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Iraqi General risks personal safety to implement U.S. policy, p. 8

Oregon Sentinel
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

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MARCH 2008

Oregon Guard unit responds during Anthrax hoax
102nd CST joins task force in effort to protect local community

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

One of the newer units in the Oregon National Guard worked closely with local first-responders and civilian emergency agencies during an incident in Albany, Ore., Mar 3. Members of the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team were called to the Linn County Courthouse located at 300 SW 4th Ave. in Albany, after workers found two envelopes containing a suspicious white powder. Initial tests found the samples to be a sugar-like substance. Samples were sent to a laboratory for final analysis, said an FBI spokesperson.

One envelope was located outside the rear of the building near an air-conditioning unit, and another envelope was located in an office inside the building. Local authorities cordoned off access to the building, shuttering down surrounding streets.

Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, 102nd CST Commander, said the unit’s frequent training with simulated anthrax scenarios over the past several years has adequately prepared them to assist first-responders during the incident.

See SKILLS on PAGE 6

Command Chief
Master Sgt. of the
ANG visits Oregon

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Lopez,
Oregon Military Department

At the invitation of Oregon’s State Command Master Sergeant, the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard Richard “Dick” Smith spoke at the Oregon National Guard Senior Enlisted Conference, 14-16 March 14-16.

The conference, held at Salishan Lodge, in Glen Eden Beach, Ore, was attended by senior enlisted members from the Oregon National Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team, 102nd CST, prepares to enter the Linn County Courthouse in Albany, Ore., on March 3, 2008, where workers discovered two envelopes containing a suspicious white powder

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

Oregon’s 41 IBCT prepares for deployment, changes leadership

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

SALEM, Ore. – One of the largest Oregon Army National Guard units recently saw changes in its leadership.

Col. Daniel Hokanson took over as commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a change of command ceremony at the 17th Street Armory Auditorium in Salem, Ore., March 5.

Hokanson replaced Col. David Enyeart in front of Soldiers from the six Battalions of the 41st Brigade, who represent approximately 3,500 troops.

The change of command comes about a year before the scheduled deployment of the 41st IBCT to Iraq. It will be the largest deployment of Oregon Soldiers since World War II.

Enyeart said three days into joining the 41st Brigade his daughter was born. Citing how much has changed over the years he was with the brigade, he pointed out that today was his daughter’s 26th birthday.

“The sense of pride and accomplishment I have for the brigade cannot easily be put into words,” said Enyeart, who served twice as the Deputy Commander of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Hokanson assumes command of the brigade with valuable operational and homeland security experience, having served in Operations Just Cause and Enduring Freedom. He also led a nationally-recognized search and rescue program, and spearheaded the Military Air Rescue Team’s inception in the state of Oregon, building a model for other states’ National Guard organizations to follow.

"Many of the sons and daughters before us today have answered our nation’s call, and most will be called upon again,” Hokanson said. “They will be the next generation in the legendary reputation established by Soldiers of the 41st Division and Brigade who served our state and nation in past conflicts and in times of need," he said.

The 41st IBCT is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in spring of 2009.

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Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Photo by Key Frisate, Oregon Military Department

Col. Daniel Hokanson, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

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

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office
Guardmembers should join our professional organizations

Every, or almost every, profession has a professional organization that allows members of a profession to come together to promote better the profession and to present a face to the public.

There is an expectation that if you are a member of a profession that you will be a member of the professional organization of your peers. Lawyers have the bar associations, doctors have the medical associations, industries have their associations. We in the National Guard are members of a profession. The Profession of Arms. There are several professional organizations dedicated to supporting servicemen and women. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalization of enlisted members of the National Guard by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for the National Guard.

Now, commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) was established to enhance and maintain the quality of life for noncommissioned and petty officers in all branches of the Armed Forces, National Guard and Reserves. The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America’s Army—Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees and family members. We need to support our professional organization. Join one or two, for you and your family. Your membership is important because that is what provides them with a voice that gets listened to, both locally and nationally.

General's speech inspires Oregon JAG officer

Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, Multi-National, Iraq, speaking during a visit there.

I recently completed a six-month tour in Iraq as part of the Law and Order Task Force. I hope, with this article, to convey the importance of unique and rewarding opportunities in our military legal community, and excite you about deployments; You are needed out there!

The LAOTF is designed to build Iraq’s judicial and law enforcement capacity while promoting justice.

The LAOTF was strategically located in the Rule of Law Complex, east of the International Zone. There was no city in country it calls the “Green Zone.” Members of LAOTF live and work on Forward Operating Base Shield, a small and exceptionally secure compound, which is part of the ROL Complex, which can be accessed only through armed checkpoints. This deployment includes Baghdad Police College, Rusafa Prison, and Abu-Ghurair courtroom. The complex is one component of an evolving and expanding rule of law effort in Iraq. The effort is not new—but it is receiving emphasis from our nation’s leaders.

The Rule of Law mission in Iraq, known as the “most important objective there, has now matured into a focused and well-funded effort which is a top priority for the multi-national coalition.”

Shortly after arriving in Baghdad, I attended the rule of law conference in the IZ, where I heard a speech by Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, Multi-National Force, Iraq. He discussed the importance of establishing the ROL in Iraq, and the key roles of JAG personnel. In his words and passion and I also listened to, both locally and nationally.

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All these organizations share a common theme: being the voice for all components of Air and Army service. They are your legislative representation which acts on your behalf on issues that affect you and your family. They foster the ongoing relationship between the Army’s role in national security and provide professional education and information programs to the force.
Mentoring key to retaining members in high performance teams

By Senior Master Sgt. Max White, Human Resources Advisor

In this month’s column, I will examine the first Cornerstone of Diversity and how it relates to mentoring and retention of our Soldiers and Airmen.

The first Cornerstone of Diversity has to do with inclusion and engagement, ensuring that no one gets left behind.

I realize that recruiting is vital to the Oregon National Guard and I have enthusiastically enrolled in the G-RAP program. But as State Command Chief Smith has relayed to me, retention is even more important than recruiting.

When personnel are an active part of a military organization with an important mission, they look forward to their duties. In that case, retention is not a significant problem.

Conversely, folks who just sit around, or perform only rote tasks are much less likely to stay in the organization. Studies have shown members of the Millennial Generation – those we are trying to retain in our organization— are the ones most likely to leave.

One of the biggest keys to including and engaging Guardsmen is an effective mentoring program. The Oregon Army Guard has E-Mentoring.

The Oregon Air Guard first developed a mentoring program through the State Diversity Council. Then we adopted the Colaboro system of Mission Driven Mentoring. When that system was dropped for security reasons, we migrated to the current EDP (Enlisted Development Plan) as the mechanism utilized for formal mentoring.

There are two kinds of mentoring, informal and formal. Informal mentoring is the unstructured mentoring that goes on a daily basis on our bases. I know that there are certain people who I approach to ask for advice on career enhancement, professional development, or fitness.

Certain individuals through their demonstrated trustworthiness have gained my trust. Hence, I do not hesitate to vent my emotions to them or problem solve with them. These individuals, which ideally include my supervisor, are my mentors and my wingmen.

No one is suggesting that informal mentoring be eliminated. But the problem with informal mentoring is that it leaves some people behind.

That is why formal mentoring is so important. For someone who has a trusting relationship with their supervisor, it can serve to systematize feedback and advice. And for those who do not have someone directly in their chain of command to mentor them, it enables them to go outside of that chain of command.

The Air National Guard’s Mentoring Program is now available through the Air Force Portal. All Active, Guard and Reserve members are authorized to log in to the AF Portal at https://www.my.af.mil. It is there you will find the Enlisted Development Plan (EDP) under the “Featured Links” and then the “Top Viewed Careers” column under the message from our leaders.

Not only does it take only a few minutes to register, but access is available at both your base and at home. I encourage all enlisted leadership in the Oregon Air National Guard to become members.

It is important to note Airmen cannot request guidance from potential mentors, unless supervisors and those willing to be mentors have registered.

The focus of the EDP is to maximize the performance of our Airmen through positive mentoring relationships. It is broken down into 3 separate modules: Education and Training, Leadership, and Job Experience.

EDP allows Airmen to develop professional goals, draft a plan to achieve those goals, and track their progress in their personal journal with an embedded calendar to keep them on task. Mentors will be able to view a protege’s progress and add comments for guidance. Data is linked to the Virtual MFP. However, other mentors authorized to view your plan will not have access to any Privacy Act information such as your home address and SSAN.

The EDP has direct links to appropriate AFI’s, Air Force Doctrine, and other information required for career development. For instance, you can locate the minimum requirements for promotion to the next rank and outline the appropriate steps to prepare for promotion.

I must say this again: In order to effectively develop goals and a career plan for your Airmen, supervisors and mentors must register an EDP on the Air Force Portal. There you can work towards achieving personal goals and career objectives for the ANG as well as your civilian occupation.

Other features of EDP allow Airmen to participate in online forums open to all Air Force enlisted members and maintain a personal library. Once enrolled, supervisors and mentors can participate in all phases of an Airmen’s development.

Mentoring plays a huge role in enabling the Oregon National Guard to retain, develop, and utilize personnel as members of high performance teams. This is the essence of including and engaging all our Soldiers and Airmen.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

Alpha Co. 641 nears end of deployment

Alpha Company is officially 3/4 of the way through the deployment. It is a good feeling all around; the light at the end of the tunnel is showing brighter every day. That said, everyone is maintaining their focus on the mission, safety and each other.

The weather is beginning to clear up, although we have had a few dust storms already. We are seeing temperatures dropping for the first time since we arrived.

When personnel are an active part of a military organization with an important mission, they look forward to their duties. In that case, retention is not a significant problem.

April 26, 2008, 1200-1700

General Membership Meeting

EANGUS

(Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States)

There will be a general membership meeting of the Oregon Chapter of The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) to elect officers and a board of directors. All current, former and future members are invited.

The Oregon Sentinel offers an “opt-out” for the printed publication.

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Contact the State Public Affairs Office at: 503-584-3917 or via e-mail at: sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs referenced in the news brief, “ODVA offering low-interest home loans” on Page 7, was listed incorrectly in the February 2008 issue of the Oregon Sentinel. The correct phone number for the ODVA is 1-800-628-8801.

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April 26, 2008, 1200-1700

Anderson Readiness Center, Room 114

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard, Oregon is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of enlisted members of the National Guard.
Jewel of the Pacific” celebrates 80 years of community service

Camp Rilea, the Jewel of the Pacific, turned 80 years old in 2007. A birthday party to celebrate the milestone was thrown during the December drill hosted by the post commander, Col. Todd Plimpton. The keynote speaker for the event was appropriate, given his love of history, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne. Camp Rilea was originally known as Camp Clatsop, and was leased in 1927, with construction and improvements beginning right away.

Under the leadership of Maj. Gen. George A. White, Oregon’s Adjutant General at the time, federal funds and federal programs such as the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps helped build some of the infrastructure still utilized at the post today.

More land adjacent to Camp Clatsop was purchased in the 1930s and the post became a very important training site for the Oregon National Guard.

By 1941 the post had over 700 acres and boasted accommodations for 4,600 troops in 4- and 8-man tent frames. Later, these tents were improved by adding wooden walls, metal roofs and oil fired stoves.

During World War II, Camp Clatsop was the initial mobilization station for the 249th Coast Artillery. The U.S. Army continued to use it throughout the war as an extension of Fort Stevens.

A variety of army units such as the 37th Infantry Regiment used it as a training and staging base.

After World War II, Camp Clatsop was the site for the 94th Campment of the newly reorganized units from the Oregon Army National Guard.

In the following years it became the primary training site for Oregon for Army National Guard air defense (anti-aircraft) units. Oregon Air National Guard radar and communications units also trained at Camp Clatsop.

In 1959 Camp Clatsop was renamed Camp Rilea to honor Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea.

Oregon’s air defense units were disbanded in 1972 and Camp Rilea had a brief period of reduced use. In 1975 the camp was partly revitalized for use by a variety of military units not just the Oregon National Guard.

In the mid-1980s there was a major expansion of Camp Rilea’s facilities and roles. Under the leadership of Oregon’s Adjutant General at the time, Camp Rilea became a training site meeting a variety of modern military training needs. It featured modern troop housing, state-of-the-art firing ranges and 30 specialized training sites.

Starting in 1990, Camp Rilea began hosting a number of civilian and school programs. These included international country track events, Naval Sea Cadet training, high school soccer meets, high school and grade school tour groups, football and band camps, and historical re-enactments.

Camp Rilea also became an important training site for federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Since 1998 Camp Rilea has been used as a “Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training Site” for National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and Regular Army units being sent overseas.

At the start of the 21st century, Camp Rilea’s facilities supported infantry squad training, airborne, air assault and amphibious training, operations in urban areas, Special Forces and Ranger training, combat engineer training, leadership training and training for peacekeeping operations.

The Oregon Military Department leased over 350,000 acres of nearby forest land to support training for units up to brigade strength (about 4,000 soldiers). Also, a number of military units from other countries also trained at Camp Rilea, including Canada and Great Britain, utilized the site for training.

Camp Rilea has become an integral part of Clatsop County.

“The Soldiers of Camp Rilea are our Little League coaches, part of our Chambers of Commerce and involved in so many other ways,” said Oregon Senator Betty Johnson. “They are part of our community, and part of the civic fabric of Clatsop County.”

Camp Rilea is now a combined arms facility with Army and Air Force tenant units that work cooperatively to provide world class training and recreational facilities to many military and civilian entities.

“The cost of maintaining a large active component will drive the country to reliance on the National Guard and facilities such as Camp Rilea,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard.

“arne is full of promise for our primary training center,” Rees added.

When the winter storm of 2007, called Hurricane Winds 2007 by the Clatsop County Emergency Operations center hit the Oregon coast, Camp Rilea became an important part of the rescue effort, emergency personnel said. And according to Dr. Sonny Park, even saved lives.

“By bringing in and hooking up your emergency generator to your kidney dialysis facility, many lives were saved,” wrote Park in a letter to the Oregon National Guard. “I appreciate the professionalism and efficiency of the Oregon National Guard, who made this happen. I commend all who were involved,” he added.

“The soldiers at Camp Rilea are all heroes. They have always answered ‘yes’ to all the requests and figured out how to do the paperwork later,” Senator Johnson said.

“They save lives,” Johnson added. “The relationship with Camp Rilea and the community was good before the storm. It is off the charts now.”

TAG X:

An Oregon Army National Guard officer has been awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award for 2007.

Capt. Wyatt W. Welch, the Executive Officer for Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon Military Department, will receive the award in Washington, D.C. in May, 2008.

The General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award recognizes company grade officers in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who demonstrate the ideals for which MacArthur stood — duty, honor and country.

The award promotes and sustains effective junior officer leadership in the Army.

Welch said he is honored and humbled to represent the Oregon Army National Guard at this year’s ceremony. He added that he is honored to join a very small group of leaders from Oregon who have received the award during its 21-year history.


“I’m humbled because I’m not quite sure I see in myself what others see to put me in a position of such esteemed recognition,” Welch said. “My thanks to everyone that played a part in their mentorship and guidance which resulted in my receiving the award.”

Welch thanked the Soldiers with who he has served, saying without their support and assistance, he could not have achieved the prestigious recognition.

For a list of the other recipients for 2007, visit www.armyg1.army.mil/macarthur/default.asp

Camp Rilea by the Years:

1925 – State of Oregon purchases 363.5 acres

1927 – Site developed as a training facility for the Oregon National Guard. Named Camp Clatsop.

1930s – Expansion of Camp Clatsop infrastructure.

1940 – Oregon National Guard is activated for WWII.

– 249th Coast Artillery is mobilized and housed at Camp Clatsop.

1942 – Japanese sub shells Fort Stevens.

– Shells land just outside the northern edge of Camp Clatsop.

1948 – Earthquake damages some of Camp Clatsop’s buildings.

– Encampment held of the newly reorganized Oregon Army National Guard units.


1970s – Camp revitalization, first sewer system installed

1972 – Oregon Air Defense units disbanded

1980s – 116th Air Control Squadron assigned to Camp Rilea.

– Troop housing, multi-weapon ranges and specialized training sites built.

– Camp Rilea begins hosting civilian and civic events.

1990s – State Police become a permanent tenant. ORNG develops Battle Simulator and Engagement Skills Training Center.

1997 – Checkpoint Charlie, rappel tower built.

1999 – Checkpoint Saudi, ROPEs course completed.

2001 – ROPEs Leadership Course completed.

2007 – Severe winter storm hits Camp Rilea and Clatsop County
Education prevents sexual assault

Story by Lt. Col. Marilyn Woodward, Oregon Military Department Safety Officer

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The theme in 2008 is, “Prevent Sexual Assault: Ask, Act, Intervene!” The theme works hand in hand with the National Guard’s launching of the ‘Bystander Intervention’ training this year.

Awareness training began almost four years ago, and the second phase of training is ‘Bystander Intervention’ training this year. It focuses on the relationship of alcohol and sexual assault and other issues that increase the risk of assault.

Most sexual assaults are perpetrated by persons we know, not strangers. All of us need to learn the behaviors and signs of a possible sexual assault situation.

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and Victim Advocates are scheduling bystander intervention training throughout the year so everyone can discuss and improve their knowledge to prevent these crimes.

Help keep your Guard professional and respectful to all persons.

For more information, contact any of the personnel listed below.

Oregon National Guard SARC:
82 Brigade – Maj. Ricardo Gloria, 503-557-5911
142 FW – Maj. Misti Mazzia, 503-325-4510
173 FW – Capt. Lucas Ritter, 541.885.6198

Victim Advocates:
JFHQ – Staff Sgt. Stacey Lyman, 503-584-3943
82 Brigade – Sgt. 1st Class Todd Gintner, 503-584-3212
173 FW – Senior Master Sgt. L. Morehouse, 541-331-3210
142 FW – Maj. Bryan Walden, 503-281-0406
142 FW – Staff Sgt. Anne Kyle, 503-698-4286

37-year ‘Soldier’s Soldier’ retires

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

About 200 Soldiers, Airmen, coworkers, family and friends, gathered in Salem, Ore., to bid farewell to an individual many referred to as a “consummate individual” and a “Soldier’s Soldier.”

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, was honored in an official retirement ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center on Mar. 2, 2008.

The ceremony was attended by current and retired senior leaders of both Oregon’s Air and Army National Guard, civic leaders and business owners, and Oregon’s Governor, Ted Kulongoski, who said Byrne’s approach to leadership reflected his approach to life.

“He has a humility and a heartfelt concern for the troops and their families under his command,” Kulongoski said.

Kulongoski highlighted the general’s military career, which began in 1971 as an enlisted Soldier. The Governor paid special attention to the period beginning in Oct. 2003, when Byrne was appointed as Acting Adjutant General—where he supervised, managed, and oversaw the entire Oregon National Guard until Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees assumed the post in mid-2005.

While at the helm of the Oregon National Guard, Byrne oversaw several high-profile overseas deployments of Oregon Soldiers, and the start of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission’s investigation into the possible shutdown of the Portland Air Base.

Part of his responsibility also included being responsible to the President of the United States and stipulations given by Congress concerning use of federal funds and National Guard resources.

Kulongoski commended Byrne for his steadfast leadership and direction.

“I will always be grateful to be a part of this nation and to Oregonians,” he said of Byrne. Like the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade, a unit Byrne had commanded previous to his tenure at Joint Forces Headquarters in Salem, Ore., Kulongoski said Byrne made a lasting impact on the people and the units he commanded.

“He left every unit better off than when he found them,” the Governor said.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, praised Byrne’s accomplishments in the military as well as in his civilian life. Byrne spent nearly 37 years as a traditional National Guard Soldier, and more than 21 years as a middle school teacher.

“(Byrne) reinforces my belief that traditional guardsmen are the treasure of the United States,” Rees said. “Individuals who are successful in their civilian life carry that wealth of knowledge into the military.”

Byrne, who holds a Bachelor of Science in anthropology and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, both from the University of Oregon, said he holds education as a high priority in his life. He would often quote page and verse from the many books he read.

According to Jim Willis, Director of the Oregon Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Byrne brought a wealth of knowledge—both intellectual and military to the organization.

“Retirement ceremonies for the military are a good time to reflect on all the people whether they were in uniform or not,” Willis said jokingly during his speech.

All those who spoke about Byrne highlighted his devotion to taking care of people, whether they were in uniform or not. Both Kulongoski and Rees commended Byrne for his work with families of deployed Soldiers through the Family Readiness Groups and his work with veterans through the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team.

Byrne thanked several coworkers by name, and quoted several passages from his favorite books during his speech. He thanked all the Soldiers, Airmen and their families for their service to the state and the nation, taking a reflective look back at his career and the people who touched his life.

“Retirement ceremonies for the military are a good time to reflect on all the people you’ve met and all the places you’ve been,” Byrne said. “It (gives you a chance) to kind of wrap up your life in the military.”

He said he looked forward to enjoying the company of family and friends during his retirement in the McKenzie River Valley, where he is a resident, but has offered his assistance to the Oregon National Guard, if needed.

“I’ve told General Rees that I’d be willing to help out on whatever he needs help on. I’m tied to this organization, both time-wise, but also emotionally. You just don’t walk away from that,” Byrne said.

Pfc. Anita Vandermolen of the 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment contributed to this article.
**Spring a time for organizing, not ‘stressing out’, organizing expert says**

Story compiled from DoD and other news services

NEW HAVEN, CT – There is something about the spring air that motivates even the worst procrastinators to start the cleaning supplies and begin organizing their home or office space. However, once the yearly ritual begins, many people can describe how they feel in one word, “Overwhelmed!”

"(In many cases), we bring skills that support them," Ferrell said. “We're here to do whatever we can to add to our capabilities and we're very good partner,” she said.

"Around the Towns" magazine and the “New Haven Register,” in addition to several other regional magazines.

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**FEATURES**

**Skills valuable in real-world, CST commander says**

Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, part of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, is the primary U.S. federal facility for conducting and supporting health activities in the U.S.

"We have a luxury that most of the HAZMAT teams or fire fighters don’t, in that it’s our full time job to train for these things," Ferrell said.

"Around the Towns" magazine and the “New Haven Register,” in addition to several other regional magazines.

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** CDC director visits Iraq**

TIKRIT, Iraq — (March 24, 2008) The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, part of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, is the primary U.S. federal facility for conducting and supporting health activities in the U.S.

"The CDC is very committed to supporting the Health Ministry in Iraq and being a very good partner," she said. "It's really important for doctors to be able to come together and brief each other on the latest developments in science," Gerberding said of the upcoming conference. "We have a lot of opportunities to not only understand what some of the emerging health issues are but also to understand how we could collaborate together."
It was a real honor to meet these brave men and women.

— Ed McMahon, entertainer and military veteran, upon meeting Oregon National Guard Soldiers featured in “This is War”
Iraqi General: supporter of U.S. Policy, target of insurgents

Officer.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin F. McLain, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Kirkuk, Iraq – He’s a high value target to extremists here.

A survivor of eight separate violent attacks on his command post, Lieutenant Colonel Gen. Khattab Omer Aref Waly said that improvised Explosive Device almost killed him in November. The burns left scars over 50 percent of his body; they are visible on his face and hands. His right arm was shattered. He utilizes a cane for support as metal rods hold his right leg together and a hip was also replaced.

He is Kirkuk’s Emergency Services Unit Commander – a SWAT-like force of the Iraqi Police), Brig. Gen. Khattab Omer Aref Waly, referred alternately by many in the as "highly respected, and feared," depending on who you are, according to both Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Soldiers.

In his first interview with western media, Khattab talked candidly about current topics affecting the Kirkuk Province.

"We need to identify where those children are... and rescue them or they are lost," he said. "Terrorists exist everywhere. The terrorist here; all say they are for ISF, and they are lying. It’s political. Each has their own agenda and they use Islam for their own purposes," he said. Khattab also points out that as security is increased, attention has to be shifted to projects that will assist the province’s outer villages where children are recruited.

"These villagers are more susceptible to the lies spread by the terrorists," he said. He highlighted the construction of a dam in the mountains of Kurdistan which brought together foreigners with villagers there. Khattab said thebonding between both groups had uneducated villagers speaking English by the dam’s completion. The project also employed the villagers there. Khattab said the bond between both groups had increased, attention has to be shifted to projects that will assist the province’s outer villages where children are recruited.

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In addition to the online application and additional entry level testing dates to provide more opportunities in streamlining the testing process.

A first-time Career Officer Lateral Entry Employment Program (COLEP) to accept qualified law enforcement employees from other agencies who have a minimum of three years of full-time job experience as a sworn, law enforcement officer within the past six years.

New Entry Level Testing dates to provide more frequent testing opportunities and streamline the testing process were added on the following dates:

- May 3, 2008 at West Albany High School
- June 21, 2008 at Jefferson High School in Jefferson
- July 12, 2008 at Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton
- July 19, 2008 at Crab High School in Central Point

For more information about the Oregon State Police, visit www.oregon.gov/OSP.
Retaining good people: It's not just about the numbers

By Sgt. Daniel Dunn

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The Oregon Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command (RRC) is a vital element of sustaining the strength of our organization but it is every soldier's mission to support our end strength objectives, making our state and nation stronger while improving themselves, their communities and families in the process.

Each Soldier decides to stay in or to separate from the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) for different reasons, but some of the most common reasons are basic fundamentals of life: health insurance, education, and career opportunities, most of which revolve around a lack of communication between the Soldier and his chain of command.

Our objective in the RRC is to publish in this and each consecutive edition of the Oregon Sentinel, articles of interest to better communicate some of the solutions to challenges each of us may potentially face in deciding to continue to support the Oregon Army National Guard or our service to or leave the organization.

Any question, reason, or suggestion that could be substantial in their decision making process.

Perhaps your ETS date is coming up soon. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are un-comfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplating what you plan to do next. Perhaps you are uncomfortable with signing again on the dotted line. Perhaps you are contemplatin...
Gregory assumes command of ORANG’s Combat Operations Group

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron, headquartered at Camp Rilea in Warrenport, Ore., assumed command of the Combat Operations Group, during a ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., March 2, 2008.

Lt. Col. Robert J. Gregory III served in various positions within the 116th ACS before receiving his commission in 1989, and eventually taking command of the unit in 2007.

In place Lt. Col. Ronald G. Kessinger, who will assume the role of Air National Guard Chief of Staff at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Ore., a position previously held by Col. Bruce Prunk. Kessinger, a resident of Newberg, Ore., has been a member of the Oregon Air National Guard since 1986.

Gregory, who graduated from Forest Grove High School, assumes command of the COG at a pivotal time in the unit’s history, including the conversion of the 248th Combat Communications Squadron, the creation, and recent federal recognition of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, and the growth of the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron.

Brig. Gen. Daniel O’Hollaren, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, praised the command changes, saying the appointment of Gregory is a natural progression for the unit.

“(Col.) Kessinger made this unit robust,” O’Hollaren said. “Now it’s time to really blossom the unit, and I’m excited about Col. Gregory taking over.”

The COG was formed under the supervision of Brig. Gen. (Ret.) James Cunningham, former commander of the Oregon Air National Guard. The move brought together the five geographically-separated Air Guard units in the state of Oregon under one banner.

Along with the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, and the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, the COG has prepared Oregon’s Air Guard units and personnel for future growth and opportunity, O’Hollaren said.

“This is a maturation of that vision,” he said. “This is a great organization. It’s valuable to the state from an emergency operations perspective, but also for the military from a combat control point of view,” he added.

Gregory said the personnel in the COG not only possess the training, equipment and skills necessary to complete their mission of providing air combat control, but are able to assist other emergency agencies in Oregon during times of natural or man-made disaster.

He pointed to the TOPOFF-4 joint exercise and recent response to Oregon’s coastal towns during the latter part of 2007 as evidence of how pertinent the unit’s mission is here in Oregon. And with units of the COG located throughout Oregon—

Warrenton, Portland, and Klamath Falls—Gregory said the unit has the ability to respond anywhere in the state in a matter of a few hours.

“Going forward, the most important thing we need to do (in the COG) is to bring this unit’s strengths to assisting the state in times of need and emergency,” Gregory said.

“We’re excited about the future for this organization,” O’Hollaren added. The Combat Operations Group is made up of the 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Klamath Falls, and the 123rd Weather Flight. 125th Special Tactics Squadron and 272nd Combat Communications Squadron in Portland, Ore.

The COG serves as the Oregon Air National Guard’s ground component force, serving both the state and the nation in times of national security and homeland defense.

ORANG’s 125th Special Tactics Squadron adds weather team

Story by Tech. Sgt. Roy Loftis,
125th Special Tactics Squadron

The Oregon Air National Guard’s 125th Special Tactics Squadron recently added a new flight of Special Operations Weather Team (SOWT) members.

The six-man team will be tactically inserted into forward areas to collect raw weather and terrain data, formulate limited data weather forecasts, and report operationally-focused information to the battlefield commander.

SOWT personnel further enhance the unit’s combat winning strategy with their ability to train foreign nationals and develop friendly foreign weather reporting networks.

The origins of SOWT began in World War II, as Special Operations Weather Team (SOWT) members jumped into Yugoslavia and provided weather data that was used to increase the success of supply sorties to Marshall Tito’s beleaguered partisans. Elsewhere, other weather pacifists worked with Army Airborne and glider divisions.

Staff Sgt. Robert A. Dodson, a weatherman during WWII, jumped into Normandy with the 62nd Airborne during the D-Day invasion.

The Dodson Award, which recognizes leadership and excellence by an airman in aerospace weather, is named in his honor.

The shaping of the career field over the past few years has been very dynamic. Beginning in late 2008, Special Operations Weather Team (SOWT) members gain its own AFSC, and core competencies such as天气数据, formulate limited data weather forecasts, and operate in forward areas.

The SOWT flight of the 125th STS is still seeking individuals interested in this unique mission who are able to meet its intellectual, mental, and physical demands.

Candidates must have a general score of 66 and an electrical score of 10 on their ASVAB test, and be able to pass the Special Tactics Physical Ability and Stamina Test (PAST). The PAST consist of an underwater swim, surface swim, run, pull-ups, sit-ups, push-ups, and flutter kicks.

For more information please call the Special Tactics Squadron recruiter at 503-335-4056.

Kingsley eye doctor receives national award for overseas community work

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Shirar,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – A Kingsley Field officer received national recognition for his work in the Air National Guard.


Gregory, a Kingsley Field optometrist, was named the Air National Guard Optometrist of the Year. Gregory said the unit has the ability to respond anywhere in the state in a matter of a few hours.

“Going forward, the most important thing we need to do (in the COG) is to bring this unit’s strengths to assisting the state in times of need and emergency,” Gregory said.

“We’re excited about the future for this organization,” O’Hollaren added. The Combat Operations Group is made up of the 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Klamath Falls, and the 123rd Weather Flight. 125th Special Tactics Squadron and 272nd Combat Communications Squadron in Portland, Ore.

The COG serves as the Oregon Air National Guard’s ground component force, serving both the state and the nation in times of national security and homeland defense.

Kingsley Field’s Medical Group Director, Maj. Scott Carley, presented the award to Gregory, who has been an optometrist for the 173rd Medical Group since 2007.

Some of his accomplishments include spearheading a Humanitarian Assistance Visit in Bulgaria which benefited disadvantaged people in Bulgarian villages.

“We were able to perform 1,450 eye exams and hand out 1,309 pairs of glasses,” said Tuhy. “This was a tremendous accomplishment for the 173rd Fighter Wing and the Air National Guard, I’m just happy I could have been involved.”

In the same year, Tuhy was the lead catalyst in getting the 173rd Medical Group to participate in Coyote Crisis, a regional mass disaster exercise.

According to Tuhy the exercise served to certify 18 of the wing’s medical staff in Expeditionary Medical Support, a key component to make the medical group viable for future deployments.

Tuhy said the award has not taken his focus off the job at hand, however.

“It was a great honor, but there is still a lot of work ahead for me and the 173rd Medical Group,” said Tuhy. “Right now our main focus is preparing for the upcoming Health Services Inspection later this year.”

For more information please call the Special Tactics Squadron recruiter at 503-335-4056.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force
TRICARE now available to traditional Guardsmen, families

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) is the premium-based health plan that is available for purchase by National Guard and Reserve members. TRICARE Regional Medical Centers are the same as those similar to TRICARE Standard and Extra.

TRS services and benefits include a guaranteed entrance to TRICAREid and TRICAREid extra, no out-of-pocket costs for health care worldwide availability to most National Guard and Reserve members and their families when not eligible for any other TRICARE coverage, no assigned primary care manager, and the ability to use any TRICARE-authorized network provider.

Enrollees enjoy a five percent discount on out-of-pocket costs if using a provider in the TRICARE network. TRICAREid and TRICAREid extra will cover care in a military treatment facility (MTF) on a space-available basis only.

If you have any questions about which TRICARE program you are eligible for or for more information contact the Oregon National Guard TRICARE Benefits Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator (BCAC), Felicia Tenney via e-mail at: felicia.tenney@us.army.mil or phone, 503-584-2387.

Pendleton to host veterans conference in April

SALEM, Ore. – Female veterans from every branch of military service of all ages and backgrounds will converge on the new Pendleton Convention Center for the first Women’s Veterans’ Conference, April 18-19.

Co-sponsored by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the conference is for female veterans from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It will serve as both an education and a celebration of the service and sacrifices of women veterans throughout history.

A variety of workshops dealing with veterans’ benefits, entitlements, women’s health issues and employment/job-seeking tips will be included.

Jim Willis, the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, and a U.S. Air Force veteran, said, “The conference is a unique opportunity to bring these women together and for building camaraderie among them and with all of us.”

“Many women veterans are unaware of the benefits they earned as a result of their service. It is a vital forum for providing important veterans’ benefit information. The previous conferences held in 2004 and 2006 in Oregon resulted in women veterans’ benefit information. The previous conferences held in 2004 and 2006 in Oregon resulted in women veterans’ benefit information.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon Employees Federal Credit Union and Steve Carr Construction Building Co.

The event’s hours are Noon to 7 p.m. on April 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 19 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 20.

The even will be held in the Jackman Long Building at the Salem Fairgrounds, located at 2301 17th St. NE, in Salem. Admission is free.

$6,000 state tax exemption available to Oregon Guardsmen

The deadline for filing your 2007 taxes is quickly approaching.

As a member of the Oregon National Guard, you may be eligible for several tax benefits.

If you are an Oregon National Guard Soldier or Airmen on active duty in Oregon, and were away from home for at least three weeks consecutively, you may be eligible for a $6,000 tax deduction on your Oregon state taxes.

The deduction is available for tax years starting on or after January 1, 2001.

To claim this subtraction for tax years 2005-2007, visit the Oregon.gov/PTD/docs/303-084.pdf, or at your county assessor’s office.

Oregon group helps victims of Traumatic Brain Injury

Since September 11, 2001, more than 1.6 million American men and women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Of these, approximately 30,000 have been wounded. According to a report released in April 2007, as many as one in five returning Iraq veterans have suffered a traumatic brain injury. Experts say many victims do not know they have traumatic brain injury.

In the current issue of the The Headliner which is produced by the Brain Injury Association of Oregon—a group which provides outreach to Oregonians dealing with brain injury—experts provide information on the 10 myths of Brain Injuries.

To read the online version of The Headliner, and to also see other myths of good for Oregonians throughout the state of Oregon, visit www.biorea.org.

249 RTI to host Air Assault Courses, starting in June

The Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute is holding Basic Training courses beginning this June.

The courses, which include Air Assault, Rappel Master, and Pathfinder School, will be held at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore.

The course currently has 59 slots available. A new course, which begins June 16, has 40 slots available.

Rappel Master and Pathfinder schools begin June 16.

For more information, contact Capt. Eric Brenner at eric.brenner@ng.army.mil.

Key moves within the Oregon Guard

Oregon’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, would like to announce changes within the command structure of the Oregon National Guard.


- Col. David B. Eyear accepts responsibilities as the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, effective March 8, 2008.

- Col. Daniel Hakonson assumes responsibilities as the 41st BCT Commander, effective March 8, 2008.


- Col. Mark L. Ratham appointed as OSMS General Foreman (technician position), effective June 1, 2008.

- Capt. James R. Lyman retires from the Oregon Army National Guard, effective June 30, 2008.

New TRICARE regulations require “opt-in” for members

New regulations mean that state workers with TRICARE coverage can no longer receive benefits. If you opted out of PEBB medical coverage for 2008 because you have TRICARE coverage, please contact your payroll or benefits office to enroll in a PEBB medical plan.

Air Guard bids fare well to 272 CBCS

The Oregon Air National Guard will encase the unit flag for the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron during a ceremony on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.

The ceremony will be celebrated over 30 years of dedicated service to the state of Oregon and the United States.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. in Bldg. 375. The official ceremony program will be followed by a brief social.

The official ceremony ceremony of the 272nd CBCS will follow at 3:00 p.m. at the Kenneth E. and Alice McMenamin Building located at 5736 NE 33 Ave., in Portland, Ore. Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

For more information, and for security access into the Portland Air Base, contact Steve Rose at 503-335-4644.

ORARNG Aviation Facility in Pendleton to hold open house

The Oregon Army National Guard will host a Community Appreciation Open House on April 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 at the Pendleton Regional Airport.

The general public, including youngsters with adult supervision, are welcome.

The tour can tour the OH-58 Chinook cargo helicopter, a UH-60 Blackhawk Air Ambulance helicopter, and the OH-58 Kaman SH-06T Lightweight Transport Helicopter.

There will be live-water-bucket, rescue helicopter, and parachute demonstrations, in addition to a climbing wall.

National Guard personnel will also demonstrate sling-load operations, fire-fighting and cool-down stations.

The open house is to help Oregonians learn more about what the Oregon National Guard serves the local community.

For more information or to schedule a time, call Maj. Al Gronefeld at 541-276-4544.
Dept. of Army releases new field training manual

INTERIM FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. -- At Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Gen. William S. Wallace, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, is scheduled to unveil the 15th edition of the field manual at the Association of the United States Army Winter Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in late February.

“Today’s Army is about half the size it was in 1970, but the U.S. military’s involvement around the world has tripled since the collapse of the Soviet Union,” Wallace noted in the foreword to the TRADOC information pamphlet for FM 3-0. “The next several decades, according to many security experts, will be an era of persistent conflict that will generate continuing deployments for our Army.”

Several of the key changes to the manual include: operational concept and the operational environment, stability operations construct, information operations construct, war-fighting functions, spectrum of conflict, defeat and stability mechanisms and joint interdependence and modular forces.

Financial...