over the country. The All-Guard team is funded as an extension of Recruiting and Retention with their primary goal to gain enlistments into the National Guard.

To make the team you must have completed a full marathon within the last 18 months. The team will be selected based off of the fastest verified times.

For those of you out there that would like to support the team without running a step, we are in great need of new uniforms. If you would like to sponsor our team please contact Sgt. 1st Class Vandervlugt at 541-390-3157 or via e-mail at timothy.vandervlugt@or.ngb.army.mil

Oregon National Guard Assoc announces scholarships

The Oregon National Guard Association will be presenting three \$1,000 scholarships at its annual conference on April 30, 2005 which is slated to be held in Portland, Ore.

Scholarships for the 2005-2006 school year will be awarded for demonstrated qualities of leadership, civic action and academic achievement.

The application deadline is February 28, 2005. Unfortunately all 2004 scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive 2005-2006 awards. Scholarship applications are available online at www.mil.state.or.us/ornga/HTML/Scholarship/, or by calling the ORNGA office at 503-584-3030.

TAG's Select Honor Guard is looking for new members

The Adjutant General's Select Honor Guard (SHG) is currently accepting applications to join their elite team. This group is made up of soldiers & airmen from the Oregon National Guard who participate in local community service events and conduct military funeral honors for the state of Oregon, as directed by the State Command Sergeant Major.

Members have an opportunity to train with the 3rd Infantry Division in Virginia, also known as "The Old Guard". They will also visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Members earn retirement points and are paid for monthly training, including specialized training for performing military funeral honors.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 1800-2000 at the Oregon Military Department. For more information, or to obtain an application, please contact: SFC Rick Moore at 503-584-3591 or MSG William Boyd at 503-584-3746 (ARNG), or Senior Master Sgt. Scott O'Neal (ANG) at 503-335-4181.

VA Reps help with employment assistance for returning vets

Local veterans' employment representatives from the Oregon Employment Department, are assisting veterans returning from overseas deployment in the Middle East who are seeking employment.

Specialists can help veterans looking for work in virtually any field. The Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program also has representatives who can assist disabled veterans find work.

One field in need of skilled workers is Oregon's construction industry. Jim Booker, State Veterans' Programs Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Employment said there are many companies interested primarily in returning Oregon National Guard members because of their training in construction, and the real-world skills honed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"These companies are coming to us saying, 'We want veterans.'" Booker said.

Workers who have served in the military are particularly valuable to employers because they are more mature, disciplined, and will see a job through to completion, according to Booker.

"They are looking for people interested in a career in construction as opposed to a short-term job," Booker continued.

Booker encourages interested individuals to contact their local Veterans Employment Representative at any of the numbers listed below. For the cities not listed, you can contact Jim Booker at 503-947-1845.

Salem: Kevin Crapser, 503-378-4846.

Medford: Kempton Pollock, 541-776-6060, Ext. 273.

Eugene: Rob Bassett, 541-686-7684.

Albany: Paul Porter, 541-967-2171, Ext. 240.

Grants Pass: Russ McBride, 541-474-3161, Ext. 238.

Bend: Dick Gorby, 541-388-6079, Ext. 240.

Roseburg: Tom Rapant, 541-440-3344.

Oregon Sentinel

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Pilot CW4 Tinselt and Crew Chief SGT Robert Armstrong, of the 1042 Medical Company (Air Ambulance), training with Austrian Flight Instructor WO Wolfgang Leeb in the Austrian Alps. A Greenwood
See related story on Page 4.

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 separate 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
- Multivitamins (Centrum, One-A-Day)
- Brown t-shirts
- Black socks

RECREATION

- DVD movies and music CDs

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)
- Stationery and envelopes
- Postcards and writing pads
- Pens and pencils
- Cigarettes (Marlboro, Camel)
- Chewing tobacco (Skool, Copenhagen)
- School supplies for Iraqi children

Below is a list of contacts which items can be mailed to. These designated POC's are instructed to distribute items among the troops, or follow distribution instructions given to them by the person sending the package.

Items can be sent to the following addresses:

Afghanistan:

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

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba:

- JTF GTMO
- 1186 MP Company
- APO AE 09360
- Attn: Capt. Trent Klug

Iraq:

- L-Co., 151 Aviation
- Camp Anaconda (LSA)
- Balad, Iraq
- APO AE 09391
- Attn: CWO Doug Walker

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

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

- A Company/3-116 CAV
- 116 BCT FWD
- APO AE 09368
- Attn: Capt. Dominic Kotz

- B-Company/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 unbuttered, 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 addressee 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 package items, you may visit www.anysoldier.com.

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

(503) 584-3804
1-800-452-7500, ext. 3804

E-mail:
RSO@or.ngb.army.mil

US Mail:
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Salem, OR 97309

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