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December 2008

One Wish: Oregon Guard Helps Cancer Survivor Realize Lifelong Dream

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

Gage Dole is seven years old. Someday he hopes to be a Soldier.
But it’s a dream that has hung in the balance ever since he was stricken with cancer at age three.
After fighting and surviving two bouts with the disease, he met and befriended Staff Sgt. Bill Postels of the Oregon National Guard at a cancer survivors’ camp.
After learning of the youth’s dream, the Oregon Soldier helped make Gage’s dream a reality—at least for a day.

On Sept. 6, the Oregon National Guard’s 41st Special Troops Battalion at Camp Withycombe made Gage Dole one of their Soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Phelan arranged for Gage to participate in a hands-on weapons demonstration, and to meet with a combat medic. Gage also toured the base in a M-1117 Armored Security Vehicle.

“Gage has an infectious personality and the Soldiers really thought his outlook on life was better than a lot of ours, and we are adults,” said Phelan.

Sgt. Michael Richards, a heavy equipment operator for 41st STB, taught Gage how each of the weapons worked.
During the lesson Gage sat behind a 240 Bravo Machine Gun with a huge smile on his face.
When Gage saw the security vehicle, he exclaimed, “It looks like one of the transformers from the movie!”

More than 20 Soldiers from 41st STB helped show Gage what it’s like to be an Oregon Guardsman. In return the Soldiers got the satisfaction of providing a small, brave boy with a lot of joy, Postels said.

“I’ll tell you I think those Soldiers got as much out of it as he did,” Postels said. “There sure was something about him. He doesn’t quit, and that’s the warrior ethos they try and instill in all of us.”

Gage’s father, Tim, whose birthday fell on the same day, said the look on his son’s face was the best birthday present he could have ever received.
Perhaps the most poignant moment came when Sgt. Lonnie Paradis removed his own Combat Infantry Badge, and pinned it on Gage’s sweatshirt.
Paradis told him that he’d earned it during his fight with cancer.

“Since he came here the Soldiers haven’t quit talking about him,” said Postels. “He’s an awesome kid.”

Spc. Josh Hudson contributed to this story.

Photo by Spc. Josh Hudson

Guardmembers to see new tax benefits

Story by Kim Lippert
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

In our March, 2008 issue of the Oregon Sentinel we told you about a $6,000 tax deduction military service members are eligible for under a new law put into effect this year.
Under this law, members of the Oregon National Guard and Reserves can deduct up to $6,000 of their pay earned for performing active service, which did not include pay for weekend drills among other things.

The Oregon Department of Revenue adopted a temporary rule in October 2008 to clarify that this law applies to pay earned while serving at weekend drills, annual training, encampments, special school attendance, and battle assemblies of the reserves.

The rule took effect on November 1, 2008 and will apply to tax years going back to 2007 and forward to 2008.

The new information will be included in your 2008 tax returns and instructions will be sent to taxpayers.

In December, the Oregon Department of Revenue will provide more information at www.oregon.gov/DOR/, they can also be reached by phone at (503) 378-4988.

One Oregon Guard builds partnership in South Asia

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon National Guard has established a partnership with one of the most populous, and according to the U.S. State Department, one of the more strategically-located countries in South Asia.
A delegation from Oregon visited the country of Bangladesh Oct. 25-30. They met with senior Bangladesh military and civilian leaders to discuss a formal partnership between Oregon and the South Asian country.

“This is a chance for Oregon to reach out and share expertise in nation-building and to promote democracy and support foreign policy,” said Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Assistant Adjutant General, Air, for the Oregon Air National Guard.

One of the people who spearheaded the effort was Maj. Daniel Schilling, Commander of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard.

“The State Partnership Program itself is designed to cross a broader spectrum of military-to-civilian cooperation and civilian-to-civilian cooperation. One of the things the Oregon National Guard brings is the ability to transcend the traditional military-only partnership,” Schilling said.

He went on to cite a prime example of just that kind of cooperation.

“One of our partnership initiatives is an establishment of community policing projects in Bangladesh,” he said. “We have quite a few members of the Oregon Guard who are sheriffs, police officers and firefighters and we can take these people on military orders over there and work with civil and military authorities to establish these initiatives.”

This new relationship is an historic one said Brig. Gen. Prunk.

“This is the first formal relationship between any country and Oregon,” he said. “I think it’s very exciting for Oregon to establish a long-term relationship with a very strategic partner.”

According to Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, the Oregon National Guard can benefit from Bangladesh’s skills and experience in peacekeeping operations with the United Nations.

Bangladesh is the second most prolific
The Oregon National Guard continues to improve readiness

New year sees continued focus on missions

As professional Soldiers and Airmen, we must continue to exercise sound judgment and take the decisive action to avoid the senseless loss of life.

In preparation for this holiday season, I want all commanders, supervisors, co-workers and military members to re-emphasize the commitment necessary to enjoy a safe and memorable holiday season.

Let’s work to keep our guardmembers at all times. Thank you all.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
Adjutant General, Oregon Military Department

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Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
Adjutant General, Oregon Military Department

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New Command Chief Warrant Officer stresses hard work, service

By Jennifer Bailey
Public Affairs Coordinator
Oregon National Guard

I hope everyone reading this column has started putting together their emergency kit and a family plan of what to do during a crisis. Last issue we discussed how children will respond after an emergency or crisis. Now let’s talk about what we can do for our communities. Besides knowing who your neighbors are and which of them might need extra help, there is a whole town of people out there that will be in need immediately following a disaster.

After September 11, 2001, America witnessed a wellspring of selflessness and heroism. People in every corner of the country asked, “What can I do?” and “How can I help?” A group named Citizen Corps was created to help all Americans answer these questions through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service.

Citizen Corps has five programs where citizens may volunteer to be of service in their communities. The five programs are Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch (USArmywatch.org), and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). For information on all of these programs go online to www.citizencorps.gov.

One of the streets in Vernonia, Ore., is underwater Dec. 4, 2007, following heavy rains the night before. Many residents of Vernonia and other coastal towns were left homeless after floods caused widespread power outages, and damage to buildings and homes there. Residents of the small town assisted each other using a boat to transport those stranded to safety. The flooding prompted state officials to declare a state of emergency.

Of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three most common injuries; and provide first aid. Citizen Corps’ CERT programs are supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Your community needs you in the wake of a disaster.

Safety is important during holiday season

By Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward
Safety Manager
Oregon National Guard

As your safety officer I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, your employees and your family to have a safe and happy holiday season. There are many festivities and activities in December that keep us busy and with that bustle and bustle comes an increase in risk. Here are a few reminders about some hazards to keep in mind.

Being aware of fatigue, intoxication and distractions is an important part of holiday safety and can be the difference between driving safely or driving while fatigued can be just as dangerous as driving while intoxicated, the effect being the same.

Distractions from cell phones, children in the car or other drivers can keep you from being actively engaged in your driving. Combine any or all of these and the risk factor goes up quickly. Poor visibility while driving both to and from work or school or through dark or dim winter hours presents an additional hazard. Drivers are reminded to use extra caution during the rainy holiday season. Pedestrians should ensure they are visible while walking on or near active roads, by wearing appropriate reflective gear. Motorcyclists should also wear the required safety gear while riding reflective clothing, while riding in uniform.

Road conditions including wet pavement, icy roads and road construction can affect safe stopping distance—please leave extra space between you and the other vehicle if possible. Keep situational awareness for unexpected actions by the “other guy.”

The home may present more fire danger now than at any point during the year. With the use of stoves, fireplaces, electrical heat- ers, other appliances, and Christmas trees, the fire danger increases. Even trees that look green can be ignited in seconds causing large-scale damage to home and property.

Ensure you complete proper maintenance on furnaces and other appliances, and make sure you keep the Christmas tree well watered and clear of any heat sources that could cause the tree to catch on fire.

Properly serviced fire extinguishers on hand and check your smoke alarms to make sure they are working properly.

Every home and vehicle should be equipped with an emergency kit in case of an accident.

The following websites have lots of information on how to properly prepare for a home or vehicle disaster, www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy and www.redcross.org/ service/disaster. For driving safety please consult www.ncdot.gov/dmv/driver_services/commercial/truck_driving/safety. For or to check road conditions in Oregon at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/.

For more information on home fire safety visit www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide.sg科技进步_w001.aspx.

Finally, I would like to say farewell as I am retiring at the end of the month. My replacement is Maj. Tim Deckert from the 114th Support Battalion. He already has some knowledge in safety and is currently training up to be a great safety manager! You can always reach the safety council at (503)-584-3931. I wish all of you a safe and successful 2009!
PASS IN REVIEW: 2008 IN PICTURES

The Oregon National Guard participated in many events throughout 2008. From recognition on the national level to local law enforcement training and community support, Oregon’s men and women in uniform proved once again they are an indispensable and ready force.

Under the watchful eye of Clackamas County Sheriff’s Department Deputy and SWAT team member, Tony Kollas, Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard practice making a tactical entry through an open door at Camp Withycombe, April 5.

The Oregon Army National Guard Military Honors Team took...
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (center), flanked by military and civic leaders, participates in an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Ontario Readiness Center, May 23. The center will also support the community with a relationship with Treasure Valley Community College. (Photo courtesy Johna Strickland, Argus Observer)

A Klamath Falls Airman surveys the early-morning flightline at Kingsley Field, home of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 173rd Fighter Wing.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (center), flanked by military and civic leaders, participates in an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Ontario Readiness Center, May 23. The center will also support the community with a relationship with Treasure Valley Community College. (Photo courtesy Johna Strickland, Argus Observer)

Members of Ontario’s Oregon Army National Guard unit, Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, scramble from an M1-A1 main battle tank during a training session October 25. The Soldiers were practicing dismounting a tank while it is on fire during the training session. (Photo courtesy of the Argus Observer.)

Sgt. Devin Fields (right), an engineer with the Oregon Army National Guard’s 224th Engineer Company, clears an irrigation channel near Balad, Iraq, Jan. 9 for local Iraqis who use the channel for crop irrigation, while Sgt. Jeff Tomchak (left) acts as his spotter. The engineers also cleared the ditch to deny enemy forces from using the vegetation to their advantage.

Members of the public and Oregon Guard members were treated to a ceremonial firing of three 105mm Howitzer cannons during Armed Forces Day held in Salem, Ore., May 15, on the Capitol Mall. The celebration gives citizens an opportunity to see the capabilities of the Oregon National Guard and the Office of Emergency Management.
**Band leader passes baton after 25 years**

**Story by Sentence Staff**

**WARRENTON, Ore.** – An Oregon Army National Guard unit received national recognition for their support of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and countries in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Oct. 11, 2008.

The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment received a campaign streamer for their participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The battalion was activated for federal service to deploy to Iraq while training at Camp Rilea. Later that same year, the 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf. Rgt. was awarded for participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, and sent to Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for the upcoming deployment.

After completing extensive training at Fort Hood, the 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf. Rgt. culminated with a battalion size collective training event at Fort Polk, La. In March, 2008, the 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf. Rgt. deployed to Iraq, mainly staging near Baghdad, in Camp Calus. During the deployment, the battalion conducted full spectrum operations, which included combat missions in Baghdad, Fallujah, Najaf, and Mahmudiyah.

During the change of command ceremony, the 234th Army Band played an array of music from the classic, “Over the Rainbow” to the solemn, “Hymn to the Fallen.”

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**Oregon unit earns campaign streamer for accomplishments in Iraq**

**Story by Sentence Staff**

The Secretary of the Army authorizes the award of campaign participation credit to eligible U.S. Army units who served in the theater of operations for support of GWOT. The campaign streamer, which appears in the colors of the Iraq Campaign Medal, and inscribed with “Iraq,” is authorized to be flown on the unit’s colors.

The 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf. Rgt. has a long history of mobilization since the origination of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry, Col. William Edwards, and unit Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Warwick, were on hand for the ceremony. The two hung the streamer on the unit’s guide.

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**BANGLADESH from front page**

**contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations,** he said.

Bangladesh is an active member of the Global Peace Operations Initiative, organized by the U.S. Institute of Peace, which is chartered with promoting post-conflict stability and development throughout the world, as well as assisting with amicable resolution to international conflicts.

Another important component to the partnership, according to Maj. Gen. Rees, is Bangladesh’s experience with natural disasters. In particular, the Bangladesh government is interested in Oregon’s emergency preparedness and response plan, he said.

“We can share information on these capabilities,” Maj. Gen. Rees added.

The Bangladesh partnership comes out of a meeting in early 2008 in Hawaii, between U.S. Navy Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Rees, where they discussed a formal partnership between Oregon and Bangladesh.

“Adm. Keating’s vision of Bangladesh’s strategic role and location was instrumental as a catalyst for the partnership,” Maj. Gen. Rees said.

According to both Brig. Gen. Prunk and Maj. Gen. Rees, officials in both Oregon and in India, Myanmar, and the Bay of Bengal. The country’s population is more than 1.51 million.

Bangladesh are currently outlining key areas they will focus on over the next few years. Another Oregon delegation plans to visit Bangladesh in early 2009 to discuss further details to the partnership.

**License plates now available to veterans**

**Story by Mike Allegre, ODVA Public Affairs**

Recognizing veterans for their service medals in many ways. A distinct and patriotic option is to get the branch service veterans license plates for their vehicle. The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, is offering veterans specialized license plates. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Oregon Veterans’ Home.

The 2007 Oregon Legislature approved the new veteran’s license plates which feature a distinct red, white and blue design that includes an American flag and the word veteran. The plate can be personalized by choosing one of the five military service branch seals or, to display one of several service-related or campaign medals that a veteran has earned while serving. Combining a service branch seal with a silver star is not allowed.

The military service medals that are available for the plates include: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, and the Navy Cross. Campaign medals that may be attached are: World War II Victory Medal, Vietnam, Southwest Asia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism (Expeditionary).

A plate for Gold Star family members—those who have lost a family member who was serving in the military—is also available. Family members must certify that they are a surviving parent, spouse or dependent of a person who was killed in action during an armed conflict while serving United States Armed Forces of the United States.

To apply for the new plate, go to any DMV office with proof of your military service. Form 214 or 215 and/or documentation indicating the award of a related military medal. The cost of the plate varies and the current fee is $10 or $20 per vehicle. For more details on obtaining your plate, visit: http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/vehicle/plateview.shtml.
Red Cross prepares Coast for storms

Nearly one year ago, Oregon’s northern coast was pummeled with record-setting storms and flooding.

This year, the Oregon Trail Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking new stockpiles of supplies and materials throughout the area, more than doubling the amount of people who could be helped in the immediate aftermath of an emergency.

The Chapter is delivering seven trailers filled with cots, blankets, personal comfort kits, cooking supplies, cleaning supplies, HAM radios, mugs’ sets and shelter kits to communities along the Oregon Coast.

Additional supplies arrived in Cannon Beach on Jan. 29 and were delivered to Pacific City, Manzanita/ Nehalem, Warrenton, Astoria and Seaside in November.

The Red Cross has recently pre-positioned additional emergency supplies in Clatskanie and Vernonia as well.

The supplies are housed in trailers so that they are mobile and can be made available to neighboring communities when needed.

The Red Cross plays an important role in disaster preparedness and response, and these supplies are critical to that mission,” said Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski.

Retirees Service Office has moved

As of Oct. 14, the RSO moved to their new location in Room 243 of the Anderson Readiness Center, located at 1225 State St., Salem, Ore. The RSO will share the office space with representatives of TriCare and Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Office hours remain from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM every Tuesday. The RSO can be reached at (503) 584-2891 or e-mail orrso@or.ang.mil.

Bush Order Allows Direct Hiring of Military Spouses

President Bush issued an order Sept. 26, that grants federal agencies the authority to bypass competitive hiring regulations to appoint spouses of military service members to federal jobs.

The order allows for non-competitive appointments to:
1) spouses of active duty military service members to be hired by agencies that are overseeing a permanent change of station action;
2) spouses of totally disabled retired or separated military service members who are living in proximity to the Oregon Army National Guard;
3) Unremarried widows or widowers service members killed on active duty.

Oregon Military Museum closes temporarily

The Oregon Military Museum is closing temporarily due to budget cuts at the Oregon National Guard’s Camp Withcoyche.

The museum will relocate from its Clackamas County location to a vacant room for the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, which will serve 1,300 soldiers.

Museum artifacts will be housed at the Clackamas Armory. The re-opening will be announced at a later date.

The Oregon Military Museum has been at its current location since it was established by the Oregon Military Museum in 1975 as the state’s official military history repository.

The museum has more than 13,000 artifacts, 25,000 library volumes, and 750 cubic feet of documents. It is part of the U.S. Army Museum System and the National Guard Museum System.

Blue Star Mothers start Oregon Chapter

Thanks to a local organizer and military mom, a new chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America.

President and Founder of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Blue Star Moms, Becky Ginsbach, recently formed the organization after learning Oregon lacked official representation in the national organization.

Being a mom of an Army Soldier, I know the importance of maintaining bonds of support and communication,” Ginsbach said. “Not only to support one another but to support our sons and their commands.”

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-profit, non-political organization whose members are mothers who have children serving, or who have served, in the military.

According to Ginsbach, the general public is welcome to join as associate members.

The Oregon Trail Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers is the first organization to give blue star window banners distributed to military families to support children serving in the military. The gold star version of the banner represents families who suffered the loss of those children killed in action.

The organization began on Jan. 22, 1942 after Capt. George H. Maines asked the Flint News Advertiser to print a coupon encouraging servicemen’s wives to write home.

About a year later, 300 mothers met in the Flint Hotel for a one hour luncheon.

Maimes was the chairman for the first meeting.

After about 1,000 people responded to the newspaper ad, the group decided to form a permanent organization.

Mothers volunteered throughout most of World War II, writing in hospitals and train stations. They also packed care packages for Soldiers, and helped with homeland security during the war.

The organization currently has 180 chapters nationwide, with about 4,900 active members.

If you are interested in joining the Blue Star Mothers of the Pacific Northwest, call Becky Ginsbach at (503) 282-2842 or contact her via e-mail at sunshine-and-roses@hotmail.com.

Free classes to help families deal with deployment

Imagine a spouse leaving for parts unknown. You’re not sure exactly when they’ll return and whether they’ll be safe. And you certainly don’t know how to talk about it with your child.

That’s where the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Red Cross can help. In order to address these real issues that go with deployments, the Oregon Trail Chapter is launching a new course — "Coping with Deployment: Psychological First Aid for Military Families."

Offered free of charge, the course is open to Active Members of the Oregon National Guard and Oregon National Guard forces, as well as Retirees and their families.

The four-hour course is taught by licensed Red Cross mental health professionals and will address topics important to both adults and children; the easy steps involved in psychological first aid; and resources and referrals. All curriculum was written by master experts from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Families and individuals interested in the new course should contact Laura Fields at (503) 280-1496.

Overnight travel deduction available for Guardmembers

According to the Internal Revenue Service, United States Department of the Treasury website, for taxes after 2002, reservists and Guardmembers are allowed to claim more than 100 miles away from home while in service, such as drills or unit functions, as an above-the-line deduction for travel expense (transportation, meals and lodging) as an above-the-line subtraction.

The deduction is limited to the rates for such expenses authorized for federal employees, which are published in the Federal Traveler's Circular. Under federal rules the service member may deduct the per diem rate as published in the Federal Traveler's Circular. For example, a member who was deployed to New York City on July 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2006 is 58.5 cents-per-mile, as well as the published per diem rate for the area in which they drill.

The Oregon Department of Revenue also allows this deduction for state income tax purposes following passage of Senate Bill 31 which is retrospective to 2003.

New bill to improve health care for autistic children


An Oregon Department of Education says the number of children with Autism in Oregon is approximately one in 98. National data shows that Oregon is among the 15 in 150 kids in America has Autism.

The amendment to the National Authorization Bill will enhance the existing care treatment for military families. The legislation changes the monthly cap of $2,500 for treatment under the extended care option from Extended Care Health Option (ECHO), to a yearly maximum of $36,000, an annual increase of $6,000.

Currently, military children are covered under Tricare through the ECHO. In 2007, the Department of Defense acknowledged in a letter to Congress that ECHO was deficient in several areas including access to care, which many military members and their children are not able to provide ABA therapy to children with autism.

According to experts, applied behavior analysis is one of the preferred treatments for autism. The report went on to say that the problem is even worse in rural areas.

Angela Warner, spouse of an Oregon Air National Guard Senior NCO and mother of four, who have autism, said this change is important.

"It lends flexibility to a child's medical treatment for autism, and lends flexibility to the professional treating the child with autism, which is how it should be," she said.

For the full text of the bill go to www.govtrack.us/congress/bill_spl/bill_h11-6568.pdf.

National Guard scholarships available

The Oregon National Guard Association will provide 12 scholarships totaling $3,150 to Oregon National Guard members for the 2009 school year. The scholarships will be given to members, either currently serving or retired, who are in need of financial assistance to help offset the costs of attending college.

The Oregon National Guard Association was formed in 1918 as the first association dedicated to mothers who have had, or currently have, a child serving in the Oregon National Guard.

For more information, or questions about the event, please contact Roberta Janssen at roberta.m.janssen@mil.state.or.us or Lt. Col. Alicia Hameל at alisha.hameל@us.army.mil, or by phone at (503) 584-3030.

Retirees volunteer to help with Oregon Military Museum

The Oregon Department of Revenue also enforces Oregon’s Governor, Theodore R. Kulongoski, also as well as many of the Oregon National Guard’s leadership will attend the event.

The event will celebrate Oregon’s 150th Birthday at the Oregon celebrates Oregon’s 150th Birthday at the Oregon Governor’s Inauguration Ball, on Feb 14, at 6:00 p.m., at the Salem Convention Center.

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Original Air Guard members give gift to museum

Story by Mike Allegre, ODVA Public Affairs

Three original members of the Oregon Air National Guard presented memorabilia to the Tillamook Air Museum on April 20, 2007, to help to organize the 123rd Observation Squadron (OS), placed a “shadow box” in a display area that already showcases the squadron.

The handicrafted box contains a Governor’s proclamation, commemorative coins, a recent photograph of original unit members and a U.S. flag that was flown over the museum in an Oregon F-15 Eagle jet on the unit’s 65th anniversary in April 2006. “We chose to honor the heritage of the Oregon’s first military flying squadron and its 117 members,” said Lt. Col. Pat Carpenter, a retired Oregon Air National Guard officer. “These men laid the foundation providing the military organization that thousands of us have proudly served in during the past 67 years."

Originally an emergency aid instructor with the 123rd OS, Fred Parish, 88, of Lincoln City, later served as a section chief for a reconnaissance group in India. Parish said, “We may have helped start this organization, but the men and women of today who have made it better.”

Five months after the 123rd was activated in April 1941, Portland-based unit was federally activated. Its mission: aerial reconnaissance. Following their training in 1942, many unit members would serve in every theatre of operations including China-Burma-India-area, South Pacific, Africa, and Europe.

“We never imagined then what our old squadron would become,” Parish added. “It’s mighty impressive today.”

At war’s end, the 123rd OS regrouped at Portland Air Base and was designated as the 123rd Fighter Squadron—which today is assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing. Since 1946, the squadron’s pilots have flown many aircraft. For 19 years, the squadron has flown the F-15 Eagle, a flying air defense 24-hours a day in the Pacific Northwest.

PSU Student Body President chooses to join Oregon Guard

Story by Owen R. Smith, Vanguard
Portland State University
used with permission

He started the Roots Festival at Portland State University and won the highly contentious 2007 election for student body president. While a member of the Student Fee Committee, Soto has competed in the competition and won the Phillip A. Connelly Award, the Senior Food Operations Management Food Quality, Safety and Competition category in the food preparation process including quality, administration, operations, field sanitation, kitchen site selection and security.

“The main focus is force protection: food safety, sanitation, keeping everything safe for the Soldiers,” said Master Sgt. Derek S. Rivers, evaluator and the Senior Food Operations Management noncommissioned officer for the Army Center of Excellence Subsistence (ACES). Food quality, safety and competition anxiety were not the only issues the team experienced. An unexpected power outage added to the stress.

“Anytime you are cooking for a bunch of people, in the wilderness, with equipment that goes on and off, it is tough,” said Rivers. “At the end of the day you did a superb job. The best I’ve ever eaten.”

As the meal was served, comments from the Soldiers were positive. “The meatloaf is to die for,” said Pvt. Christopher Deckert, a 1249th track-vehicle repairman. The section members were awarded a Certificate of Recognition from U.S. Army Quartermaster General, Brig. Gen. Jesse R. Cross for their outstanding performance and a Certificate of Merit from the International Food Service Executive Association (IFSEA).

“The main thing is making sure the Soldiers are fed: food when they need it and as much as they want,” said baker Spc. Kevin Kiltzraeth. “The competition is everything for us.”

Competitions will be announced in December.

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Story by Mike Allegre, ODVA Public Affairs

Three original members of the Oregon Air National Guard presented memorabilia to the Tillamook Air Museum on April 20, 2007, to help to organize the 123rd Observation Squadron (OS), placed a “shadow box” in a display area that already showcases the squadron.

The handicrafted box contains a Governor’s proclamation, commemorative coins, a recent photograph of original unit members and a U.S. flag that was flown over the museum in an Oregon F-15 Eagle jet on the unit’s 65th anniversary in April 2006. “We chose to honor the heritage of the Oregon’s first military flying squadron and its 117 members,” said Lt. Col. Pat Carpenter, a retired Oregon Air National Guard officer. “These men laid the foundation providing the military organization that thousands of us have proudly served in during the past 67 years."

Originally an emergency aid instructor with the 123rd OS, Fred Parish, 88, of Lincoln City, later served as a section chief for a reconnaissance group in India. Parish said, “We may have helped start this organization, but the men and women of today who have made it better.”

Five months after the 123rd was activated in April 1941, Portland-based unit was federally activated. Its mission: aerial reconnaissance. Following their training in 1942, many unit members would serve in every theatre of operations including China-Burma-India-area, South Pacific, Africa, and Europe.

“We never imagined then what our old squadron would become,” Parish added. “It’s mighty impressive today.”

At war’s end, the 123rd OS regrouped at Portland Air Base and was designated as the 123rd Fighter Squadron—which today is assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing. Since 1946, the squadron’s pilots have flown many aircraft. For 19 years, the squadron has flown the F-15 Eagle, a flying air defense 24-hours a day in the Pacific Northwest.

PSU Student Body President chooses to join Oregon Guard

Story by Owen R. Smith, Vanguard
Portland State University
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He started the Roots Festival at Portland State University and won the highly contentious 2007 election for student body president. While a member of the Student Fee Committee, Soto has competed in the competition and won the Phillip A. Connelly Award, the Senior Food Operations Management Food Quality, Safety and Competition category in the food preparation process including quality, administration, operations, field sanitation, kitchen site selection and security.

“The main focus is force protection: food safety, sanitation, keeping everything safe for the Soldiers,” said Master Sgt. Derek S. Rivers, evaluator and the Senior Food Operations Management noncommissioned officer for the Army Center of Excellence Subsistence (ACES). Food quality, safety and competition anxiety were not the only issues the team experienced. An unexpected power outage added to the stress.

“Anytime you are cooking for a bunch of people, in the wilderness, with equipment that goes on and off, it is tough,” said Rivers. “At the end of the day you did a superb job. The best I’ve ever eaten.”

As the meal was served, comments from the Soldiers were positive. “The meatloaf is to die for,” said Pvt. Christopher Deckert, a 1249th track-vehicle repairman. The section members were awarded a Certificate of Recognition from U.S. Army Quartermaster General, Brig. Gen. Jesse R. Cross for their outstanding performance and a Certificate of Merit from the International Food Service Executive Association (IFSEA).

“The main thing is making sure the Soldiers are fed: food when they need it and as much as they want,” said baker Spc. Kevin Kiltzraeth. “The competition is everything for us.”

Competitions will be announced in December.

Before, I used to think that war was absolutely unnecessary, that fighting is all a result of misunderstanding. That’s not true.

— Rudy Soto

In many ways, Soto’s path from student body president this June, Soto surprised his friends and family by announcing his decision for me.”

“I tried to convince him to get his degree instead of enlisting in the military in order to go to college. Rather, it was a realization that “the military is something that keeps us safe, what allows us to live the way we do” that pressed him to join. “It’s true that I began to see the world as it is, not as I want it to be,” Soto said. “Before, I used to think that war was absolutely unnecessary, that fighting is all a result of misunderstanding. That’s not true.”

Soto’s decision to join the military was made more serious by the fact that both his parents wanted to do. At a certain level you’re worried about anyone who joins the armed forces, but I’m not concerned for him.”

Soto said he had a lot of hard conversations with his family about his decision to pursue the military and coming to terms with the fact that both his younger brother and sister were born with spina bifida.

“I’m the only one who could carry on the family name,” Soto said. “They understand I’m not a stupid person. They think I’m doing this because it’s the right thing and best decision for me.”

Still, Soto said he didn’t want to just sit in the background, and he realizes there is the chance he could get called into duty before he has a chance to finish his degree. “I want to gain the insight of someone who joins to fight,” he said.

Jake Meeks, president of the Student Veterans Association and a veteran of the Army, said he got to know Soto in 2006, when Soto was planning the Roots Festival.

“It was a little surprised at first,” Meeks said of Soto’s plan to join the military. “It made sense to me. Some people think you’re throwing your life away, but no matter what you become a stronger person.”

Soto, 28, said he found the military to be a good testing ground. “You age in dog years,” he said. “It just keeps us safe, what allows us to live the way we take for granted.”

Soto said he would never have joined the military in order to go to college. Rather, it was a realization that “the military is something that keeps us safe, what allows us to live the way we do” that pressed him to join. “It’s true that I began to see the world as it is, not as I want it to be,” Soto said. “Before, I used to think that war was absolutely unnecessary, that fighting is all a result of misunderstanding. That’s not true.”

Soto said his family and friends were supportive of his decision, even though many of them were shocked when he announced his plans.

“I had to work to pay back restitution,” Soto said. “I was a little surprised at first,” Meeks said of Soto’s plan to join the military. “It made sense to me. Some people think you’re throwing your life away, but no matter what you become a stronger person.”

Soto, 28, said he found the military to be a good testing ground. “You age in dog years,” he said. “It just keeps you knowledge of your own character.”

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