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Oregon’s 41st STB teams with Iraqi interpreters for training, p. 4

Oregon Silver Star recipient reenlists to help make an impact, p. 5

Oregon 41st STB teams with Iraqi interpreters for training

Oregon National Guard Soldiers listen intently to members of the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Department SWAT team. They tap each other on the shoulder and push through the doorway.

"The most important thing is when you come up you need to keep your back side to the hinges," said Deputy Jason Nall, SWAT team member.

The training on this cloudy spring day in Oregon will prepare the soldiers of the 41 Special Troops Battalion for the desert streets of Iraq when they deploy in 2009.

"We’re learning tactics on how to get into a room and avoid obstacles," said 1st Lt. Eric Martz, Platoon Leader.

"The more training they can get and receive it’s just going to help them down the road,"

See SHERIFFS on PAGE 5

Oregon National Guard Soldiers train with local S.W.A.T team

41st BDE leaders: tactical training valuable for Oregon Guardsmen

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Oregon Soldiers train with local S.W.A.T team

Deputy Tony Kollias with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team watches as Oregon National Guard Soldiers practice making tactical entries into a building during training at Camp Withycombe, Ore., April 5, 2008.

Local company supports citizen-Airman’s deployment

Story by Starla Pointer, News-Register

Originally published Mar. 15, 2008 in the News-Register.

Just before Dan Wilcox headed overseas with the Oregon Air National Guard, Oregon Mutual Insurance Corporate Secretary Toni Chodrick mentioned to him that the company would like to sponsor his unit.

"We’ll send a box every so often," Chodrick promised. "Just let me know what you need."

Even with that promise, Wilcox was in no way prepared for what OMI actually did for the 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron, based at the Guard’s Portland Air Base.

"It was incredible," said Wilcox, who returned to his facilities management post in January. "It helped us and went way beyond the 142nd to our whole base over there. I don’t think anyone at OMI really knows the impact they made and how much it meant."

Wilcox and his Airmen received five or more boxes a week from the McMinnville-based company. The gifts included everything from coffee and Chapstick to freezer pops and Girl Scout cookies. In addition to personal items, the troops got enough DVDs to create a movie library, a hot plate enabling some personnel from Hawaii to cook teriyaki, and plenty of Sudoko and crossword puzzles to keep minds occupied.

"The effort was led by Chodrick and Mindy Menke. It included personalized cards to every member of the 142nd on a series of holidays - Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Companies like Oregon Mutual are very special," said Lt. Col. Stuart Mathew, who spoke Thursday at a ceremony during which the 142nd honored OMI and vice versa.

"You really adopted these folks and never allowed them to forget," Mathew told OMI employees. "It’s rare we have an employer so outgoing in its support."

See EMPLOYER on PAGE 6
The Oregon National Guard today faces toughness challenges.

We are fighting a long war on terrorism.

We are constantly asked to complete priorities elsewhere, which can keep an eye on balances and expenditures.

In the midst of our balancing acts, we may never lose sight of what is most important – our Airman and Soldiers.

You serve at a time that demands sweat equity; working high OP tempo, sacrifices from families and personal sacrifices.

Yet through all this, you remain one of the few assets whose value appreciates over time instead of deprecating.

We should always treat people with respect and dignity.

We have the responsibility to care for our guard families.

Caring is a characteristic that endears us to each other and forms lasting relationships that bond us together.

Know that many of our most recent members may be away from home for the first time.

These families need all the support we have to offer them.

Picking up the phone to check on the family of a deployed Airman or Soldier goes a long way towards reminding the family we care and acknowledge the critical part they play in our success.

You can make a difference in their lives with a caring attitude and behavior that are representative of our Oregon National Guard values.

Care for your family and other Airman and Soldier families. Our guard families care for us by providing the inspiration, comfort and support we need to keep us focused on the missions.

These families deal with unpredictable work and deployment schedules; bear our absence during birthdays, anniversaries and holidays; and they stand alongside us in selfless sacrifice.

We need to demonstrate our understanding and appreciation for their unwavering dedication.

Caring for our Airman and Soldiers also means being a role model for the discipline.

When we see one of our fellow guardsman going astray or exhibiting lapses in judgment or commitment, we need to provide the proper feedback and mentoring to get them back on track.

We need to step outside of our comfort zone and confront negative behaviors or trends.

Providing mentorship, guidance, and

...Continued

Challenging times require caring for fellow Guardsmen

By Maj. Mike Brabish and Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

The men and women of the United States who came of age during World War II did nothing less than shape the world we live in today. They faced an unprecedented level of destruction and imperialism, and they proved our nation’s resolve to defend freedom and liberty where it is threatened.

They’re considered national treasures by some, and reporter turned Tom Brokaw called them, “the greatest generation any society ever has produced.”

Great, indeed; and Oregon has recently lost several of those men who were part of this great generation.

Born

Nov. 12, 1922, in the Salem area, Staff Sgt. DeShazer grew up in the Pacific Northwest.

He joined the Oregon Air Corps in 1940, and years later he would participate in one of the most daring and inspiring missions in the history of America.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was as much a blow to our military as it was to our national morale, perhaps even more so. With the U.S. determined to make the fight to the Japanese homeland, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle led a raid of sixteen B-25 “Mitchell” bombers from the deck of the U.S.S. Hornet.

With no way to return to the carrier, the planes landed in safe areas of China and Russia.

DeShazer was the bombardier on the sixteenth plane to launch. After striking their two primary targets the crew set their plane on fire and made their way toward their landing zone, but as they approached the Chinese coast they ran out of gas and were forced to bail out.

All five crewmen were captured and transported to prisoner of war camps by the Japanese. DeShazer watched as three of his fellow airmen were executed and their bodies slowly turned to ash.

In the middle of his captivity, he asked for and received a bible. Moved by what he read, DeShazer turned his hatred in his heart into a commitment.

DeShazer was released Aug. 20, 1945 after 40 months of captivity.

After returning home he went to school to become a commercial pilot in Japan in 1948, bringing with him hope and forgiveness instead of anger.

As a colonel, Doo little helped develop the model of integrity, and by sharing your experiences you are the best spokesperson for our Air Force and Army.

Doolittle, DeShazer: two more ‘Greatest Generations’ members pass

State Commander in Chief

The Oregon National Guard

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith,
Oregon Military Department

The Oregon Military Department

Chief of Staff

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Contributing Editor

Editor, Oregon Sentinel

Editorial Offices

From Oregon Military Department

Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

The Oregon National Guard

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is designed and published by the Oregon Military Department’s Public Affairs Office. The views and opinions expressed in the Oregon Sentinel Editorial are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Oregon Military Department or the Oregon National Guard.

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In previous columns I have examined why diversity is important to any organiz-ation and how mentoring is essential in achieving it. This month I would like to cover the Nine Cornerstones of Diversity which I studied during the Diversity Champions class.

To get started, let’s review the concept of diversity. From my perspective, diversity is very much linked to Stephen R. Covey’s Habits #4, #5, and #6. That is, diversity has to do with thinking win-win, seeking first to understand and only then to be understood, and finally synergizing. In other words, by capitalizing on the differences within an organization, the organization can reach its full potential.

The Nine Cornerstones of Diversity:
1. Diversity is about inclusion and engagement—leaving no one behind!
2. Diversity is emerging as a strength as individuals on that team.
3. The most important issue is always human dignity and total quality respect!
4. Prejudice is eliminated by developing high performance teams!
5. Decision solutions must be situational specific!
6. Everyone adds talent and value.
7. Diversity solutions must be situational specific!
8. Diversity is a philosophy and everyone’s responsibility.
9. By all being Diversity Champions in our communities, we will be doing the right thing. And consequently, as a wonderful by-product, we will be improving our mission performance.

Mentoring key to retaining members in high performance teams

By Senior Master Sgt. Max White, 142nd Fighter Wing Human Resources Advisor

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Alpha Co. 641 raises bar on taskings

All,

Alpha Company is inside the 30-Day countdown. All the pieces are falling into place for redeployment. The guys are maintaining their mission focus, even as the tell-tale signs of redeployment become more and more apparent.

Over the last two weeks, we have been directly supporting the operations down south around Basra. This has required a surge on our part and a real increase in our OPTEM-PO. As expected, everyone has stepped up and responded to the challenge. We have even surged to seven mission aircraft a few times to handle the increased demand. This company knows its role and is executing at a level never before achieved by previous C-23 companies in Iraq.

In five months thus far, A Company has flown 3,500 flight hours, moved 8 million pounds of cargo and transported almost 18,000 passengers. Compare these numbers to our predecessor, F Company 207th who moved 6.6 million pounds of cargo and 14,000 passengers in six months. I Company 185th, who was here same time last year, moved 5.3 million and 12,500 passengers in six months. This goes to show what a highly motivated and hard-working C-23 company can accomplish.

On the April 6th, we had a Task Force Hawk Barbeque and Team/Individual competi-tion. The competitions involved a vehicle push, stretcher carry, pull-ups, water bottle toss, etc. Team “Box Car 65” won the team event CW2 Eric Brown (Okahoma), CW2 Steve Graves (South Dakota), Sgt. Will Caddell (Okahoma), Sgt. Nick DuPont (South Dakota) and Spc. Matt Day (South Dakota).

Staff Sgt. Brian Kerbel (Washington) won the individual event. It was a fun event, filled with good competition and great food. We also presented Sgt. A.J. Rowlett (Okahoma), who has been with an Army Commendation Medal for quick action in putting out an electrical fire several weeks ago.

Thanks again for all your support back home. And thanks for taking time to write back with news and events.

Take care; we’ll see you soon.

Very Respectfully,

Mag. David R. Doran
Commander, Alpha Co., 641 Aviation Regt. (CELT5)
Oregon Army National Guard
LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enyeart: ‘Kudos for job well-done’

GREAT JOB!

I just finished reading the March Oregon Sentinel online and I was com-pelled to send a note on the outstanding work you all do every month.

The issue really shows the diversity that the Oregon National Guard is in- volved in throughout the world. Great stories!

Thanks and keep up the good work.

Col. (P) David B. Enyeart Assistant Adjutant General Army Joint Forces Headquarters Oregon

Rank abbreviations demystified

One quick gripe or whatever you’d like to call it, the abbreviations in the paper all done in the Air Guard Style in all stories.

That is to say for instance Captain is Capt. for Air Force, and CPT for Army.

As we venture into a joint world it is my belief we should have proper joint language, especially when this goes out for general distribution.

Sorry if this seems to be a bit pet peeve, well you’d be right it is pet peeve.

Thank you,

CW2 Dale Williams Labor Relations Specialist, Oregon National Guard

Sir,

This is going to be a very easy fix, I assure you.

Please have your staff and editors of the Sentinel use the correct Army rank abbreviations. I am tired of being embarrassed at every single issue.

This publication needs to be accurate in reflecting the correct title our Soldiers have earned. I reference AR 660-20 for the correct rank abbreviation and title.

GREAT JOB!

Thank you in advance,

Unsigned

Chief Williams, Mr. Unsigned.

First of all, thank you for your comments. We have had many questions regarding how the ranks are abbreviated in the Oregon Sentinel. Hopefully I can address those concerns here.

The Oregon Sentinel, like many com-mercial and military publications, uses the Associated Press Style Guide as our point of reference for grammar, style, layout, and general reference.

It is the “technical" reference given by both the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau for all internal and external military publica-tions, and is also widely used by the commercial print media as the “gold standard." The AP Style Guide is specifically re-ferenced in AR 360-1, Ch. 13, subsection 12B on the point of reference.

In the AP Style Guide section on “Military Titles,” all ranks, regardless of branch of service are referenced in a certain style. As an example, “Cpt.” is used across the board, regardless of which branch of service for that person.

I must admit, seeing “Capt. John Smith” in an article does not give the reader to discern what branch of the military he may be in, but the inten-tion is to use the style that is the standard of the context of the story would help explain this.

Further guidance in the AP Style Guide dictates using the branch of service prior to the name on the first refer-ence if the same is true for all military branches.

In the AP Style Guide section on “Military Titles,” all ranks, regardless of branch of service are referenced in a certain style. As an example, “Cpt.” is used across the board, regardless of which branch of service for that person.

I must admit, seeing “Capt. John Smith” in an article does not give the reader to discern what branch of the military he may be in, but the inten-tion is to use the style that is the standard of the context of the story would help explain this.

Moreover, with the ever-growing base of readership for the Sentinel, which now includes to include civic lead-ers, Family members and employers; the use of a standardized format for all abbreviations of branch of service, is preferable.

Using a standardized reference man-ual gives a sense of consistency with our civilian and military publication counterparts, and most importantly, our readers. -Ed

The Oregon Sentinel, April 2008


Involvement with Iraqi interpreters spawns idea for innovative training event for Oregon Soldiers

Repaying a debt

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Nich Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Significant contribution by Spec. Cory Grogan, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The names of several sources in this article were changed or abbreviated to protect the individuals’ identities. For any of the Iraqi interpreters to reveal their true identity poses certain persecution or even death for family and friends still in Iraq.

The soldiers warily approached the marketplace, weapons at the ready.

“Salam Aleikum,” (peace upon you) he said as he placed his right hand over his heart.

“Oh, Salamoloom,” said the shopkeeper, returning the gesture, but eyeing the Soldiers’ M-16 rifles and thick body armor.

The rest of the Soldiers in the patrol fanned out in the street, eyes scanning the street and passersby, watching for anything out of the ordinary.

With the help of an Iraqi interpreter—embedded with the U.S. Army patrol—the Soldiers began to engage the shopkeeper about stolen goods allegedly being sold at the market.

“Have you seen any suspicious activity here?” one of the Soldiers asked, prompting the interpreter to translate the question into Arabic.

The Senators paid attention to the flurry of gestures and native tongue between their interpret- er and the shopkeeper, played by real-life Iraqi interpreter, Motassem. The answer from the interpreters was, “No, nothing.”

“But,” the interpreter added, “He knows of some illegal dealings.”

This scene, which repeats itself on a daily basis in Iraq, was part of an offensive.

American personnel are constantly gathering intelligence on an increasingly elusive enemy—could have taken place any time in Baghdad.

But today’s exchange was merely a training scenario, held in an increasingly difficult country—Middle Eastern country, but at the Tuulatini Valley Fire & Rescue facility near Sherwood, Ore.

As part of the training before their 2009 deployment to Iraq, Soldiers from Oregon’s 41st Brigade were given specialized training in social meetings, interviewing techniques, and intelligence gathering.

According to brigade leadership, while this sort of training is not new for those in military intelligence, what is groundbreaking for the unit is having Iraqi interpreters working closely with Oregon Guardsmen during their drill weekend on April 5 – 6.

That pairing, according to event organizers, not only added realism to the scenarios, but allowed the Soldiers an intense glimpse into the Iraqi interpreters’ skills and cultural knowledge—which, according to experts, is key to the international coalition’s success in Iraq.

The training these Oregon Guardsmen took part in was unique for two reasons,

Sgt. Jason Faler, commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team’s Bravo Company.

“This is the first time I’ve heard about that sort of training is taking place on a drill weekend,” he said.

Furthermore, the event was much more ambitious in planning and execution at the company level.

Faler said, with more realism and significance to the players.

Faler added that majority of the participants are traditional Soldiers, otherwise known as “M-Day Soldiers,” who wouldn’t have otherwise been exposed to this kind of training during a normal drill weekend.

The other reason this training cycle is unique, Faler said, is how the role-playing interpreter and cultural knowledge is being utilized during the training.

“Using local nationals is not upon you),” Ahmed said. “It’ll break the ice and ease a lot of tension. Having someone from another country in uniform on your doorstep creates a lot of tension. Having someone from another country in uniform can break the ice and ease a lot of tension,” Ahmed said. “It’ll be friendly.”

“Hey, (the Iraqi’s) vision is that you are the invader,” he added. “You have to break that tension with simple means—one of them is to be friendly.”

Ahmed added that certain gestures or actions don’t translate well between American and Iraqi cultures.

“Things which are considered okay in American culture doesn’t mean it’s that good in Iraqi culture,” he said. “In fact, it could mean quite the opposite.”

Indeed, all of the interpreters working with Bravo Co. were extremely intelligent, trustworthy and reliable sources in Iraq, said Faler. During the training event, they were quick to give feedback when Soldiers unknowingly did something that might be culturally offensive.

Ahmed cited an example a few years ago when a U.S. Army

Oregon Sentinel.

Soldiers of Bravo Co., 41st Special Troops Battalion, train with Iraqi interpreter, Ahmed (seated left), and Houzan (seated right) during an exercise scenario at the Tuulatini Valley Fire & Rescue facility in Sherwood, Ore., April 5-6, while other members of the team and brigade trainers observe and take notes.

Above left: Motassem, playing the role of an Iraqi shopkeeper, returns the greeting: Salam Aleikum (peace be brand new to the Army,” he said.

“But these guys are not actors. They’re the real deal,” Ahmed said.

Ahmed, who worked extensively with U.S. forces during the start of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, said this type of training is important not just for the Soldiers, but for the Iraqi citizen as well.

“When you visit somebody, greet him with his own greeting: Salam Aleikum (peace be

April 5th, we had his legs splinted out in front of him. The bottoms of his boots were facing toward the soundtrack, and in the eyes of Iraqi witnesses, the gesture came across as a sign of deep disrespect. This can last for several days following the incident, nearly sparking a riot in the city.

“And that is why U.S. forces and the Iraqis have many prob- lems,” Ahmed said.

“Understanding culture is extremely important for the town’s native Iraqis, the Soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class P., one of the event organizers and brokers.

“Many Iraqi and Afghan interpreters have served with U.S. forces, and they are also extremely important when working with an interpreter. Some of these skills are not like riding a bike, said Sgt. 1st Class P., 41st Military Intelligence NCO for Bravo Co.

Checkpoint One

The Checkpoint One Foundation is chartered with bringing Iraqi and Afghan interpreters, and American forces to safety in the United States.

The Checkpoint One Foundation accepts electronic funds, cash, or personal checks via the website.

For more information on Checkpoint One, or to become involved in helping Iraqi or Afghan citizens, please visit www.copianefoundation.org, or contact the foundation at 503-871-3238.

Involvement with Iraqi interpreters spawns idea for innovative training event for Oregon Soldiers

This is part-one of a two-part series on the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Brigade’s training with Iraqi interpreters and the plight faced by Iraqi expatriates who have relocated to the United States.


Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

APRIL 2008

Understanding culture is extremely important for these Soldiers.

— Sgt. 1st Class P, Bravo Co., 41st STB

“Understanding culture is extremely important for the town’s native Iraqis,” said Ahmed. “It’s very evident to me how perishable this skill can be.” “But,” he added, “I know about five minutes into the scenario, it all came back to me.”

Following the scenario, Sgt. Z. also learned about cultural and historical boundaries and the importance of things like shaking hands and creating a bond to win back and ask for information.

Sgt. N. another human intel- ligence, combat leader, said he thought the training went very well.

“We got a lot of positive feedback from those that participated and they would like to see more of that type of realistic training in the future,” he said.

“It gave them a more accurate idea as to what they’ll encounter while deployed, which is what training ought to be focused around,” said Sgt. N. added. “Good for us, bad for terrorists.”

With ongoing U.S. military operations in Iraq and western troops working closely with their Iraqi counterparts becoming more of a priority, and teaching the local culture to American troops is a necessity, said working.

“This is an excellent initiative,” he said. “I hope this training will be expanded into all the other states.”

Ahmed stressed the impor- tance of building a working rapport between Iraqi citizens and U.S. Soldiers.

“The Soldiers need to keep in mind that we are there for the best of Iraq,” he said. “In this way, you’re more than half of the way there.”

Part two of this series will ap- pear in the May 2008 issue of the Oregon Sentinel.

The Checkpoint One Foundation is chartered with bringing Iraqi and Afghan interpreters, and American forces to safety in the United States.

The Checkpoint One Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Many Iraqi and Afghan interpreters and their families have been killed or exiled due to their work with Coalition Forces.

The foundation accepts electronic funds, cash, or personal checks via the website.

For more information on Checkpoint One, or to become involved in helping Iraqi or Afghan citizens, please visit www.copianefoundation.org, or contact the foundation at 503-871-3238.
Leader, mentor, action figure: Soldier re-enlists to ensure a better tomorrow

Story by Spc. Sharanya Paradis, JFHQ Recruiting & Retention Command

Staff Sgt. Matthew Zedwick is a Soldier who has brought much to the Oregon Army National Guard.

From instructing at West Point to participating in United Nations training missions in Mongolia, to being awarded the Silver Star with Valor, Zedwick has accomplished much in his career. But with his recently signed reenlistment packet, Zedwick plans to give six more years of service to the organization he has grown to love.

“It’s been one of those love hate relationship,” Zedwick said. “The experiences and the people I’ve served with has helped me become the Soldier and person I am today.”

Zedwick originally joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1998 as a Corvallis high school student. Over the next nine and a half years, he served with numerous units and people in his career. In 2004, he deployed to Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd Infantry, 162nd Brigade. During an insurgent attack, he risked his own safety to rescue fellow Soldiers injured in the attack. Even wounded, Zedwick returned to the vehicle to retrieve valuable documents and weapons. His actions garnered him The Silver Star with Valor.

“I wasn’t trying to be a hero, no one is,” Zedwick said. “You do anything for your brothers in arms, they would have done the same for me. The medal isn’t just about me, their heroism and bravery helped get me out of there that day as well, and it’s just as much theirs as it is mine.”

Upon returning to the United States, Zedwick volunteered to teach at West Point Military Academy, NY. There, he taught basic infantry skills in mid-2005.

In August, 2006, Zedwick’s unit, the 2-162 IN, participated in Khaan Quest IV, a multi-national training exercise held in Ulanbator, Mongolia. The two-week training event helped train members of the Mongolian Armed Forces in United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

“Mongolia is a beautiful place, and they were very hospitable to us,” Zedwick said. “I haven’t been away from the mare’s milk!” he warned.

“It was a lot of fun and honor to work and travel around the world,” he added. While all this would have been enough to fill a military resume, Zedwick also volunteered to fight forest fires in eastern Oregon, and helped with evacuating Hurricane Katrina victims in 2005.

“Mongolia was a huge sacrifice for our country and it’s the least I can do,” he said. “I’m blessed to have God and these people as my brothers and sisters.”

As if this wasn’t enough, Zedwick was immortalized in 2006 with an action figure and video game profile modeled after him. This brings one resounding question to mind: what would cause a Soldier who has already done and accomplished so much, to reenlist with the National Army Guard?

The answer is simple; According to Zedwick, he has an overwhelming desire and drive to help develop tomorrow’s Soldiers and leaders, provide his family with a steady and honorable lifestyle, and maintain the camaraderie that has made his unit a second family from home.

“Zedwick said it was hard to leave the guys with whom he grew and developed as a Soldier. And with so many Soldiers opting to leave the National Guard, he was torn as to what he should do. In the end, he chose to stay.”

“I couldn’t leave the boys when they were looking for leadership and guidance and wanting to become good leaders themselves,” he said. “I felt that I had more to give.”

While the answer may seem simple, the road to his decision was not. Matt Zedwick considered many different factors before coming to the conclusion to reenlist.

He thought about how he spent a three day doing paperwork surrounded by concrete walls than training his Soldiers in their war rior tasks out in the fresh air. Zedwick also thought about how politics affecting morale and life within his unit, and wondered what life had to offer him outside of the organization.

After sorting out all of his concerns, he decided to turn and confront these issues head-on. Rather than leaving the situation to someone else, Zedwick chose to be a part of the change that he wished to see happen.

Zedwick said he doesn’t want to take credit for the changes he has participated in to date. Ever humble, he cites his comrades, Capt. Scott Caughran, First Sgt. Scott Davin, and fellow unit leadership for their contributions to the training calendar and training structure.

“It was Sgt. 1st Class Johnson who really sat me down and took the time to talk things out with me. He has always been the close ‘older brother’ to me and someone I can easily confide in,” Zedwick said.

It was a little winding down pretty close to my ETS date, about a month before I made my decision. I noticed a commander and first sergeant who really had the drive and focus to see their Soldiers succeed. That meant a lot to me and I wanted to continue to be a part of that.”

Zedwick is currently attending Oregon State University and participating in the school’s Reserve Officers Training Corps program. He said has aspirations of receiving a commission as a Public Affairs officer, and wants to become a better leader in Bravo Co., 2nd Infantry, 162nd Battalion. He credits much of his current success and drive to the support of his fiancé Kristin Van Dusen, his family, and his Army brothers and sisters, like Johnson, Staff Sgt. Tim Marr, and Sgt. Brandon Henn.

“IT’S blessed to have God and these people in my life. I feel a lot of the things that I’ve accomplished in due to the close support that I have around me,” Zedwick said.

“It has greatly contributed to my success as an NCO in the Oregon Army National Guard,” he added.
Deployed Oregon Air Guardsman receives overwhelming support from fellow employees, community

Two families for this Airmann

Story by Starla Pointer, News-Register
Reprinted with permission

Employer praised for support

OMI President and CEO Mike Keyes said he and his staff were glad to do it, especially for Airmen whose personal sacrifices help make the world a safer place.

“We received such a positive energy boost from preparing the care packages and reading Dan’s e-mails,” Keyes said. “We got more back than we gave.”

Anything the Airmen wanted while they were overseas, OMI made sure they got.

When the Oregon Guard was deployed to the Middle East, the company sent a recording of an event, but also supplies for a game of football, including goal posts, pom-poms, toys, movies and both Oregon State University and University of Oregon hats.

“She’s a trooper,” he said. “She knew I had what I needed, and she was always asking if anyone else needed help over there.”

Guardians who deploy to the Middle East have some specific needs, he said, including Chaptrix, chewing gum, hand lotion, socks and towels. They also desire things that people who are serving anywhere would like: playing cards, DVDs, video games and greeting cards to send to loved ones.

Then there are the intangibles that mean so much, such as personalized notes telling them they haven’t been forgotten and pictures of what is happening at home. “It’s nice to keep up with what’s going on in your community,” he said.

E-mail and the Internet make it easy to stay in touch during these times. Wilcox said he read the News-Register online, for instance, and he was thrilled when his daughter e-mailed photos of newborn Blake.

Wilcox also had the support of his work family at Oregon Mutual Insurance, where he has been employed for about 20 years.

On his return, he settled happily back into his job as facility maintenance supervisor, keeping the OMI office’s employees comfortably warm and making sure all the building’s services are running properly.

Both the company and its employees had gone overboard to help Wilcox and his fellow Airmen during their time away. “I don’t know if they realize how much the 142nd and everyone appreciated OMI,” he said.

They helped the 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron, based at the Portland Air Base, focus on doing its job.

The 142nd is similar to a general contracting firm, Wilcox said. Made up of subgroups that handle carpentry, electrical, plumbing and heating work, it provides heavy equipment and oversees fuel delivery, the unit’s job is to build and maintain military facilities, and protect them during hostile periods.

Wilcox transferred into the unit about seven years ago.

He spent the first 13 years of his military career in the SeaBees, the Navy’s construction battalion. “Same thing, different uniform,” he said.

He also knew about the National Guard Program, the happier he was to have become part of it. “The training is above and beyond,” he said.

Wilcox generally serves one weekend a month and one two-week period each year. However, he said four- or five-day training sessions are common at times.

He always is available for emergency work - sandbagging during a flood, fighting a forest fire.

Since Guardians can be called up at any moment, it is particularly important that they have understanding employers. “Your employer has to support you as much as your family does,” Wilcox said.

STS Airmen require vast knowledge, training

Story by Master Sgt. Vanessa La-Huis, 125th Special Tactics Squadron

When you walk back into any Mission Support section within any of the Special Tactics Squadrons around the globe, there is generally a group of Airmen working diligently on some sort of project. Whether it’s training on equipment, packing up equipment, working on the test bench, getting ready to go somewhere, or getting ready to support one of the many unique missions for which the Special Tactics Squadrons (STS) are responsible.

At the Oregon Air National Guard’s 125th STS work center, also known as the “Radio Shop,” there is a ten-person team who work in either the Ground Radio Maintenance, or Airfield Systems career fields.

Both career fields involve attending a seven-to-eight-week electronics course at Keesler AFB, Miss. During the first part of the course, students learn about direct current and alternating current principles, semiconductors, power supplies, amplifiers, waveform shaping and digital circuits, computer fundamental and network theory.

After two months of electronic principles, Ground Radio Maintenance and Airfield Systems personnel attend their respective technical schools to learn their career field specific equipment.

When an Airmen graduates from Ground Radio Maintenance or Airfield Systems, they assume they will work in a typical communication-electronics center.

However, when they enter the “Radio Shop” of an STS, they realize they will be working in a not-so-typical work center in a not-so-typical squadron.

The technical school they just graduated from has only scratched the surface of what they will be expected to know and learn for the next couple of years.

Nothing remotely resembles what they saw and learned in their technical schools for either career field—the radios they are now responsible for are a quantum size, and have several times the capability than the radios they just learned on.

The equipment they use are cutting-edge technology which the Battlefield Airmen carry into combat: infrared and visible-beam illuminator/designers, LASSER range finders, handheld thermal imagers, beacons, night vision devices, GPS...
Rilea hosts women veterans group

‘Fan-tastic Summer’ promotion giving away MWR prizes

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs can win valuable prizes simply by eating hot dogs at participating MWR food and beverage facilities throughout the summer.

Patrons who participate in the “Fan-tastic Summer” promotion may become eligible to win the grand prize of a trip for four to see the New York Yankees play in one of the last games in the old Yankee stadium in New York City.

The trip includes four tickets behind home plate, airfare, lodging and $2,500 spending money at Yankee Stadium. The trip also includes a personalized, custom-designed Sweat Leather Recliners, a $150 gift card to the Major League Baseball online store.

Sponsored by Hebrew National, the “Fan-tastic Summer” promotion features a frequency card program: buy six half- or quarter-pound hot dogs and receive a free quarter-pound hot dog. When customers redeem their frequency cards for their free hot dog, they may enter their name into a sweepstakes drawing for a chance to win any of the “Fan-tastic” prizes.

The “Fan-tastic Summer” promotion replaces the “Dress the Dog” promotion, which continues to be offered at the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the annual addition limit is important to understand.

Learn more about the annual addition limit of TSP at www.dbos.mil/ml-news/2008/anualadditionlimit.html.

DMDC website offers free service for active duty personnel.

A new free service is available on a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Web site to obtain certificates of current active duty service needed for creditors under the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA).

Learn more about the DMDC at www.dmddc.mil/news/newscenter/ﬁreActiveDutySe －viceCertiﬁcates.html.

PAL offers summer youth camps

The Police Activities League of Portland is sponsoring several youth camps and activities this summer.

Beaverton PAL. Day Camps are scheduled for June through August, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The activity is open to youths, 8 through 18, and is located at 12500 SW Allen Blvd. in Beaverton. Cost is $50 per week.

The Day Camps feature large recreation rooms with pool tables, air hockey and football tables, a learning center sponsored by IBM, an art room, a snack bar and cafe. Contact Mike Finn at 503-214-1637 for more information. Contact Jocelyn at 503-551-1377.

The Greater Portland PAL Youth Center is open June 30 through August 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., for youths 8 through 15. The center is located at 424 NE 172nd Ave. in Portland. Cost is $50. Contact Center features youth activities and sports, educational enrichment, field trips, arts & crafts, computer games, teen programs, museum visits, hiking and more. For more information, contact Mike at 303-256-3479.

The Greater Portland PAL Sports Camp held at Marshall High School is June 23-27 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and features activities as baseball, basketball, golf, buildi －gual outdoor activities.

You can find information at our military safety WebPage at the National Institute of Health at www.nlm.nih.gov/ medlineplus/sportssafety.html.

Salem museum to host Guard appreciation day, Aug 2 & 3

The Antique Powerland Museum Association will be the driving force behind the Guard Appreciation Days at the 2008 Antique Powerland Museum in Brooks, Ore. will offer free admission to all Oregon National Guard members and their dependents. The museum is located at 3995 NE Brooks, Ore. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to close at 6 p.m.

Antique tractors pulling four wheel power vehicles will be on hand to demonstrate lot transportation on the 62-acre museum, and Willow Creek Railroad a 1/2 scale railroad is available to children to ride on.

The trolley line car circles the park and offers displays at their indoor trolley car museum. Other exhibits include an antique automobile, tractor, car and motorcycle museums traditional tractor pulling; flea market and vendors, antique toys, games, hobbies, antique books, art displays, live music entertainment and more.

Antique Powerland’s roots began in the 1950s when farmers would showcase “heri －age apparatus” and test the power of their tractors. Eventually, these events generated enough popularity which eventually gave way to the 62-acre plot of land acquired by Western Antique Powerland Inc. known today as Antique Powerland Museum.

On display will be antique tractors, large trucks, vintage automobiles and motorcycles. Vintage military vehicles will also be on display. Also on site is a steam-powered sawmill that cuts logs into dimensional lum －bers, used to build the exhibit buildings at the museum. The museum also has several stores, swap meets and craft shops.

The place to bring the entire family at no cost to enjoy the day.

Savings bonds available via Internet

Did you know that you can buy U.S. Savings Bonds in electronic form and hold the account only with the U.S. Treasury over the Internet? You can even convert your paper savings bonds into electronic format, a direct transfer of ownership, without an account with the government. Both are possible when you open a TreasuryDirect account.

Be sure to check out more information on the TreasuryDirect Program at www.dbos.mil/ml-news/mar2008/treasurydirectprogram.html.

TSP limits change for those who deploy

If you work in a combat zone anytime during the current calendar year, you can go to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the annual addition limit is important to understand.

Learn more about the annual addition limit of TSP at www.dbos.mil/ml-news/2008/anualadditionlimit.html.

AFS offers study abroad programs

A study abroad experience is a valuable addition to a college application, and so much more. Whether in high school or about to gradu －ate, there’s still time to apply for a summer study abroad program or ‘gap year’ experience. AFS International has served 100,000 school students abroad for 60 years. Can’t decide where to go? Let AFS provide advice or connect you with other students who have just returned. Financial aid is still available, especially if you let AFS suggest destinations for you.

Call 1-800-AFS-INFO today or visit www.afs.org to learn more.

Oaks Park offering free rides, admission

Oaks Park in Portland, Ore., will once again host its Armed Forces Appreciation Calendar, May 1-30. All military personnel and their immedi －ate families (significant other and children under age of 18 living at home), will receive a free ride bracelet when they show their military ID.

Oaks Park will still offer entertainment and patriotic activities throughout the day on the Comcast Stage.

The free ride bracelet offer for military members and their dependents will be from noon to 7 p.m.

Memorial Day starts 101 Critical Days

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward, OODP-SCRA

Both the Army and Air Force recognize the 101 Critical Days that begin with Mem －orial Day weekend as increased activities create higher risks to our personnel and families.

Many units increase the level of activity, with more adventurous training and longer hours as available daylight increases. The annual training schedule is filled to the max.

Everyone tries to cram as much as possible into their training week and chores, as well as a myriad of “fun” activities. Ev －eryone’s particular favorite may be more or less hazardous than those around them, but all of us are increasing the “fun” factor.

We don’t expect you to stop having a good time, but we ask that you consider some risk management and always wear the appropri －ate protective equipment that will increase your survivability if the worst scenario comes true.

On rivers, lakes, and oceans the best item is your personal flotation device. Surviv －ability decreases on any open water if you aren’t wearing the appropriate PFD.

Hiking in our own Cascades, even for a day, can lead to disaster. Our own helicopter pilots can relate stories about their rescues of lost and injured hikers. They don’t really want you to have to search for one of us; they already have plenty to keep busy.

You can find information at one of our military safety WebPage at the National Institute of Health at www.nlm.nih.gov/ medlineplus/sportssafety.html.

Retiree Service Office

Services include veterans, general public, active duty, dependents, Gold Star and others.

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm
(503) 584-2891
(800) 452-7500, ext. 2891
E-mail: ORRSO@or.nbg.army.mil
US Mail: Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
**Oregon's Military Honors Team takes top award**

**Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office**

For the second year in a row, the Oregon National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team takes first place at the honor guard competition held March 30 through April 4 at Camp Riles in Warren, Oregon.

“We felt great, to get it two years in a row is pretty awesome” said Staff Sgt. Rich Lawrence, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Military Funeral Honors Team.

The eight soldiers who competed on the Oregon Military Honors Guards are the best of the best – many had to come together just to get a spot on the team. Lawrence, and others, were impressed by the performance of the team.

“Almost all of our team has been in combat and lost friends,” said Lawrence. “So that is the driving force – you have a deep appreciation and knowledge for what you are doing.”

The Oregon Military Funeral Honors Team competed against seven other teams from various states. The National Guard Bureau established the competition as a way to standardize the way that state teams render final military honors to those being laid to rest.

“The goal is to have every state doing the same thing so that on a national level you could go to any funeral and it would look the same,” said Lawrence.

Oregon established its Funeral Honors Program in 2004. Soldiers must compete every 90 days to keep their spot on the state’s team.

“For us it’s not about the title, it’s about the ability to show that we are giving 110 percent and leading by example,” concluded Lawrence.

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**Kingsley Field leads Oregon in DACT training**

**Story by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

**Navy F-18 Hornets and Navy F-16 Fighting Falcons from Strike Fighter Warfare, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., arrived at Kingsley Field on March 17, 2008 to participate in a week-long dissimilar air combat training (DACT) exercise known as “Navy Fallen.”**

Organizers say the exercises provide an opportunity for both student and instructor pilots to train against a diverse range of capable combat aircraft.

DACT was introduced as a formal part of U.S. air combat training in 1968 to enhance combat exchange rates during the Vietnam conflict.

Prior to 1968, pilots would train against similar aircraft for training. This would cause a problem when these aircraft flew against different types and sizes of aircraft in real world combat situations.

The Navy took a hard look at its air-to-air operations of Navy engagements with North Vietnamese MiGs from 1965 to 1968. After a thorough review, Navy Capt. Frankault, who was tasked to come up with recommendations to improve problems faced during engagements, authored what is now known as the “Ault Report.”

His report resulted in establishment of the Navy Fighter Weapons School known as “TOPGUN” and incorporation of DACT into the syllabus.

After seeing the improved successes of the Navy exchange rates with North Vietnamese MiGs, the U.S. Air Force adopted DACT.

DACT provides a means to train against a wide range of different fighter aircraft with different capabilities and tactics.

“It seems pretty unlikely that I’ll ever prepare for combat by finding myself fighting in combat against another F-15, any chance to fly against a different aircraft will undoubtably be beneficial as it adds to my experience,” said 1st Lt. Jon “Deep” Friedman, who is currently attending a seven-month F-15 Basic Course (B-Course) at Kingsley Field.

The training gives B-course students a unique opportunity to challenge themselves in a diverse flying environment.

“We are very lucky to be host our fighter pilot neighbors from Fallon Naval Air Station and the Oregon Air National Guard’s F-16 and F-18,” he added.

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**Oregon honors ANZAC veterans, 41st Div. Soldiers**

**Story and photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, 175th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Honor Guard Team presents memorial wreaths at the ANZAC ceremony Apr. 13.

The Oregon Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Team takes first place during a national competition held at Camp Rilesa recently.

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**Ready last year, USA Rugby and the Army National Guard announced an agreement which will make the Army National Guard an Official Sponsor of USA Rugby.**

This alliance includes title sponsorship of USA Rugby’s College and High School Championships as well as the select National Team. This strategic partnership will enhance the support provided to the nation’s top performing rugby athletes in premier matches throughout the United States. The sponsorship will include events such as the U.S. National College Playoffs and Championships, the Army National Guard Military Challenge and select Men’s and Women’s Championship events.

“This is our Guard looking forward to the partnership,” said Maj. Michael Baptista, chief of the Army National Guard’s Strength Maintenance Advertising Branch.

“USA Rugby’s beliefs of lifelong learning and team cohesion with the game and the greatest asset being the players are principles the Army National Guard believes. Navy and army are a big part of the reason I think both organizations will benefit from our partnership.”

In addition to title sponsorships, another added benefit of this new partnership is in conjunction with official USA Rugby licenses, USA Rugby and the National Guard will also launch a comprehensive college kit campaign that will provide apparel and equipment to 300 college teams across the country. All colleges in good standing with USA Rugby will be eligible to receive the college kit. Applications for the kits will be processed by USA Rugby.

This partnership between USA Rugby and the Army National Guard also includes an array of highly visible branding opportunities that will be announced throughout the 2007-2008 rugby season.

“This is great news for the sport of rugby in the U.S.,” said USA Rugby’s Vice President of Business Development David Voel.

“USA Rugby is always looking for the right kind of partner. USA Rugby and the National Guard share several admirable traits among members, including character, strength, vision and influence. A partnership with the National Guard will ensure our positive exposure for both organizations at the highest level of play,” he said.

For more information, please visit the USA Rugby’s National Guard webpage at: www.usarugby.org/goto/usarnationalguard.