Two Oregon aviators killed in helicopter crash in Afghanistan

Baum was born May 17, 1975 in Pendleton, Ore. He attended school in both Pendleton and Athena, Ore., graduating from Weston-McEwen High School in 1993. During his youth he was active in soccer, cross country, basketball, and bike riding. Baum married his high school sweetheart, Tina May (Brochow) Baum, of Pendleton, in 1997 and the couple had two children. The Baum family said he loved hunting, riding motorcycles, and spending time with his two sons.

Baum joined the Oregon National Guard in 1995 choosing to pursue a full-time career with Det. 1, D Co. 113th Avn. Despite his fear of heights, Baum became a flight engineer, participating in fire-fighting missions throughout Oregon. He also assisted in a major rescue mission for Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum of the 1042nd Medical Company and Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum of the 3-116th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne.

Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum

Baum was a flight engineer. Stump was a warrant officer,飞行工程师, for the Oregon National Guard. Both men were killed on Sept. 25, 2005 when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter with the American flag in the background during the Memorial Service for Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum Oct. 6.

Warrant Officer Adrian B. Stump and Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum were killed on Sept. 25, 2005 while on a mission in Afghanistan.

Two Oregon National Guard aviators, Warrant Officer Adrian B. Stump and Staff Sgt. Tane T. Baum, were killed on Sept. 25, 2005 in a Chinook helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

The Oregon National Guard aviators were part of a larger operation when their helicopter was shot down near Deh Chopan, Afghanistan. The aviators were part of a mission to deliver troops to the designated landing zone.

The incident also claimed the lives of three other soldiers aboard the aircraft. Two Nevada Army National Guard soldiers were killed when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed near Deh Chopan, Afghanistan on Sept. 25.

Troop, 82nd Cavalry arrived 4 a.m. Oct. 29 at McChord Air Force Base in Washington. More Oregon National Guard Soldiers, from 3rd Battalion, 166th Cavalry, were right behind them, arriving Nov. 2, 3 and 5 at McChord.

A light rain greeted the returning Soldiers as they stepped off the plane. In Iraq, they often faced temperatures over 125 degrees Fahrenheit, and they rarely experienced rain.

"It felt so good to be in the rain again," Sgt. 1st Class Kim Fox of Alabama said. "We called it freedom rain."

Many Soldiers commented on how nice it was to see green trees again. One soldier, breathing in deeply, commented on how wonderful the air smelled here, compared to Iraq, where constant burning oil refineries fouled the air. G-Troop’s area of operations in Iraq was Forward Operating Base Gains Mills, near Kirkuk, in Kurdish-controlled Northern Iraq. The impoverished area gave many of the Soldiers a new appreciation for their home country.

"They built their houses out of the ground you walk on, mostly mud huts with straw," Master Sgt. Neil Brooks of Redmond said. "To see how much better we live compared to the Third World, it’s astounding."

The Oregon troops regularly faced enemy attacks, mostly in the form of Improvised Explosive Devices or roadside bombs. "It wasn’t a Cold War-style threat," Sweet home resident Staff Sgt. Tommy Smith explained. "People we were shaking hands with one day were the same ones that were trying to blow us up the next. Some routes were so heavily bombarded that it looked like the surface of the moon. My eyes would hurt looking along the road for IEDs."

Despite their vigilance, several bombs found their mark, and one G Troop soldier, Staff Sgt. Kevin Davis of Lebanon, was killed April 8 when the vehicle he was riding in hit a bomb.

"That was the worst," Brooks said. "Nothing sucks more than losing a soldier. It hurt and everyone took it hard, but they remained professional. We still had a mission to do."

Staff Sgt. Tim McCrory of Beaver

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Northern Iraq. The impoverished area gave many of the Soldiers a new appreciation for their home country.
Baum: honored as a strong, quiet hero

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Staff Sgt. Tim McCrary of Beaver Creek was Davis’ best friend in Iraq. “It couldn’t be helped,” he said about hearing his friend had died. “All of us were supposed to make it back home.” McCrary was one of several officers from the unit who were wounded in action. On Aug. 31, the vehicle he was in hit a bomb, and a piece of shrapnel tore out much of his lower back, hitting his spine. The sergeant was rushed to Kolkol, then Germany and back to the States. After four operations, he was able to resume his unit at Fort Lewis. He considers himself “lucky.”

“Someone was definitely watching over me,” McCrary said. “We’re doing a lot of good out there. It’s a great feeling to know that we’re helping democracy, not just fighting our war, but helping the people of the”

“I think we should be there,” McCrary agreed. “If we don’t do what we are serving for, especially those who served with him, have that untrustable memory, that constant reverance for his sacrifice and yours,” Rees said.

Tragedy of the week

Story by Capt. Michael Braibish, 134th Inflight Support Group

The Oregon was a CH-47 Chinook in front of a giant American flag draped from the ceiling. Members of the Chinook in front of a giant American flag draped from the ceiling. Members of the Portland community held signs of support for their friends and sister, Elizabeth Davis, of Athena. The sergeant was rushed to Kirkuk, then Sather Air Base in Iraq, where he was able to return home. He was able to return home. He was one of those who would bring joy into the lives of those he encountered. He was one of those people who would be known to be without a smile and he brought joy into the lives of those he encountered. He was one of those people who would bring joy into the lives of those he encountered. He was one of those people who would bring joy into the lives of those he encountered. He was one of those people who would bring joy into the lives of those he encountered.

"The familiarization visits be-...
Professional organizations support needs of Soldiers and Airmen

Almost every profession has an organization that allows its members to come together and promote the profession, present ideas to better the profession, and to present a face to the public. There is an expectation that if you are a member of a profession that you will be a member of a professional organization of your peers. Lawyers have their bar associations, doctors have their medical associations, and industries have their associations. We as the profession of arms also have our own associations.

I had the opportunity to attend the Enlisted Association of the National Guard's (EANGUS) annual convention in August. As the convention progressed I was reminded of the really great work that the EANGUS and other professional organizations do for the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard and the active components. Every state and territory was represented at the convention and the topics were diverse, but they had one common theme: How can our state or province benefit? Issues of retirement benefits, money for full time training, funding for family programs, health care for reservists, pensions, payroll taxes were some of the many things discussed and presented for action at the national level. Many of the same people who were at the convention will also be representing us before Congress to encourage Congress to make changes in the laws to improve our benefits.

Then there are several professional organizations dedicated to supporting servicemen and women. The EANGUS is dedicated to providing the needs of their welfare and professionalism of enlisted members of the National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate funding, pay, fringe benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for the National Guard. Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) was established to provide for the professional welfare of noncommissioned officers and petty officers in all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is a private, non-profit education and professional organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members.

Each of these organizations have a common theme; being the voice for all components of Army and Air Service. They are your legislative representation to serve as your legislative advocate on issues that affect you and your family. They foster the public support of the Army’s role in national security and provide a professional development program and information programs to the force.

My message is this: We are all members of the same profession; we need to support our professional organizations by becoming members of whatever organization your heart desires. NCOA, SNA, NCOA, AUSA are all fine organizations that are working for you and your benefit. Your membership is important because that is what we are provided with our pay. It gets listed to, both locally and nationally.

Pulling pride in working as part of a well-trained team, and his approach to every challenge as an opportunity – an approach that was evidenced by his service as a CH-47 pilot and his helicopter is not just any helicopter. The CH-47 is the most powerful in the Army’s inventory – it is unique in its ability to operate at high altitude. The short-comings of other helicopters are evident in unforgiving places such as Afghanistan. It was said of him that the men with the renown of D Company, 113th Aviation and its skilled crews would be called to serve in the fight for the Talibans of heroes.

Adrian worked hard to finish flight qualifications, join his comrades in Kandahar and fly. Adrian took advantage of every opportunity in his military career to make the most of the best possible education.

In his final months, Command Sgt. Major Thomas R. Moe, State Command Sergeant Major, stated that “I think the picture defines Adrian’s love for helicopters, his willingness to risk everything for his fellow man, his sense of duty and honor and the sacrifice of his family and friends.”

Adrian’s name will be remembered as long as the Oregon National Guard exists. It is his family that are the real heroes. His sacrifice is an inspiration to every soldier and airman in the Oregon National Guard to do the job better than anyone else. Yes, we do the job better than anyone else, and any challenge that is thrown our way, and we train hard and we play hard, but in the process we also show the world the best. Without your support we could not accomplish the things that we are doing today. The Oregon National Guard is a great team full of great people. We need your support and your commitment to continue to do the job better than anyone else. Your membership is important because that is what we are provided with our pay. It gets listed to, both locally and nationally.
The Soldiers were mobilized on Oct. 12, 2003 as part of the 39th (Enhanced) Infantry Brigade to augment the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the deployment, the unit performed mounted and dismounted missions in Baghdad and southwest of the city. The 1042nd Med. was recognized for its work by the Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion, 11th Armored, which returned and was demobilized March 2005. Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Warnock, who received an award for the company, said during his deployment the soldiers were able to "get the job done" and "provide the best care possible for our patients." The Soldiers did everything from evacuating the wounded, to escorting patients to the hospital, and to providing medical care to the sick and injured. The 1042nd Med. was recognized for its outstanding performance in the enemy's heartland and was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal, the unit's highest award.

"Anytime a first sergeant or a master sergeant earns a citation, it is ultimately an award for the company," Warnock said. "Thank you, all, for a job well done. We're proud of what we've accomplished." The South Park native said the unit's service is the result of the hard work and determination of each and every soldier.

"We will do this for the next few months as we try to honor every who made a contribution, " he said during the ceremony. "I am honored to be here to witness these awards being given, as I am the daughter of a Soldier." The Soldiers and their families, he said, are "the backbone of the military." The Soldiers and their families realized that their hard work and the work of their civilian employers and families, "are very, very proud of the work and sacrifice these soldiers have made," he said. "But we can't do it by ourselves, we need the support of the employers and families as well." "It was a hostile situation, but that we all had. We were outnumbered in an open area, bed, outside (a typical Afghan) mud-brick wall was penetrated, Staff Sgt. said. "Anytime a first sergeant or a master sergeant earns a citation, it is ultimately an award for the company," Warnock said. "Thank you, all, for a job well done. We're proud of what we've accomplished." The South Park native said the unit's service is the result of the hard work and determination of each and every soldier.

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Governor signs legislation for Soldiers

SALEM, Ore. – Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski signed into law a package of bills benefiting Oregon National Guard veterans and their families on Monday, Oct. 10. The legislative package brings educational benefits, emergency financial assistance, and job skills training into the hands of soldiers.

The legislation signed includes House Bills 3504 and 2681, State Senate Bills 1100 and 233.

“How often, our Soldiers are paid only in lip service, but with this package of legislation, we will make the commitment to a state to support those who risked their lives and to create opportunities for them, our military and the principles that serve as the foundation of this great nation,” Kulongoski said.

House Bill 3504: Creates the Oregon National Guard Veterans’ Emergency Financial Assistance Fund within the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs to provide emergency financial assistance to veterans and their immediate families to cover temporary housing, food, transportation or medical costs. Expands the ODVA education benefit program from $35/month to $150/month. Establishes the Oregon Trooper Education Program to pay tuition for veterans who committed to teach in Oregon; and requires the Oregon Military Department to reimburse the college or university for the cost of hunting and fishing licenses.

House Bill 2681: Requires school districts to issue high school diplomas to veterans who did not complete high school because of wartime military service since the Korean War and who request the diploma. Future combat veterans are also eligible for the benefit.

Senate Bill 1106: Complements HB 3504 by expanding the reach of the Oregon Military Department’s Emergency Financial Assistance Fund for the Military to cover individuals that have loans and members to immediate family of National Guard members on active duty. Establishes the program in the ODVA to provide emergency financial or educational assistance to qualify, eligible veterans for home acquisition assistance program within the ODVA that helps qualified, eligible veterans for home acquisition and home improvement. For more information on the home loan program please contact the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 503-417-2015 or visit www.leg.state.or.us.

Senate Bill 233: Supports homeownership for veterans by expanding a home loan and assistance program within the ODVA that allows veterans and their immediate family to purchase a home through a 90% loan. Expands the program to provide interest rate loans to qualified, eligible veterans for home acquisition and home improvement. For more information contact the Oregon State Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 503-880-3600 or visit www.leg.state.or.us.

To read these bills visit www.leg.state.or.us.

Free Taekwondo lessons for Soldiers and family

National Guard members and their immediate families (spouses and children under age 16) are welcome to receive free Taekwondo lessons every Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Corvallis Community Health Center, 3255 State St., Salem, Ore.

The lessons are being provided courtesy of GraphTech, a manufacturer of guitar picks. The lessons are free to all National Guard members and their immediate family. For more information contact the Oregon State Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 503-880-3600 or visit www.leg.state.or.us.

Marksmanship training available at Camp Adair

The Small Arms Readiness Training Section will conduct rifle marksmanship training at Camp Adair January through September 2006. The training is open to all Soldiers and Family Members of the Oregon National Guard.

Highly skilled instructors will offer qualified Soldiers the opportunity of giving cadet members an increased level of shoot skill and a thorough understanding of the touchingading of the rifle.

Although use of unit weapons is prescribed, qualified Soldiers may be authorized to have a rifle or pistol provided.

The point of contact for this training will be OBC Sgts. Jeff Arnt via email at jeff.arnt@us.army.mil. Check the SARTS webpage for dates and additional information at www.mil.state.or.us/SARTS.

The world famous “Heroes Truck” has been making a memorial trip across the country and will make a stop in Portland Nov. 19 and 20 at the Portland Expo Center during the Performance Fest Truck & Auto Accessory Expo. The customized 2005 Chevy pick-up honors America’s military heroes with airbrushed paintings of Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and other symbols of freedom on every inch of the body. Owner and creator Dale Icon, of Hillsho, Ohio, will be available to answer questions and display the artwork.

“I knew we had to bring this show truck to Portland,” said John Davis, President of Aftermarket Events Inc. “It is deserving of America’s military to see this truck, the artwork is just heart-wrenching.”

The “Heroes Truck” is the only show automobile that has ever been acknowledged by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The truck is owned by Army National Guard Gen. T. Michael Moseley dedicated the truck to America’s armed forces.

military service members may attend the Expo for half price, by showing their military ID card. The event will also showcase 350 hot rods and muscle cars (including cars from The Dukes of Hazard, Smokey and the Bandit) and 200 custom motorcycles. The 2-218th Field Artillery Bn. will also be displaying their rendering HMWW.

Oregon National Guard ‘plays at’ OSU’s Reser Stadium

Lt. Col. Raymond Meyer, commander of Recruiting and Retention, receives the game ball before the OSU vs. BSU game Sept. 10. Presenting the game ball is Jess Lewis (left) a former OSU All-American defense tackle who brought down USC’s star running back, O.J. Simpson, just short of a touchdown in 1967.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Gower D. Talley, Marketing NCO

During ‘Guard Day’ at the Beavers’ more than 200 Oregon Army National Guard members joined 40,000 Beavers football fans at Reser Stadium in Corvallis, Ore. Sept. 10 to watch Oregon State University play Boise State University.

‘Guard Day’ began at the fan-fair where Beavers fans had a chance to climb the ORNG rock wall and try their luck at the new football toss.

The football game itself began with the colors being posted by Junior ROTC cadets from Oregon City High School, who took the place of ORNG color guard members who were deployed to assist in recovery efforts. Sgt. 1st Class Mark Browning sang the national anthem and the game ball was presented to Lt. Col. Raymond Meyer, the new battalion commander for Recruiting and Retention Command.

Soldiers, fans and football players all endured a mix of weather during the game from sunshine to marble-size hail all within a span of 45 minutes.

In a nail-biter of a rematch from last season, the Beavers football team squeaked by the Broncos with a win of 30 to 27.

Retirees with combat-related disabilities encouraged to apply for compensation

Since enacting Combat Related Special Compensation in December 2002, officials have processed applications from only 9,000 of an estimated 600,000 eligible military retirees. CRSC is a $22 billion program endowed by Congress to compensate active and reserve retirees with disabilities related to combat or hazardous duties. CRSC bills suspects that some retirees have not applied because they believe they are already receiving CRSC compensation, when in fact they are receiving Concurrent Retirement and Disability pay, which is taxable and has smaller payments. For example, for a 50% disability rating under CRSC is $663 tax-free, while the taxable monthly payment for CRDP is $153. Disabled retirees who are not certain which pay they receive should check their Defense Finance and Accounting pay stub. To qualify for CRSC, claims must be retired with at least 20 years of active or reserve service; receive retired pay by offset; and have a disability rating of at least 10 percent.

Eligibility for CRSC requires a documented “combat-related” disability relating from; conditions simulated war such as a named exercise; an injury incurred while performing hazardous service, such as flying, diving or parachute diving; an injury caused by armed conflict resulting in a Purple Heart; and presumptive cases involving conditions such as exposure to Agent Orange or radiation.

Retirees who apply for the CRSC should be prepared to document their claims with evidence showing their disability is “combat-related” under each condition. For more information, please visit: www.crcsc.info.us.army.mil.

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Home tax exemption for qualified Soldiers and veterans

Oregon National Guard Soldiers and veterans are now eligible for a $50,000 tax exemption from the value of their home. The Oregon House of Representatives passed House Bill 2945 and 2945B which provides tax relief for Soldiers who are deployed for more than 178 consecutive days and veterans who are at least 40 percent disabled.

“For too long, our soldiers are paid only in lip service, but this legislation demonstrates a commitment from the state to support those who risked their lives and their futures to defend us,” said Governor Theodore Kulongoski.

The bill takes effect Nov. 4 for tax years beginning in 2005. Soldiers participating in deployments may only claim the exemption for the year in which they are serving on active duty status. In order to take advantage of the tax break, claimants must not have a combined income of more than 185 percent of federal poverty guidelines for the year in which claiming the exemption. Qualified veterans and Soldiers must file claims with their tax assessor to receive the exemptions.

For surviving spouses of a war veteran remaining unmarried, the exemption shall apply to the period preceding the date of the first remarriage of the surviving spouse.

Beginning in the year 2006, the current property tax exemption for disabled veterans will increase and disabled veterans will be able to claim the exemption because of the bill’s changes to current income restrictions.

For more information on eligibility requirements call the Oregon Department of Revenue at 1-800-356-4222 or 503-378-4988. To read the full text of House Bill 2945 visit www.leg.state.or.us/index.html.

Free use of Oregon State Parks for Soldiers, veterans

Active Duty military personnel on approved leave and disabled veterans are eligible for free use of Oregon State Parks beginning November 11, 2005. In the past, Oregon State Parks allowed qualifying veterans and active duty servicemen and women free park use on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veteran’s Day.

Now the State Parks Department has extended that privilege all year long. Qualified veterans and active duty service members are eligible for a fee waiver at traditional campsites including full hookup (sewer, electricity and water), electrical and tent sites, and parking in all 26 state parks that charge a day-use fee. Free use of the campsites will be limited to no more than five consecutive days and no more than 10 days in any calendar month. Campsite reservation fees ($6 per site) will still apply.

When arriving at a park veterans must show a letter from the Department of Veterans Administration (VA) documenting their disabilities, or a VA photo identification card with an annotation citing the holder’s disabled status in order to obtain a camping or day-use fee waiver. License plates issued by the state that display the “disabled veteran” designation also will be honored. Active duty military personnel on leave must show current military ID cards and approved leave papers.

To reserve free use of a campsite, veterans and military personnel must call Reservations Northwest, at 1-800-452-5687. Reservations cannot be made over the internet. Campsites may be reserved up to nine months in advance of the date of arrival.

ORNG assists large marijuana bust

Photo courtesy of Maj. Kevin J. Dial, 1249th Engineer Bn. and Col. Richard Williams, Counter Drug Support program and the 1249th Engineer Bn. received a tasking from Wasco County Sheriffs Office, Oregon State Police and Bureau of Land Management to assist with seizure of a large illegal marijuana plantation in Southern Wasco Country near Maupin, Ore. The Counter Drug Support program and the 1249th Engineer Bn. continue to be critical assets for the state, making the war against drugs “One Step Better.”