Governor names new TAG

IT’S GOOD TO BE HOME
Oregon’s 2-162 returns home after more than a year in Iraq

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

McChord AFB, Wash., March 17, 2005 — The early-morning touch-down of a chartered airliner heralded the start of a tumultuous week of events throughout more than a hundred Oregon communities as over 700 citizen-soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry returned home from Iraq.

Many of the soldiers’ families converged on the Wilson Gymnasium at Ft. Lewis, Wash., where they waited anxiously for the unit — which was divided into three groups — to arrive. As the soldiers entered the building and quickly stood in formation, they were greeted by Chaplain Terry Schrick, and Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, Commander of the 41st Brigade, who addressed the crowd and the soldiers.

“These soldiers have performed with absolute distinction while serving our state and our nation.” Pritt said as he stood in front of the assembled crowd, waving hand-painted banners. “And we appreciate the sacrifice your families have made while you were overseas protecting our American way of life.”

Above: Kathy Ryland of Camas, Wash., embraces her husband, Sgt. 1st Class George A. Ryland during welcome home ceremonies held at the Wilson Gymnasium in Ft. Lewis, Wash. on March 17 and 18. The Rylands had been apart for 18 months while George was deployed to Iraq with the 2-162 IN BN.

Left: Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, Commander of the 41st Brigade, addresses family members of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry at Ft. Lewis, Wash., before releasing the unit to their families. Members of the unit spent several days at Ft. Lewis out processing before heading back to Oregon for the unit’s official demobilization ceremony at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem on March 31.

See rest of story on page 6, and related articles on page 7.

The bittersweet taste of democracy
Oregon’s 3-116 BCT helps secure Iraq’s democratic future

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

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq — Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team worked together with the Iraqi Interim Government to provide security for the Iraqi citizens in their area during the country’s first free elections in more than 50 years.

Working alongside soldiers from Hawaii’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the Idaho-based unit conducted security patrols, manned checkpoints and back-

Spec. Derek Gavin, 21, of Portland, Ore., teaches an Iraqi child a special handshake that progressed into a series of fun, free flowing motions. “I like the kids here and I like hanging out with them,” Gavin said. “It makes me think of my daughter (back home).”

See Oregon Soldiers PAGE 9

Agencies line up to help with soldiers’ transition

Story by Spec. April Dustin, State Public Affairs Office

After the ceremonies and parties are over, after the banners are taken down, after the duffel bags are unpacked, many soldiers returning from deployments will find themselves overwhelmed with the question of, “Now what?”

With the demobilization of 700 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, many Oregon National Guard soldiers across the state are now contemplating how to return to their normal lives. Returning to their family and the work force may not be easy for some soldiers, because many things change over the course of an 18-month deployment. That is why the Oregon Guard has developed a Reintegration Team with the intent to help soldiers and their families face the challenges after being released from active duty.

See Team PAGE 7
Stan Hutchinson is the Real Property Operations & Maintenance Branch Chief, working in AGL. He is a member of the Army Reserve, 465th Engineer Battalion deployed to Tikrit, Iraq.

Letters From the Front

JFHQ employee settles into life in the sand box

Though not exactly going great here! I finally arrived at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher, near Tikrit, on January 19th at about 0300 and was on my first combat patrol less than two hours later. It was a very exciting patrol that took us south of Speicher along the main supply route. Real close to midnight we were ambushed on our return back to the FOB with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and ended up with a small arms fire. It sure was a sight to see as the countryside was really fit up with tracer rounds and flares. No casualties or equipment damage on our side and no confirmation of nailing any of those SOBs that didn’t want to stick around very long for a fight. My second patrol was the next night and once again we were ambushed on our return. We could never find the guy(s) that put it together. Though we searched for hours. This time it blessed us with no vehicles, though we had no injuries. Our vehicles are armored up pretty well, which gives a lot of confidence to everyone.

I’ve been out on patrols every day but one since I’ve been here, though none have been as exciting as the first two yet. I’ve only been on three day patrols so have only just started to see what this country looks like without the aid of night vision devices. It is definitely a filthy country with blown up buildings, blown up vehicles along the Main Supply Route, and trash everywhere. The living conditions here are definitely “third-world.”

Yesterday I saw one of those trucks that punched a hole in the middle of a road, as well as a sewage truck right along the MSR in the desert. We were out really filthy smelly mess. We need to get Col. Caldwell out here with his backhoe to start putting in some sewer systems!

Yesterday was my first day as patrol leader and I will now be leading all of the patrols from here on out. The weather has been very good for the most part. We have had a few days at temperatures in the 60’s, but for the most part it has been cloudy and rainy. We had sun today, although rain is in the forecast. I am staying in temporary living quarters until the unit we are replacing leaves, and then I plan to get into my permanent space though, I will be sharing a room with another captain.

The FOB we are living on is huge, prob-ably 20 miles around and has a lot of ameni- ties from what I have seen. Once I get a day off, I’ll check it out and let you know more. So far, I have stayed too busy to do any sight-seeing, but I plan to do more of that now that it’s been a few weeks since my arrival and I found my hus-band, Jack. He can run but he can’t hide.

I am now stationed at Bagram Air Field in the Office of National Guard Affairs. It has been snowing here since I arrived. And the bathrooms are two blocks from my “b-hut” (home). The snow chows are really pretty good, the gym is open 24/7 and most everything is within walking distance. I have DSN capabilities in my office, but there is a 12 hour time difference between here and Oregon, so I must venture out in the dark to call home. Yesterday I went out on my first trip outside the wire. It had my stomach tied up in knots, but it was exciting. We went to Kabul and Pol-e-Charki. These people are just downright poor — there is no other way to describe it. On our way back we encountered a group of four men on a motorcycle, one with an AK-47, he quickly disappeared when they saw us. It was a little unnerving. The roads are pretty rough, and there are mines everywhere. I have so much to pack!

I am scheduled to go out on a mission in about 0900 on Monday and go out on my first combat patrol at about 1500 and went on my first combat patrol at about 1500.

Donated chewing tobacco well received

Bob,

Thanks for sending the chew our way, supplies over here were starting to run low.

Even camel dung was starting to attract some interest! It’s good to get packages and not feel forgotten. Please thank whoever provided this package and let me have a little time to Habitt’s address so I can then send you a thank you card.

Soldiers turn camels herder

Staff Sgt. Daggett will head the unit that we are transitioning with leave sometime after the first of the month. One of the children were waiting in line (in the shade) to people in a nearby refugee camp. Some of the children were waiting in line (in the shade) to hand out shoes and warm clothes to the kids. It was a little disconcerting to see kids who had nothing. As we drove away the kids disappeared when they saw us. It was a little disconcerting. On our way back we encountered a group of four men exiting the convoy. They didn’t seem too excited yet. I’ve only been here for a month.

I have a great Army Day,

CW3 Janet Martin
CFTF 76 NGA
APO AE 09354

Chief finds her better half in Afghanistan

I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know I made it. It has been over 2 months since my arrival and I found my hus-band, Jack. He can run but he can’t hide.

I am now stationed at Bagram Air Field in the Office of National Guard Affairs. It has been snowing here since I arrived. And the bathrooms are two blocks from my “b-hut” (home). The snow chows are really pretty good, the gym is open 24/7 and most everything is within walking distance. I have DSN capabilities in my office, but there is a 12 hour time difference between here and Oregon, so I must venture out in the dark to call home. Yesterday I went out on my first trip outside the wire. It had my stomach tied up in knots, but it was exciting. We went to Kabul and Pol-e-Charki. These people are just downright poor — there is no other way to describe it. On our way back we encountered a group of four men on a motorcycle, one with an AK-47, he quickly disappeared when they saw us. It was a little unnerving. The roads are pretty rough, and there are mines everywhere. I have so much to pack!

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Sent via mail may not be returned.

Corrections

Soldiers’ mailing address corrections and updates

In the story, Deployed Oregon Soldiers look forward to care packages sent from home, in the January/February 2005 issue, the address for G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry was incorrectly listed and the address for F-Troop, 82nd Cavalry was omitted. They are listed below:

F-Troop / 82nd CAV / 290th BCT
LSA Victory
APO AE 09359

Correct unit designations

On page 5 of the January/February 2005 issue of the Oregon Sentinel, the story on the location of Oregon National Guard Troops stationed out of Iraq that was included in the Oregon, Alpha-Co, 249th Aviation, and Detachment 1, Delta-Co., 113th Aviation as “AVM”

Vidos’ name misspelled

In the Letters from the Front column in the January/February 2005 issue of the Oregon Sentinel, Sgt. Timothy Vidos’ name was misspelled.

Your Letters

This is your chance to air your thoughts about any subject! Send your thoughts, opinions and ideas on any topic, or your suggestions for an interesting unit issue via e-mail to the following address: sentinels@mil.state.or.us.

For Letters to the Editor, or letters From the Front, please send them in MS Word Document format. Any correspondence sent via mail may not be returned.

 Tell us what you think?

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:
The Oregon Sentinel
Attn: Editor
c/o Public Affairs Office
PO Box 14035
Salem, OR 97309
sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

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

For Letters to the Editor, or letters From the Front, please send them via e-mail to the Oregon Sentinel at the Oregon Sentinel info provided on a McKenzie GIMP computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.

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The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is printed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309, (503) 844-2117. The views and opinions expressed in the Oregon Sentinel are not necessarily those of the departments of the Army and Air Force. The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation: 12,500. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically via the Internet at http://www.oregonng.com/OMDA/OMDA- publications.shtml.

The Oregon Sentinel utilizes Times New Roman and Arial fonts, and is designed using Adobe InDesign CS. Graphics are produced using Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop. All design and layout are done using a Macintosh G3 computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
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Letters From the Front

The Oregon Sentinel

360 State Capitol Blvd
Salem, OR 97301-1594

march/april 2005

Oregon Sentinel

Page 2
Welcome home soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry. I'm glad you're back. Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to testify before the House Committee on Government Reform. During my testimony, I made it clear my duties and loyalties bind me to the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard, the citizen-soldier, and I will do everything in my power to take care of our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. While before the committee, I discussed four specific items of concern that came about as a result of recent deployments: the value of the Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO), administrative problems experienced by wounded soldiers processing through the power projection Platform (PPP), the challenges of establishing disability for wounded soldiers, and the need to heal the wounded hands experienced by our soldiers. First, I applauded the CBHCO, which is the Department of Defense’s effort to improve care for Reserve Component (RC) soldiers I have seen first hand. As the first time we have placed the needs of soldiers in the RC on par with Active Duty Soldiers. This program is critical to the development of a continued, and in fact, expanded to allow soldiers to return home and receive the care they need and deserve. Second, we must look at the administrative process that holds up wounded or injured Soldiers at PPP. A soldier with a medical decision making process is complete, a determination has been made, and the Air Force has thirty days for an order releasing him or her from active duty. Third, we must provide advocacy for RC soldiers in helping them through a foreign and often frightening process of determining disability. The Army Medical Department provides first-class care equal to any health care organization in the nation. But because those soldiers are accustomed to a far different system, a much more consumer friendly system with choices and with choices, when we come to getting second opinions on procedures that may prove to be life-changing and the feeling on their part that your health care provider works for you. We need advocates to our RC soldiers, other than the Inspector General, who can break down those barriers and provide solutions. The reality is many of our soldiers are faced with a wound or injury is that they may not be able to return to their civilian occupation, and the financial support that is available through the disability rating determination may be inadequate to sustain them and their families while they are in the retraining environment.

I would like to cover a couple of different subjects in this article, first is the Force Development. Over the past few years, the Air Force has been focusing on changing the way we develop and train our people to meet the challenges of the Expeditionary Air Force. Force Development takes a deliberate approach to providing our Airmen the training and experience they need to succeed in delivering ground and air power now and in the future. We must make sure Airmen get the training and education required for their specialty or area of expertise.

Our focus should be on deliberate development of our Airmen and not just "square filling." The training and education must be tailored to benefit in Airmen doing their jobs. Promotions will be determined by your performance and demonstrated leadership potential to serve in the next higher grade.

All Airmen should receive some form of development in their initial years in higher grades and levels of responsibility. We will provide the right development avenues to meet the Airmen's needs. The Air Guard and Air Force's emphasis is on job performance and for providing Airmen the right opportunities for training and education when it is required. The goal is clear, we need to develop professionals who can leverage their respective strengths to accomplish the Air Guard and Air Force missions. You make up the Air National Guard. We need the best in the nation. We owe it to you to provide the skills, training and education you need to continue to excel.

The second thing I'd like to address is Enlisted Force Structure. Clearly defining our purpose and development as an enlisted corps is more critical today than ever before. Our Airmen have been called to action in many ways and we have leveraged our technical capacities. The challenges have been great and often unfamiliar. Through your dedicated service and sacrifice we’ve met those challenges head on. To keep at the top of our game, every Airman must know and understand their role in this fight and in our Air Force, today and tomorrow. It’s the enlisted force structure that defines us as Airmen, rather than merely specialists.

The Enlisted Force Structure, which can be found in 36-AF and ORANGI 36-216A, lays out concise standards, expectations and opportunities for every enlisted Airman. The foundation of the Air Force’s arms has to begin with our core values; integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do. These values, along with the basic roles and responsibilities needed to accomplish the mission, form our foundation. This instruction establishes general Airman responsibilities and refines both general and specific responsibilities for each level of the enlisted force. We have clearly defined enlisted knowledge and performance levels while incorporating the Tactical, Operational, and Strategic levels of leadership and development.

One of the most visible aspects of this version of AF 36-216B is the standardization of enlisted duty titles. We based titles on a person’s primary duties, level of responsibility and rank. A consistent, standard approach gives the title universal meaning. When you reach a superintendent of a wing shop you’ll know you are dealing with a Senior NCO in charge. Today’s operations tempo calls for a quick understanding of a person’s role. These facing new challenges everyday and we have to maintain our edge for every angle. For all Airmen to read and understand the Enlisted Force Structure. This is your blueprint for success in the guard. Embrace the challenge. You will be proud of your responsibility as an Airman – Junior Airman, NCO or Senior NCO, and we’ll continue to be the outstanding enlisted force our state and nation values.

Questions I get asked a lot are: “How do I get promoted?” or “Why didn’t I get promoted?” The bottom line is that every soldier is responsible for their own career. That being said, there are things that soldiers can do, and should do, that will enable them to advance their career. I could fill this article and several more with tactical tips for promotion. The areas I talk about here are those I see consistently as being common reasons for a soldier’s problem with getting promoted. Provincial through Specialist. Do you have the time in grade (TIG) and time in service (TIS)? These are things that can’t change, you either have them or you don’t and you apply to all grades. Are you MOSO? Did you qualify with you assigned weapon? Did you pass your APT? Are you medically qualified? Is your physical current? Are you free of legal or attendance issues?

If you can answer those questions with a yes, you then have a very good chance of being promoted.

If you are looking at being promoted to sergeant or advancing to an NCO rank, the answer to all of the above apply. However there are some other things that future and present NCOs need to be aware of. Did you review and sign your NGB Form 4100-1-R-E, Enlisted Promotion Promotion Statement? Was it submitted to the CBHCO 4100 is supposed to show all your education, awards, and qualifications. If it did not, don’t hand the documents to make the corrections?

Was your NCOER done on time and thousand? Keep in mind that this document is only for NCOs.

Do you have, or have you applied for a security clearance? Most NCO positions require a certain level of a security clearance. Is your NCOES current for the grade you could be considered for? The rules on that have changed. The bottom line is that you must be qualified at your present grade or you will not be considered for promotion. Fine details. The stress in the new AB 600-8-9, Chapter 7. (old NGB 600-200, chapter 11). What I have listed here are the most common disconnects, the most basics things that soldiers need to pay attention to when they are wondering why they have not been promoted. In future issues I intend to address other issues of how you make yourself competitive and get the most out of your career in the Army National Guard.

TAG releases “Top Ten” initiatives for command

1) Personnel Readiness: Recruiting, PMP, SRP, Medical, and Deployability.
3) Safety: Safety Campaign Plan
4) Rear Detachments: Transition, Commander and Family Coordination Linkage
5) Post-Mobilization Plan: Re-integration, Medical Support, and Veterans
6) JFHQ’s/ Force Integration: Transformation of HLS Operation
7) Logistics Management.
8) Sustaining Quality Volunteer Force: Accession, Recruiting, Retention, Schooling and Selection.
9) Management Control Program.
10) Database Accuracy/ Security.

COMMANDER MAJOR THOMAS R. NUNO, STATE COMMANDER MAJOR

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Sentry Buffett: Oregon’s 173rd Fighter Wing heads to Florida for DACT training

Eighty-nine members of the 173rd Fighter Wing recently participated in Operation Sentry Buffett in Key West, Fla. The operation, a nine-day training exercise which began in early January, provided three flight training units to train B-Course students and ten flight instructors training in Dissimilar Air Combat Maneuvers.

We need to be doing," said Staff Sgt. Peter Seaberg, B Co. 1-162 IN BN. After returning from deploy to Florida with the detachment and maintenance personnel, overall, Commando Sling provided a valuable training experience for the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard, and a continuing U.S. military presence in the region.

 Mention Sergeant Major believes the training is a chance for soldiers to excel. «This operation gives the squad leaders a chance to prove that their group is capable of skillfully executing maneuvers in a tactical environment.» Tallman said.

During the training, opposing forces engaged in a number of scenarios including sniper fire, the convoy was prepared to encounter a suicide bomber, while a checkpoint commander kept tabs on individual tasks that soldiers may encounter while searching for combatants while searching for weapons caches, dealing with IEDs, identifying counterfeit money, and a number of other threats. Once the buildings were cleared, scouts transported enemy prisoners of war to confinement and evacuated both Eastern civilians and combatants. Many of the Training Evaluators had been to Iraq, and an ongoing U.S. military presence in the region.

The MOU and U.S. military presence in the area helps to ensure their stability. The Redhawks hit the ground running with eight sorties per day against the RSAF, despite the hot and humid weather, and logistical issues that delayed and divided the main body of maintenance personnel. Overall, Commando Sling provided a valuable training experience for the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard, and a continuing U.S. military presence in the region.

The 142nd Fighter Wing’s Redhawks deploy to Singapore for training

Story by 115th MPAD Staff
Photo by Spec. Timothy Bemrose.

115th MPAD
CAMP RILEA, Ore. (Feb. 12, 2005) — Against the misty green backdrop of Rilea Training Site, a network of olive drab tents became a temporary home for members of the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry, while the unit trained in tactical operations in an urban setting.

Referred to as a Forward Operating Base, the tent city, along with the rumbling of vehicles and generators, and the crunch of tires grinding over gravel roads, set the tone for an authentic military operation. Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. David A. Stuecky, and his staff planned the training since the unit’s return from Iraq last spring. The intent was to re-focus training on individual tasks that soldiers may encounter during future deployments to the Middle East.

“Squadrons are the cornerstone in team building,” Stuecky said. “They are the lowest echelon in the structure of a unit. It is a requirement of them to be proficient in continuity when team training.”

The soldiers trained in four validation lanes — reacting to improvised explosive devices, tactical movement skills, clearing buildings in an urban setting, and traffic control points. Sgt. 1st Class Frank J. Tallman, Operation Sergeant Major believes the training is a chance for soldiers to excel. “This operation gives the squad leaders a chance to prove that their group is capable of skillfully executing maneuvers in a tactical environment.” Tallman said.

The training began with a convoy from the FOB to a fictional city. Along the way, the convoy was prepared to encounter a number of scenarios including sniper fire, IEDs and unexploded ordnance. Once they reached the city, soldiers dismounted and cleared buildings. A few of the buildings that they encountered involved separating civilians from combatants while searching for weapons caches, dealing with IEDs, identifying counterfeit money, and a number of other threats. Once the buildings were cleared, scouts transported enemy prisoners of war to confinement and evacuated both friendly and enemy casualties.

At the traffic control point, soldiers searched drivers and vehicles for contraband, while a checkpoint commander kept in contact with headquarters.

“This is real world training, this is what we need to be doing,” said Staff Sgt. Peter Andrews. “It’s always a great opportunity to be able to take operations on the road.” Witt said. “It’s an awesome morale builder and helps to be able to work with other units to gain better training that can then be brought back home and shared with everyone.”

Most attendees agreed the deployment was an overall success, and all deployed personnel and aircraft safely returned to Kingsley Field in mid-January.

1-162 IN BN trains at Rilea using real-world deployment experiences

Story by Spec. Timothy Bemrose.

The 142nd Fighter Wing deployed six F-15A Eagles and 74 personnel to train with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) Feb. 6 - Mar. 10.

The Commando Sling exercise is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and the Republic of Singapore, signed on Nov. 13, 1990. With four million people living in a country only 26 miles long and 14 miles wide, and possessing few natural resources, economic stability is of the utmost importance to Singapore. The MOU and U.S. military presence in the area helps to ensure their stability.

The Redhawks hit the ground running with eight sorties per day against the RSAF, despite the hot and humid weather, and logistical issues that delayed and divided the main body of maintenance personnel. Overall, Commando Sling provided a valuable training experience for the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard, and a continuing U.S. military presence in the region.

The 497th Combat Training Squadron based at Paya Lebar Air Base in Singapore, hosts approximately six Commando Sling exercises per year. Originally a small bilateral training scenario, the exercise reached a peak in 1998 when 28 F-15s and ten support aircraft represented the U.S. Air Force.

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Oregon’s Governor proposes state help for deployed guardmembers and their families

By St. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

“The Governor's legislature by the Governor's Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Governor's Department of Agriculture, and the Governor's Department of Transportation, will provide vehicle registration for the Governor's deployed guardsmen and go to their families. This will provide a way for the Governor's Department of Transportation to pay for the Governor's deployed guardsmen to continue to pay their families. This will provide a way for the Governor's Department of Transportation to pay for the Governor's deployed guardsmen to continue to pay their families.
Oregon’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry:

Over 18 months, soldiers make a huge impact on Iraqi people and the world

Children holding hand-painted signs await the order that will release their family member from formation. Approximately 1,500 people packed the Wilson Gymnasium at Ft. Lewis, Wash., over two days to welcome home members of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry from duty in Iraq.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

I’m going to call them to attention, then I’m going to dismiss them,” Pritt continued. “And the first person that runs me over is in big trouble.”

What followed could easily be described as pandemonium as loved ones rushed down out of the bleachers to find their soldiers. There were more than enough hugs and kisses to go around, as spouses searched for each other, and fathers and mothers found sons. The 18-month wait for loved ones to return from overseas was overwhelming for some.

“When I was finally able to put my arms around him, I didn’t want to let go,” said Kathy Ryland of Camas, Wash., as she embraced her husband, Sgt. 1st Class George Ryland. “I didn’t sleep very well last night, and I had trouble concentrating at work today.”

The soldiers who comprise this unit come from more than 140 communities throughout Oregon, Southwest Washington, and northern California. The mobilization of just over 700 soldiers makes this the largest deployment of Oregon soldiers since World War II. Many in the unit actually turned in their weapons, and attended demobilization briefings, they loaded onto chartered bus riders from formation. Approximately 1,500 chartered busses make their way through Ft. Lewis, Wash. over two days to welcome soldiers at the demobilization ceremony held March 31 in Salem.

Lt. Col. Dan Hendrickson, Commander of the 2-162 IN BN addresses the crowd and the assembled soldiers at the demobilization ceremony at the Salem Fairgrounds, March 31.

by Spec. Matthew Marcott, 115th MPAD

Scott Gallagher (l.), Director of Marketing, and Russ Menegat (r.), Regional Manager for Rogue Ales, present the Commander of the 2-162 IN BN commander, the 2-162 IN BN commemorative Sunset Ale, commemorating the 2-162 IN BN.

days out-processing at Ft. Lewis, Wash., where they received medical checkups, turned in their weapons, and attended demobilization briefings, they loaded onto chartered buses and made their way to their respective armories to be reunited with awaiting family members. They were escorted by members of various local Harley-Davidson motorcycle clubs, and the Oregon State Police.

As news spread about the unit’s return to Oregon, community support began to pour in literally.

“Rogue has always supported the military in the past and I was happy that our Sunset Ale, commemorating the 2-162 IN BN, was able to do that,” said Gallagher, Director of Marketing for Rogue Ales. “We’re an Oregon company and these are returning Oregon soldiers, and this was our way to say thank you for their time and effort.”

Rogue Ales, a local microbrewery based in Newport, Ore., produced a limited production run (only 90 cases, according to Gallagher), of an ale which commemorates the 2-162 IN BN. The “Sunset Ale” features a commemorative bottle design featuring two soldiers, and an emblem of the 41st Brigade, the 1st Cavalry, the 39th Brigade Combat Team and the Combat Infantry Badge.

“We wanted to do something that the soldiers could hold onto and be proud of,” Gallagher said. “Something to show their kids and their family — to say I was there, I did my part. And we make beer, so we did what we do best.”

Representatives from Rogue then distributed one free bottle of beer, and a collector’s edition pint glass to each of the returning soldiers at the demobilization ceremony held March 31 in Salem.

“They did what their country asked of them, and we did this to say thank you. We wanted to buy them their first beer upon their return.” Gallagher continued.

Governor Ted Kulongoski addresses the crowd, and a crowd of almost 4,000 family and friends, at the 2-162 demobilization ceremony March 31.

Approximately four thousand family and friends packed into the new pavilion at the Oregon State Fairgrounds to officially demobilize members of the unit. Governor Ted Kulongoski, U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradburry, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard, and Lt. Col. Daniel Henrichruss, commander of the 2-162 IN BN spoke to the crowd.

The Red Lion Hotel of Salem, hosted a buffet dinner the night before, complete with live entertainment. The hotel also set aside a number of rooms for soldiers who were from outlying areas.

Bob Okeson, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Salem Red Lion Hotel, contacted a number of local vendors who turned out to be enthusiastic about lending their support for the event. He and his staff spent most of the preceding week organizing the event.

“The support we received was overwhelming,” Okeson said. “Once we explained what we were doing, most of them simply asked, ‘What do you need?’”

“Personally, the whole thing was overwhelming.” Okeson continued. “I’m a Vietnam veteran, and when I came back there wasn’t much of a welcome at all. I promised myself it would never happen again. This whole thing has been a personal healing for me.”

We have been many questions about how to transition the returning soldiers back into their families, communities and jobs. A team was recently formed with the intent of helping to make that transition as smooth as possible. One part of this transition is dedicated to employment.

The Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP), is chartered to help connect local employers and returning soldiers eager to find work. The team is headed by Capt. J.D. Baucom and J.D. Baucom is the program specialist.

“There has been a tremendous amount of interest from Oregon businesses, especially the small ‘mom and pop’ operations,” said Baucom. “The program is progressing much faster than we originally anticipated.”

According to Baucom, the program is currently targeted at soldiers who are returning from deployment, but stresses the resources are available to all Oregon National Guard members.

“All guardsmen are subject to deployment, so we want to try to help everyone we can,” Baucom said.

The team is currently working on a web site in conjunction with the Reintegration Team, which will list available jobs, and will be open to review by prospective employers and employees. Several non-commissioned officers on the team have been trained to assist soldiers with building a resume, or with interviewing techniques. Further support is provided by representatives from the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, and the Department of Labor.

Another area where the Reintegration Team and the Family Support Groups can help is when soldiers transition back into their personal relationships with family members. After being in a war-zone for any length of time, many soldiers may find the ‘quiet of family life a bit disconcerting.

“We’ve done this before when he returned from the Sinai with the 1-186.” Ryland said, still in her husband’s embrace. “Our family is very excited to get back to the business of living.”

If you have questions regarding the Career Transition Assistance Program, contact either Capt. Jeff Clay at 503-584-2389, or J.D. Baucom at 503-584-2393.

If you would like to take advantage of the reintegration and transition resources available to soldiers and their families, contact any member of the Family Support Program, listed on the next page.

Rogue Ales is planning a community party to again say thank you to the Oregon National Guard and their families. It will be held at the Eugene City Brewery in Eugene, Ore., sometime in early July. Look for details in upcoming issues of the Oregon Sentinel.
Team formed to help returning soldiers reintegrate ‘back into’ thier lives

Continued from FRONT PAGE

“Our soldiers have done a great job of serving our country, now we need to do the right thing and provide our services to them,” said Col. (Ret.) Scott McCrae, Reintegration Team Director.

Developed in February, the Reintegration Team is designed specifically to help Oregon Guardsmen. The team consists of the Director, Executive Officer Lt. Kevin Ressel, and Legislative Liaison Lt. Peter Wood. Rounding out the team are 1st Sgt. (Ret.) Ray Lewallen and Sgt. 1st Class Philip “Vince” Jacques.

“We will do whatever it takes to assist commanders and soldiers in transitioning back to their families, jobs, school and communities,” said McCrae.

The team has been working with legislative offices and civilian and military agencies on local, state and federal levels, to gather resources that will assist the soldiers adjust to life back home. These resources have been compiled into a Resource Manual that commanders and soldiers can access through a web site or 24 hour help-line.

“We want to provide them with the specific assistance they need in the easiest possible manner,” McCrae said.

The Reintegration Resource Manual fulfills almost every need a soldier may have, including housing, finance, family issues, childcare, unemployment, legal topics, and tax assistance. The manual provides information on Veterans Affairs benefits, hospitals, health facilities and procedures for VA claims. It includes VA’s Web site, VA iNext eligibility and enrollment. It also contains education information for the Montgomery GI Bill and the Tuition Assistance Program, with contact information for a VA Representative at every college and university in the state.

“We can refer them to the right people who can answer their questions and assist them with their specific needs without a lot of hassle,” said McCrae.

According to McCrae, the Reintegration Team doesn’t replace the chain of command or assistance agencies that are already in place. It is a helping hand for point commanders and soldiers in the right direction. One of the team’s charters is to actively work with unit commanders and identify subject matter experts from appropriate assistance agencies into the armories to conduct workshops and seminars.

“It is the job of the unit commanders to take care of their soldiers and we want to help them do that,” McCrae said. “All they have to do is give us the time, the place, and the soldiers.”

McCrae said one issue soldiers and their families will have to face is mental health. He said recent national statistics show just how serious this problem is. While veterans who have been in combat seek help for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Soldiers seeking counseling can consult with their unit chaplain, Army One Source, or VA health facilities.

“Nearly 80 percent of our G-2 soldiers are going to experience some mental stress because they have been in the most dangerous combat situations in Iraq and the Sunni Triangle, where they saw combat daily,” McCrae said. “We put them in harms way, so we have to be able to earn their trust and help them resolve any issues they might have.”

The Reintegration Team has been working closely with the Career Transition Assistance Program to ensure soldiers and their families are receiving the same assistance information.

The first task is to catch up with what the Family Program has already been providing for family members while the soldiers have been gone,” said McCrae.

The team will also be working with the new Career Transition Assistance Program, established by Recruiting and Retention Command to help soldiers find jobs. CTAP is coordinating with the Oregon Department of Labor, and the Oregon State Employment Office to offer employment assistance through job fairs, resume writing, and job searches. There are eight recruiters focused on guiding soldiers through retention, career management, and job networking.

“The Career Transition Assistance Program is the first in the nation of its kind,” said Lt. Col. Leah Sundquist, Recruiting and Retention Commander.

The Reintegration Team has a full time personnel, Capt. Jeffrey Croy and Mr. J.D. Baucum, who are gathering information on businesses with job vacancies for veterans. They will also soon create a web site where employers can link up with soldiers looking for employment opportunities.

“Soldiers have skill sets that translate into civilian jobs because there’s no place that teaches responsibility and leadership better than the military,” McCrae said. “Employers have been stepping up to the plate and offering jobs to our vets.”

Employers are not the only members of the community that have been offering to help the reintegration process. Team members and friends pack the Wilson Gymnasium at PL. Lewis, Wash., awaiting their loved ones returning from duty in Iraq. Many soldiers returning from lengthy deployment find themselves facing several challenges as they transition back into their families and jobs.

On March 17th and 18th, I was honored to represent each of you in greeting the members of Oregon’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry as they arrived at Fort Lewis for their tour in Iraq.

They came into McChord AFB in three flights over a two-day period. They arrived to the kind of fanfare and welcome ceremony befitting the occasion. The news media had coverage of the arrival of the Battalion’s return a priority and did an excellent job of turning out in force.

The Battalion, a group of approximately 700 soldiers, distinguished themselves in action and were welcomed home by the Governor, Lt. Governor, Congressman, Senators, City Managers, and others.

Following a 16-20 hour flight, the aircraft circled in preparation for the McChord landing. Military leaders, deployment personnel, wounded unit soldiers, and VIP’s formed a reception line to render them the honors that were due. As the ramp rolled into place and the aircraft doors opened, the soldiers were first greeted by Customs and Agriculture inspectors, and then by a quick meeting with Brigadier General Doug Pritt, the 41st Brigade Commander. Then the moment arrived that they were waiting for. They started down the ramp with M-4 carbines slung over one shoulder and Combat Infantry Badges stitched on their desert camo uniforms. Handshakes and hugs were punctuated with shouts of “Welcome Home!” and, “Thank you for your Service!”

It seemed very appropriate that Congressman Darlene Hooley took her place next to the ramp in welcoming soldiers, because she did so much to support them during the deployment.

The soldiers were tired but polite, and very, very glad to be close to home. They were driven to North Fort Lewis and marched into the gym to the strains of the 1st Corps Band. The Band played “I’m proud to be an American” as they entered, and the audience went wild with cheering and applause. They were then released to their families and the excited reunions began. I am sure that the tears in our eyes were simply a result of standing for so long in the cold on the tarmac at McChord.

By the way, we greeted another group of soldiers, we checked to ensure that all had departed the aircraft. The crew advised that all of the Oregon Guardsmen were off the plane, but that other soldiers were still aboard. No one had to say anything, we all remembered the way our military members were treated during Viet Nam. So, we swung back in line and heartily welcomed Reservists from Indiana, Wisconsin, Oregon, and other states...much to their surprise.

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Norm Hoffman, Chairperson, Retiree Council

Retired BG welcomes home troops in person

The Oregon National Guard Family Program is: “Oregon National Guard Family is, Ready, Resilient, and Self-Reliant.” In order to support this vision, the program has several Family Assistance Centers available throughout the state to assist families of deployed military members. These “FACT” provide information and referral services to military families, and can direct individuals to resources for pay problems, legal issues, emergency assistance, financial assistance, childcare, and counseling information. Family Assistance Centers are not limited to Guard use only—they are all joint service operations and will assist all military members or their families.

Listed below are the Family Assistance Centers and the personnel available to help:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Family Assistance Specialist</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>Darcy Woodke</td>
<td>541-686-0415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>Laura Boggs</td>
<td>541-997-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermiston</td>
<td>Tina Balles</td>
<td>541-697-5671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaGrande</td>
<td>Susie Sheehy</td>
<td>541-963-4221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Donna Duquette (ID Cards Only)</td>
<td>503-584-3679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bend/Redmond</td>
<td>Meredith Browning</td>
<td>541-383-0970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Victoria Armstrong</td>
<td>503-740-2979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klamath Falls</td>
<td>Barbara McElhanen</td>
<td>541-882-4182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clackamas</td>
<td>Jill Graves</td>
<td>503-577-5339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are also three permanent members of the Family Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>Diane Gooding (Director)</td>
<td>541-884-3547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142 FW (PANG-B)</td>
<td>Mary Bell</td>
<td>503-335-4193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173 FW (K-Falls)</td>
<td>Tanii Naramore</td>
<td>541-885-6112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Family Program acts as a liaison between the military and the family, helping to ease the strain of deployment, and answer questions that families have regarding the military and to provide a support network for family members.
E-Troop, 82nd CAV gains valuable training while ‘playing’ in the sand Dunes on Oregon coast provide perfect backdrop for training in a desert environment

March/April 2005 The Oregon Sentinel Page 8

3-116th Soldiers deliver toys in goodwill gesture Story by Capt. Monte C. Hibbert, 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

TOBZAWA, Iraq - Iraqi and coalition forces delivered stuffed animals donated by Americans to disadvantaged children in the small village of Tobzawa, Iraq, March 9. The combined force, including soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team’s Task Force 3-116 Armor, headquartered in La Grande, Oregon, delivered over 150 toys in an effort to improve relationships between themselves and community members in this small community southwest of Kirkuk.

“The children in the village of Tobzawa are extremely poor and have very little to play with,” said 2nd Lt. Joshua McLaughlin, a fire support officer with B Co., TF 3-116 Armor who helped deliver the toys. “The children were very excited to receive the new toys and these efforts continue to strengthen the relationship between the Iraqi Army, coalition forces, and local citizens.”

The stuffed animals were donated by Americans through Operation Crayon, a program through which individuals and organizations donate school supplies, toys and other items for distribution by military personnel to children. According to TF 3-116 soldiers, toys are not the only things being delivered.

“We make it a point to hit every village in our operations area with something like this,” said McLaughlin. “We have also distributed water, candy and other items. We just built 125 packets of school supplies for giving out.”

Besides the 3rd Armor Battalion, the 116th Brigade Combat Team is also comprised of headquarters and staff sections, the 2nd Armor Battalion, the 1-148th Field Artillery Battalion, the 1-163rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, the 145th Support Battalion, the 116th Engineer Battalion, and various intelligence, signal, and specialized units. The 116th BCT is one of several Army National Guard units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III.

Hundreds of Beanie Babies will deploy to Iraq Kay Fristad of JFHQ’s Public Affairs Office, (background), sorts through hundreds of Beanie Babies donated by Jean Dively of Salem, Ore. The toys will soon be boxed up and shipped to Iraq for distribution among Iraqi children.

Prepared by Staff Sgt. Monte C. Hibbert, 116th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - As it turns out, soldiers and airmen are not the only ones pulling duty overseas.

As part of an effort to help Iraqi children regain a bit of their childhood after years of political and social turmoil, hundreds of Beanie Babies and other stuffed animals are being donated to the Oregon National Guard.

The toys will be sorted, boxed up, and sent to Oregon National Guard troops for distribution to Iraqi children living in and around Baghdad, according to Kay Fristad, Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs spokesperson.

“This is one of those great things the community does to help us and the Iraqi people,” Fristad said. “It shows that no matter what political or social beliefs people have, they still want to reach out and help.”

Jean Dively, of Salem, Ore., and her husband had been collecting the toys for decades as a hobby. After her husband’s death in 2003, she decided to donate the collection to a worthy cause, with some of them going to a local church group, and the rest to the Oregon National Guard.

“I’m truly glad the toys are going to [the] Iraqi children. They’re brand new — no one has ever played with them. I couldn’t think of a better place for them to go,” Dively said.

“They [the soldiers] will use these toys to help establish a relationship with the Iraqi children,” Fristad said. “Then hopefully they will trust our soldiers enough to pass along information about insurgents and IEDs. That little bit of trust can save a lot of lives. And to think it all started with a toy.”

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Warren: ‘A heroic son of La Grande’

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

LA GRANDE, Ore. — Sgt. 1st Class Mark C. Warren died Jan. 31 from non-combat related causes while on duty in Iraq with Eastern Oregon’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Armored. His son, 1st Lt. Christopher Warren, was also on duty with the 3rd Battalion in Kirkuk, Iraq, and he escorted his father home to render full military honors and bid a final farewell with his family.

Nearly four hundred friends, family, and military and civilian coworkers attended a late-morning memorial service held at the Oregon National Guard Armory in La Grande on Feb. 11. Warren, who joined the National Guard and Army in a four-year active duty tour starting in 1981, joined the Oregon National Guard in 1990. Warren worked as a conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad before his unit was activated.

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, a fellow Marine, said Warren was “...a shining star of the Oregon National Guard and hero son of La Grande.”

The governor also noted that Warren will be remembered for his hard work, loyalty, leadership, patriotism, and for taking care of his soldiers and coworkers.

"Although he is gone, his good deeds remain" said Kulongoski.

Also attending the service were Maj. Gen. Lawrence F. Lafrenz, Adjutant General of the Idaho National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrnes, Jr., acting Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard. The 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry is assigned to the Idaho National Guard’s 116th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq.

Warren is survived by his sons 1st Lt. Christopher Warren, Michael Warren, and Ryan Warren, his former wife Carol Anne Warren, and his mother Wanda Davies, all of La Grande, Ore.

Enlisted Leadership Conference a success

RILEA TRAINING SITE, -19FEN- TON, Ore. — The upper echelons of Oregon’s enlisted leaders met at Rilea Training Site on Feb. 17-19 for the annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference.

The conference featured enlisted majors, first sergeants and detachment sergeants from across the state. The group discussed the Oregon Guard’s two priority issues: deployments and equipment shortfalls to non-commissioned officer career management.

Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery was the theme for this year’s conference and included a short trip to Ft. Clatsop, where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark wandered. The conference was capped off with a trip to the back offices, where attendees could share common problems and give possible solutions.

"We’ve changed the entire format," Moe said. "We needed to invigorate the process."


"There was a positive atmosphere," Loop continued.

Moe said another goal of the SELC was team-building. Battalions and brigades were divided into small groups which rotated through six stations, each with a different focus. Before each rotation the group was given a team-building exercise, proceeding through the stations round-robin style.

The first station was the leaders’ forum, where attendees were given the chance to bring up issues on a wide variety of topics to seniors officers and enlisted in the brigades.

Another forum focused on Forward Operating Base logistics and setup. Another included a class about the transformation of the Army into a more cellular structure where brigade-level units could be deployed without mobilizing the entire battalion.

Yet another forum addressed deployed soldier’s issues. Participants were able to pose questions to soldiers who had been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq about pre-deployment training and overseas operations.

The final station helped attendees understand subordinate career management.

"I thought it was well organized," Loop said. "It presents the big picture and how things..."

Oregon Soldiers now part of Iraq’s history

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

BY U.S. ARMY AND Joint Forces Headquarters and both wings.

Story by Maj. Mike Allegre, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. — The National Guard Bureau has honored the 142nd Mission Support Flight at Portland Air Base with two awards naming them one of the best in the country.

The flight was notified that they were selected as the 2004 Outstanding ANG Military example for superior customer service and training professionals.

The unit’s team of personnel and training professionals is credited with providing quality support and service that exceeded the customer’s needs while maintaining the readiness of over 1,500 Oregon Air National Guard members.

The NGB noted that positive customer satisfaction ratings, as reported on the Oregon customer service surveys, which were conducted in open forums where attendees could share common problems and give possible solutions.

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the pilot asked everyone to remain seated so that they would not engage in a misdirected dash to the exits. Troops from the 3-116 (they were on 15 days leave).

I am proud of ALL of our men in the guard, whether they have gone to Iraq or to any other place. The troops are now just as important as the guys over there, as Oregon runs on a ‘skeleton crew’ while the rest of us are important in none of us more important than the other. We are a family, and are a team. We cannot spread this poisonous philosophy that we are “owed” recognition, or that one group is more important than another.

Yesterday I shared a plane ride from Portland to Portland with a couple of enlisted soldiers for their service to let that happen. Do I have bad days? Yes. Do I feel angry and frustrated with the procedures that I see accepting? Of course! But I am proud of my husband for his command in Iraq. We are a team — all of us — from the soldiers to the spouses to the families to the friends and you are not forgotten. Those serving in Iraq. Please keep the faith:

For those soldiers who are perhaps new to the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps enlisted ranks, we want to hear from readers to the Oregon National Guard to know his or her tremendous ability and commitment to this institution,” Byrne said. “His return to the position of Adjutant General is a plus for Oregon given his vast experience at the national level.

Mr. Bob Elliott, Executive Director of the Oregon Military Department said, “It occurred to us that perhaps the state could do more to help our Officer and Enlisted Association offer additional life insurance to our Oregon National Guardsmen. Scholarship at P. O. Box 243, Portland, OR 97204.

Sincerely,
Melina Finke
Wife of Sgt. Christ Finke
1st Cav Div/39th BCT
HHC 2-162

Airline aviators thank soldier for their service

Yesterday I shared a plane ride from Portland to Seattle with a couple of enlisted soldiers for their service to let that happen. Do I have bad days? Yes. Do I feel angry and frustrated with the procedures that I see accepting? Of course! But I am proud of my husband for his command in Iraq. We are a team — all of us — from the soldiers to the spouses to the families to the friends and you are not forgotten.

For those soldiers who are perhaps new to the Sentinel, we want to hear from you with your ideas for projects students can complete at home. Along with hands-on exhibits, the Oregon Army National Guard will sponsor their third Annual Earth Day event at Shaver Elementary School on Portland on April 21.

Approximately 190 elementary school students will spend the day learning about the Oregon National Guard. The event runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The school is located at 2701 NE 131st Place.

During the event, students will participate in nine different interactive educational booths which range from Warming and Disaster Clean-up to Environmental Brain Teaser trivia games. Each student will also take a packet of information and earth-friendly tips, and plan-ahead tips for projects students can complete at home.

ESGR visits Tualatin Valley

Earth Day activities from the Oregon National Guard spoke at the Tualatin Valley Shrine Club on Feb. 16. Maj. Col. Ward Broom, Director of the Oregon Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, spoke to members and guests about the Earth Day program, the ESGR helps protect employment rights of Reservists and National Guard members who are deployed off duty, and Reserve members 'paperless' route

The fund will be established in the State Treasurer’s office, using money appropriated to the Oregon Military Department for death and injury benefits. The fund will be kept separate and distinct from the state’s general fund.

The proposed Oregon National Guard Memorial Fund would provide an additional $5,000 death benefit to survivors of Oregon Guardsmen. “[The bill] is a significant benefit to the Oregon National Guard members,” said General Rees.

The bill, introduced by Senate President Peter Courtney, is currently before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It will go before the House of Representatives before being forwarded to the Governor’s office.

The Oregon Sentinel

The Oregon Sentinel is a publication of the Oregon National Guard. The newspaper is staffed by members of the Oregon National Guard who are killed while on federal active duty.

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Finaly, Lt. Peter Wood, who recently retired from commands at the national level, will have a seat on the ESGR’s board. Wood, who was part of Oregon National Guard Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, was from Portland, and attended Portland State University before his unit was activated for deployment to Afghanistan.

The David Weisbenstein Memorial Enlisted Scholarship Fund was created and endowed by Star Park Company/The Schliesinger Family, the parent company of Star Park, where he was employed as a manager.

If you are interested in applying for the scholarship, call Maj. Dan Lockett at 503-725-5445 for an application or download an application and submit it online via: www.pgt.com/final/scholarships.htm

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made by mail: Oregon National Guard Scholarship at P. O. Box 243, Portland, OR 97204.

Birds of Police Base, Ga.

The Oregon National Guard will hold its third Annual Earth Day event on April 21.

The Oregon Army National Guard will second term for the Maj. General

PSU announces Weisbenstein scholarship

The Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Army National Guard will hold its third Annual Earth Day event on April 21.

Yesterday I shared a plane ride from Portland to Portland with a couple of enlisted soldiers for their service to let that happen. Do I have bad days? Yes. Do I feel angry and frustrated with the procedures that I see accepting? Of course! But I am proud of my husband for his command in Iraq. We are a team — all of us — from the soldiers to the spouses to the families to the friends and you are not forgotten.

For those soldiers who are perhaps new to the Sentinel, we want to hear from you with your ideas for projects students can complete at home. Along with hands-on exhibits, the Oregon Army National Guard will sponsor their third Annual Earth Day event at Shaver Elementary School on Portland on April 21.

Approximately 190 elementary school students will spend the day learning about the Oregon National Guard. The event runs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The school is located at 2701 NE 131st Place.

During the event, students will participate in nine different interactive educational booths which range from Warming and Disaster Clean-up to Environmental Brain Teaser trivia games. Each student will also take a packet of information and earth-friendly tips, and plan-ahead tips for projects students can complete at home.

ESGR visits Tualatin Valley

Earth Day activities from the Oregon National Guard spoke at the Tualatin Valley Shrine Club on Feb. 16. Maj. Col. Ward Broom, Director of the Oregon Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, spoke to members and guests about the Earth Day program, the ESGR helps protect employment rights of Reservists and National Guard members who are deployed off duty, and Reserve members ‘paperless’ route

The fund will be established in the State Treasurer’s office, using money appropriated to the Oregon Military Department for death and injury benefits. The fund will be kept separate and distinct from the state’s general fund.

The proposed Oregon National Guard Memorial Fund would provide an additional $5,000 death benefit to survivors of Oregon Guardsmen. “[The bill] is a significant benefit to the Oregon National Guard members,” said General Rees.

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Air Force Assistance campaign runs through May 6

Randolph Air Force Base, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force Assistance Fund’s theme for the upcoming “Caring” campaign runs through May 6.

Program officials invite Airmen to contribute to the Air Force’s four-official charitable organizations.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retirees, and their dependents, spouses and families. This is the 32nd year of the campaign. Last year’s campaign received 100 percent of designated contributions.

“The need for (Air Force Aid Society) assistance remains strong,” said Lt. Gen. Mike McCoy, Air Force Aid Society chairman. “And while we hope the need remains the same: 541-312-4309.  The unit

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to the following charities:

— The Air Force Aid Society. AFAS provides housing assistance, emergency financial assistance, education assistance and family support to

— The Air Force Assistance Fund. The Air Force Aid Society helped more than 30,000 Airmen and their families worldwide in assistance that is a lot of help.

“Contributions are vital for the society to sustain itself; it helps us continue to provide an Airmen-helping-Airmen program,” General McCoy said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper recently announced a $5.4 million goal. A year ago, Airmen gave $6.7 million to the fund.

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Oregon National Guard shines at the Rose Garden

**Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gower D. Talley,**
Marketing NCO, Oregon Army National Guard

In early March, over 150 people enjoyed the annual “Guard Night at the Blazers.” Current and future members of the Oregon National Guard had an opportunity to share a little of the Guard experience with over 17,000 blazer fans — all of whom seemed to be very receptive and supportive of our presence at the Rose Garden.

Blazer fans that entered through the main entrance were greeted by Sgt. True North, Spec. Jeff Willison and Private 1st Class Micaiah Strong (of the Oregon City recruiting Station), who were handing out red, white and blue clappers to the kids, and National Guard literature to most of the adults.

At the beginning of the game, Staff Sgt. Steven Wing, Sgt. Werner Buxton, Spec. Charles Feldmen and Private 1st Class Jake Riese — collectively the 2-218 Field Artillery Color Guard — posted the colors on the floor of the stadium. Sgt. 1st Class Mark Browning of the Portland State University Gold Program sang the national anthem.

That night the Blazers were playing the Detroit Pistons — the defending world champions — and although the Blazers never held a lead, we all still had a good time. Any time soldiers can take a little time away from the pressures of the uniform is a good thing.

In my opinion, however, the highlight of the evening came just before the end of half time. At two minutes before the start of the 3rd quarter, Staff Sergeant Joe Tumbaga and Corporal Taylor Letsis (both of whom had just returned from Iraq only days earlier), were escorted to center court and introduced to the crowd. The two soldiers were there to represent their comrades in arms who were still serving in the Middle East and in harms way. They received an extended standing ovation from the entire audience in the Rose Garden.

On a personal note — I would like to thank Michelle McGee with the Portland Trail Blazers organization. There is more to putting together an event like this than you might imagine: floor passes, escorting people through a crowd of thousands, sound checks, rehearsals, getting color guard weapons through security, loading equipment, and so on. Michelle seemed to be everywhere all the time.

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**Retiree Service Office**
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