Guarding our Honor

The roadside bomb blew up four feet from Spc. Kenneth Kaiser, filling his Humvee with choking smoke and showering the Oregon Soldiers inside with flaming fiberglass. The pressure blasted the driver's armored door off its hinges. Kaiser stomped on the gas, steering out of the kill zone as Sgt. Jeremy Turner, covered in another Soldier's blood, regained consciousness, jumped out and returned fire.

That was one day in about 1,000 together.

The last Friday in September was another. The two men stood stone still at Willamette National Cemetery for their 11th funeral that day. The autumn sun beat on dress blues. Wasps buzzed around ears. Sweat trickled under perfectly placed hats. Cpl. Kaiser didn't move. The eight other members of the military funeral honor guard didn't move. To move is to risk the wrath of Staff Sgt. Turner, who once gave the governor's car the “stink eye” for holding up a service.

See Spit, Polish and Precision on page 8

Story by Julie Sullivan, The Oregonian
Reprinted with permission

SALEM, Ore.—Cheers echoed through the terminal as Flight 605 pulled up to the gate at Portland International Airport on Oct. 21. Family and friends cried out with excitement, and airport travelers at the terminal began clapping as 37 Soldiers from the 41st Personnel Services Company stepped off the plane. They embraced friends and loved ones after a 14-month absence.

“You don’t even know how good it feels to be home,” said Pvt. Brittany Wuori, of Lebanon, after de-boarding the plane.

Shannon Smith, whose husband Stephen is a Chief Warrant Officer in the unit, said their reunion was surreal.

“It was a good experience. I’m glad I was a part of the efforts going on over there, but I’m glad it’s over,” said Stephen, a Salem resident.

The 41st PSC deployed to Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Their mission was to provide personnel support to the Theater Personnel Command and Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLC). “We did a lot of administrative stuff,” said Spc. Shayla Gookin. “We supported Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait with reports, promotions and awards—all the behind the scenes stuff that they can’t do without, but you don’t ever really get to see.”

The 41st PSC supported the CFLC with information management by maintaining numerous secure and un-secure networks. The company helped thousands of Soldiers with their awards, promotions, bonuses, leaves and passes, while tracking more than 10,000 casualty actions and next-of-kin notifications that occurred in 25 countries comprising the U.S. Central Command. The unit also helped maintain the Army Post Office, which successfully processed over 1.5 million pounds of mail and helped people pay their taxes at the Camp Arifjan Tax Center.

Gookin, who lives in Salem, was happy to trade Kuwait’s sand and dust for Oregon’s green trees and rainy weather.

“I’m just really excited to be back,” she said. “It’s green, and it isn’t 120 degrees here.” She said the deployment tested her

See 41st PSC on page 5
Clearing up the difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward, ORARNG Safety Manager

There seems to be some confusion among members about some personnel programs. SAPR, POSH and EO/EOO programs all support maintaining and enforcing an environment of respect and dignity in the military. However, sexual assault and sexual harassment are not the same. Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) and Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) are separate programs. The Equal Opportunity (EO - military) and Equal Employment Opportunity (EOO - civilian) program(s) relate to working opportunities.

Sexual Assault (SA) involves physical contact. Sexual Assault is a crime. Sexual assault is any sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Consent should not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Additionally, consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion, or tactics such as intimidation, or when the victim is unconscious.

Sexual Harassment (SH) is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwanted sexual advances for sex favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the work environment.

(EEO): Ameliorate legal requirement based upon equality of opportunity and a work environment free of discrimination from race, color, national origin, gender, and religion.

ACEA: A civilian legal requirement based upon equality of opportunity and a work environment free of discrimination from race, color, national origin, gender, and religion.

There are different points of contact (POC) for these programs in the Oregon National Guard. The full-time POC for EO is Capt. Lori Paltridge, ORARNG Safety Manager. The full-time POC for EEO is Capt. Lori Paltridge, ORARNG Safety Manager. The full-time POC for POSH is Maj. Jennifer "Missy" Kim, G-1 section JFHQ, and the MEO office for the Oregon Air National Guard. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators for the SA Prevention & Response Program are Capt. Matt Mazzia (142 FW), and Capt. Lucas Ritter (173 FW), Maj. Richard Garcia (82 Bde), and Lt Col. Marilyn Woodward, JFHQ (Program Manager).

Mentoring important to future of the National Guard

In this month’s article, I would like to talk about the National Guard Bureau’s Mentoring Program that our HRA’s are implementing throughout the state. Mentoring today is synonymous with the process by which we guard and guide others. Mentors grab an “old and” “adopt” those individuals placed in their care. Mentors can be – and indeed are; flight leaders, section NCO’s, Squadron Commander, first sergeants, officers and even civilians. Mentoring is a critical skill for NCO’s because they are charged with the training and development of our junior leaders. In some way or another every Airman is both a practicing mentor and a recipient of mentorship. This circle of mentoring only occurs when a unit has created an atmosphere where the leadership recognizes that this is a learning and growing process, and mistakes are tolerated as part of that process. NCO’s, senior NCO’s and of course everyone has the responsibility to develop their Airmen to their fullest potential. We make this happen by sharing our knowledge and wisdom in the best way to accomplish this is through mentoring.

There are times you would like to be mentored on a subject that is outside your supervisor’s realm of expertise. This is where the NGB Mentoring Program comes in. Contact your HRA for more information on getting mentored on your particular subject matter. Your HRAs can get you set up with someone that will work with you on just about any subject you need help with.

The states’ Mentoring Program is looking for mentors. You do not need to be a member for ten years, or a member of the Guard. You should have the heart to serve our nation's youth and have the time to make a real difference in someone's life. You do not need to be a veteran of the military. If you can spare the time to help a young person reach their full potential, then you are needed and should consider putting your skills to work.

Contact your HRA for more information on being a mentor, or if you are interested in more information on getting mentored. As always, be sure to keep your HRA advised of your education, training, or professional development. Your HRA is always there to help you with any requests you may have. Good luck.
Orient Shield an opportunity to exchange cultures, experiences

Hello everyone.

Well I got back to wonderful Oregon just in time to watch the Beavers dismantle the Oregon State University Beavers. As a former Beav, I can say that they are by far the best team in the state of Oregon (where did they get the idea that Americans eat a lot?).

Two of his three sons were home while the oldest was off to college, and they had a couple of friends over as well. It was a great time. We managed to communicate what the sergeant was unable to translate either through gestures and pointing, or with a small translation computer and dictionaries. After dinner, we exchanged gifts and then played this little game that involved wearing funny little hats and masks when you lost. It was very informative and a whole lot of fun. They invited us back in a card they later sent to us that even included some pictures they had taken while we were there. I would love to go back some day, visit with them again, and be able to vacation a little more.

This was merely a learning expedition, and from here the civil affairs team will revisit the area to further develop an overall assistance plan using CERP (commander’s emergency response program) funds. Unfortunately, our command’s aviation assets had taken us to the very end of the runway, so I was mostly an observer there.


We have two groups that are sending booties here for the Soldiers to keep their feet warm when it gets cold here, and it is a bit chilly here! The first is Lorettia Grossman, who started “Operation Toasty Toes” which is a group of ladies who are knitting these booties for the Soldiers. She can be reached at either of the addresses listed below.

The third picture is an end shot of the boy’s school and some of the boys who were just getting out of class when we arrived. We do the best we can to recognize folks who donated items to us! Oftentimes we get a response program) funds. Unfortunately, the second group is in Oklahoma City, called the Hugs Project. Group member, Tommie Howard can be reached via mail at: 356 S. Dobbs Rd., Harrah, OK 73045, or via e-mail at: thehugsproject@cox.net.

We do the best we can to recognize those who contributed items to us! Oftentimes we get mail from folks we do not know, but they quickly become our friends through mail and email. These folks keep us motivated to drive on, and their efforts are truly appreciated.

Maj. Rob Fraser, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, Kabul, Afghanistan
New Afghan-Iraq war memorial a ‘gift of courage and honor’

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. – The clouds parted and the rain stopped as a crowd gathered for the dedication of the Afghan-Iraq Freedom Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2006. The memorial, located on the grounds of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs on Summer Street in Salem, was the brainchild of M.J. Kesterson, who lost her son, Chief Warrant Officer Erik Kesterson, 29, in Iraq on Nov. 15, 2003. Kesterson was a member of the Army’s 9th Battalion, 101st Airborne Division.

She watched through misty eyes as her husband, Chief Warrant Officer Erik Kesterson, 29, of the kneeling soldier, which is meant to signify all Oregon service members who gave their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Erik was gone for six years. We never knew if we would see him again,” said Kesterson. “This memorial means the world to us.”

The Afghan-Iraq Freedom Memorial’s central sculpture in Salem, Ore.

Story and photo by Spc. Patrick Lair, 1156th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

This article was written in early September. Staff Sgt. Lance Ash passed away due to complications from a brain tumor on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2006.

SALEM, Ore. – Staff Sgt. Lance Ash didn’t realize he was attending his own promotion party when his wife, Freedom, wheeled him into the sixth-floor visiting area of the Salem Hospital.

“That was quite a surprise,” Ash said, as family and co-workers surrounded him. “Sometimes it’s hard to keep those things a secret.”

“What do you think I made you shave and clean up?” Freedom asked him.

Ash, 36, was promoted to staff sergeant on Sept. 10, while recovering from the removal of his third brain tumor in less than two years. It was the first promotion party he held in a hospital in anyone’s memory.

Working as an administrative assistant in the orderly room at Joint Forces Headquarters, Ash has been fighting a personal battle against his ailment since the day he was diagnosed.

“He grew up wanting to be in the Army,” said his wife, Freedom. “As soon as you left your family, for the gift of honor and service.”

“Thank you so much for the gift of courage and honor that you left our country and nation,” she said to the gathered crowd.

According to M.J., after hearing of Erik’s death, he couldn’t suppress a smile Sept. 10 as he received his E-6 rank.

“Erik was a true warrior,” Freedom said. “He has so much more to give. I hope you get the chance to do so.”

Over the last year, Ash has undergone four surgeries. Three operations removed tumors and one was needed to stop a chemical leak from his chemotherapy treatments around his work hours.

“He would take half a day to go see the chemosensitification and then go back to work,” Freedom said.

“His focus was always coming to work and doing a good job, not thinking about what ails him physically. He’s beyond courageous,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ron Teller, who sent Bron with Ash to the JFHQ orderly room. “(Less than a month after visiting Ash during the promotion ceremony) we hospital. Teller suffered a heart attack and passed away on Oct. 4.”

Although Ash was still recovering from his most recent operation, he couldn’t suppress a smile Sept. 10 as M.J. continued. “He’s our hero.”

Ash was released from Salem Hospital in mid-September. His friends are certain he’ll fight to return to work soon after each surgery, even scheduling his chemotherapy treatments around his work hours.

“Staff Sgt. Lance Ash is a living example of his most recent operation,” said his wife, Freedom. “He couldn’t suppress a smile Sept. 10 as Sgt. Maj. James Marichuck and Maj. Scott Watekup pin a new rank on a BDU blouse draped over his wheelchair. "This is something he’s been wanting for a long time," said his brother, Staff Sgt. Ash. "He grew up wanting to be in the Army," said Ash’s mother, Kay Ash. "These guys are his best friends. They’re a close unit. Their support has been tremendous." Ash has 16 years of military service between the active duty Army and National Guard, Freedom said. The couple recently moved to Salem from Newberg with Freedom’s 4-year-old son, Nicholas. Ash also has two children living in Texas; Chad, and Alisha, 13. Ted, who also brought his family to the promotion party, said that he and Ash maintain a close friendship.

“His only brother,” Ted said. “We’re biking and hiking and kayaking together all the time. And I want him to get healthy so we can get back out there together.”

Ash will just keep praying for him. He’s the type of person that won’t complain until it’s really hurting him.”

“Thank you so much for the gift of courage and honor,” he said to the gathered crowd.

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“‘People have diabetes and take insulin,’ said M.J. ‘Staff Sgt. Lance Ash is a living example of a true warrior. In spite of health issues, he proudly served as a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, said Major Sharan Banks, JFHQ director. ‘I greatly admire his strength,’ his attitude and his courage and I pray for a miracle of healing. Lance is the true embodiment of the soldier’s creed and warrior ethos.’

Ash, a ‘true warrior’, fought cancer with strength and courage

Story and photo by Spc. Patrick Lair, 1156th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Ash, a ‘true warrior’, fought cancer with strength and courage.

The new memorial is unlike many others in that it honors fallen service members who were killed during the war, while many others posthumously.
Mother-daughter duo find Kuwait deployment good for career, relationship

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

When the 41st Personnel Services Company deployed more than a year ago, Soldiers had to leave their lives and their children behind—a difficult prospect for anyone heading on a deployment thousands of miles away. So when Sgt. Karissa Smith and her mother Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Berrios learned they’d be deploying together they considered themselves lucky.

“It think it makes going much easier, it’s nice to know my Mom will be there,” said Smith. “I’m excited to go together. I’m lucky to have my daughter with me,” added Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Berrios.

Those were the words of the mother-daughter pair when we first introduced you to them in an article that appeared in the August 2005 issue of the Oregon Sentinel. We caught up with them at the demobilization ceremony of the 41st PSC to see if the deployment lived up to their expectations.

“It think it was more than what we were expecting,” said Smith. “We had a good time together. We learned a lot that I think will benefit us in our military careers, but it was a lot harder than what I thought it was going to be,” said Smith.

The Soldiers in the 41st PSC had to adjust to living and working in an active duty lifestyle.

“We were stuck with an active duty unit and they were a little more hard-core than we were used to, so it does take a lot of adjusting to their ways,” said Smith.

It’s a sentiment shared by Smith’s mother.

“It was tough getting adjusted the first few months,” said Berrios. Though the pair was in the same unit, they were physically far apart much of the time. They worked opposite shifts, so they didn’t see each other often. Still, Berrios checked in on her daughter every day.

“She’d come and peek in on me every single night when she got done working,” said Smith. Berrios said she and her daughter were already pretty close before the deployment, but the experience “undoubtedly” made them even closer.

“At times most of us went through our own personal issues and problems we had to overcome at one time or another, not just the two of us, but other Soldiers in the unit as well,” said Berrios. “I think it was a little easier to have her there when I was going through tough times and to be there for her when she was going through her tough times,” added Berrios.

Before leaving, Smith said she anticipated that her mother would push her to do her best—and she did.

“I think she was a lot tougher on me, she had higher expectations of me, making sure that I was trying to exceed higher above everybody else,” said Smith.

While, neither Smith nor Berrios would trade having each other on their deployment to Kuwait, they both admitted it was tough on their family back home, especially since Berrios’ brother Master Sgt. Barry Beddor is currently deployed in Afghanistan with the 41st Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

“It was a lot harder on our family because there were three of us deployed at the same time,” said Berrios.

For now, mother and daughter are looking forward to enjoying some rest and relaxation.

“It will be nice to get some normalcy back in our lives,” said Berrios.

41st PSC the ‘mortar between the bricks’, according to Adjutant General

Santos, who read from a letter written by Governor Kulongoski, said, “I know this has been a long mobilization. You have just completed a long period of duty and perseverance. Your family, friends, and communities have also endured this period of service. This is a great day for your families, a great day for Oregon, and a great day for everyone who believes as I do—that there is just no substitute for the Oregon National Guard.”

Courtney also thanked the 41st PSC Soldiers for their service, saying, “You are the unit that 24-7 takes care of Oregon and all of her needs. Thank you so much for what you’ve done for our country and your willingness to put yourselves in harms way, but thank you for all you do for our Oregonians. I feel better tonight, that you’ve come back to the Oregon homeland.”

After the speeches were over and the formal ceremony was done, Capt. Romona Treat, commander of the 41st PSC, officially dismissed her Soldiers, returning them to their families.

Guerra said now that she is home, she and her boys are getting back into the “swing of things.”

“I get involved with their schools and their teachers and becoming a soccer mom again,” she said. “I’ve already been to a soccer game.”

Smith spoke of his own family plans now that he is home, “I just want to have some fun with the family now, catch up on things and get used to being home.”

His wife said their family will go through a transition period now that the deployment is over.

“I have to share the bed now, and the car and everything again,” Shannon said. “So it’s going to be a transition, but I’m very excited to finally have him home and have our family back together again.”
Army Aviation breaks ground for new 40,000 square-foot building

Above: An aerial view of the Oregon Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility, located off Turner Road at McMurry Field in Salem, Ore., showing the proposed building site just south of AASF Hangar #3 (blue roof). The new facility will house the 102nd Civil Support Team and elements of the Army Aviation unit, including maintenance, support and command. Construction is scheduled to begin in sometime in 2007.

Story by Tech, Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 40,000 square-foot facility at the Army Aviation Facility in Salem on Oct. 21.

Senior members of the Oregon National Guard including the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Governor Theodore Kitzhaber with helping the Oregon Guard realize their vision by providing funding to purchase private property which previously broke up the large tract of land.

Once built, the two-story building will be the new home of the 102nd Civil Support Team, which now occupies temporary quarters in the old Army Reserve Center on Airport Road. The CST will occupy 12,000 square feet in the new facility, while the AASF will utilize 27,000 square feet. The design also calls for a second entrance to the property from Turner Road, across from WalMart.

The current location of the Army’s Flight Operations, housed in hangar #1, by contrast, measures 3,750 square feet.

Hooley stressed that not only the Oregon National Guard will benefit from the project, but the local community will as well.

This construction project will also provide jobs during the construction phase, which this area really needs,” she said. “And in the years to come I really think it’s a win-win situation.

The public was able to view and tour some of the equipment on display from both the Oregon Army National Guard’s aviation units and the 102nd Civil Support Team.

Personnel from both units were on hand to answer questions.

The Army Aviation Support Facility provides facilities and full-time personnel to answer questions.

Story by Tech, Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

REDMOND, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard and the Bureau of Land Management have partnered an agreement which officials say will benefit not only both agencies, but also the local community, and indeed all of Oregon as well.

On Oct. 4, the two agencies met at the Biak Training Site near Redmond, Ore., to sign a 30-year lease to use the facility in central Oregon for training purposes. The agreement ends decades of renewed short-term leases, and expands the area utilized by the Oregon Army National Guard for training to 43,000 acres.

Oregon’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, joined the Bureau of Land Management’s Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager, Molly Brown, in signing the lease agreement.

The plan cleared the way for OMD and BLM to replace the short term land use permit system with a more stable long term lease in which the two agencies will work together as cooperating land management agencies. The lease also expands the area utilized by the Oregon Army National Guard for training from 31,000 acres to nearly 43,000 acres. According to Rees, the agreement paves the way for capital investment for infrastructure improvements, but is also a benefit to Soldiers who use the site for annual training.

“We will now step into this all work with the National Guard Bureau. This will allow us to come in and do long-range planning and infrastructure improvements,” Rees said.

The agreement is a culmination of nearly 12 years of cooperative work between the Oregon Military Department and the Bureau of Land Management. The Oregon Military Department served as a cooperating agency to the BLM’s Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, a process that took five years to complete, beginning in 2001.

Brown, who had only been on the job for three days before taking part in the signing ceremony, had worked with the military for many years in California. As the military liaison with the Marine Corps in Sonora Pass, Calif., her efforts were instrumental in securing the Mountain Warfare Training Center for use by the Marines. The Oregon lease agreement, according to Brown, was going to be an equally beneficial agreement between the BLM and the Oregon Guard.

One obvious benefit was less time preparing short-term lease agreements, and a focus on taking care of the land.

"Instead of continuously preparing short term permits, we’re now concentrating our efforts on merging the needs of both agencies," Brown said.

“This offers a wonderful opportunity to improve on a facility that we’ve used for decades,” Rees said.

Other benefits of consolidating the training site into a central location, according to Rees, is an estimated $700,000 in annual savings that would normally be incurred by sending Soldiers to other training areas. Finally, there’s the physical safety of the Soldiers.

“I think there’s a safety factor by getting people off the roads, with less exposure to the hazards of travel," Rees added.

The history of Biak Training center can be traced back to World War II, when central Oregon served the community as a training hub for the US Army and US Air Force. The facility was turned over to the Army Corps of Engineers following the end of the Cold War, until the Oregon National Guard leased the property in 1997, according to Rees.

This initiative of the use of short-term land use permits between the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Military Department.

With the combined permitted and withdrawn lands, the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Military Department continued the short term three year permit land use process in 1992 and placed the training site under the command and control of 1-82 Cavalry. The Training Site Command was established in 1993 and the training center was informally named Mission Street to the north, and the Salem Airport to the west – is now one contiguous piece. He credited both Governor Kulongoski, and former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber with helping the Oregon Guard realize their vision by providing funding to purchase private property which previously broke up the large tract of land.

Once built, the two-story building will be the new home of the 102nd Civil Support Team, which now occupies temporary quarters in the old Army Reserve Center on Airport Road. The CST will occupy 12,000 square feet in the new facility, while the AASF will utilize 27,000 square feet. The design also calls for a second entrance to the property from Turner Road, across from WalMart.

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“IT truly is wonderful to finally have this happen and, to be able to support the Civil Support Team and METVAC teams,” Rees pointed out that the property – bounded on the east by Turner Road, attended the ceremony, and took part in the rededication of the path, following the official speeches.

Rees thanked Hooley for her part in securing the Mountain Warfare Training Center for use by the Marines. The Oregon lease agreement, according to Brown, was going to be an equally beneficial agreement between the BLM and the Oregon Guard.

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Bulgarian Air Force continues to build relationship with ORANG

Continued from PREVIOUS PAGE

Bulgarian Air Force, in Bulgaria. “We are here to learn as much as we can about how the Oregon Air National Guard and the United States Air Force trains pilots,” said Col. Rumen Radev, Commander of the 3rd Air Base at Gayr in Bulgaria. “The experience and knowledge that we have gained on this trip has been a great benefit to the Bulgarian Air Force.”

The Bulgarian officers spent the week getting an idea of how American Air Force bases are structured. They had the chance to sit in on academic briefings, scheduling meetings and to fly with the Kingsley instructor pilots. The objective of their visit is to gain a better understanding of the United States Air Force training culture.

“Bulgaria is a new North American Treaty Organization (NATO) partner and Bulgarian pilots are very eager to learn western tactics and techniques. This is a great opportunity for us to help them improve their flying training programs,” said Col. John Morawiec, 173rd Fighter Wing Operations Group commander. “We hope that they will be able to go back to Bulgaria with a better understanding of how we operate day to day in training the best fighter pilots in the world.”

This visit builds on the relationship Kingsley Field already has with Bulgaria. The exercise Senty Lion was the product of a base-to-base initiative started by then-Oregon National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees in 1998. Kingsley Field is one of only two F-15 training units in the nation.

“We are here to help them improve their flying techniques. This is a great opportunity for us to help them improve their flying training programs,” said Col. John Morawiec, 173rd Fighter Wing Operations Group commander. “We hope that they will be able to go back to Bulgaria with a better understanding of how we operate day to day in training the best fighter pilots in the world.”

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American and NATO allied countries to host military-to-military events. The purpose of each event is to strengthen the relationship between the host nation and the United States. Since 1992, over 7,750 EU COM-coordinated and managed military-to-military contacts or events have helped host nations understand the U.S. approach to fundamental issues, such as human rights guarantees for Soldiers, civilian control of the military, military legal codes, and development of professional officer and noncommissioned officer corps.

“We hope that we can continue to train with the Bulgarians and sustain the already well established relationship we have developed with their Air Force,” said Morawiec.

BLM: Agreement good for everyone

The lease agreement is good for the Oregon Guard, the BLM and the surrounding community.

“The agreement is an effective approach to resource management planning and training planning in terms of being proactive with the community. It is a three way partnership,” McCaffrey said. The added benefit, according to McCaffrey, is Biak’s location. Lying next to Roberts Field – the only large commercial hub in central Oregon – Biak is prime for the changes slated under the Army’s Transformation doctrine.

“Roberts Field is the fourth largest commercial aviation hub in Oregon, but their intent is to recreate Roberts Field and turn it into the second largest commercial aviation hub in Oregon,” McCaffrey said.

“We’re sitting right on the edge of it,” he continued. “That’s a piece for Oregon that has been missing. No other training center in Oregon has runways, and Biak has them. That’s a tremendous advantage when you think about the future of mobile warfare and where we’re going with air mobility and rapid deployment.”

The Biak Training Site is named after the largest island in New Guinea, where, on May 27, 1943, primarily the 41st and the 41st Field Divisions, fought Japanese Soldiers for control of the island archipelago. The central Oregon training site, located about 3 miles southeast of Redmond, Ore., was named in honor of the WWII battle and the 41st Brigade’s “Sunset Division.”

GIS educates public at Capitol

Members of the Oregon National Guard took part in Geographic Information System Day at the State Capitol on Nov. 15, 2006. The Oregon Guard’s booth was manned by representatives from the Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Oregon State Police.

The event, which was coordinated by Sue Blohm, GIS Manager for the City of Salem, was also attended by several local and federal agencies, including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 15 GIS Day. The goal of the event was to increase awareness and understanding about geography, and to promote cooperation and sharing of GIS data between states, federal, tribal, and local agencies.

Col. Dave Stuckey, Deputy Director, DSCOPS, said GIS supports every mission throughout the Oregon National Guard, but is ‘transparent’ to a lot of people.

“It is a part of everything we do. In training lands management, facilities, operations planning, environmental, and intelligence collection and analysis,” Stuckey said.

The display highlighted how GIS supports Oregon National Guard missions, such as the 102nd CST’s Weapons of Mass Destruction program, 1024rd Medical Co. (Army Aviation)’s Search and Rescue and Fire Suppression initiatives, the Oregon Guard’s Hurricane Katrina rescue and response efforts, and the agency’s involvement in the ongoing Afghanistan mission.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

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"Spit, polish and precision: A therapeutic discipline for Oregon Army National Guard’s Military Funeral Honors Team

When Staff Sgt. Jeremy Turner arrived for his first mission in 2005 it was a new full-time Oregon Army National Guard Honor Team. It was the state’s largest national honor team, handling over 100 ceremonies a year, dressing in all-white uniforms complete with pink gloves and white shoes. But dressing in the pink gloves was the only thing that Turner, the Oregon National Guard Honor Team member, and the rest of the team had in common. The rest of the team was made up of Oregon National Guard soldiers, a mix of men and women, wearing standard Army uniforms.

With each mission, Turner felt something he had felt since losing an infant squad member to a cancer. The team was the one thing he had left. The mission took him to Washington, D.C., where he had to attend the White House for a state ceremony. The next day, he had to attend another ceremony in the same city. He had to attend the same ceremony again the next day. The mission was a way to connect with other soldiers, a way to feel like he was a part of something bigger.

"We’re all in this together. We’re all doing this together. We’re all working together to honor our fallen comrades. And when we do it right, it’s a beautiful thing.

-- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Turner, Oregon Army National Guard Honor Team member

The Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team, prepares for a flag ceremony at Williamette Valley National Cemetery on Sept. 20, 2014. Turner was killed in a suicide attack on Sept. 5, while on patrol in Afghanistan.

When Turner first reported for duty at the Oregon Army National Guard, he learned that soldiers would perform the ceremony for their comrades. Some had family, others were widows or widowers. The team held ceremonies for heroes for those veterans, honor guards for those killed in Afghanistan, and those who lost their lives in Iraq.

"I didn’t expect it to be as tough as it is," Turner says. "But it was. It was harder than I thought. But it was also. It was a privilege to be a part of this. It was a honor to be able to do this for our fallen comrades. It was a privilege to be able to do this for our fallen comrades.

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Orient Shield: An opportunity for the Oregon Army National Guard to strengthen bonds with Asian counterparts

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Beaumont, 135th Public Affairs Detachment

SEXIYAM MANOULI AREA, JAPAN—"You go see No. 1 convoy in our area," 1st Sgt. Robert Hicks said to his platoon. 

"Get it on!"

It was a battlecry during a training exercise involving the 1st Platoon of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 202nd Transportation Company. The platoon, based in Oregon, has been training in Japan for the past few weeks to strengthen bonds with their counterparts in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. The training has focused on various aspects of military operations, including close combat techniques and damage control.

"This is by far the best training we have done in the last year. It’s very realistic.

—1st Lt. Cory Jones

The training is part of an ongoing effort to strengthen ties with Japan, as the Oregon Guard has been invited to participate in the annual Orient Shield exercise. The exercise, which began in 2001, is a joint military exercise between the Oregon Guard and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.

"Sniper school means you are working with the best.

—Staff Sgt. Shane Ward

The Oregon Guard’s participation in Orient Shield is part of a broader effort to strengthen military ties with Japan. The Oregon Guard has a long history of working with other countries, and has been involved in a number of international exercises and deployments.

"We’re really excited to be here. We’re excited to be working with the first company from Japan and to share our skills.

—Sgt. Shane Ward

The Oregon Guard’s participation in Orient Shield is not only about enhancing military-to-military relationships, but also about building bridges between the two cultures. The Oregon Guard has a long history of working with Japan, and this exercise is an opportunity to further strengthen those bonds.

"We’re really looking forward to working with the Japanese soldiers. They’re really professional and they’re really good at what they do.

—Sgt. Shane Ward

The Oregon Guard has a long history of working with Japan, and this exercise is an opportunity to further strengthen those bonds. The Oregon Guard has a long history of working with Japan, and this exercise is an opportunity to further strengthen those bonds.

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At the out of what USA Today called one of the biggest fire seasons since 2000, the Oregon National Guard coordinated with the Oregon Department of Forestry to manage their aviation assets and personnel in a wide variety of wildfire suppression and firefighting roles.

The Department of Forestry classifies the UH-60 Blackhawk and AH-64D Chinook flown by the Oregon National Guard as Type-I aircraft, a classification given only to airframes which can carry more than 700 gallons of water—an invaluable commodity during the height of the wildfire season.

"We devised a plan for the mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, utilizing both aircraft from Pendleton and from Salem," Oregon Governor, Ted Kulongoski, said.

Boro, a Nebraska native who moved to Oregon in 1976 after graduating from college and serving in the Navy assisting helicopter operations, is very familiar with the beauty and the high risk job, but you’re also watching the smoke plumes rise into the sky. "The people don’t just show up on the doorstep out of the blue," he said. "But fighting fires does not only involve the aircrews, but the ground crews as well."

The Firehawk is a modified UH-60 Blackhawk which utilizes an automated filling system consisting of an under-belly tank and remote snorkel system. The pilot releases the payload of water from the Firehawk in much the same way an air tanker would, by opening a set of "bomb-bay" doors over the drop zone.

"There’s definitely exciting going out there seeing fire, working six hours a day and by the end of the week you can see the fire dying down," Lazier said. "Once in a while, the green crew will say over the radio, ‘nice shot’.

"It’s amazing when you’re fighting those fires, and you bank the aircraft and you feel that heat," Greenwood said. "In 1988 when I was working the Yellowstone fires, I saw a 200 year-old tree disappear in seconds. I was working the Yellowstone fires, I saw a 200 year-old tree disappear in seconds. It was just like lighting a match. It disappeared that quickly.

Two clouds looked like nuclear bursts. The fire can self-generate 80 mph winds that can take the fire miles away from you. It’s unbelievably powerful," Greenwood continued.

According to Greenwood and Boro, the 113th was one of the first aviation units on the ground and upgraded some of our equipment to give the JOC more situational awareness. According to Lazier, 24, who lives in Beaverton, Ore., the fires can be unpredictable. "With the Boro says the cost of actually fighting the fires is a complicated process, but regarding the bill and how the dollars are spent, between Greenwood and Boro, the relationship between the Oregon Guard and the ODF is the same:

"We make a protecting property and the public through the entire state. We want to make sure that the community can breathe a sigh of relief. Loss was inevitable however, Oregon communities breathed a collective sigh of relief. OPLAN Smokey may need some revision.

"We’re going to revise OPLAN Smokey and upgrade some of our equipment to give our Soldiers a better tool to do their job better," Greenwood said.

On the books is a plan to purchase equipment which will allow for direct communication between the air crews, the JOC and command and control personnel at the helibase and in the air. Greenwood is also looking into implementation of the line-sling procedures for supplying ground crews during the fire fighting season, and the purchase of water buckets, which aren’t cheap at $30,000 each.

"I don’t think there’s a standard issue for us to have water buckets," Greenwood said. "They’re expensive, and we have to also maintain them."

Boro says the cost of actually fighting the fires is a complicated process, but regardless of the bill, the relationship between Greenwood and Boro, the relationship between the Oregon Guard and the ODF is the same: we make a protecting property and the public through the entire state. We want to make sure that the community can breathe a sigh of relief. Loss was inevitable however, Oregon communities breathed a collective sigh of relief. OPLAN Smokey may need some revision.

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Brooks, Ore. - The Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team held a demonstration event at the Marion County Regional Fire Training Facility in Brooks, Ore., on Oct. 27. The event showcased the unit’s capabilities in supporting local, state, and federal authorities with weapons of mass destruction incidents.

Pat Egan, Chief of Staff to Governor Theodore K. Kulongoski, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, and Assistant Chief Bob Jung, of Marion County Fire District 1, attended the demonstration, along with many police, firefighters and military representatives.

“They’re reassuring to know we have this level of cooperation and equipment employed to respond this quickly,” said Egan. “I’m very impressed with the ability to move information this quickly and work with multiple agencies at the same time.”

“I think this is a demonstration of the Guard’s commitment to national defense and the defense of the people of Oregon,” said Rees. “I’m delighted to have the opportunity to show this (unit) off, and look forward to a better relationship between all the first responder communities throughout Oregon.”

In the demonstration scenario, a sarin gas leak caused a vehicle accident in front of a building, which was also on fire. Firefighters who responded to the vehicle accident and structure fire were overcome by the simulated gas cloud. Civil authorities then contacted the 102nd CST for assistance in identifying and eliminating the dangerous substance.

After arriving on the scene, Sgt. Richard Hosmer, 42nd Civil Support Team Members for the 102nd CST, both dressed in HAZMAT suits, had to pick their way around the scene to get closer to the event today,” said Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, 102nd CST commander. “We’re always interested to show the capabilities of the team so the first responder community knows they have another tool to use in the event of a WMD incident in Oregon or the rest of the country.”

The 102nd CST took part in a similar training exercise in February 2006, working with the Oregon State Police, Portland Police, the FBI, area Fire Departments and HAZMAT teams.

The Salem-based unit consists of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard members who can rapidly mobilize to any incident throughout Oregon. They assist civil authorities with early detection and analysis of materials which may be chemical, biological or nuclear in nature. The unit’s goal is to minimize the impact on civilian populations and facilitate requests for follow-on emergency and military support by civil authorities.

“We bring capabilities most of the first responders don’t have,” Ferrell said. “We assist them with identifying what type of nuclear, biological or chemical agent may have been used, we advise them on whether it’s best to evacuate or shelter in place, and we provide communication through secure and non-secure satellite networks.”

The 102nd CST was authorized to become a full-time team on March 9, 2004. After a thorough screening and selection process, the first members of the full-time team started duty on June 1, 2004. Since then, members of the unit spent nearly 900 hours each training and equipping in order to receive federal certification from the Department of Defense. The unit is one of 55 full-time teams throughout the country authorized by Congress to assist first responders during a WMD incident.

The team also had to become proficient in every aspect of their equipment, which includes a mobile laboratory, communication vehicles and decontamination equipment.

The 102nd CST was externally evaluated by U.S. Army North (then 5th U.S. Army) in October 2005. The unit received federal certification by DoD on July 24, 2006.

“This certification by the Secretary of Defense is self-evident to Congress that we have the right equipment, training and personnel to provide assistance to first responders who don’t have the capabilities we offer them,” Ferrell said.

In addition, DoD certification means the 102nd CST can be integrated into the National Response Plan to provide support to other states if needed.

“There’s no doubt about their capabilities,” said Rees. “These people have gone through the training, they’re been certified by a national certification team, validated by the Secretary of Defense as to their abilities.”

“We couldn’t ask for a more capable team to help Oregon,” Rees added.

Story by Maj. Michael Warrington, 141st Brigade Support Battalion

After returning from the deployment in support of Hurricane Katrina, officers and NCOs of Charlie Medical Co., 141st Brigade Support Battalion asked, “What can we do with our community in order to better prepare for a disaster here at home?”

The answer included getting to know the other agencies that also work in the disaster response business. As a result, Charlie Medical Co., 141st Brigade Support Battalion, worked with the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue.

After a thorough screening and selection process, the first members of the full-time team started duty on June 1, 2004. Since then, members of the unit spent nearly 900 hours each training and equipping in order to receive federal certification from the Department of Defense. The unit is one of 55 full-time teams throughout the country authorized by Congress to assist first responders during a WMD incident.

The team also had to become proficient in every aspect of their equipment, which includes a mobile laboratory, communication vehicles and decontamination equipment.

The 102nd CST was externally evaluated by U.S. Army North (then 5th U.S. Army) in October 2005. The unit received federal certification by DoD on July 24, 2006.

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Med. is laying the ground for Operation Joint Response, a joint interagency training exercise to take place during the 2007 training year.

The Evacuation Platoon Leader for Charlie Med., 2nd Lt. William Coker, works for the Tualatin Valley Fire District when he isn’t in uniform. Coker contacted his civilian supervisor regarding the plan, which was received very favorably. As part of the planning process, I was invited to participate in the Community Academy, a community outreach program for business and civic leaders who want to learn more about emergency response.

The academy was held September 8-9, 2006. Among the civic leaders present were the Washington County Administrator, the Facilities Director for Nike, Inc., the Emergency Director for Intel, a clinical physician, and a reporter for the Beaverton Valley Times.

The Community Academy consists of classroom training and practical exercises pertaining to the task organization, operation, and support of routine fire and rescue duties. Classroom instruction included discussion on organizational culture and purpose, business model and quality measures, fire code enforcement and education, emergency medical services, deployment planning, and overview of human resources activities.

Practical exercises included demonstration and hands-on turnout drills, truck operations, hydrant drills, and a burn tower demonstration. The second half of the training consisted of an overnight ride along with a fire crew. I spent the remainder of the 24-hour shift working with the crew of Tualatin Station 53. During the night the crew responded to five calls ranging from vehicular accidents and injuries to 911 medical emergencies.

The conclusion of the academy included an after action review with district chief Jeff Johnson. He actively sought our feedback and perspective for ideas on how to make the fire service more reliable and community oriented.

As a result of this initial work, the foundation for Operation Joint Response is set. Plans for joint interagency training at all levels of the Oregon National Guard will be complete in early 2007. Opportunities for participation in the Community Academy are ongoing as the academy is scheduled periodically throughout the year.

Highly informative with relevant overlap with National Guard community goals and objectives, I recommend this program for any staff officer or NCO who resides within the TVF&R district. For more information, please contact Maj. Michael Warrington at 503-280-8160.
Oregon Soldiers bust Pakistani smugglers

Story by 1st Lt. Caitrine Frakes, Public Affairs Officer, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

KABUL, Afghanis-
tan – On Sept. 25, Camp Phoenix Security Forces (SECFOR) raider a near-
by compound capturing 18 men suspected of pilfering U.S. conexes in route to Camp Rilea.

Soldiers from SECFOR received tips that conexes were being emptied and content were stolen prior to their arrival to Camp Phoenix and other Coalition locations. Intel sug-
gested this was happening frequently as Pakistani truck drivers made contact and stopped on the way so smuggling could pilfer the conexes, resell and send them onto their final destina-
tion. The stolen items are then sold at various locations.

Spc. Richard Newberg, of Roseburg, Ore. and Pfc. Carl Schlothauer of Grant’s Pass, Ore. were working in a guard tower that evening. As soon as they saw the sus-
picious vehicles moving into a compound they alerted the Base Defense and Operations center (BDOC).

The BDOC redirected a dismounted patrol to assist in the raid. Sgt. Justin Dom of Moreauville, La. and members of his patrol to include some members of the Afghan National Police (ANP) to the compound. Mounted forces from the Ready Reaction Force (RRF) and Quick Reaction Force (QRF) were sent out to cordon the area to prevent the escape of any suspects. The command to move in was given and Alpha Company, 1st Platoon, 4th Squad entered the compound and apprehended the thieves.

Due to the tower guard’s ability to maintain visibility of the situation and willingness of other personnel to help, all the suspects were captured and taken to a local ANP Station for further questioning.

“Relationships built in the community were directly responsible for this success-
mision,” 2nd Lt. Scott Marmam, SECFOR Intelligence Officer, said.

Soldiers of Task Force Phoenix SECFOR have a feeling of accomplishment after eliminating this recurring security threat.

“They felt it was what they were sent here to do and they got great satisfaction from it,” Marmam said. “Professionalism and proficiency were the order of the day.”

Bronze Star awarded 62 years later

World War II veteran, Pvt. (Ret.) Edward Lessick (seated) was awarded the Bronze Star during a ceremony held at Willamette Falls Hospital in Oregon City.

He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions involving reinforcement of an allied airfield on the island New Guinea in the early part of 1943, and although he was not

officially the medal in February 1944, Lessick never received the medal. The error was discovered in 2005.

He was presented the award to Washington D.C. for an award ceremony in October, 2006, with a group of other WWII veterans who faced the same situation, but because of health

problems, Lessick was unable to attend. The Veterans Commission arranged for the mailing of the medal to Oregon so officials from the Oregon National

Guard could present the award to Lessick.

Lessick's wife Judy.

“In the end, it was seven years ago that he finally received recognition for what he did,” said Robert J. Lessick, of Fairview, Ore., Lessick’s son.

“None of us could have imagined that it would take that long,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert, commanding officer of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V.

“Winning in war comes at a cost,” said Lehnert. “We cannot afford to be anything but successful. For that reason we have a special mandate to take care of the military and civilian personnel who serve.”

“Lessick’s family is very appreciative,” said Lehnert. “They have been waiting a very long time.”

Rilea given first-place National Environ-
mental award

WARRENTON, Ore. – Camp Rilea was recently awarded the 2006 First Place Environmental Award in the “En-
vironmental Quality, Industrial Installation” category by the National Guard Bureau.

The award qualifies the Oregon Army National Guard installation located near Warrenton, Ore., for competition at the Department of the Army level, as well as the Department of Defense level.

Rilea will receive a congratulatory letter, and will be allowed to choose one of the framed “Heritage Paintings” offered by the National Guard Bureau.

A formal award presentation is scheduled to take place at the National Environmental Workshop in April 2007.

“Everyone at Camp Rilea is excited and grateful to be recognized by the Guard Bu-
reau,” said Camp Rilea Facility Manager, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ronald D. Kimsey.

“We work very hard on environmental issues,” Kimsey continued. “It’s a full team

effort, and I want to congratulate everyone on a job well done.”

According to Kimsey, Rilea is very well known throughout the nation as a great place to train.

“It’s also a very beautiful place too,” Kim-
sey added, noting the picturesque northern Oregon Coast.

Debt keeping troops from duty

Story by Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Thousands of U.S. troops are being barred from overseas duty because they are in deep in debt they are considered security risks, according to an Associated Press review of military records.

The number of troops held back has climbed dramatically in the past two years. And while they appear to represent a very small percentage of all U.S. military person-

nel, the increase is occurring at a time when the armed forces are stretched thin by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We are seeing an alarming trend in de-
gree of financial hardship,” said Navy Capt. Mark D. Patton, commanding officer of San Diego’s Naval Base Point Loma.

The Pentagon contends financial prob-
lems can distract personnel from their duties or make them vulnerable to bribery and tre

mony. As a result, those who fall heavily into debt can be stripped of the security clearances they need to go overseas.

While the number of troops with clear-
ances has surged since the beginning of the Iraq war, military officials say there is no evidence that soldiers deliberately run up debts to stay out of harm’s way.

Officials also say the increase has not undermined the military’s fighting ability, though some say it has complicated assembling of some of the units needed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The problem is attributed to a lack of financial smarts among recruits; reckless spending among those exhilarated to make it survive from the lottery of the “pro

motion of ‘payday lenders’ — businesses that allow military personnel to borrow against their next paycheck at extremely high interest rates.

The problems persist despite crack-
downs on payday lenders and the financial counseling the Pentagon routinely offers to the troops.

Data supplied to the AP by the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and National Guard indicate the number of clearances revoked for financial reasons rose every year between 2002 and 2005, and continued to climb in 2006.

Rilea Security Forces captured 18 men sus                     ected vehicles moving into a compound they alerted the Base Defense and Operations center (BDOC).

Photo by Spc. Joshua Phillips, CJTF Phoenix V

The figures gathered by the AP represent figures for the second year of class attendance online, as well as 10 hours of Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) credit for NCOA, and 24 hours of credit for the commissioned officer

branch.

For more information or to nominate someone for the FTS, the visit the Freedom Team Salute Website at www.freedomteam- salute.com.

Military continuing education for Airmen offered online

Qualified NCOs and Airmen can attend the Satellite Non-Commissioned Officer Academy or Airman Leadership School programs from their home unit. Courses are offered two nights per week, and result in a residency or airfield on the island New Guinea in the early part of 1943, and although he was of

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ronald D. Kinsley.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Debt problems are the overwhelm-
ing reason security clearances are revoked. Other reasons include criminal activity, question

able ill health.

A key reason the militaryrevokes clear-
ances on financial grounds is the fear that Soldiers in debt might be tempted to sell secrets or equipment to the enemy.

“Also, when they are out there fighting

with their friends,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert, commander of Marine Corps Bases in the western United States. “We like to have them ... not worrying about or not they are going to be able to make the mort-
gage payment or car payment.”

Members of the brass also blame runaway interest rates and predatory loans, many of which are clustered outside bases around the country. Several states have cracked down on payday lending operations, and recently, President Bush signed legisla-
tion limiting how much these businesses can charge military personnel.

Some personnel fall into debt upon return-
ing from combat. “It can be hard to cut that sense of elation and desire to live for the moment,” Lehnert said. “Some tend to get themselves inextended financials.”

Also, when they go to war, they get com-
bat pay, and none of their income is taxed.
tests with focus groups and interviews with...
Winterhawks gave a chance to promote Oregon National Guard

Story and photo by Sdg. Tina Villalobos
41st IBCT Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. — There are at least two ways to get more than six thousand Portlanders into a hockey game; or an opportunity to honor veterans and service members. On Tuesday there was a great deal of cheering going on at Portland’s Memorial Coliseum where Veterans Day, dedicated to all veterans, was the real story.

Bernard Schreiner, a veteran Army infantryman who served in Vietnam from 1966-1968, appreciated his military service. “It was a great deal of cheering going on at Portland’s Memorial Coliseum this Veterans Day, dedicated to all veterans,” said Schreiner.

USO civilian services representative Monday at Camp Rilea in October. Soldiers that didn’t make the trip were watch words for future success. “One of the things I like about recruit training is you can control the environment,” said Slightham. “You can get a good coach that knows what they’re doing and tell them how to do it.”

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The Oregon National Guard is a whole different world now, compared to when I was in, said Turner. “I have lots of pride in myself, and lots of pride in the people around me. The Guard is what made me grow. I love it!”

One of the things I like about recruiting is meeting people, Turner continued. “There are actually good people out there that want to serve their country—they’re not just doing it for the money.”

The Soldiers hosting tables and greeting fans each echoed pride in their service, and appreciated the opportunity to recognize those who had served before them.

Staff Sgt. Peter Seaberg of HHC 41st Brigade Combat Team, was part of the community,” Seaberg added.

“The national Guard is a true working team in Portland, and we are partnered with them because we’re the hardest working team in Oregon,” Seaberg said. “We’re giving all the veterans tickets to the game. It is a way for the Winterhawks, and us to say, ‘Thanks for serving, and thank you for being part of the community,’” Seaberg added.

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