Oregon Sentinel

**Vol. 3 ... Issue No. 4**

**June/July 2005**

Oregon Air Guard hit hard by BRAC recommendations

Hundreds turn out in downtown Portland for town hall meeting supporting the ORANG

Story by Capt. Michael Braibish, Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

**PORTLAND, Ore.** — State officials delivered testimony to the President’s Base Realignment and Closure Commission in Portland June 17, in an effort to influence decisions being made on the BRAC recommendations from the Department of Defense.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith, and Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley all opposed the DoD BRAC recommendation, citing concerns over homeland security, the impact on the economy and employment, and the actual projected savings cited in the BRAC recommendation.

In his testimony, Kulongoski said the combined capabilities of the 142nd FW and the 939th ARW are critical to security in the region.

“Stripping the Pacific Northwest of this vital defense capability will leave Oregon and the rest of the Pacific Northwest dangerously vulnerable to air-based threats,” Kulongoski told the commission. “We simply won’t have the tools we need...”

See Base realignment PAGE 12

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**It’s good to be home!**

1186 MP Co. arrives home after one year deployment in GTMO

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Shuman, of Mt. Angel, Ore., fields questions by a throng of reporters at Portland International Airport, April 29. Shuman was the unit’s acting First Sergeant while deployed to GTMO.

Far Right: Sgt. Leofuldo Tablanza holds his son Nathaniel, 9 mos., during the unit’s homecoming ceremony April 29. Sgt. Tablanza was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a year, but was able to come home on leave for Nathaniel’s birth in September, 2004. See full story on PAGE 13.


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Angels living among us

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock, a 24 year old Cavalry Scout with the Oregon Army National Guard was awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Forest Grove Armory after receiving his Purple Heart, while Wilhelmine “Willie” Aufmkolk (r.) looks on. Photo by Rhetta Braddock.

Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock (l.) speaks to the gathering at the Forest Grove Armory after receiving his Purple Heart during a ceremony at the Forest Grove Armory after receiving his Purple Heart, while Wilhelmine “Willie” Aufmkolk (r.) looks on. Photo by Rhetta Braddock.

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**In This Issue...**

Don’t look down!

ORANG hosts America Youth Day at PANG

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Sixteenth Military Ball deemed a huge success

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WWII pilots reunite one last time

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OR Guard finds benefits in Recruit Sustainment

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Ode to Mother Earth

Students at Shaver Elementary learn the merits of recycling and stewardship of the environment during Earth Day festivities held at the North Portland school April 22. See story on PAGE 11.

OR Guard running team takes top honors

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Plus...

News briefs, pg. 14 - 15 ... and a whole lot more!
Letters From The Front

Soldiers from 3-116 BCT inducted into NCO Corps while deployed in Iraq

Photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 116th BCT

— Medics from the stress of the combat zone, helps to build the edge for deployed soldiers.

While deployed in Iraq, Soldiers from 3-116 BCT always being prepared for the unexpected, soldiers and the mission that must be accomplished.

"This is our fourth tournament," said Staff Sgt. Creswell, a TF 3-116 Armor maintenance sergeant, who organized the Memorial Weekend football tournament. "We discovered it at the gym." Members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team’s Task Force 3-116 Armor maintenance football team warm up before going to practice. Creswell’s team defeated the "Charlie Med" Team 11-4. Nevertheless, the game was a close one and both teams were encouraged to keep improving.

"It is a privilege to be entrusted with a mission that is central to the mission of the Army," said Col. Laurence Plumb, TF 3-116 Armor surgeon, over saw the Iraqi Army CLS training. Plumb coordinated with the 145th Support Battalion and the TF 3-116 Armor maintenance team to ensure the training was conducted properly.

"I think this raises morale in a huge way," said Staff Sgt. Creswell. "It gives us something to look forward to." Both teams encouraged anyone interested in getting involved of forming a team to go to the gym and sign up. "They’re trying to get a league together match-ups. "We’ve taken second place twice," said Staff Sgt. Creswell. The "Charlie Med" Team has been together for several months, other teams are just getting started.

"We’ve only been together for about a week," said Sgt. Ryan Creswell, a TF 3-116 Armor maintenance sergeant, who organized the Memorial Weekend football tournament. "We discovered it at the gym." The training of soldiers to be combat life savers is nothing out of the ordinary for a U.S. Army medics. However, the mission of training Iraqi Army soldiers to be combat life savers is a little different. U.S. Army medics must be able to train, maintain, run and execute combat life savers. The brief planning phase for the training program began around March 6. Kreider developed the training schedule that encompassed the U.S. Army combat life saver curriculum, but was tailored to the Iraqi Army.

"Due to numerous predicted complications such as, scheduling conflicts between TF 3-116’s, training the TF 3-116’s maintenance teams, students who vary in education level and the obvious language barrier, we’ve been working on this since February," said Staff Sgt. Creswell.

"We’ve got gals that play on our team and we try to let everyone play," he said. The Oregon Sentinel is a monthly publication distributed free to members of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of 20 U.S.C. 503. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309. (503) 584-3917. The views and opinions expressed in its contents are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army and Air Force. The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon National Guard and to other interested people at their request. Circulation: 12,550. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically via the Internet at http://www.oregon.mil/OMDA/GAPR/publications.html.

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Letters From The Front

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Photo courtesy of 3rd Battalion, 116th BCT

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Command Message

Throughout our nation’s history, the Nation’s Guard has served and continue to serve in activation cycles in support of national defense. The Spanish American War, Mexican Border Campaign, WWI, WWII, the Korean War and now in Iraq and Afghanistan. At some point in time, these conflicts will end.

Two units, one Army and one Air have ongoing National Guard missions in the 102nd Civil Support Team and the 142nd Fighter Wing. These units conduct daily real-time missions that protect nearly the entire state of Oregon but are also integrated into national homeland defense operations. Currently, the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC) is reviewing the Department of Defense’s recommendations, and the Oregon National Guard will send its recommendations to Congress, and ultimately to the President later this summer. One of their proposals is to eliminate the 142nd Fighter Wing and reduce the number of F-15’s from 15 to a detachment of two.

On June 17, Senators Ron Wyden and Greg Smith, Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley, Governor Ted Kulongoski, Col. Brad Applegate, Wing Commander for the 142nd Fighter Wing and I, testified before the BRAC committee in Portland, asking for the committee’s support in not deactivating the 142nd FW. The reasons not to dismantle the unit are many — first and foremost the protection of the Pacific Northwest from potential airborne threats. The units support our long-standing and historical mission of the National Guard; protection of our homeland. The National Guard has a very long and proud history of service to our country and nation. I would like to thank the members of the 142nd Fighter Wing and the 102nd Civil Support Team for their work done on a daily basis, and for how they represent the Oregon National Guard.

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

The view from over here

As we move through what may be an historic era for the Oregon National Guard, we here in JFHQ Public Affairs thought it was worth mentioning that the Oregon Sentinel has made it through a few important milestones of its own.

The National Guard Bureau recently bestowed several awards on the Oregon Sentinel in a national competition between all National Guard publications. Several staff members of the Oregon Sentinel were awarded with “significant contributor” awards and the Oregon Sentinel won a second place award for “graphic design in a military publication” for 2003. Considering the number of publications generated by individual National Guard units throughout the country, this is quite a significant achievement for our organization.

You may have noticed a few minor changes to the overall look and feel of the Oregon Sentinel in the past few issues. We have instituted an index “In This Issue” on the front page, which helps readers locate stories pertinent to their particular interests. Another change is an expanded coverage of feature stories and news briefs — content you won’t want to miss. This newsletter is, after all, your paper, and we take your ideas very seriously.

A new automated feature is being offered on the online PDF version of the Oregon Sentinel. If you click on a web address in the text of the PDF document, your browser will automatically open with that web site. Similarly, if you click on someone’s e-mail address, your e-mail editor should open automatically with the address already in the “To” block.

Finally, the Oregon Sentinel is celebrating its second anniversary. A lot has happened since the redesign of the Oregon National Guard’s official newsletter, which many of you work so hard to produce.

Command Sergeant Major Thomas R. Moe, State Command Sergeant Major

The job of the Non-Commissioned Officer is to train soldiers and enforce standards. To do that, NCOs must be proficient in many tasks, sometimes tasks that are not written in doctrine, or ones that no one thought were important to train for, or were too hard to learn.

I asked a couple of Non-Commissioned Officers who returned from overseas deployments to write down some of the important things they learned during their duty in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Jacques, also of the 2162 IN BN, was wounded in action by a roadside bomb, and was returned stateside. Both NCOs compiled a list of observations about what it takes to accomplish the mission and bring their soldiers home.

After patrolling in Iraq, there are basic points we have learned through our experiences. If followed they will enhance your survival rate. We utilized these basic principles on every mission we performed.

1. Air assaults to motorized operations to find, close with, and kill the enemy.
2. All soldiers need to be Combat Life Saver Certified.
3. Tough realistic rehearsals, updated material to current enemy Tactics Techniques and Procedures (TTP’s) and MEDITAC.
4. Use your eight Troop Leading Procedures.
5. Protect the Five Points of Attention.
6. Ensure all soldiers are proficient on M2, 50 cal, M240B, M249, M14, M9, M230, M3950 and have a working knowledge of Soviet Block weapons.
7. Know the locals, their language and customs.
8. Enforce individual soldier discipline and responsibility.
9. Things will get chaotic from time to time — Be Flexible.
10. Know the locals, their language and customs.

What Jacolla and Jacques are saying boils down to one statement. Discipline, flexibility and the basic tasks of ‘move, shoot and communicate’ are the foundations of your Soldiers’ success.

From the editor

Readers,

This will be the final column I write as the editor of The Oregon Sentinel, the newspaper that Tech Sgt. Nick Choy and I created three years ago to better inform you of the incredible work being accomplished every day by the soldiers, airmen, veterans and civilians of the Oregon National Guard. By the time this issue arrives, I will have left the active force and returned to the private sector.

The Oregon National Guard has again suffered loss in the combat deaths of both Sgt. John Ogburn III and Staff Sgt. Kevin Davis. These brave cavalrymen served as part of the 3rd Cavalry Unit 116th cavalry in Northern Iraq. Their service is an example of the Oregon National Guard’s commitment to the cause of freedom and our dedication to a Free Iraq.

Since our last issue, we have seen the return of the 118th Medical Police Company from the rigors of the “D” Block at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We have witnessed the presentation of the Purple Heart to Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Braddock. We have also seen the potential impact on the Guard in the recent recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) report. The full story regarding this potential threat to our organization appears as one of the cover stories in this issue. I encourage you to register your opinions with your civic leaders and political representatives during the public feedback period.

Finally, we dedicated the Global War on Terror Memorial in Heritage Park on the one-year anniversary of Oregon’s most significant single-day combat loss since World War II. On June 4, 2004, Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. Justin Eyerly and Spec. Justin Linden died in action.

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Volunteers!

Maj. Arnold V. Strong, Editor-in-Chief, Oregon Sentinel
ORANG hosts annual America Youth Day at Portland Air Base

Despite inclement weather, hundreds of Oregonians, Washingtonians turn out for the event

Story Prepared by
Air Scoop Staff

Photos by Senior Airmen
Trish Lewis,
142nd Multimedia

Under cloudy skies, excited children shouted as they ran across the flight line during the 142nd Fighter Wing’s 16th annual Young American Day held on June 11.

Several organizations from across the Portland area gathered to view military and civilian planes, police vehicles, and to meet military and law enforcement personnel. The Portland Police Canine Unit put on a demonstration showing how their police dog sniffs out drugs hidden in suitcases.

Also on hand were personnel from the Portland Air Base’s Fire Department, with fire trucks and a miniature mock up of a house where children were able to work their way through the structure much like firefighters do when rescuing people in a burning house.

But the highlight of the day was the takeoffs and landings of the Fighter Wing’s F-15 Eagles. As the jets made their way down the taxiway and readied for takeoff, the children and their parents pressed against the ‘red rope’ at the edge of the flight line to watch.

Senior Master Sgt. Vern Loftis, air operations superintendent for the 142nd Operations Group, coordinated aircraft moving around the flight line.

“When we began (Young American Day), we started out with two airplanes and 100 scouts,” Loftis said. “Now we have approximately 30 exhibits, including 12 planes, and we expect between 3,000 and 4,000 people to attend.”

Of the several groups in attendance that day were the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Housing Authority of Portland, local 4-H clubs, the Portland Police Athletic League as well as baseball teams, home-schooled children and other children’s organizations.

Young America Day is an open house at the Portland Air Base designed especially for area youth groups to visit and learn more about Oregon’s Air National Guard. Every year, local police and fire units join personnel from the 142nd Fighter Wing, giving kids a chance to visit and learn from a full spectrum of men and women who have chosen careers in uniformed public service.

PANG firefighters get new home

PORTLAND, Ore. — With the smell of fresh paint and new furniture, the Portland Air National Guard’s Fire Department sparkles in its youth.

“This station is going to be much more functional for the department than the old one,” said Tsgt. Paul Looney, assistant fire chief with the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department. “We have better readiness and mission capabilities with this modern facility and we are excited to put this place to use.”

The 142nd CES’s newly-built fire station opened in early June, 2005. One of the few buildings at PANG that is earthquake-resistant, the new facility includes a range of amenities to make the firefighters feel right at home. They include a spacious kitchen with three refrigerators for each of the three shifts, eight private bedrooms, spacious offices, a nonporous decontamination room, and state-of-the-art fire engine exhaust removal systems.

The 142nd FW did not have to fund its construction, even though the fire station is an Air National Guard facility. When the 939th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) brought in the KC-135 mission, regulations required they have more hangar space to accommodate their larger planes, bumping out the old fire station. As result of this expansion, the 939th ARW built a new facility to satisfy the 142 FW’s critical fire fighting mission.

“The process to create this station has been long, but well worth it. Everyone in our department is just itching to move in,” said Looney.

The Fire Department has one full-time fire chief, Senior Master Sgt. Allen Roush, 19 full-time state employees, and 27 military members in the department, including two female firefighters. Their mission affects civil aviation — the PANG fire department supports mishaps on the civilian airstrip and nearby civilian roads.

The station has the standard fireman’s pole. Used mainly in emergency situations, it also provides an endless source of recreation.

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

Stories must be submitted in Microsoft Word files, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPEG files, and must have an accompanying caption (also in MS Word) explaining what is happening in the picture, as well as the rank, full name, and unit of the personnel depicted. Submissions for Letters to the Editor and Letters From The Front are preferred.

Share your pictures and stories with the Oregon Sentinel!
Staff Sgt. Kevin W. Davis, 41, of Lebanon, Ore., was killed in a vehicle accident in Kirkuk, where he succumbed to cardiac arrest.

Ogburn, a 36-year member of the Oregon National Guard, was from Oregon, Ore. He was in the gunner’s turret of a Humvee when the vehicle suddenly swerved off its path. Ogburn sustained fatal injuries when the vehicle flipped onto its roof.

Kevin W. Davis

About 1,000 people attended Davis’ memorial service, held at the First Assembly of God church in Lebanon. Outside in the parking lot, Davis’ dark green Chevrolet Suburban was decorated with ribbons and signs which read, “Daddy We Love U!”, and “We Miss U.”

Governor Ted Kulongoski told Davis’ family that “it was a day of broken hearts.” But, he added, “I want to tell you that Kevin Davis is an American hero whose spirit is as near to you today as the day he last held you in his arms.”

Staff Sgt. John Ogburn III, who was attached to the Oregon National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry (Armor), was killed in a vehicle accident.

Family and acquaintances described Davis as a dedicated family man who served his community and his country with devotion. A reserve police officer with the Lebanon Police Department, Davis tried to improve the lives of troubled children. According to Lebanon Police Chief Mike Healey, Davis had plans of becoming a full-time police officer when he returned from Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Jesse Scharder, Davis’ roommate in Iraq, said Davis touched everyone he came in contact with, including the Iraqi children he befriended.

“He was an example of what a noncommissioned officer should be,” Scharder said. “His nature was to take care of people. After we returned from a mission he always had something for us to eat.”

In Iraq, Davis was helping to build a school. Every photo he e-mailed home from Iraq, said Healey, showed “Kevin bringing smiles to the children in Iraq.”

Davis’ step-daughter, Laurynn, 11, told the gathering that when she first met Davis, “it was love at first sight.”

“When my mom married him, I was one of the happiest people I could ever be,” she said. “Every night he would sing to me, ‘You are my Sunshine,’ and I would fall asleep.”

Standing next to her mother, Robbin Ann Davis of Lebanon. The Davises have two other children, Andrew, 13, and Makena, 4.

At the graveside service held shortly after the church ceremony, Governor Kulongoski presented the Oregon state flag to Robbin Ann, and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, presented her with the American flag.

John B. Ogburn III

A memorial service for Ogburn was held at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Ore., on June 3. The governors of both Oregon and Idaho, as well as the two states’ adjutant generals were in attendance, along with about 800 people.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Governor of Oregon, said Ogburn never took the easy way out.

“It’s hard to imagine how the people of one state and the governor of a state could possibly ask more from a citizen,” Kulongoski said during the gathering, as Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of Idaho, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General of Oregon, and Maj. Gen. Larry LaFrenz, Adjutant General of the state of Idaho, and other dignitaries listened.

Ogburn was one of about 20 Snake River prison staff members deployed to the middle east, according to Amber Campbell, spokesperson for the prison.

Ogburn’s body was flown back to the Northwest the week before, according to Rev. Ralph Lawrence, a Methodist minister.

Staff Sgt. John B. Ogburn on patrol in Iraq.

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

Two Oregon National Guard soldiers die in separate incidents in Iraq

**Golfing For The Guard raises over $15K for Global War on Terror Memorial**

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

The first annual “Golfing for the Guard” tournament was held at the Tuukola Golf Course in Woodburn, Ore., on May 27 to raise funds for the Global War on Terror Memorial.

The event raised $15,500 for the memorial for Oregonians who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001. The memorial will be located in Heritage Park, adjacent to the Joint Forces Headquarters building in Salem, Ore.

TCPA Commander Craig Thompson and Suzanne Glenn of KXL Radio, along with several corporate sponsors, and volunteers from KXL and the Oregon National Guard helped out on the course and at the clubhouse.

Representative Jeff Kropf conducted a live radio broadcast from the clubhouse throughout the tournament.

Thirty-one teams made up of local businesses, citizens, veterans and guardmen enjoyed a day of golfing under picture-perfect skies.

“Right now Colonel, we need you to focus on the mission,” his team captain told him. “I always wanted to tell a Colonel what to do, this is great,” he said.

With the wide range of golfing techniques employed by the teams and varied skill level of the players, many “Kodak Moments” were documented during the tournament.

Corporate sponsors included A Cut Above Exteriors, The Oregon Golf Association, Columbia Helicopters, and MGM in a Forest which offered a brand new Chevrolet Malibu to anyone who could sink a hole-in-one at the 17th hole, but no one was able to do it. Portland Spirit, another sponsor, gave away 35 Willamette dinner cruises.

A charity auction was held, luncheon and an auction followed the tournament. Proceeds from the auction also went to the Global War on Terror memorial fund.

Family and friends gathered at Heritage Park in Salem, Ore., on June 4 for the dedication of the Global War on Terror Memorial.

Located adjacent to the Joint Forces Headquarters building on Airport Road, the park is dedicated to the sacrifice and memory of all those who have served in Oregon’s military. The GWOT memorial is dedicated to those Oregonians who lost their lives in support of the Global War on Terror, since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Families of the deceased soldiers were presented with the book “A Father’s Grief” published by Heartworks, a quilt from the Mid Valley Quilt of Salem, Ore., a charcoal drawing of their loved one created by artist Vicki Paulson, a plaque with an etching of the proposed rendition of the memorial marker, and a special plaque presented by the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

An artist’s rendition of the memorial was available for viewing with an anticipated unveiling date of Fall, 2005.

Memorial dedicated at Heritage Park in Salem

**State Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe (left foreground) and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard (right foreground), salute as the dedication order is read for the Fallen Heroes Memorial, June 4.**

**Story by Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office**

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Corporate sponsors included A Cut Above Exteriors, The Oregon Golf Association, Columbia Helicopters, and MGM in a Forest which offered a brand new Chevrolet Malibu to anyone who could sink a hole-in-one at the 17th hole, but no one was able to do it. Portland Spirit, another sponsor, gave away 35 Willamette dinner cruises.

A charity auction was held, luncheon and an auction followed the tournament. Proceeds from the auction also went to the Global War on Terror memorial fund.

Sovereign Construction of Portland, Ore., was the highest bidder during the auction.

See related story on this page.
Aircrafts of various sizes and colors are moved to and fro. Miles of audio cable is strung. Volunteers set up large tables while others coordinate decorations and table centerpieces. In just a few short hours, the Evergreen Aviation Museum was transformed into a swanky ballroom full of Oregon National Guard personnel dressed in their mess dress finest, dancing the night away under the wings of famed aviator and industrial magnate Howard Hughes’ “Spruce Goose” — the largest wooden airplane in the world.

“The military aircraft tie into the ball rather nicely.”
—— Capt. Bryan Libel

On Saturday, April 30, the Oregon National Guard held the 16th Annual Military Ball at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore. More than 700 attendees and guests enjoyed a night of dancing and socializing under the wings of some of the most famous airplanes in the world, including Hughes’ mammoth winged creation. And if Howard Hughes were still alive today, what would he say about all this?

“He would have had a fabulous time at the ball,” said Lynda Wiegam, special events coordinator for Evergreen Aviation Museum. “With all the airplanes at the museum, and all the beautiful women in attendance at the event, he would have definitely enjoyed himself.”

This year’s theme, “Let’s Have a Ball,” featured the painting “La Danse au Moulin-Rouge” (The Dance at Moulin-Rouge), by famous 19th century French painter, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. The work was prominently displayed on ball posters, wine labels, and invitations, and dictated the ball’s decorations, which featured a top-hat and black-tie design.

“This year’s theme was very well-organized.”
—— Tracy Ann Gill

According to Gill, each year has gotten better due to attendees feedback and comments. For example, last year, many guests complained about unusually long lines at the buffet tables. Another concern was conflict in traffic flow and congestion caused by the layout of the dance floor. This year, these and several other issues were remedied by additional beverage tables — each having three serving stations — and overall improvements in the ball’s layout to ease the lines. As the chairperson of the ball planning committee, Gill oversees an undertaking that is all about making the ball better due to attendees feedback and comments. For example, last year, many guests complained about unusually long lines at the buffet tables. Another concern was conflict in traffic flow and congestion caused by the layout of the dance floor. This year, these and several other issues were remedied by additional beverage tables — each having three serving stations — and overall improvements in the ball’s layout to ease the lines.

One piece of jewelry Dial is known for is the Eligible of Freedom bracelet, also known as the “Soldier’s Bracelet.” Typically purchased by family members, the bracelet includes a name tag for the wearer and serves as a reminder to those who see it (and wear it) of the sacrifices made by Oregon’s Soldiers and Airmen.

“Heidi and I had a great time with the others who went on the wine tour,” he said. “I really enjoyed the social aspect of the packages to offer.”

Libel also enjoyed the combination of the hotel room as part of the package.

“I liked the idea of not having to drive to and from the Military Ball,” he said. “And we didn’t have to worry about looking for a hotel room.”

Tickets for the event went on sale for $30 per piece in early March, and sold out by April 18. Only 700 tickets are made available because of space limitations in the museum, making it the most attended state military ball in the country.

Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Oregon National Guard’s Fallen Heroes Memorial and the Oregon National Guard’s Emer- gency Relief Fund. Other funds raisers such as the silent auction, raised money for the National Guard Association. Proceeds from the wine sales also went to the Emergency Relief Fund.

Other donations included seven “lagniappe” quilts created by the Mid-Willamette Valley Quilt Guild, and one piece of jewelry Dial is known for is the Eligible of Freedom bracelet, also known as the “Soldier’s Bracelet.” Typically purchased by family members, the bracelet includes a name tag for the wearer and serves as a reminder to those who see it (and wear it) of the sacrifices made by Oregon’s Soldiers and Airmen.

“It serves as an ice-breaker when they’re out in public.”
—— Dial said.

According to event organizers, the ball has come a long way from being held on the drill floor of the Salem Armory. Not too long ago, the event was held at the Embassy Suites near the Washington Square Mall, and though it was a good venue, it lacked the space for more attendees, and the panache of a styled formal occasion.

“It’s an event where people want to go to.”
—— Tracy Ann Gill

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One of the many highlights of this year’s ball was the JFHQ JAG Office’s booth, which was decorated with blue and white marine theme. Attendees were able to purchase tickets for the Marine Ball, which was held at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore., on May 5.

According to Gill, the Marine Ball is one of the most popular events of the year, and it’s a way for Gen. George Patton to have a great venue, said Gill. “It was our biggest contribution aside from being on the committee.” This year was the first year that the Oregon Army Guard has come out to help us with the setup.

There are changes on the horizon for future Oregon military balls. One big change will be an increase in ticket prices to help offset rising costs and an expanded food menu. Another big change is a plan to appoint a successor to Gill, who has chaired the planning committee for over five years. “I am proud to help make the annual ball a memorable event,” Gill said. “Without the help of all the volunteers, the rest of the committee, and the donors, this function would not be possible.”

Another idea which has been tossed around is moving the location of the military ball to a hotel or even the new Salem Convention Center.

Rasmussen disagreed. “I think we have a great venue,” he said. “We would lose a lot by hosting the ball in a hotel room.”

If you are interested in helping to plan next year’s Military Ball, please contact Tracy Ann Gill at 503-584-3991, or via e-mail at Tracy.Gill@org.army.mil.

The planning committee is looking for feedback from the recent event. Please send your comments to Tracy Ann Gill at the e-mail address listed above. She will also be sending out a e-mail to military members to solicit comments and feedback in the near future.
Drinking and driving: Deadly combination, lifelong regret of many for all over a few drinks

According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) website, of the 512 traffic fatalities in Oregon in 2003, there were 207 alcohol-related deaths on the state’s highways — an increase of 15 percent over 2002’s total. Aside from the obvious human toll, the cost to Oregon taxpayers is staggering, according to MADD. Each alcohol-related death in Oregon costs the taxpayer $3.6 million per death. They’d gotten a late start and stopped for snacks for the road. “The fact that I’d gotten a few drinks before being sent out on a mission that night was higher. We were normally below 10,000 feet. I remember much after the crash.”

I met Tom* in a most unusual way. I was a corrections officer, and he was an inmate. I was fairly new — three there less than a year. Tom had already served 15 years and had 30 more to go. He could possibly be out in another 10 years. The police were there questioning me and my father about us,” he said. “I don’t remember much about anything that happened.”

For more information on future meetings, or to join the P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots’ Association, call Staryl Austin at 503-363-2508, or visit their website at: www.p47pilots.com.

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A white bus approaches an ominous brick building where several senior NCOs are waiting. The occupants of the bus can see the large “brown hats” as they approach. The bus slowly eases to a stop. One of the NCOs enters the bus and advises the nervous young men and women seated inside that they have 10 seconds to get off his bus and eight of those seconds have already expired. A few of those young people who take more than those remaining two seconds to exit the bus are taught the “front leaning rest position”. It seems that within the first few minutes the rest of the group has all committed some small infraction and earns a similar fate. These young “soon to be soldiers” begin what will probably become one of the busiest days of their lives. They are issued their first uniform, they learn “drill and ceremonies”, they handle and learn to disassemble their first M16 A-2 rifle, they are trained on the basics of land navigation – and this is all before lunch.

The Blue Phase is only one day of one of the drill weekends, but is one of the most important parts of the program. This phase is held on the Sunday of a new soldier’s final drill before he or she leaves for their initial entry training. The day is dedicated to identifying problems while there is still time to do something about them. Legal and physical fitness statuses are verified, and both promote eligibility and dependent information is reviewed and adjusted as necessary. According to Appleton, if this phase is handled correctly, no administrative problems will surface while the recruit is at the basic training station. According to Appleton, if this phase is handled correctly, no administrative problems will surface while the recruit is at the basic training station. The Red Phase lasts one drill weekend and always counts as a new recruit’s first drill. The instructors in the program have one platoon of red phase warriors every drill weekend.

The bulk of the soldiers assigned to the RSP are in their white phase. After their initial red phase drill until their departure for basic combat training RSP warriors participate in a six-month rotational training cycle. Each drill is different. During the June drill, the principal focus was land navigation at Camp Adair. Under the tutelage of Staff Sgt. 1st Class David Pitman, Monmouth training NCOIC, and his instructors, white phase soldiers learned how to plot points on a map, establish their pace count, and to find these points on the ground. Other white phase training includes the “ropes course”, squad-level infantry tactics and weapons training.

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Making the Grade

“Don’t be scared… trust your equipment,” said the instructor. “Now look over your shoulder, extend your brake-arm, and bound away from my tower.”

He looked over his shoulder at the ground, extended his arm away from his back, and pushed off the tower with his legs. The rope slid through his gloved hand and he felt the familiar knot in the pit of his stomach as he glided down the rope.

This “rush” is what attracted many soldiers and airmen from all over the country to the second annual National Guard Air Assault Course at Rilea Training Site April 7-17.

Instructors from the Warrior Training Center, Mobile Training Team from Fort Benning, Ga., returned to Oregon to teach students the basics of aircraft familiarization, sling-load operations, and rappelling techniques.

Before the students could test their mental and physical limits on the rappel tower, they had to earn their way into the course by completing the first day of training, known as “Zero Day.”

“This course is not for the meek, you’ve got to be ready for tough challenges when you come here.”

— Spec. Brian Tarvin, E-Troop, 82nd CAV, Air Assault Student

An Air Assault student marshals an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 “Blackhawk” into position to sling-load a vehicle.

This year, the “Zero Day” obstacle course lasted more than five hours as nearly 340 students were challenged to negotiate nine obstacles while enduring the added stress of arduous physical training between each station, screening instructors, and inclement weather. The obstacle course was then followed by a timed two-mile run.

“This tests the physical ability of the students,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McIlvenna, Air Assault Chief Instructor. “I need to quickly find out who is going to have the upper body strength and stamina to conduct numerous rappels and lift the loads when doing sling-load operations.”

Sgt. Major Thomas G. Siter, Senior Infantry Proponent and Commandant for the Warrior Training Center said Zero Day is usually the biggest casualty-producer for course drops. Nearly 100 students were disqualified from the obstacle course for course drops. Nearly 100 students is usually the biggest casualty-producer the Warrior Training Center said Zero Day.

Students have to learn a vast amount of knowledge and are tested on it immediately,” said McIlvenna.

The students had to pass these tests to move on to each phase, but the road to the Air Assault badge doesn’t necessarily end for a student if they didn’t pass a phase.

Siter said students who fail a phase of the training have the opportunity to finish the course by re-entering the phase they didn’t complete at any accredited Air Assault Course within six months.

“I think it’s a great feature that the school offers a second chance to pick up where you left off,” said Pratt, who was a Phase Two insert during the course at Rilea.

One of the most challenging aspects of the course for students was completing a fully combat-loaded, 12-mile foot march along the beach in three hours. The march was the last task that students completed in order to graduate. This year, 76 soldiers and two airmen persevered through the wind, rain, and sand to cross the finish line before the clock ran out.

“Despite the cold rain, wind and sore bodies, you maintained the never-quit, tenacious attitude that got you through the completion of the mission,” said Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn, Deputy Director of Operations for the Oregon National Guard, during the graduation ceremony. “This tenacity is what you need to carry with you, along with your Air Assault Badge.”

The Warrior Training Center will return to Oregon in April 2006 to give another group of students the chance to earn the Air Assault badge.
**In the Rappel Master Course, students learn more about themselves than they bargain for Mastering the Ropes**

Once a tower or aircraft is rigged, Rappel Masters must know the proper way for rappellers to hook-up to the ropes. The students were tested by inspecting two rappellers and identifying deficiencies in their hook-ups.

"We use hand and arm signals because it's very noisy in the aircraft, so you can't really use verbal communication to tell the rappeller what to do," said Staff Sgt. Todd Payne, 183rd instructor.

To qualify as a Rappel Master, students learn command and control of an aircraft during rappelling operations. This phase incorporated everything that the students learned throughout the course including, inspecting equipment, rigging, and guiding rappellers out of the door. For their final exam, students were given the opportunity to take charge of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopeter during rappelling operations.

**Story by Spec. April Dustin and Spec. Janelle Henderson, 115h MPAD**

"A Rappel Master is someone whose primary responsibility is the overall safety of tower and aircraft rappelling operations."

— Sgt. 1st Class Larry Connolly, Chief Instructor, 183rd RTI

**T**he Rilea Training Site in Warren- ton, Ore., recently hosted the National Guard Bureau's newest Rappel Master Course Mobile Training Team.

Oregon Army and Air National Guard students who recently graduated from Air Assault training at Rilea attended the course April 18-22 to become qualified as Rappel Masters.

"This training is important to the National Guard because the Guard is embedded in the community, so you've got a lot of hometown rappelling with youth groups, ROTC, and local law enforcement," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Connoly, Chief Instructor for the 183rd Regional Training Institute at Ft. Pickett, Va.

"So the opportunity to ramp people works for recruiting and retention efforts, as well as motivation for soldiers in the unit."

The 183rd traveled to Oregon on the heels of the Air Assault School to instruct students in every aspect of rappel operations including tying and identifying knots, inspecting personnel and equipment for rappelling, tower and aircraft rigging, and aircraft command and control.

**Photos by Spec. Janelle Henderson**

"A Rappel Master is someone whose primary responsibility is the overall safety of tower and aircraft rappelling operations," said Connoly.

The students were first instructed on how to properly tie different knots that can be used for making hip-rappel seats and rigging towers and aircraft.

"A Rappel Master needs to visually know these knots in no time flat, so he knows that the rappeller and the anchor ropes are secure," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Tomkinson.

Students also learned how to inspect knots during the Rappel Master Personnel Inspection portion of the training, where each knot is inspected prior to anyone rappelling off the tower. Instructors ensured that hip-rappel seats were properly tied before the long ride down the rope. Students had to memorize a sequence, which helped them quickly identify any possible deficiencies in the system.

"A Rappel Master's job is to make sure there are no deficiencies in [the rappeller's] gear," said Sgt. 1st Class William Paul, 183rd instructor. "They have to know what they're looking for, so sequence is everything."

Rappel Master student Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Conaway, of the Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Ga., said RMPI was the hardest part of the course for him to master.

"It takes a lot of attention to detail, a lot of sequences to remember, and specific patterns to follow," Conaway said.

"This is not a physical course, it's a very mental course," said Paul. "You can mentally quit, so the most challenging part is staying focused."

Students also had to pay close attention to detail when learning how to prepare, inspect.

Left: A Rappel Master Course student lowers himself from the 75-foot rappel tower at the Rilea Training Site during Rappel Master Training April 18-22.

Right: An Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 'Blackhawk' serves as a rappel platform for students during the final phase of Rappel Master training.

Photos by Spec. Janelle Henderson
The Oregon National Guard hosts its third annual Earth Day celebration

It all Starts with the Children

The thump, thump, thump and high pitched whir of an Army Black-hawk helicopter beat down on the grassy playground of Shaver Elementary School.

The place was brimming with delighted and inquisitive elementary school children and their teachers. Volunteers from many points in the state descended on the school by helicopter, vans, "Humvees", and various other military vehicles.

The three army vehicles parked on the grassy field were as unique and varied as the civilian and military volunteers who would soon give the children a fun-filled day of environmental stewardship, lessons and games.

The Oregon Army National Guard selected the small northeast Portland elementary school to hold its third annual Earth Day event, held on April 22. It is the official Earth Day celebration observed in communities around the world.

"I am going to recycle all the trash I pick up at the park andfill the recycle bin with paper."

— Annabel Chai, 2nd Grader, Shaver Elementary

Like the Oregon Guard, Shaver Elementary School strives for excellence through environmental stewardship, according to school administrators, and the two organizations came together to create a learning environment for the children.

Interactive displays in the school gymnasium helped educate and inform important concepts about Earth Day.

The booths at the event included a simulated oil spill in the ocean, specifically designed so the kids could contain, recover and dispose of the oil in miniature versions.

they could have walked, rode a bike or taken a bus. They also made an entry if they found a room with lights on but no one in it, or a faucet dripping, that sort of thing."

"They [students] took the notes they made earlier in the week and turned that information in the journal and turned that information into an essay about what we can all do to improve the environment and protect the earth," Robinson said. "So, we will be reading those aloud a little later in class."

Earlier in the week, the students decorated the halls with Earth Day awareness posters and messages. Teachers prepared lessons centering around environmental stewardship, and informed the children about the upcoming day of activities with the National Guard.

Carefully coordinated interactive display booths were designed to get the children involved with all of their senses.

"They get to touch, see, hear, feel, smell and taste — and that is the most lasting and powerful way for anyone to learn," said retired Sgt. Maj. Gerald E. Elliott, Environmental Program Manager for the Oregon Army National Guard.

"This day will not be forgotten anytime soon, and that's really the point of all this excitement and activity," Elliot continued. "We want the kids and volunteers alike to remember the messages for days and years to come, and hope that this event will make a difference in our environment.

1st Lt. Oscar Quijano, a volunteer from JFHQ was in charge of letter and recycling detail and making it fun for the kindergarten, first and second graders. Quijano conducted the recycling relays on the grassy field behind the school. At any given moment, music was playing and the kids ran circles around Quijano picking up the trash and placing it in the appropriate recycle bin.

"I am going to recycle all the trash I pick up at the park and fill the recycle bin with paper," said Annabel Chai, a second grader.

Sgt. 1st Class Richard E. Kingerly, a volunteer and member of the 162nd Engineer Company from Camp Withycombe, Ore., enjoyed working with the kids.

"It's a great opportunity to be a part of this venue and to see these children learn to care for the environment," he said. "It's great to show the children that the Army is more than power and might — it is a powerful way for anyone to learn." He said.

This day was like none other for the kids and volunteers at Shaver Elementary School and the soldiers and airmen of the Oregon National Guard. As the helicopter flew away at the end of the fun-filled day, everyone was noticeably tired. As one volunteer put it, "This is 100-percent positive exhaustion."

As Earth Day came to a close, the entire gathering of teachers and children were abuzz with lots of happy talk and excited chatter. No doubt their friends and families will be hearing about their Earth Day for sometime to come.

EARTH FACTS

• Because the Earth is more flexible than you might imagine, it bulges at the midsection, creating a sort of pumpkin shape as it rotates.

• The distance from the surface of Earth to the center is about 3,963 miles (6,378 kilometers). The mostly solid skin of the planet is only 41 miles (66 kilometers) thick, thinner than the skin of an apple, relatively speaking.

• Arica, Chile, gets just 0.03 inches of rain per year. At that rate, it would take a century to fill a coffee cup. By contrast, Llőro, Colombia averages 523.6 inches, or more than 40 feet — enough to fill six average-sized swimming pools every year.

• Earth's atmosphere is actually about 80-percent nitrogen. Most of the rest is oxygen, with tiny amounts of other stuff thrown in.

• Over 70-percent of the Earth's fresh-water supply is locked up in the icecaps of Antarctica and Greenland. The remaining fresh-water supply exists in the atmosphere, streams, lakes, or groundwater — accounting for a mere 1-percent of the Earth's total usable fresh water.
Base realignment could leave entire Northwest vulnerable, experts say

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission is set to testify from Oregon National Guard and State leaders in Portland June 17. Seated at table from I. to r. Commissioners Philip E. Coyle, James V. Hansen, Anthony J. Principi, and James M. Bilbray visited the Portland Air Base on May 23, and were briefed by PANG commanders before conducting a tour of the base.

Program, many cadets are in the Simulta-
neous Membership Program in which they
are enlisted in the National Guard and will
become officers through the ROTC program
upon graduation. He said the ROTC pro-
gram prepares cadets for their commission
in the National Guard, Reserve or Active
Duty components and helps them acquire
the skills necessary to lead soldiers.

Chappelle said the FTX was designed to
develop the cadets' leadership, decision-
making, and problem solving skills. The
two-day exercise was designed with recruit-
ment and retention in mind, but provided
training in a tactical environment, where
participants could hone their skills.

"We give them adventure training and ex-
posure to build their confidence," Chappelle
said. "Some of these kids could be in Iraq
or Afghanistan someday and that confidence
is critical as a leader because other soldiers
can see it."

One exercise designed to test the cadets' self-confidence was the rappel tower. After
receiving instruction and safety briefings from course instructors, the cadets rappelled from the 35-foot wall section of the tower.

According to one cadet, the rappel exercise was exciting and different.

"I thought it was awesome. Your heart starts pumping because you don’t know what to expect," said Oregon State Univer-
sity Sophomore, MS2 (Military Science, 2nd year) Monica Lopez.

According to Chappelle, once these cadets reach the upper class levels, they attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), before receiving their com-
mision, and eventually going on to become officers in the Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard.


dated to defend this region. That alone is reason
equal to reconsider this decision."

"Our enemies will look for the weakest link, the Governor conceded. "And the weakest
link will be in the Northwest."

"I senator Gordon Smith said the Pentagon’s plans
will leave just a handful of planes to defend a "target-rich environment," citing the
dams along the Columbia River, the
Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot, and the
Handford Nuclear Site.

"Currently we have fighters and backup
that can be in the air in five minutes. Under
the BRAC proposal, the nearest backup fighter
will be in Fresno, Calif. — more than an hour away. That cannot be called ‘readiness,’" Smith said.

Senator Ron Wyden challenged the com-
mmission to propose changes to the BRAC
recommendations.

"At a time when Oregonians are being asked to make a disproportionately high sac-
rifice of lives in Iraq, and in the face of the
President’s recommendations that simply
defy common sense, I would urge that the
commission reject the Pentagon’s recom-

On May 13 Secretary of Defense Donald
Rumsfeld recommended the realignment of
the operations and maintenance functions from the 142nd Fighter Wing to bases
in Louisiana and New Jersey and a complete
realignment of the Air Force Reserve’s 939th Air Refueling Wing to Oklahoma
and Kansas. Aside from losing the planes,
Oregon will also lose up to 1,000 jobs to
base closures and realignment — 546 of
them from the Air Base in Portland.

The BRAC Commission will continue to hear from communities affected by BRAC recommendations and present their findings and recommendations to President George W. Bush by Sept. 8. The President will have until Sept. 23 to either accept or reject the Commission’s recommendations.

If President Bush accepts the recom-
mendations, Congress will have 45 days to either accept them or enact a joint resolution of disapproval. The President may also send the recommendations back to the
commission for further review, in which case they would have until Oct. 20 to revise the recommendations.

The proposed base closings and realign-
ments were announced as part of a nation-
wide plan to close 33 bases and downsize
29 others. The savings to taxpayers is es-
imated to be approximately $48 billion
over 20 years.

Story by
Spec. Janelle Henderson and
Spec. April Dustin
115th MDAD

WARRENTON, Ore. —— Several soldiers
from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd
Battalion, 162nd Infantry provided instruc-
tion and played the role of opposing forces
for the Reserve Officer Training Corps field
training exercise at Rilea Training Site on the
Oregon coast, April 9-10.

More than 30 soldiers from the Eugene-
based unit assisted 160 cadets from the
University of Oregon and Oregon State
University with field and situation training
exercises including, battle simulation and
reaction drills, squad attacks, the obstacle
course, paintball competition, and Military
Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT)
site exercises. This was the third year that
the 2-162 has assisted the ROTC FTX.

Sgt. 1st Class Geoffrey Miotke, Charlie-
Co., 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, said the
instruction and guidance the unit provided helped cadets build valuable relationships
with current members of the military.

“These cadets may actually become part
of our unit,” he said. “They’ll be around to
be the future leaders of our platoons.”

According to Maj. Mark Chappelle, As-
sistant Professor of Military Science and Ex-
cutive Officer for the U of O Army ROTC
Program, many cadets are in the Simulta-
neous Membership Program in which they
are enlisted in the National Guard and will
become officers through the ROTC program
upon graduation. He said the ROTC pro-
gram prepares cadets for their commission
in the National Guard, Reserve or Active
Duty components and helps them acquire
the skills necessary to lead soldiers.

Chappelle said the FTX was designed to
develop the cadets’ leadership, decision-
making, and problem solving skills. The
two-day exercise was designed with recruit-
ment and retention in mind, but provided
training in a tactical environment, where
participants could hone their skills.

“We give them adventure training and ex-
posure to build their confidence,” Chappelle
said. “Some of these kids could be in Iraq
or Afghanistan someday and that confidence
is critical as a leader because other soldiers
can see it.”

One exercise designed to test the cadets’ self-confidence was the rappel tower. After
receiving instruction and safety briefings from course instructors, the cadets rappelled from the 35-foot wall section of the tower.

According to one cadet, the rappel exercise was exciting and different.

“I thought it was awesome. Your heart starts pumping because you don’t know what to expect,” said Oregon State Univer-
sity Sophomore, MS2 (Military Science, 2nd year) Monica Lopez.

According to Chappelle, once these cadets reach the upper class levels, they attend the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), before receiving their com-
mision, and eventually going on to become officers in the Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard.

Braddock gets to thank his ‘Angel’ in person at Purple Heart ceremony

Continued from FRONT PAGE

right, and I yelled that I was all right as I thought I was. Then I took two steps and hit
the ground.”

The two other soldiers in the vehicle with Braddock were okay, suffering only minor
injuries. The two were treated and returned to duty.

Braddock sustained injuries caused by the explosion and flying scrapnel. The bones
in his feet were pulverized, and he lost his left leg. He is currently undergoing continued
treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

He was initially treated at the field hospital at Forward Operating Base Warrior, then
transported to Tikrit, and eventually to Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany.

While there, the “Super Angels” visited Bradrock after being contacted by the State
Public Affairs Office in Oregon.

“We were asked to check on Matt, who was believed to be at Landstuhl,” said Wil-
helmina “Willie” Aufschmuck, a member of the Soldiers Angels of Germany.

According to Bradrock, he was laying on a stretcher in a bus at Landstuhl waiting for
transport to the United States. He said he felt miserable, cold and in need of a pillow.

All of a sudden a lady with a German accent appeared out of nowhere, calling his name.
She gave him a pillow, a quilt and a backpack with essential personal items. Before he
made sense that she should be there to share his special day. So arrangements were made,
and Bradrock’s “Angel” reappeared.

Braddock’s mother had contacted the Soldier’s Angels group in Germany, and cor-
responded with Willie. After discovering that she would be vacationing in Detroit,
Michigan around the same time Matthew Bradrock was to receive his Purple Heart, it
made sense that she should be there to share his special day. So arrangements were made,
and Bradrock’s “Angel” reappeared.
Oregon National Guard running team takes top honors at Lincoln Marathon

By Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff

The Oregon National Guard’s running team participated in the 2005 Marathon Championships, which were held in conjunction with the Lincoln Marathon, in Lincoln, NE, May 1. Of the almost 900 runners completing the marathon, 151 came from National Guard units from all over the world.

Oregon’s team won top team honors this year with a time of 8:23:47 followed very closely by Puerto Rico’s score of 8:24:12, and Wisconsin’s third-place finish of 8:36:22. Scores are tabulated by adding up the finishing times of the top three runners for each of the teams.

Coming in first for Oregon’s team was Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt of JFHQ, with a time of 2:37:41, giving him a second-place finish for all National Guard participants, and a first-place finish for the Masters category (ages 40 and over).


1st Lt. Peter Prichett, of the 741st Corps Support Battalion, Sgt. 1st Class William Kaemmer of the 249th Regional Training Institute, and Staff Sgt. Edward King, of the 123rd Weather Flight, Portland Air Base, all earned a spot on the Oregon team but did not run the marathon.

Capt. Lori Baldwin of the 41st Brigade set a personal best by 30 minutes with her finishing time of 3:03:42, earning her a coveted spot on the All-Guard team. Nixon and Vandervlugt earned spots on the All-Guard team as well. Nixon broke his previous personal best by two minutes. Also setting a personal best by 12 minutes was Col. Larry Studer, JFHQ Army Chief of Staff, who ran a 3:52:06, making him arguably the fastest Chief of Staff in the country.

“On the day of the marathon, he broke his previous time by 12 minutes,” Vandervlugt said. “It was an excellent time, especially considering the weather. Vandervlugt said.

“The wind was especially bad the last six miles as the runners headed directly into it.”

The top 40 males and top 15 females earned a spot on the All-Guard team, which travels around the country to compete in running events and marathons. The team members also help with recruiting for the National Guard at race expo and other venues. This year, the All-Guard team is scheduled to participate in the upcoming Air Force, Blue Angels marathons and Relay, the Air Force marathon and Relay, and the Marine Corps and Blue Angels marathons.

In order to be invited to the Lincoln Marathon Championships, participants must have completed a marathon within the past 18 months with a finishing time of 4 hours or less. The championships are organized by the Lincoln Track Club.

The Oregon team is always looking for more runners. To make the Oregon National Guard team, you must have completed a full marathon within the last 18 months. Members are also selected based on their fastest verified times. If you are interested in joining the Oregon National Guard running team, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt at 541-390-3157 or via e-mail at: timothy.vandervlugt@or.ngb.army.mil.

41st PCS prepares for Mideast deployment

Story by Spec. Nicholas Wood, 115th MDAD

WARRENTON, Ore. — Members of the 41st Personnel Services Company gathered at Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., May 14 and 15, in preparation for their imminent deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At the Modified Record Fire Range soldiers refined and polished their individual weapons skills as part of ongoing operations aimed at making sure all 51 of its soldiers are ready to deploy.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen C. Smith, Military Personnel Technician for the 41st PCS, activities such as weapons-firing are an integral part of ensuring every soldier will be fully prepared.

“Any amount of time on the range is important,” said Smith.

The unit will be replacing another National Guard PSC currently serving in Kuwait. Telecoms will include strength reporting, casualty documentation and in-out processing of soldiers to and from the theater.

1st Lt. Ramona Treat, Commander of the 41st said, “It’s an amazing opportunity to actually do a wartime function as a personnel company." Treat expects the unit will have no-problem completing their mission in-country.

“We’re not reinventing the wheel,” Treat said. “We’re walking into a well-established operation.”

Treat said one challenge of deploying is balancing the needs of the state against the needs of her unit. Fifty percent of the soldiers in the 41st support the state in a full-time capacity, either as contractors, technicians or Active Guard and Reserve soldiers.

During their deployment, the 41st PCS will be going overseas as a cohesive unit and will be responsible for the full range of functions that support the soldiers and staff in Kuwait.

“The safety of our soldiers is our unit’s primary responsibility,” Treat said.

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Website lists benefits available to military members and their dependents

The federal government has a list of benefits for military personnel and their families listed at www.my veterans.gov. The popoular ones include revisions to the Montgomery GI Bill, the Comprehensive Lifelong Educational Assistance Programs. For the complete list, please visit: www.gibill.va.gov/education.html

TRICARE site adds new features, information

A new TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health plan materials have been added to the service's website. TRICARE education and staff training materials are being added weekly, and updates of current TRS information are uploaded on a regular basis. Some of the new information includes TRS Brochure, updated Frequently Asked Questions, and a TRICARE Speaker's Guide and Suggested Uses. The TRS Web site is located at: www.tricare.osd.mil/News/2005/news0518.cfm.

Reminder about Tricare claims filing deadline

TRICARE beneficiaries who file their own claims should remember that, with few exceptions, they must file a claim within one year of the date of medical service or from the date of discharge from an inpatient facility. The claim deadline for those who receive health care outside of the TRICARE region is the one year from the date they receive medication to file for reimbursement of pharmacy claims. Additional deadlines are for those who file on behalf of individuals with special needs, minors, and people under insurance (OH). The deadline applies to TRICARE Stan dard beneficiaries as well as to TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries or urgent care outside of the TRICARE region in which they are enrolled. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries can file claims on a beneficiary's behalf, and must also meet the one year requirement. To file claims, visit: www.tricare.osd.mil/news/2005/news0518.cfm.

Reintegration Team launches website, toll-free number

The Oregon National Guard Soldier Reintegration team, which provides post-mobilization support to commanders and soldiers returning to Oregon, has launched a new web site. It is located at: www.ongvt.org.

The team, formed in early 2005, estab lishes a one-stop-shop for a multitude of agencies that provide support and benefits to soldiers and their dependents. The Oregon National Guard Reintegration team works to help commanders and assist demobilizing Oregon National Guard members during their transition back to their communities and their families.

Some of the services offered include TRICARE information, contact to re sources within the Federal Veteran's Affairs and Veterans Affairs (VA) Administration, the Oregon Dept of Veteran's Affairs and the VA hospital, the Oregon Employment Department and U.S. Employment Service, and Associated Oregon Industries. The reintegration team works closely with many representatives for local and federal agencies to the armories throughout Oregon to conduct seminars and briefings.

The team has a help desk and help line which is manned 24/7, which provides referrals to multiple agencies and their families. Working closely with the Family Readiness Program coordinator, the team provides formal referrals as well as family-related assistance.

The help desk can be reached at 1-888-688-2264, or by e-mail at help@ongvt.org. The Oregon National Guard website can be accessed by calling 1-800-446-8107.

Select Honor Guard needs 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 and the Oregon Air National Guard in local community service events and con duct military funeral honors for the state of Oregon as directed by the State Command Sergeant Major.

Members have an opportunity to train with the Oregon National Guard also known as “The Old Guard”. They will also visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Members earn retirement points and are eligible to attend the ONGA sponsored, military-fa cialized training for performing military funeral honors.

Memorial services are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 1900-2000 at the Oregon Military Department. For more information, to obtain an application, or to answer any questions, please contact: SFC Rick Moore at 503-584-3535 or MSG William Boyd at 503-584-3746 (ANG), or Senior Master Sgt. Scott O’Neal (ANG) at 530-433-4181.

142nd FW gears up for Employment Day on July 15

The 142nd Fighter Wing will be hosting an “Employment Day” on July 15. The Employment Day, also known as “Job Fair Day”, is an opportunity for local residents of Multnomah County to be introduced to employment opportunities in our unique community. The wing will fill several key positions.

The day will begin at 8:00 AM with a Wings of Freedom aircraft static display. The 167th Security Forces Squadron will conduct a mock search, rescue, and apprehension scenario. The Oregon Air National Guard Band will perform at 11:00 AM. Employment representatives for local and federal government agencies will be on hand from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM to speak with potential applicants about employment opportunities.

The Employment Day will conclude with an awards ceremony to recognize outstanding service by airmen.

Read about Tricare medical benefits

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Legislature tackles bills related to national guard

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE said. “Unfortunately, our policies don’t allow off the installation,” he continued. “So we have to rely on financial education, which we’ve tried to improve at the first basic training opportunities with our new service members.”

Pachuta recommended that troops ensure there is no concentration of unscrupulous life insurance that they buy. “We’re going to be in harm’s way, and it doesn’t make any sense to have to rely on the marketplace for something like this,” he said.

Pachuta noted that the state legislature is a member conveying quotes to the service member to sign as well. “The wisdom is in fact, the validity of the quote should be confirmed with the service member,” he said.

He also recommended that anyone who has a conflict of interest or potential for an ethical dilemma.”

The Oregon Sentinel

Pachuta said the DoD policies apply to any military or civilian employee of the Department of Defense. “If a service member has a problem with an insurance or investment agent, they should contact,” Pachuta said.

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Pachuta suggested that service members who want to open a savings account should contact the bank or credit union where they have their existing checking account. “It’s a tax-deferred plan, and there are not many investments, other than tax-free bonds, that have the same kind of guarantees that they have,” he said.

DoD officials are rewriting parts of the department’s commercial-solicitation policy to enhance enforcement. This includes a requirement that the policy violations report them to their service headquarters, and then to DoD. The aim is to keep a list of all of the people who have had concerns about agents or practices.

Pachuta said there are 14 prohibited practices in DoD’s commercial-solicitation policy. They range from offering an appointment, soliciting door-to-door, and soliciting members during daily duties at their work places.

“Those are the kinds of policies that limit exactly what the Department of Defense can or cannot do,” he said. “We have also been concerned about agents who have access to allotment forms and having them there for the service members to sign the off.”

“People have been contacted and put in touch with that,” Pachuta noted. “The personnel officer that a service member has,” he said.

The Oregon Sentinel

The 419th Signal Battalion will hold a reunion from October 26 to 28th, and Pachuta said he’d like to hear from anyone who wants to attend or has information on the reunion.

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Story and photos by Spec. April Dustin, State Public Affairs Office

WARRENTON, Ore. — Members of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for the 73rd Oregon State Legislative Assembly traveled across the state during the 2005 regular session and hosted meetings with current and former members of the military to research veterans’ issues.

“Knowledge is power and the more we know, the more we can help,” said Rep. Donna Nelson, Committee Chair, during a meeting held at Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore. April 8. “We want to get our arms around our veterans in the way that it should be and we are not letting go of this issue.”


“This is the first year in 50 years that the state legislature has had a committee for vets’ affairs issues,” said Nelson. “Our goal is to help secure the future of our veterans the way that they have secured our future.”

The committee successfully helped pass 20 house bills, five house joint memorials, and two house joint resolutions that address veterans’ issues.

At press time the following Measures have passed the House of Representatives and are currently awaiting review by other committees:

House Bill 1425 will allow free access to State Parks to disabled veterans and active duty personnel.

House Bill 2437 removes limitations on eligibility requirements for veterans applying for educational and training programs.

House Bill 2602 will create an Oregon Military Emergency Financial Relief Program and Emergency Relief Fund for military members serving on active duty.

House Bill 2677 states Life Insurance Reimbursement Program and Fund for the Oregon National Guard.

House Bill 2700 will help expand the Veterans’ Service Officer Program.

House Bill 2737 creates an Oregon Military Family Relief Program in the Oregon Military Department.

House Bill 2795 will help generate funds towards building a memorial for Oregon military members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

House Bill 2843 requires a waiver of occupational and professional license, certificate, permit, registration, fees for disabled veterans.

House Bill 2844 limits interest charged on delinquent property taxes for members of the military who are called to active duty.

House Bill 2847 creates a Veterans’ Home Account to be listed on individual tax return form for charitable contributions.

House Bill 2864 creates the Veterans’ Discharge Stipend Program which provides a temporary income benefit to service members who have been discharged for breaches of the uniform code of military justice.

House Bill 2933 will allow outstanding income tax liabilities of active duty military personnel to be postponed until six months after release from active duty and discharged if the taxpayer is killed, wounded or arrested.

House Bill 2945 modifies the exemptions for property taxes to veterans’ residences.

House Bill 3053 establishes the Oregon Troops to Teachers program within the Oregon State Board of Education.

House Bill 3103 allows current and recently retired members of the military to obtain hunting and fishing licenses at no charge.

House Bill 3325 modifies references to people who qualify for veterans’ loans.

House Bill 3332 will allow the Public Employees Benefit Board to offer health benefits to members of the Oregon National Guard and their dependents.

House Joint Resolution 34 proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution dedicating 1.5 percent of state lottery funds to provide services for Oregon veterans.

House Joint Resolution 47 proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution on eligibility for veterans applying for home loans through the Oregon War Veterans Fund. Measures that are currently being reviewed by the Senate include:

House Bill 2600 extends the validity of driver licenses, vehicle registration and plates for Oregon National Guard and military reservists on active duty outside the United States.

House Bill 2681 requires school districts to issue high school diplomas to veterans who did not finish high school as a result of serving in specified wars.

House Joint Memorial 13 urges Congress to pass a bill to create veterans’ health care funding for permanent entitlement.

House Joint Memorial 25 urges Congress to eliminate the subtraction of disability payments from disabled veteran’s pension.

House Joint Memorial 31 urges Congress to amend the federal definition of “veteran” to include all soldiers who have served in the military.

The Governor signed House Bill 2687-1 into law. The legislation modifies the definition of individuals who can be considered as “veterans”.

At press time, House Bill 2795, which would allocate $100,000 for the Afghan Iraq Freedom War Memorial had just been heard by the House Budget Committee. The Governor has publicly expressed his support for the Memorial, and assuming it passes the Senate the bill will be signed into law. The dedication is tentatively set for November of 2005.

For more information on these measures in the Oregon legislature visit www.leg.state.or.us and click on the Bills/Laws link to search for 2005 Measures.

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE.
Under overcast skies, nineteen-month-old Christopher O’Keefe of Vancouver, Wash., takes in some of the military hardware on display at American Youth Day, held Saturday, June 11, 2005 at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland Ore.

Families from all over Oregon and Southwest Washington came out to enjoy the event, which is held every year at the air base. Photo by Senior Airman Trish Lewis, 142nd Multimedia.

See story on page 4.