3rd Battalion 116th Cavalry, G Troop 82nd Cavalry return to Oregon

Soldiers alerted for ANA mission: 41st BCT will deploy to Afghanistan in ’06

National Guard celebrates 200 years of military heritage with Lewis & Clark bicentennial
Oregon Sentinel
Att: Editor
c/o State Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

The Oregon Sentinel

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of AR 200-1-5, and is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309.

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 free to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to interested persons at their request. Circulation: 12,500.

The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically via the Internet at http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGRN/publications.shtml.

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

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel. It publishes stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see the Oreg Sentinel Public Affairs Representatives, or contact the 142 Wing Public Affairs Officer, or any of the Oregon Sentinel staff members listed below.

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 accomplished on a Macintosh or Windows computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.

© 2005 Oregon Military Department
All Rights Reserved

Oregon Military Department

State Commander-in-Chief
Governor Ted Kulongoski

Adjunct General
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees

Asst. Adjunct General, Air
Brig. Gen. James C. Cunningham

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe

State Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith

Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff

Associate Editor/Copy Editor
Kay F. Frisitt
kay.frissitt@mil.state.or.us

Managing Editor/Contributing Writer
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.choy@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Editor/Contributing Writer
Capt. Michael S. Brabash
michael.s.brabash@mil.state.or.us

Senior Copy Editor/Contributing Writer
Spec. April L. Dustin
april.dustin@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributing Writer
Kimberly L. Lippert
kimberly.l.lippert@mil.state.or.us

Audio/Visual/Contributing Photographer
Capt. Kevin C. Hove
tom.hove@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributors
1156 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Governor Kulongoski: “Oregon National Guard a light of hope”

For many of us, Veteran’s Day calls to mind images of grazing Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen of yesteryear parading down Main Street while young families wave U.S. flags and cheer as they pass. They are the heroes of our past, a generation that earned our admiration, respect, and is aptly named the “Greatest Generation.”

Yet as the procession of brave Oregonians continues, we see a change in those marching by. Among the rank and file of this parade we now see familiar faces: a neighbor, a friend, or a coworker. Some are students, some firefighters, police officers, nurses, and doctors. Still others are mill workers, small business owners, farmers. These new faces should be familiar. You see them in the mirror every day.

The ranks of Oregon heroes are growing. You, the members of the Oregon National Guard, are the next generation to command the admiration and respect of this state. The nation has turned to you during our darkest hours, and you’ve been a light of hope, help, and comfort.

On behalf of my family and the people of this great state of Oregon, thank you for your dedication, sacrifice, and service so that we may live in freedom. Whether your duty takes you to firefights in Iraq or forest fires in Oregon, we are assured in knowing you are there for us. On this day for all Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen of this great land, for all you do, we are eternally grateful.

May God be with you and bless you today and always.

Governor Theodore Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

Letters

From The Front

41st PSC earns mobilization rites of passage

Soldiers from the 41st Personnel Services Company participate in an event on the mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas in September, 2005.


Summer and fall is gone and so are we… for a while. Just as the trees and foliage change with the season, the 41st Personnel Services Company makes its transition from National Guard to active Army Soldiers.

From early August to Mid-October we went through mobilization training at an old WWII internment camp in the desert near Dana Ana, New Mexico, located outside Fort Bliss, Texas.

The training consisted of Urban Operation Training, Convey Operations training, Individual Movement Training, Weapons Qualification, Detainee and Enemy Prisoners of War, Combat Life Saver, Nuclear Biological and Chemical training, Land Navigation and a whole lot more. Whew!!! It was hot and long, but we did it! Hooray!!!

We completed our training with everything’s efforts and motivation. Every evening marked one more day fulfilled and one day closer to the culminating test of our unit, which consisted of a very long day of combining all our training and knowledge and putting it to the test.

Training brought our unit together in a very particular, but very special way. I know a lot more about my sisters and brothers than I thought would ever happen, but it did make us closer, and in a way that got us through the tough times.

A broken finger from Individual Movement Training, broken ribs and a broken wrist from Urban Operations, strained back’s from full “battle rattle” gear, and blisters on our feet the size of a ping-pong ball claimed a lot of us throughout our training. Yes, a ping-pong! My blisters were so bad, our unit medic drained 1.5 c.c’s of fluid out of them so I could walk. Another Soldier suffered a strained ankle, blister on her feet and an infected toe, but she made it through.

There were some hot days that weren’t for the faint of heart. Water seemed to be the answer to everything. When I’d mention how bad I was feeling, someone would pipe up and say, “Drink more water.”

These moments of sweat, blood and tears brought us closer because of that special bond we claimed upon our validation day. Our rites of passage have been fully fulfilled through the teamwork of everyone.

Two months of mobilization training led us to our final 12-month resting place in Kau- wait, where we now proudly wear a wartime service patch on our shoulders.

As human resource specialists, we are given the responsibility of taking care of Soldiers who are serving a very paramount purpose in the “global north.” Our day to day work stations are spread out in many different places throughout the camp where we are stationed. That makes it difficult to see each other on a frequent basis unless it’s during a mandatory briefing or bumping into each other on the way to the latrines late at night.

Being in Kuwait, I finally realize how quietness in the air sometimes becomes so loud that I can hear the sand whispering to me in a language as familiar as the native tongue spoken here. But this view I see was hard to miss. As a Soldier...

To say that right after the storm there was a lot of chaos is beyond an understatement, but the ORNG came in and within days things were much better.

It has been reported the New Orleans Police Department was not at all helpful. In fact, they were oftentimes a large part of the problem. Luckily, we had the National Guard here to keep EVERYONE in line and in some cases...

I especially want to mention Captain Todd and his unit. They repeatedly went above and beyond to make sure that things were going the way they should. They were always polite, helpful, and friendly and were the bright spot during a very dark time.

The National Guard is still here… units are here from all over the country. Their presence is a blessing to all of us, and we appreciate all of the help they’ve given us.

I wanted to make sure that those men and women that were here during those first very stressful weeks, those who had to deal with that initial chaos and all that went with it, those who went about their duty in the most honorable way with such humanity, I want to thank you all of their effort meant to us.

I thank all of you with my heart.

Sincerely,

Lisa A Zaleski,
New Orleans, La

New Orleans resident thankful for Oregon’s assistance

Hello,

My name is Lisa Zaleski. I live in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was one of the Katrina survivors that did not evacuate. I stayed in the Marigny and Bywater areas. I wanted to write and thank all of the men and women of the Oregon National Guard for all that they did for us after the storm.

To say that right after the storm there was a lot of chaos is beyond an understatement, but the ORNG came in and within days things were much better.

It has been reported the New Orleans Police Department was not at all helpful. In fact, they were oftentimes a large part of the problem. Luckily, we had the National Guard here to keep EVERYONE in line and in some cases...

I especially want to mention Captain Todd and his unit. They repeatedly went above and beyond to make sure that things were going the way they should. They were always polite, helpful, and friendly and were the bright spot during a very dark time.

The National Guard is still here… units are here from all over the country. Their presence is a blessing to all of us, and we appreciate all of the help they’ve given us.

I wanted to make sure that those men and women that were here during those first very stressful weeks, those who had to deal with that initial chaos and all that went with it, those who went about their duty in the most honorable way with such humanity, I want to thank you all of their effort meant to us.

I thank all of you with my heart.

Sincerely,

Lisa A Zaleski,
New Orleans, La

Your Letters

41st PSC earns mobilization rites of passage

Team members learn about winning, not quitting

Photo by Spec. Janelle Henderson, 41st PSC

Your Letters

New Orleans resident thankful for Oregon’s assistance

Hello,

My name is Lisa Zaleski. I live in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was one of the Katrina survivors that did not evacuate. I stayed in the Marigny and Bywater areas. I wanted to write and thank all of the men and women of the Oregon National Guard for all that they did for us after the storm.

To say that right after the storm there was a lot of chaos is beyond an understatement, but the ORNG came in and within days things were much better.

It has been reported the New Orleans Police Department was not at all helpful. In fact, they were oftentimes a large part of the problem. Luckily, we had the National Guard here to keep EVERYONE in line and in some cases...

I especially want to mention Captain Todd and his unit. They repeatedly went above and beyond to make sure that things were going the way they should. They were always polite, helpful, and friendly and were the bright spot during a very dark time.

The National Guard is still here… units are here from all over the country. Their presence is a blessing to all of us, and we appreciate all of the help they’ve given us.

I wanted to make sure that those men and women that were here during those first very stressful weeks, those who had to deal with that initial chaos and all that went with it, those who went about their duty in the most honorable way with such humanity, I want to thank you all of their effort meant to us.

I thank all of you with my heart.

Sincerely,

Lisa A Zaleski,
New Orleans, La
I have many opportunities to visit communities and private organizations around the state, and I’m often invited to speak at events. Everywhere I go I find incredible support for our organization. People tell me how proud they are of you and what you do, but as I’m speaking, I tell them, “You may think you know the Guard, but I don’t think you do.”

I have no desire to be rude or to ruin the outstanding support, so I explain what I mean. To get my point across, I ask people to consider the month of September 2005. September was extremely busy, and if you look at everything we did it’s absolutely clear why the Oregon National Guard and the Soldiers and Airmen who are part of the organization are so important to the state and nation.

In the early days after hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast we asked to send a contingent of Army Military Police and Air Force Security Forces to help restore order in New Orleans. We expected our commitment to be about 150-200 troops, and we had them in Louisiana in about 48 hours. On Sept. 2 our governor received a call from Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. Under the Emergency Management Assis- tance Compact, the Compact - the military, asked for a brigade to help stabilize the situation and aid in rescue and recovery operations. We went from a cold start at 8 a.m. that Friday morning, Sept. 2 — the Friday before a three day holiday weekend — to a full- on deployment of the Army Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team and the Air Guard’s 272nd Combat Communications Squadron. By Sept. 4, we had 7,408 soldiers deployed, and 1,900 Soldiers and Airmen in New Orleans. In a matter of days our troops rescued about 2,300 people and protected the homes and lives in about 75% of the Crescent City. As hurricane Rita approached, Task Force Oregon along with units from the Solidi- ness Processing made for a rapid call-up, outstanding leadership at every level, and a grand deployment of forces to New Orleans and Airmen. We also received wonderful support from the Air National Guard of West Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, and New York providing our airlift. No one but the Guard can do what we did.

Although the hurricanes were incredible news and a big effort on our part, there’s more. This was done with about 850 soldiers de- ployed in the state, and our airmen were there as well. The Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry and G-Troop, 82nd Armor would be coming to both wings, and the units of the 367th Maintenance Battalion as well. Our Soldiers came from across Oregon to help with the response.

In Afghanistan as well. Our soldiers from the 142nd Fighter Wing were absolutely amazing, and did a superb job of communicating the importance of the F-15 mission and that we couldn’t afford to lose these aircraft in the theater. The Tigers succeeded.

Our CH-47 Chinooks have been providing essential airlift of cargo and troops throughout the mountainous terrain in Afghanistan as well. Our soldiers from Det. 1, Company A, 249th Aviation in Baldor, while two platoons from the 367th Maintenance Battalion company were working in Camp Caldwell.

In Afghanistan the 1042nd Medical Command performed admirably, and 1042nd military health professionals in our UH-60 Blackhawks to troops and civilians wounded by the Taliban and al Qaeda. As well as the 504th Medical Detachment, the F-15 mission and that we couldn’t afford to lose these aircraft in the theater. The Tigers succeeded.

Our CH-47 Chinooks have been providing essential airlift of cargo and troops throughout the mountainous terrain in Afghanistan as well. Our soldiers from Det. 1, Company A, 249th Aviation in Baldor, while two platoons from the 367th Maintenance Battalion company were working in Camp Caldwell.

In Afghanistan the 1042nd Medical Command performed admirably, and 1042nd military health professionals in our UH-60 Blackhawks to troops and civilians wounded by the Taliban and al Qaeda. As well as the 504th Medical Detachment, the F-15 mission and that we couldn’t afford to lose these aircraft in the theater. The Tigers succeeded.

In Afghanistan the 1042nd Medical Command performed admirably, and 1042nd medical health professionals in our UH-60 Blackhawks to troops and civilians wounded by the Taliban and al Qaeda. As well as the 504th Medical Detachment, the F-15 mission and that we couldn’t afford to lose these aircraft in the theater. The Tigers succeeded.

The brave men and women of the Guard and the Air Guard are coming to both wings, and the units of the 367th Maintenance Battalion as well. Our Soldiers came from across Oregon to help with the response.

We are on the threshold of a new year. We've also faced challenges in addition to the ones you’ve been more impressed than you were before.
We volunteered then, we volunteer now
Lewis & Clark education emphasizes Army values

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Just as Meriwether Lewis and William Clark’s Corps of Discovery ventured through the unforgiving climate of the lower Columbia River region 200 years ago, Soldiers and Airmen weathered wind, rain, and hail to host the opening ceremony commemo- rat- ing Lewis & Clark bicentennial. "It is remarkable when we consider that (Fort Clatsop) was originally built by the militia 200 years ago and is now being run down by the militia of today," said Rathburn. Hamel said Fort Clatsop officials have asked the National Guard for assistance with re- building the fort after archaelogical digs for Corps of Discovery artifacts are complete. Fort Clatsop is the only National Park construction project the ORNG has assisted with. The Innovative Readiness Training program helped complete the Fort to Sea bridge, which connects Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis & Clark followed 200 years ago. As partners in the very first Oregon Solutions Team, we helped ensure the trip would be complete in time for its dedication during the bicentennial events," said Hamel. "It is this common American vision, courage, and willingness to push beyond the known frontiers that has defined the character of this nation," Congressman Wu said to the crowd of veterans. "The Corps of Discovery answered the call to duty and carried out their orders with pride and with conviction, and to have you, and so has every other generation of American veterans." "Recognizing the veterans for their service was the work of the Freedom Team Salute program, which began in May. The program was initiated to give all service members the opportunity to recognize parents, spouses and employers for their support. It was also created to recognize veterans and give thanks for their service.

At the reception, the Freedom Team Salute program honored veterans with a pin, commemorative letter, certificate and a coin. Four veterans were recognized in front of the crowd, one from each of the conflicts since WWII, and all of them receiving standing ovations. The WWII veteran recognized at the reception was Seaman 1st Class William Thomas who was a survivor of Pearl Harbor. He was pinned by Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers. Recognized for service during the Korean War was Lester McNary, Chair of the Lewis & Clark bicentennial Association, one of the two parent organizations of Destination: The Pacific. McNary was pinned by Lt. Gen. James Dubick, Commanding General of Fort Lewis and I Corps.

The Vietnam veteran recognized was Sgt. Louis Nelson who was a door gunner for 717th Air Cavalry who was pinned by Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen, chair of the Lewis and Clark General Officer Steering Committee and Adjutant General of North Dakota.

"I didn't know that any of this was going to happen and it was a good surprise," Nelson said. The Desert Storm veteran recognized was Chief Warrant Officer Stacey Nelson-Hale, who was one of the first Oregon National Guardmen to be called up for active duty in 49 years. She was pinned by Brig. Gen. King Sidwell, Adjutant General of Missouri.

"It is a little overwhelming to be a part of this day and has been a very rewarding experi- ence," said Nelson-Hale, who was a lieutenant during Desert Storm. "I didn't realize at the end of the event I was going to go up there and be awarded, which was probably a good thing because I would have got stage fright.

Lewis & Clark celebration an opportunity to thank and recognize all Oregon veterans
n the winter of 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a group of weary men down the Columbia River to their journey’s destination: the Pacific Ocean.

According to their journals, the weather experienced on the Oregon coast by the men of the Corps of Discovery two hundred years ago differed very little from that which visitors encountered at the Fort Stevens’ commemoration celebration on November 11, 2005.

It rained and hailed, and then it rained some more.

More than 1,000 people were in attendance to commemorate the bicentennial anniversary of Lewis and Clark’s historic journey across the continent in search of a river passage to the West. The party arrived at the confluence of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean in November 1805. It seemed fitting that Oregonians and Washingtonians would celebrate the Corps of Discovery's accomplishment on Veterans Day.

The ceremony, which opened the week of events titled “Distinctive: The Pacific,” was filled with patriotic fervor of many kinds. Numerous veterans of former wars and prior service members were in attendance. Members of Oregon and Washington’s Army and Air National Guard were on hand, as well as active duty members from every branch of the service.


Members from Native American tribes around the country also participated in the commemoration, with tribes from as far away as Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma, bearing tribal flags in honor of their veterans or soldiers currently serving overseas.

Dick Basch, a direct descendant of Chief Cobboway, upon whose ancient village site the ceremony took place, gave a tribal blessing.

It was on those grounds that our people met Lewis and Clark, and it was a friendly meeting,” Basch said, adding that he was very happy to be among so many veterans.

Kulongoski then took to the microphone, thanking the tribes for their participation.

“We’re very honored to be part of this celebration with you,” Kulongoski said.

The governor called the commemoration “... one of the greatest moments in Oregon’s cultural history.”

“If ever there was a day to celebrate courage and the human spirit, this is it,” Oregon’s Governor announced to the crowd’s applause. Though battered by freezing rain, onlookers continued to cheer each speaker’s references to veterans and the Corps of Discovery.

“The values that inspired Lewis and Clark inspired all American veterans,” Kulongoski continued. “Those values are love of country, commitment to duty, courage to walk in the valley of the shadow of death and willingness to sacrifice.”

The Governor went on to say that he sees the same values in the soldiers serving overseas today as in the generation that fought World War II.

The adjutant generals from the Oregon and Washington National Guard thanked the Native Americans for their participation in the ceremony, and praised the service of America’s veterans.

“The Corps of Discovery was a military expedition. It was of great consequence to this country and we thank all veterans of all backgrounds,” Rees said.

Continuing with the theme of America’s military being comprised of people from different ethnic backgrounds, Lowenberg remarked, “This exemplifies our nation’s motto: E Pluribus Unum. From many: One.”

“And we’re still an army of one,” he added.

In addition to veterans and current service members, a large number of Lewis and Clark re-enactors also attended the ceremony. Some of the actors were from as far away as Monticello, Va., where Thomas Jefferson originally dispatched the Corps of Discovery westward. Some of the actors had followed the corps’ exact route up the Missouri River from St. Louis, through Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Montana, over the mountains into Idaho and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to be at the Veterans Day event.

Warden Keller of Lebanon, Ill., spent the last two years tracing the Corps’ route with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, dressed in costume as John Shields, the group’s blacksmith.

“At 35 years of age, Shields was the oldest member of the group,” Keller said. “At 77, I’m also the oldest member of our group.”

Other groups brought ponderous pine canoes, hollowed from trees 30-foot long and 5-foot wide. The group paddled them along the Columbia River the same way the Corps did — the only difference, according to one member of the canoe-building Bit-terroot Corps, is that the original explorers traversed the major rapids of the Columbia in their canoes. Today, the rapids have been replaced by hydroelectric dams.

Representatives from the Clatsop-Ne-halem tribe of the Oregon coast brought hand-carved redwood canoe paddles, which they used later in the day to paddle a handmade canoe out into the ocean to commemorate an ancient tradition.

The ceremony concluded with a joint-force flyover consisting of a pair of Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, two Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopters from the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Salem, Ore., and a Coast Guard UH-60 “Jayhawk” helicopter from U.S Coast Guard Air Station Astoria. Even though the storm increased in intensity.

See LEWIS & CLARK on PAGE 8
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial an opportunity for Native Americans to reflect, remember

Story by Sgt. Michael Genis, 175th MPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Native Americans could only imagine what it was like to be among the first Americans to see the Oregon Country. Lewis and Clark’s journey to the Pacific Ocean opened up a world of opportunity to explore and discover, but it often came at a great cost to the indigenous peoples who lived there.

“[The] Corps of Discovery had a profound impact on Native American culture and land use patterns. It changed the way we understood the world,” said John Thomas, a Vietnam veteran who serves as a representative for the 175th MPA Detachment. “It was a time when we had to adapt to the new world that was being created for us.”

The Corps of Discovery, led by Capt. Meriwether Lewis, was composed of 30 men, including several Native Americans. They traveled through the Great Northwest, exploring and mapping the area that is now part of the United States.

“During the expedition, the Corps of Discovery faced numerous challenges, from harsh weather conditions to encounters with hostile Native American tribes,” said Thomas. “But through it all, they persevered and made significant contributions to our knowledge of the American West.”

The expedition was led by Capt. William Clark, who later took over as the leader of the Corps after the death of Capt. Lewis. The expedition was sponsored by President Thomas Jefferson, who was eager to explore the lands west of the Mississippi River.

“President Jefferson believed in the importance of exploration and discovery, and the Corps of Discovery was a key part of his vision for expanding the boundaries of the United States,” said Thomas. “The expedition was successful in its mission, and its members made important contributions to our understanding of the American West.”

Today, the Corps of Discovery is remembered as a symbol of exploration and discovery, and its legacy continues to inspire new generations of explorers and researchers.

Lewis & Clark re-enactors teach history through role playing

Story by Sgt. Nicholas Ward, 151st MPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the National Park Service celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition, a modern-day group of re-enactors has made it its mission to educate people about the expedition.

The re-enactment group, led by Capt. Meriwether Lewis, was composed of 30 men, including several Native Americans. They traveled through the Great Northwest, exploring and mapping the area that is now part of the United States.

“During the expedition, the Corps of Discovery faced numerous challenges, from harsh weather conditions to encounters with hostile Native American tribes,” said Thomas. “But through it all, they persevered and made significant contributions to our knowledge of the American West.”

The expedition was led by Capt. William Clark, who later took over as the leader of the Corps after the death of Capt. Lewis. The expedition was sponsored by President Thomas Jefferson, who was eager to explore the lands west of the Mississippi River.

“President Jefferson believed in the importance of exploration and discovery, and the Corps of Discovery was a key part of his vision for expanding the boundaries of the United States,” said Thomas. “The expedition was successful in its mission, and its members made important contributions to our understanding of the American West.”

Today, the Corps of Discovery is remembered as a symbol of exploration and discovery, and its legacy continues to inspire new generations of explorers and researchers.
What about the baby?

Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau's life after Lewis & Clark

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

Eight months of age, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau was the youngest explorer to penetrate to the western edge of the continental United States.

Like his iconic namesake, Sacagawea, not a lot of information was left behind, and what historians know about Jean Baptiste Charbonneau comes not from his own hand, but from journal entries left by others.

Sacagawea, the only woman to accompany the 35 members of the Lewis & Clark Expedition's "Corps of Discovery," left a sesquicentennial of smoke. Fort Stevens re-enactors from the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battery, 218th Field Artillery Battalion from present-day Santa Fe, NM, to San Diego, Calif. Over more than 600 miles, Jean Baptiste traveled well ahead of the group to hunt game and scout trails. After successful completion of this mission, he took off as a leader and an able administrative judicial official at the San Luis Rey Mission. His tenure was short-lived, and he resigned a year later. An official report explained that Jean Baptiste had, "done his duty to the best of his ability, but being a half-breeder Indian of the U.S. is regarded by the people as favoring the Indians more than he should, and hence there is much complaint against him."

Leaving Southern California behind, Jean Baptiste traveled north to the Sacramento Valley. He was a leader, accompanying the general staff of 1849, he stayed in the region for many years, shifting from working at an old mining camp to working as a clerk at the Washington side of the Columbia River. The guns were pointed out over the 4-mile itself follows the same procedures that Lewis and Clark would have used.

"The expedition runs as the original Corps of Discovery did, under 1803 military regulations . . . the standing orders of the 1st US Regiment are used," said expedition member Michael Dotson. "Also, we set up our camps according to Baron von Stuben's Drill Manual, 1794." While following the military traditions of the past, the expedition has been relying on the military's technical skills of the present. Dotson said the National Guard from many states have been assisting in the continuation of the expedition, since Sioux City, Iowa, by providing security, transportation, medical and rescue assistance. The National Guard from Oregon and Washington has been traveling with the expedition from Lewiston, Idaho, now along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The Guard has paralleled the expedition along the state lines as far as Astoria.

"If they hadn't been there, we would have lost some men," said Dotson. In Montana, local National Guard units provided transportation for the cottonwood, 30 ft., 3,000 lb. canoes when waterways were impassible. "I don't think this expedition could have gotten through some places without the National Guard's help," said Dotson.

Native Americans big part of Lewis & Clark celebration

Continued from PAGE 7

Friends of Fort Stevens re-enactors cover their ears as 218th Field Artillery sound off with their 55-mm Howitzers.

Continued from PAGE 5

strength, casting a barrage of ball and rain onto the audience, the crowd cheered as the aircraft cut a path across the cloudy sky.

Finally, the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battery, 218th Field Artillery Battalion from Portland, Ore., fired 10 shots from the ramparts of historic Fort Stevens, Ore., as part of a 21-gun salute.

The Washington Army National Guard's 2nd Battery, 146th Field Artillery Battalion, from Olympia, Wash., answered their salutes, with 10 mounted on Fort Stevens.

Unlike the Corps of Discovery, which spent a long winter fighting the rain and wind along the Pacific coast, the visitors at Fort Stevens hurried off to heated buses and automobiles after the two-hour ceremony, though probably with a little more respect for those who came before them.
Personal Profile

Story prepared by Sentinel Staff

Sgt. Mathew Niblack may be the oldest Soldier to re-enlist in the Oregon National Guard.

At age 55, Niblack brings years of valuable military, civilian, and life experience to his unit and mission.

Resigned from the Air National Guard in 2003, Niblack joined the 41st Personnel Services Company in Kuwait. The Oregon Sentinel conducted an e-mail interview with Niblack in early November.

OS: Why did you choose to go back into the military?

MN: When I ETS’d in January 1990, I thought my National Guard days were over. They didn’t have much interest in listing, but I had a good job with the Oregon State Employment Division at the time, and had just moved to Salem, so it wasn’t a serious thought. But then in 2003, I began reading about some of our National Guard troops going to Iraq. Shortly after this, I contacted a National Guard recruiter.

OS: What steps did you have to take to qualify for re-enlistment?

MN: I took the ASVAB, though I didn’t follow-up with a medical examination from MEPS. I met with Capt. Dustin May, Sgt. 1st Class Garrett. He explained that in order for me to re-enlist, I would need to lose 50 pounds and get physical and get an age waiver approved from the National Guard Bureau.

I went on a weight loss program in March 2004, and by September 2004 I lost 60 pounds by walking three miles per day. I was also able to have a physical examination at MEPS, which I passed, and my age waiver was sent to NGB. In January 2005, the ASVAB was sent to NGB. — I was back in the National Guard again!

OS: What did you do after you re-enlisted?

MN: After re-enlisting, I began working at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Salem on drill weekends, keeping my full-time position at Workers Compensation. It was a perfect fit.

In April 2005, I talked to some of our National Guard troopers who just returned from Iraq, some of whom had injuries. I decided then that I needed to do more. I requested additional deployments and was told that the 41st Personnel Services Company were deploying and that I should contact their unit. I did just that, and on August 6, 2005, I was deployed to Ft. Bliss, Texas with the 41st PSC for training.

OS: What were the challenges you’ve faced coming back into the military?

MN: I’m in pretty good shape so the physical aspects of being in the National Guard has not bothered me except for changing my diet. I had just lost weight and I worked the graveyard shift. Another challenge is sleeping in barracks again and being on the top bunk — sure different than my big, soft bed at home! Finally, being away from my family for a year has been tough. My wife and I have been married 34 years, and this is the longest we have ever been separated. Sometimes I yearn to be home with my family, and this is one of the aspects of deployed the difficulties in taking care of the family.

OS: What is it like being back in the military?

MN: I like being in the military. Granted. I’m adjusting to taking orders and carrying a medical bag and a weapon. I’ve had a B.S. in Physical Education. I’ve known my entire life that I would work the graveyard shift. Another challenge is sleeping in barracks again and being on the top bunk — sure different than my big, soft bed at home! Finally, being away from my family for a year has been tough. My wife and I have been married 34 years, and this is the longest we have ever been separated. Sometimes I yearn to be home with my family, and this is one of the aspects of deployed the difficulties in taking care of the family.

OS: What is it like being back in the military?

MN: I like being in the military. Granted. I’m adjusting to taking orders and carrying a medical bag and a weapon. I’ve had a B.S. in Physical Education. I’ve known my entire life that I would work the graveyard shift. Another challenge is sleeping in barracks again and being on the top bunk — sure different than my big, soft bed at home! Finally, being away from my family for a year has been tough. My wife and I have been married 34 years, and this is the longest we have ever been separated. Sometimes I yearn to be home with my family, and this is one of the aspects of deployed the difficulties in taking care of the family.

OS: What are some of the challenges you’re facing as a female soldier?

MN: As a female soldier serving in a male-dominated culture, Bruns found that the response to a female in uniform was very different than in America.

Many Iraqi males hold the belief that American women have been bought and sold as prostitutes for the enjoyment of the American males. Some would beマスフル and make obscene, sexual gestures at us. Other times, the men just wanted to ask questions about our jobs and the women. Sometimes there would be questions of concern because they didn’t want to see us hurt. And if you weren’t married - weren’t you?

Sometimes I was swarmed by men and women all wanting to touch me because I was an American woman. One incident became danger- ous when a group created a sexual situation around me. I was completely surrounded with people pulling and grabbing at me. I could not possibly walk. It took several other people to get me out. I jumped in the back of the Humvee but the crowd crowded on the windows to try and get a glimpse of me.

I had never experienced anything like that, but I didn’t tell anyone. It only happened once. ‘Death by mob’ was not my idea of a valiant way to leave Iraq. 

Bruns always found time to visit with the locals while on patrol. Visiting with the children. Bruns spent about a year in Baghdad as part of the 39th Brigade Combat Team’s Public Affairs Detachment. 

‘I had never experienced anything like that, but I didn’t tell anyone. It only happened once. ‘Death by mob’ was not my idea of a valiant way to leave Iraq.

The media reports that she and her fel- low soldiers saw on television about their response to incidents in Baghdad were very disheartening.

We would respond to an incident, work hard to make a difference, see progress and how much better it got and maybe it would make it seem like all was death and destruction. We’d all sit at the table shaking our heads and say, ‘We really need to remember it. I was there and it didn’t happen like that.’

Combat, of course, does have its ugly side. As a newspaper photographer, Bruns was used to photographing automobile ac- cidents and domestic problems. The wounds and circumstances of war were different.

‘The most difficult thing I had to do was photograph men dying from gunshot wounds. It was hard to look at the body and then look at the family. Sometimes in the night, I still hear them trying to speak through the gurgling in their throats. It was difficult. It is still difficult.’

As a female soldier serving in a male- dominated culture, Bruns found that the response to a female in uniform was very different than in America.

‘Many Iraqi males hold the belief that American women have been bought and sold as prostitutes for the enjoyment of the American males. Some would beマスフル and make obscene, sexual gestures at us. Other times, the men just wanted to ask questions about our jobs and the women. Sometimes there would be questions of concern because they didn’t want to see us hurt. And if you weren’t married - weren’t you?’

Sometimes I was swarmed by men and women all wanting to touch me because I was an American woman. One incident became danger- ous when a group created a sexual situation around me. I was completely surrounded with people pulling and grabbing at me. I could not possibly walk. It took several other people to get me out. I jumped in the back of the Humvee but the crowd crowded on the windows to try and get a glimpse of me.

‘I had never experienced anything like that, but I didn’t tell anyone. It only happened once. ‘Death by mob’ was not my idea of a valiant way to leave Iraq. 

Bruns always found time to visit with the locals while on patrol. Visiting with the children. Bruns spent about a year in Baghdad as part of the 39th Brigade Combat Team’s Public Affairs Detachment. 

‘I had never experienced anything like that, but I didn’t tell anyone. It only happened once. ‘Death by mob’ was not my idea of a valiant way to leave Iraq. 

The media reports that she and her fel- low soldiers saw on television about their response to incidents in Baghdad were very disheartening.

‘We would respond to an incident, work hard to make a difference, see progress and how much better it got and maybe it would make it seem like all was death and destruction. We’d all sit at the table shaking our heads and say, ‘We really need to remember it. I was there and it didn’t happen like that.’

Combat, of course, does have its ugly side. As a newspaper photographer, Bruns was used to photographing automobile ac- cidents and domestic problems. The wounds and circumstances of war were different.

‘The most difficult thing I had to do was photograph men dying from gunshot wounds. It was hard to look at the body and then look at the family. Sometimes in the night, I still hear them trying to speak through the gurgling in their throats. It was difficult. It is still difficult.’
JFHQ celebrates Diversity Day Nov. 9

Oregon National Guard soldiers and staff celebrated Diversity Day with a ceremony at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem on Nov. 9, 2005. This year’s theme, “Transformation through Leadership” focused on the importance of mentoring others.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard addressed the assembly before introducing the Keynote Speaker, Matt Hennessee. “When it comes to our lives we are here because other people had faith in us,” Hennessee said during his speech.

As a church pastor and former Nike employee working on diversity issues, Hennessee has lots of experience mentoring those from various cultural, educational, and family backgrounds.

“You have to decide who you are and not put each other in boxes…we have the ability to be unique because that’s what we are in the community, office, home, and work,” remarked Hennessee.

Hennessee challenged participants to think of situations in their own life where they may have different preferences than their co-workers or friends. While some love public speaking others prefer one-on-one conversation.

“You may not agree, but respect that their way of thinking is different,” said Hennessee.

In a short video presentation, leaders within the Oregon National Guard echoed Hennessee’s views on mentorship, often stressing the importance of using your life to benefit and guide others.

“Everyone has gifts — we ought to be working hard to share those gifts with others,” Hennessee said during his speech.

“You may not agree, but respect that their way of thinking is different,” said Hennessee.

In a short video presentation, leaders within the Oregon National Guard echoed Hennessee’s views on mentorship, often stressing the importance of using your life to benefit and guide others.

1249th EN BN receives a ‘concrete’ donation

The ceremony concluded with an ethnic food buffet where participants enjoyed a wide variety of foods chosen representing various cultures. The menu included Asian, European, Hispanic, Mediterranean, Indian, Middle Eastern, and North American food.

News Briefs

Benefit can help with family, special needs planning

Oregon National Guard Benefit Inc., through coordinated efforts with the Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Association, recently aligned itself with a local planning firm specializing in contact the comprehensive lifestyle planning for families with special needs children.

This program should be of significant help to families grappling with special needs issues such as understanding government benefits, social security programs, advanced estate planning, and emotional support. Help and assistance will be offered to families dealing with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and traumatic brain injuries, to name a few.

Some of the components of the program that will help parents and guardians attain a greater understanding of government benefits.

- Understanding legal and financial issues in special needs planning, including special needs trust.

- The Letter of Intent.

- Reviewing legal options when a child with special needs is 18 and still requires guardianship and conservatorship.

- Client self-determination issues.

- Determining how much money is needed to provide lifetime quality care.

- If you have any questions, or would like more information on this program, please contact the Oregon National Guard Association Executive Director, Col. (Ret.) Roberta Jansen, at 503-584-3030.

Women’s Veteran’s Conference offers assistance for Oregon’s female Soldiers

If you’ve recently returned from a deployment, are female, and want to learn more about your veteran benefits as well as connect with other female veterans, you may want to attend the Oregon Women Veterans Conference. The free event will take place on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Ore.

As part of a series of women veterans interests, many women veterans obtain thousands of dollars in compensation and additional benefits. Along with speaking on general and financial workshops our participants will also be able to speak with Veteran Service Organization representatives and enjoy music and a free lunch. Women veterans from all eras will be on hand for the event.

Reservations are required. Please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Hotline at 1-866-888-8091 ext. 2388; 2385; or 2389 to register.

Inspector General assistance available to employees

All Oregon National Guard personnel have the right to request assistance from the Inspector General (IG).

Complaints may include what the employee reasonably believes to be evidence of waste, fraud, and abuse, or hazardous or unsafe working conditions.

However, before contacting the inspector general, personnel should first consider whether their concerns could be addressed more quickly and simply by consulting their immediate supervisors.

Civilian Personnel Regulations prescribe procedures for civilian employees to use in submitting complaints that pertain solely to civilian employment matters, such as reduction-in-force, removals and discriminatory actions. If civilian employees wish to submit this kind of complaint, they should contact the Oregon Military Department Human Resources Office at 503-384-3975 for pertinent information and procedures. Those persons who are members of a recognized bargaining unit must file complaints through their proper shop steward.

Space-A Travel a little known military secret

All Active Duty, Reserve/Guardians, Reserve/Guardians, and Retired Personnel, are entitled to travel space-a on military flights under certain conditions. Active duty personnel may fly on space-a, but not their dependents. Retired personnel may fly on space-a, but not their dependents. Space-A is a free service for military personnel.

Women’s Veteran’s Conference offers assistance for Oregon’s female Soldiers

If you’ve recently returned from a deployment, are female, and want to learn more about your veteran benefits as well as connect with other female veterans, you may want to attend the Oregon Women Veterans Conference. The free event will take place on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Ore.

As part of a series of women veterans interests, many women veterans obtain thousands of dollars in compensation and additional benefits. Along with speaking on general and financial workshops our participants will also be able to speak with Veteran Service Organization representatives and enjoy music and a free lunch. Women veterans from all eras will be on hand for the event.

Reservations are required. Please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Hotline at 1-866-888-8091 ext. 2388; 2385; or 2389 to register.

Inspector General assistance available to employees

All Oregon National Guard personnel have the right to request assistance from the Inspector General (IG).

Complaints may include what the employee reasonably believes to be evidence of waste, fraud, and abuse, or hazardous or unsafe working conditions.

However, before contacting the inspector general, personnel should first consider whether their concerns could be addressed more quickly and simply by consulting their immediate supervisors.

Civilian Personnel Regulations prescribe procedures for civilian employees to use in submitting complaints that pertain solely to civilian employment matters, such as reduction-in-force, removals and discriminatory actions. If civilian employees wish to submit this kind of complaint, they should contact the Oregon Military Department Human Resources Office at 503-384-3975 for pertinent information and procedures. Those persons who are members of a recognized bargaining unit must file complaints through their proper shop steward.

Space-A Travel a little known military secret

All Active Duty, Reserve/Guardians, Retired Personnel, are entitled to travel space-a on military flights under certain conditions. Active duty personnel may fly on space-a, but not their dependents. Retired personnel may fly on space-a, but not their dependents. Space-A is a free service for military personnel.

Form for property tax exemption available for military members

The form for Oregon National Guard soldiers to fill out in order to take advantage of a property tax exemption on their home is now available. The Oregon Active Military Service Member’s Exemption Claim can be found on the Department of Revenue website at http://www.oregon.gov/egov/docs/303-084.pdf.

As we first reported in the October issue of the Sentinel, soldiers are eligible for an up to $60,000 property tax exemption on their home. The exemption is first available for the tax year beginning on July 1, 2005. A Form for Oregon National Guard personnel to fill out in order to take advantage of the exemption can be found on the Department of Revenue website at http://www.oregon.gov/egov/docs/303-084.pdf.
TRICARE Prescription drug coverage revised

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare, including TRICARE beneficiaries. There are several factors beneficiaries need to consider when deciding whether to purchase a Medicare prescription drug plan.

For nearly all TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries, under most circumstances, there is no added value in purchasing Medicare prescription drug coverage if you have TRICARE. The exception to this general rule may be for those with limited incomes and assets who qualify for Medicare’s extra help with prescription drug plans. These individuals may benefit by applying for the Medicare low-income subsidy and enrolling in a Medicare drug plan. Beneficiaries who need an application may request one by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov.

For more information about the TRICARE Pharmacy website, beneficiaries may visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy. For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage, beneficiaries may read “Medicare & You 2006” handbook, which will be mailed in October 2005. For more help with locating your Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP provider, call the Medicare helpline at 1-877-486-2044 (TTY: 1-877-889-4257), select “search tools;” call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office (by entering your area code); or call your Medicare-MediCare (1-800-633-4227).

Soldiers warned against buying knock-off ACUs

Army officials are warning Soldiers against buying imitation Army Combat Uniforms (ACUs) or the improved ACUs that have been proven to arrive in stores. AAFES military clothing sales stores are scheduled to sell ACUs in the new improved version of the uniforms typically do not meet the Army’s specifications in various ways, such as appearance, quality of materials, and authenticity of the uniform. To tell if an ACU is an authorized, Soldiers should look for two tags sewn into the uniform: one with the size and the second tag located elsewhere on the uniform gives the government contract number identifying what company made the uniform, and care instructions. Commanders will conduct periodic inspections to ensure that their unit’s ACUs meet the required wear uniforms only if uniforms and heraldic items the unit has been designated to wear. Commanders who ensure their employees meet specifications for design and quality, in accordance with AR 670-1.

Oregon Soldiers’ headgear regulation changes November 1

Effective November 1, 2005, Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers have been authorized to wear the patrol cap (BDU cap) as standard headgear for Class C authorized to wear the patrol cap (BDU cap) as standard headgear for Class C uniforms. Uniforms in lieu of waiting for Army-approved headgear regulation 670-01.

The new policy waives camping fees for a maximum of five consecutive days at one park or any 10 days in a calendar month in the park system as a whole. More information on Oregon State Parks go to www.oregonstateparks.org or call 1-800-555-6949.

Soldiers, Airmen help deliver holiday food to needy families

On December 17, volunteers from the Oregon National Guard will assist Portland Police Bureau’s Sunshine Division, along with volunteers from the local community, to deliver holiday food baskets to deserving families and individuals throughout the greater Portland Metro area.

Recipients of the holiday food baskets are nominated by community members and police officers who encounter needy families in the course of their duties.

Families of National Guard members are also eligible to receive food baskets. Individuals known to a family member who could benefit from a Holiday Food Basket are encouraged to contact their local Family Support Group coordinator or the Sunshine Division POC listed below.

The baskets include all the makings for a hot holiday meal – mashed potatoes, roasted vegetables, rutabagas, peas, carrots, stuffing mix, dessert ingredients, a 5 lb. ham, and a deck. Items are donated by the Portland Police Bureau’s Sunshine Division through their holiday food drive by local businesses such as Fred Meyer, Franz Bakery, and others.

Volunteers are asked to meet on Saturday, December 17, at 7:30 a.m. at one of the four locations where the Sunshine Division will be assembling and distributing the food baskets. They will then drive to specific locations with food baskets and assist with the delivery.

Clatsop County Sheriff uses Centennial as time to practice

For the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office, the busy weekend of events commemorating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was a golden opportunity. It was a good time to jointly operate the incident command center involving 23 agencies, including eight that were not participants from across state line.

The command center is a centralized field office for unified command and private agencies to manage traffic, security and other public safety issues that could have arisen during the “Destination: The Pacific” signature events held in Oregon. The center was operated 24 hours a day throughout the start of the bicentennial celebration.

“We are using this opportunity to train for possible disasters that could affect our area this year,” Lt. Col. Kevin J. Pourier said.

The conference room usually used for staff meetings was transformed into a NACOM-like command center connecting with people, computer equipment and display boards. One screen displayed calls as they came in while another portrayed the area’s 9-1-1 dispatch center.

The command center hosted the 116th Air Control Squadron, based at Camp Rilea, National Guard members from Oregon and Washington for the event. Representatives from the United States Coast Guard Station Astoria, ham radio operators, and personnel from ambulance service, local police, fire and emergency response agencies.

“We are using our new emergency operations procedures that we are drafting,” Gabe Strong, the county’s emergency operations manager, said. “We’re testing to see how our plan works in a real event,” said Gabe Strong, the county’s emergency operations manager.

This was just one in a series of regional training exercises the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office has been sponsoring. Gabe Strong is on the planning team for a tsunami drill next spring that will involve Canada as well as all the Pacific coastal states.

For more information, contact Clatsop County Sheriff, Tom Bergin, or Emergency Services Manager, Gabe Strong at 325-8635.

Rees: “I can’t thank them enough”

Continued from FRONT PAGE

the Soldiers of the 3–116 on Nov. 2 at Willowson Gymnasium at Fort Lewis, Wash. Soldiers underwent a 5-7 day Demobilization Soldier Readiness Program at Fort Lewis before returning to their home stations. They arrived back in the Northwest on three separate days, Nov. 2, 3 and 5, landing at McChord AFB, Wash.

Maj. Gen. Rees said the returning Soldiers are heroes who would not have been able to achieve what they had without the support of their families and communities.

“The country has a lot from these soldiers and their families and employers,” Rees said. “I can’t thank them enough.”

Krystal Lyon was six months pregnant when she found out her husband Spc. Paul Lyon, of HHC 3–116, was deploying to Iraq. The Independence couple had recently moved to Oregon and were excited about the new baby.

“It was kind of scary,” Krystal said of her husband’s deployment. “When I think of war, I think of people dying, and didn’t want my husband to die.”

Lyon, of HHC 3-116, was deploying to Iraq. The impoverished area gave many of the Soldiers the opportunity to practice what they had learned.

“The country has asked a lot from these soldiers and their families and employers,” Rees said. “I can’t thank them enough.”

Soldiers warned against buying knock-off ACUs

Soldiers warned against buying imitation Army Combat Uniforms (ACUs) or the improved ACUs that have been proven to arrive in stores. AAFES military clothing sales stores are scheduled to sell ACUs in the new improved version of the uniforms typically do not meet the Army’s specifications in various ways, such as appearance, quality of materials, and authenticity of the uniform. To tell if an ACU is an authorized, Soldiers should look for two tags sewn into the uniform: one with the size and the second tag located elsewhere on the uniform gives the government contract number identifying what company made the uniform, and care instructions. Commanders will conduct periodic inspections to ensure that their unit’s ACUs meet the required uniform wear only uniforms and heraldic items the unit has been designated to wear. Commanders who ensure their employees meet specifications for design and quality, in accordance with AR 670-1.

Oregon Soldiers’ headgear regulation changes November 1

Effective November 1, 2005, Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers have been authorized to wear the patrol cap (BDU cap) as standard headgear for Class C uniforms (BDUACU) uniforms within the state of Oregon.

The exception to this policy is when Soldiers are traveling outside the state of Oregon or if official duties require to wear the Class A or Class B uniform. Both of these cases, Soldiers will be required to wear the beret.

Those with questions concerning this uniform change are encouraged to contact Command Sergeant Major Thomas R. Moe at 503-584-3997.

Oregon Parks discount for military clarified

In our last issue of the Sentinel we told you about a new program allowing disabled veterans and Active Duty military personnel free admission to Oregon State Parks. As a point of clarification, it is important to note that the fee waiver applies to soldiers serving on any type of Active Duty in the military as long as they have a valid Military ID and an approved and issued volunteer forms (DA-31 or CG-2519). This includes Title 10 and Title 32 and Active Guard Reserve soldiers.

ANA mission set to begin in 2006

Continued from FRONT PAGE

ana have been identified for deployment; the 141st Support Battalion from Portland, with about 300 soldiers; the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, a rifle company with about 130 Soldiers from southern Oregon; and the 1st Bn., 162nd Inf., a rifle company of about 130 Soldiers, from Forest Grove.

In addition, several more Soldiers from Tigard will deploy to form the Brigade Headquarters. Airmen and equipment from various units throughout the Oregon Air National Guard will also join the deployment to provide functions such as communications and weather support.
NASCAR and National Guard: Partnership rooted in patriotism

As we entered the raceway area, we were overwhelmed with the amount of vendors and entertainment outside the track. Think of most major sporting events, its Team “1” versus Team “2”. You’re either a fan of one or the other.

In NASCAR, it’s a bit different. It’s Team “1” versus Team “2” versus Team “3” versus Team “4”. It’s all about who you like and who you don’t like. There are 43 different teams to cheer for, and believe me, there are enough fans for all 43 teams.

The crowd at the track was as colorful as the drivers were cheering for. For those who say NASCAR is a “Southern Redneck” sport, remember this race was in Phoenix, AZ. There wasn’t room for another person inside the raceway.

Not only has NASCAR become a national phenomenon, it also has become a staple for recrea-tive-adoration, with 46.4% of NASCAR fans between the age of 18-24. NASCAR is the only sport in the last five years to experience fan growth among 12-17 year olds.

This year marks the second year in a row the National Guard has sponsored the #16 car. During the 2005 season, Biffle won the pole position for the sport’s “Super Bowl”, the Daytona 500. He also won the last race of the season, providing a glimpse of great things to come the following year.

Biffle went on to win six more races in 2005 — more than any other driver during that season. What’s more, he was a major fac-tor in NASCAR’s “Chase for the Cup”, finishing the season in style by winning the last race of the year and finishing the overall season in second place.

The National Guard received an equivalent of $93 million in advertising based on the amount of airtime Biffle and the National Guard car received in 2005. Furthermore, Biffle and the National Guard recently signed a three-year extension of their spon-sorship and both look forward to an even better 2006 season.

There was something else I felt — well, maybe sensed is a better word. Patriotism. I’m not sure if this description finds itself in the “Southern Redneck” root I referred to earlier in this piece, or in what appears to be America’s fastest growing spectator sport. But whatever the reason for the patri-otic undertone I felt amongst these people — it be the throngs of loyal race fans, the dedicated and professional drivers, or the growing national popularity of NASCAR — the National Guard should feel right at home.

We are, after all, amongst friends.

Governor honors Retired Oregon General

Story by Kim L. Lippert, JHHQ Marketing & Recruiting

SALEM, Ore. — Governor Theodore R. Kulonogisci presented Brig. Gen. (ret.) Staryl C. Austin with the Governor’s Commendation award in a special ceremony Oct. 27.

“I believe that those who are elected to public office have the responsibil-ity of understanding the sacrifices that have been made throughout our history by people like General Austin,” said Governor Kulongoski.

With his family looking on, Austin proudly accepted the award given to him for his 38 years of service to the state.

“I’m overwhelmed, I certainly never expected the Governor to do this,” Austin said.

A veteran of World War II and a Korean War-era fighter pilot, Austin accomplished many things during his 38 year military career.

“Few can claim to have held such a pivotal position during a span of time that saw tremendous growth, change and development of the Oregon National Guard,” said Kulonogisci.

Austin spent more than six years of active duty in the U.S. air Corps during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

“On behalf of the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, I commend you for your service,” said VA Director Bob Corbin. “We are honored to award you a great example for all of us.”


“Governor Theodore R. Kulonogisci award- ed Brig. Gen. (ret.) Staryl C. Austin with the Governor’s Commendation Award.

Group’s 410th Fighter Squadron. As a P-47 Thunderbolt Pilot, Austin flew 58 combat missions from 1944 to 1945. He commanded a NATOB fighter bomber squadron in Germany during the Cold War. In 1953, he joined the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing serving as the Fighter Group’s air officer.

A veteran of World War II and a Korean War-era fighter pilot, Austin accomplished many things during his 38 year military career. Austin served for 7 years as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard.

“A we are very proud to have you as part of the Oregon National Guard, you are a great example for all of us,” said Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees.

Austin said his father, an airplane me-chanic during World War I, helped spur his interest in flying. The pair would often spend free time watching planes at the Salem Airport. At age five, Austin saw a plane crash near his home in Condon.

“Thankfully no one was hurt, but I stil-shed a bit at that – it was nose denting. I wanted to fly,” said Austin.

At age 85, Austin has more than seven decades of service to his coun-try and Oregon. Now retired, he is still very busy working on behalf of veterans. He and his wife Jacqueline recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Steven and Andrew, and two grandchildren.