Sentry Down Under: 173rd FW goes to Australia

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- The 173rd Fighter Wing from Kingsley Field participated in a joint flight exercise, “Sentry Down Under,” with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 2nd Operational Conversion Unit (OCU) located at RAAF Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia in late August and early September.

This exercise was designed to help students enrolled in the RAAF Fighter Combat Instructor course (FCI) train with the American F-15s. Along with crewmembers and F-15s from the 173rd FW, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington Air National Guard at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., participated in the exercise by providing air-to-air refueling operations.

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“The FCI course is the RAAF’s version of the United States’ Fighter Combat Instructor course (FCI) train with the American F-15s. Along with crewmembers and F-15s from the 173rd FW, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington Air National Guard at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., participated in the exercise by providing air-to-air refueling operations.

The unique process utilizes gold mining technology to pull the bullets out of the ground and separate them from the soil. Camp Withycombe is one of the oldest U.S. Department of Defense rifle ranges in the Western portion of the United States. Up until the late 1990’s, the range had been used as a training site for hundreds of troops and police officers from around the area. Nearly 300 tons of bullets containing lead ended up in the land, creating a potential environmental concern that needed to be addressed.

“We want to be good stewards of the land,” said Arnold. “The soil remediation process allows us to clean up the area and restore it to its natural habitat,” he added. Arnold said the five-year project took a lot of planning. The Oregon Military Department contracted with AMEC Earth and Environmental, and coordinated with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to do the soil remediation. During the soil washing process, contaminated soil is taken through a machine that screens the bullets out of the soil. The soil is then washed through another machine and the bullets are dropped into a bag, making a pile of bagged bullets and a pile of clean soil.

Just before the project began workers uncovered a few surprises. “When we started, we only had information that small arms were used here,” said Arnold. “But we have found ordnance from World War II, mortar rounds, grenades, and basically everything within the small arms category.”

All ordnance was safely disposed of on site. Throughout the process nearly 14,000 tons of soil has been cleaned and approximately 300 tons of bullets were recovered. The bullets will be recycled and the soil will be reused.

“One of the great approaches of this project is the reuse of materials and sustainable approach,” said Scott Kranz, AMEC Environmental Project Manager. “So often you end up excavating material and shipping it off to a landfill, it’s nice to be reusing material.”

Old mining technology saves money for Oregon Guard

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

In a landmark project, the Oregon National Guard is relying on gold mining technology to restore the land at a century-old shooting range on Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The innovative process will remove lead bullets from the land and at the same time save the state millions of dollars.

“We are saving several million dollars by utilizing this technology,” said Jim Arnold, Environmental Restoration Manager for the Oregon Military Department. “The majority of savings comes from the cleaning process that takes place on the land itself, and by avoiding the cost of having to transport all of the waste to landfills,” he added.

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A contractor works with equipment originally designed for mining gold to remove lead bullets from soil in a former firing range at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas.

Once the project is completed in October of 2008, the Oregon Military Department will begin a restoration project taking the land back to its natural state. Careful planning from the outset will allow the Oregon Military Department to ensure trees are replanted and wildlife native to the land is restored.

“We’re restoring it to a better place than it was when we started,” said Arnold.
Men like these are barely noticed back home. They are clerks and deliverymen, brick layers and landscapers - who live anonymously.

“They have one thing in common: underneath their nametags be a hero’s heart.”

Anonymous Heroes. That’s who we are as Guardsmen.

I had the privilege and honor to attend a memorial ceremony for Captain Bruno G. de Solenni. He learned to be a Soldier – one who selflessly serves the Constitution of the United States.

He learned to be an officer. Those he comman – knew him – respected him, not because of his rank, but because he also respected his Soldiers.

Captain de Solenni was acutely aware of his authority, but most of all his responsibility to his oath and to the Soldiers he led. He demands that you meet every day in every way – through the content of his character and in his dealings with his fellow Soldiers and fellow Oregonians.

Captain de Solenni was born in Del Norte County, near Crescent City, Calif. He grew up the son of a father who worked in the forest and on the sea – a timber faller – a fisherman – and an entrepreneur.

Captain de Solenni’s character was shaped by his parents, family, and friends – and the community he so loved, and who loved him in return.

New State CSM addresses troops, lays out vision

Story by

Head of National Guard Bureau to receive fourth star

Commander, Oregon National Guard

After embedding in Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in 2004, author John Bruning observed the Oregonian he met in the closing chapters of his book, The Devil’s Sandbox:

“… meet the volunteers changed my life. A job does not define a soul. Raised in the Silicon Valley, I was taught that the value of a man lay in his position in a corporate hierarchy.

What nonsense. It lies in the content of his character… they all proved that to me.”

I would like to first of all thank every member of this wonderful organization for your competence, confidence, courage, and commitment.

Not matter where I go or who I visit, I continue to be impressed with the Oregon and National Guard members and their families. You have met every challenge and mission that you have been assigned. From state missions such as the floods of Vernonia to the fires of the summer, helping other states as they battle hurricanes and other natural disasters, and federal missions that you away from your family, friends, and employers to fight our wars, you set the standard for performance wherever you go. There is something special about you, and that quality leaves its mark on everyone you interact with.

It is a great time to be a Citizen-Soldier. You have the confidence and trust of the public. You have earned it with your sacrifice, service to community, state, and nation.

Not only do you bring your military skills to every mission, you bring your civilian skills with you too. I have seen firsthand how you are problem-solvers in any environment. You bring every bit of military and civilian experience available to you in order to accomplish your assigned mission.

There is something special about the members of this organization. You never have been given a more inspiring responsibility. You are never satisfied with mediocrity; you always want to achieve excellence in everything you do.

No one could be harder on you, than you are on yourself. Your commitment to excellence is a trait that sets you apart. You are never satisfied with the status-quo, but continue to evaluate personal and unit performance in order to do it better the next time.

I would like to mention a couple of very important groups that also seek excellence: our employers and families.

None of us could do what we are asked to do without the support, commitment and love of our families. Without that support, we could not function in the stressful environment we are placed to. To all of the families, thank you from the bottom of my heart, you are the true heroes of this country. Make sure that you keep informed of all the programs and benefits available to you and your family and then pass the information on to them.

Most importantly, take the time to tell your families you love them at every opportunity. We also count on our employers to support us in our missions and they have stepped up to the plate. It is extremely difficult to lose your best employees for extended periods.

Because you are excellent at your civil- ian jobs, your deployments leave huge holes which your employer cannot fill. They merely hold things together until you can rejoin your teams as a more experienced employee.

Your employers are great partners in your support to you in your missions and welcome you home when those missions are completed. It is important that you keep them informed of all of your upcoming military missions.

Take the time to tell your employers that you appreciate their support.

It humbles me to have been afforded the opportunity to serve you at this level. I could not have been given a more inspiring responsibility.

I promise to do everything possible to live up to your expectations. All I ask of you is, as mentioned above – CONTINUE TO SEEK EXCELLENCE IN ALL YOU DO!!!

Head of National Guard Bureau to receive fourth star

Story by

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John U. Smith, Oregon National Guard

McKinley will be the senior unified officer representing nearly 468,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

He will also be the first four-star general in the nearly 172-year history of the National Guard.

The current director of the Air National Guard, McKinley was a member of the National Guard Bureau since May 2008. The 35-year Air Force veteran is a strategic thinker and a masterful problem-solver, according to those who know him.

“General McKinley has earned this place in history,” Gates said during the NGAUS conference. “He is a top manager who will continue to lead the Guard to new heights.”

A Florida National Guard member and McKinley has served as the 107th commissioner of the Oregon National Guard since May 2003.

Prior to that, he served as assistant deputy chief of staff for programs and plans at Air Force Headquarters. He is a command pilot with more than 34 years of service.

McKinley was promoted to brigadier general in 1998, major general in 2001 and lieutenant general in 2006. The last Air Force general to serve as Guard Bureau chief was Lt. Gen. Rus sell C. Davis, who held the position from 1998-2002.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John U. Smith, Oregon National Guard

LT. GEN. CRAIG R. McKINLEY – McKinley in the left seat of a C-130J.

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New State CSM addresses troops, lays out vision

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When you have ever been through a traumatic event such as a flood, fire, earthquake or even a car accident, you know how you felt when it was over. Most people’s reactions vary from being completely calm to a bit shaky to totally falling apart. How long these reactions last differ from person to person and disaster to disaster.

Now, put yourself in the place of a younger person. Children can feel very frightened during a disaster and afterwards some children will show temporary changes in behavior.

Most changes will be mild, not last long and diminish with time. However, reminders of what happened could cause upsetting feelings to return and behavior changes to emerge again. Watching scenes of the disaster on television can be disturbing for children, especially the younger ones.

Those children who actually live through the disaster, perhaps being evacuated and having to leave the safety of home, seeing people injured and crying and feeling that their lives are threatened are extremely vulnerable to emotional distress and may develop post-traumatic stress disorder or related symptoms as a result.

How parents and caregivers react to and cope with an emergency situation will affect the way their children react and recover. If family and friends are calm and con-fident that everything will be alright, children will also feel more confident. Involving children in planning, preparing a family disaster plan and putting together their 72-hour emergency kit will help.

Different age groups will react differently. Typical reactions for children from birth to six years old are irritability, crying and wanting to be held all the time. From age seven to 10 children have a greater understanding of the permanence of loss. They may want to talk about it all the time. These precautions can interfere with their concentration at school. They may hear incorrect information from peers that need to be clarified by parents. They may have a strong fear that the disaster will happen again and may be sad or angry that such a thing could happen to their family.

Teenagers from age 11 through 18 are more mature. Their responses are more similar to those of adults. However, following a disaster, the world can seem more dangerous and unsafe. The realization that bad things do happen and can happen to them may cause teenagers to become involved in dangerous risk-taking behaviors. Others may be fearful of leaving home. Although teenagers often struggle to talk about intense emotions, they should be encouraged to do so.

Parents get very busy during and after a disaster trying to get their lives, businesses, homes, and finances back in shape. They may be so focused on the overall situation that they are not aware of what is happening with their children.

Parents and caregivers need to be aware that the disaster may be what is causing the abnormal behavior, anxiety and fears. Children are no different than adults in that they fear the event will happen again, someone close to them will be killed or injured, or they will be left alone or separated from their family.

Listen to what a child is saying. Help the child to express his or her thoughts and feelings or draw a picture of what happened. Calmly provide factual information about the disaster and plans for insuring their ongoing safety. Involve your children in planning and practicing your plan. Give them specific tasks to let them know they can help restore family and community life. The Guard belongs. This is a great “pay-back” you are doing for the community that supports you and your family.

Oregon Guard members resurgent enlisted association

By Sgt. 1st Class John Neibert

While we will fight for additional benefits and to keep the ones we currently have, the cost of living adjustments are a major concern for those with a desire to get their hands on their retirement by age 58 and stricken with cancer, but was always proud of the Oregon National Guard Force that is doing such an excellent job in any disaster. Yes, “The Guard Belongs.” This is a great “pay-back” you are doing for the community that supports you and your family.

Professional development is a key to growing the NCOs that we need to lead our force today and in the future. This is true regardless of the service name that rests above the left pocket of the uniform. As we talk to one another, it becomes quite evident that many NCOs feel promoted to new positions before they are truly ready to assume the position. The American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) states the organization is addressing at the national level:

• Authorization of the pay increases for active serving military members and the cost of living adjustments for retired military members.
• Relating to federal employees retirement system for military technicians.
• Increasing the level of defense spending as a percentage of gross domestic products.
• Department of Defense requirement for medical and dental readiness.
• Provision of mental health resources to support all National Guard and Reserve component members returning from deployment.
• Civil Support Team training for the National Guard.
• Equitable treatment of dual status military technicians.
• Issuing of IBA and SAPI plates to Non-BCT units training for deployment to OIF/OEF.
• Space-A travel privileges for survivors of military spouse.

I am writing this in the back of a C-17 from Washington. Although I am proud to wear the uniform of my country, represent the great State of Oregon, and lend a helping hand to those in need.

I take great comfort in knowing that no matter what state or branch of service the folks that will be working with on the other end have to do, they will be some of the best trained and professional people in the world working for a cause bigger than themselves.

I know this because we have great leaders that understand the importance of professional development and membership in the organizations that fight for the good of Oregon’s citizens.

For more information, or to join please go to: www.memberconnections.com, click on ‘JOIN OR RENEW,’ then ‘STATE ASSOCIATION,’ then ‘OREGON,’ then ‘BECOME A MEMBER.’
Air National Guard lends training expertise to Australians

Klamath Falls foundation raises money to support families

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The morning of Sept. 20 found community members from around Klamath Falls, Ore., pitching in to raise funds for the David R. Kingsley Foundation, a charitable organization created to help families of deployed Airman at Kingsley Field.

The local YMCA planned the event, a triathlon, consisting of a 10-lap swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a 5,000-meter run. “Sandy [Fugate], our aquatics instructor wanted to have a triathlon and I really wanted to be able to give back to the community,” said Mindy Surber, the YMCA Fitness Director and triathlon coordinator. “I wanted to do something more for the people that keep me free!”

This is the first of what Surber hopes is an annual tradition, and in its first year the event netted $1,000 to benefit the families of deployed servicemembers.

Several entrants from the 173rd Fighter Wing participated including a three-person team of self-proclaimed “newbies”: Dreama Hutchinson, Sandra Fugate and Malea Kuykendall, who is not a Guardsman.

“The YMCA decided to do a triathlon fundraiser to benefit the David R. Kingsley Foundation,” said Hutchison, formerly a competitive swimmer for Oregon State University, posted the fastest swim time by a female participant, said Hutchison, who ran the 5,000-meter leg for the team. “So we wanted to do something more for the people that keep me free!”

The families of deployed servicemembers.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

selected to attend this course, and our pilots gave those students some tremendous training.” Air Force Fighter Weapons School Graduate, and 173rd FW Weapons Officer, Maj. Jeff Edwards was very impressed with the tactical level of expertise displayed by the Australians.

“We provided adversary presentations for their students during a very difficult phase of their training,” he said. “Their tactics and in-flight execution were quite complex, and well flown. Giving them an F-15 platform to train against significantly enhanced their training.”

The RAAF’s 2nd OCU trains fighter pilots as its primary role. They run the operational conversion courses for new pilots to the RAAF’s F/A-18 Hornet, operational refresher courses for former F-18 pilots returning to the aircraft and fighter combat instructor courses to provide postgraduate qualifications for selected aircrew.

“This training gives us the opportunity to work with one of our closest allies,” said Maj. Brian Bergeron, the 173rd FW deployment project officer. “Camaraderie was evident from the very first day. We train fighter pilots, and we do the same things for the same reasons.

Camaraderie was not only seen in the air, but on the ground as well. There has been an opportunity for open communication and work with other aspects of the RAAF. The 173rd FW deployed maintenance package had the opportunity to interact with the different maintenance functions of the RAAF.

“This has been a great opportunity to exchange maintenance practices and learn about different technologies that the RAAF are using, especially when it comes to aircraft servicing,” said Captain Micah Lambert, 173rd FW maintenance officer. “The exchange of ideas helps all of us improve the way we perform our jobs.”

The RAAF F-18s from the Number 77 Squadron, which is the operational squadron located at RAAF Williamtown, which sits on the southeast coast of Australia also participated in the exercise.

“The 173rd FW brings a high level of experience,” says RAAF Wing Commander Phil Gordon, 2nd OCU commander. “The Eagle pilots are really putting us through our paces with high quality fighting,” continues Gordon. “I would love this training to happen as often as it can.”

“The 2nd OCU performs the same mission for the RAAF as the 173rd FW does for the United States, train combat fighter pilots,” says Gordon, “I couldn’t be happier with you guys coming out flying with us.”

During “Sentry Down Under,” the 173rd FW performed tactical sorties as well as familiarization flights. About 88 sorties with multiple training tasks were flown during the two weeks of flying.

“These missions are a great learning experience for everyone involved,” said Maj. Johan Deutscher, a 173rd FW instructor pilot. “The RAAF gets an opportunity to see the full capabilities of another airflow as well as train with seasoned instructor pilots.”

On average, each instructor pilot has over 2,000 flight hours in the F-15, which provides a high quality training environment for the RAAF.

“The OCU has the same type of training mission as the 173rd FW, so they understand what we do,” Gordon concluded.
Oregon Soldiers, Airmen in Bell Blazers Classic

Members of the Oregon National Guard participated in the Bell Blazers Classic to benefit the Oregon Partnership, an organization aimed at preventing and treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

The sale featured discount prices typically found on active-duty posts, and the Bend VA Clinic also provided free flu shots, health assessments and registration for all eligible participants.

Previously, Janie and Tyler Dwyer had become accustomed to traveling more than 400 miles to Sacramento, Calif., once a year to visit a commissary and stock up on groceries.

Come fly with us!

The minimum requirements for flight school:
- Enlisted Soldiers applying for Warrant Officer must be MOSQ
- Candidates should be age 32 or younger upon entering flight training
- Commissioned Officers must not exceed O-3, and must be branch assigned
- Applicants must have a valid PT with 70 or greater in each category
- ASVAB GT score of 110 or greater
- Upon receiving your DA Form 2-1, we’ll schedule you for...
- AFAST Flight Aptitude Exam, score of 90 or greater
- Upon passing it, we’ll schedule you for...
- Critical Flight Physiology

Vision must be 20/20 correctable to 20/20, and successful LASIK is now waivable (AR 40-8; AR 40-501)

To initiate your application contact:
CPT Adam McCarthy
Administrative Officer
2-641 Aviation Regiment
adam.c.mccarthy@us.army.mil
503-584-3450 Office

Citizen-Soldiers in the country!!

As I reflect on my career, I am so proud of those Soldiers who have chosen to join the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the Oregon Army National Guard by providing the technical basis for a series of tough jobs which the Guard needs in this difficult time.

Even more, those Soldiers have been chosen to carry on the pride of the warrant officer corps by working hard to learn and promote. My hat is off to them, and to all of you who form the greatest group of Citizen-Soldiers in the country!!

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40-year Soldier pens last column

CWS James Powell, Command Chief
Warrant Officer, Oregon National Guard

This month, we highlight the most critical warrant officer openings around the Oregon Army National Guard. I’ll also discuss some “over strength” issues which are of interest.

Warrant Officers are considered “subject matter experts.” In order to become a warrant officer, you must have the correct pre-requisite MOS, and know your stuff.

Warrant Officer Basic Courses generally don’t teach you all the aspects of your complicated and expert job. If you want to be a signal corps warrant, you must know computers, equipment, and networking. To be a military intelligence warrant, you must be MOS qualified in the 35V-Career Management Field. To be prepared is to succeed. If you wish to pursue a warrant officer career, begin preparing now! Look ahead five years, and ask yourself “Have I prepared to be a technical Warrant Officer? Have I gone to the right schools? Have I learned the right subjects?” Answers to all these questions (and many more) can be had by contacting your command chief warrant officer.

Start preparing now for your future!

Now, for those critical MOS’s... We still need one more Field Artillery warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the warrant officer corps.

The Oregon Guard can also increase its technical warrant force by as much as 200 percent in construction. We really need another Allied Trades Technician (914A). This specialty is a fabricator who designs and builds metal equipment. We are looking for several Food Service Technicians (912A). As a rule, the best people are MOS qualified 92Gs. The Oregon Guard can dramatically increase its technical warrant force by as much as 200 percent in construction.

The Guard needs in this difficult time.

To begin prepping for the warrant officer corps NOW, as an E4 or young E5. Go to the US Army Recruiting Command website and register there. Talk with senior Warrant Officers and establish a mentor relationship right now. Work your way towards an excellent promotion opportunity.

And now, I need to say goodbye.

Many of you have heard that I retired this October after 40 years of service to the Guard.

As I reflect on my career, I am so proud of those Soldiers who have chosen to join the warrant officer corps. They have “cemented” the future of the Oregon Army National Guard by providing the technical basis for a series of tough jobs which the Guard needs in this difficult time.

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503-584-3450 Office
Oregon Guard Personnel Services Co. inactivated

SALEM, Ore.—After fifty-two years as a unit whose mission was to serve fellow Soldiers, the 41st Personnel Services Company fueled its colors at an inactivation ceremony recently, preserving a proud legacy that includes deployments to Germany and Kuwait.

“What a historical moment this is,” said Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte, commander of the 42nd Brigade. “You may be small in numbers but you’re large in heart.”

A handful of former members from the 41st PSC gathered at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem on Sept. 13, 2008, to participate in the farewell ceremony.

Most of the members have already been reassigned to new units and are drilling in other areas. As part of a transformation called personnel services delivery redesign, the PSC Soldiers were moved into individual units. As part of that redesign, the 41st PSC was divided in two sections.

Capt. Ramona Treat, the former company commander, led the formation and received a Meritorious Service Medal for her leadership in the unit over the previous year.

“I can’t think of a better place to than be commander of a unit that helps people do their jobs,” Treat said, reflecting on her four years in the company. “Our mission, although tedious and monotonous at times, is so important to those pullers. They can’t be out there worrying about their paychecks.”

Treat said that she should served these new units well because the 41st PSC trained for perfection in administrative duties.

“They’re going to shine for you, general,” she said. Yriarte recalled his return from Iraq through Kuwait and Germany.

“Thank you,” he said. “They’re going to shine for you, general.”

In 1996, the company was mobilized for nine months to the 41st Infantry Division in Portland. Three years later, the 41st PSC was redeployed to the 1st Infantry Division in Washington. In March of 1968, the company was reorganized and designated as the 41st Administration Company.

“Just remember your past,” he said. “It’s that past that makes you who you are today and you’ll be tomorrow.”

The company was first organized into the Oregon Army National Guard, on April 1, 1956, as the 41st Replacement Company of the 41st Infantry Division in Portland.

“Just remember your past,” he said. “It’s that past that makes you who you are today and you’ll be tomorrow.”

Soldiers from the 2-218th Field Artillery Bravo Battery fire a 105mm high explosive round weighing nearly 40 pounds during their annual training Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area in Washington.

Field Artillery explodes old record

YAKIMA, Wash.—“Twelve rounds. Load it. Stand by. Fire!”

These commands rang out, followed by a booming report, in central Washington as the 2-218th Field Artillery, Oregon Army National Guard, trained at the Yakima Training Area.

The 2-218th Field Artillery Battery load an M119 Howitzer with a 105mm high explosive round weighing nearly 40 pounds during their annual training Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area in Washington. Soldiers took part in firing more than 3,300 rounds in a 48-hour time period including night training.

Soldiers from the 2-218th Field Artillery Bravo Battery fire a 105mm high explosive round from an M119 Howitzer during annual training Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area in Washington. Soldiers took part in firing more than 3,300 rounds in a 48-hour time period including night training.

“The Soldiers will be mothballed their fire experience for a couple of years,” said Spc. James Elifrit, a cannon section chief from Forest Grove.

“This amount of ammunition has not been fired in a very long time. We wanted to have a good solid drill with firing extra rounds.

The battery was able to fire high explosive, white phosphorus and illumination rounds during the training mission.

Day and night firing provided the Soldiers with an all-around ammunition-firing experience. “It’s a whole different animal at night,” Spc. Thomas Hoy, an assistant gunner, of Forest Grove said.

“The noise, watching where you’re stepping and carrying 37-pound shells around makes it a little more interesting,” Hoy ventured.

Whether it’s day or night, firing or providing security, field artillery soldiers have to be flexible.

“These are professional Soldiers willing to do what’s asked of them,” Capt. Jason Marshall, the battery commander from Willamina said. “This is a thinking man’s job. It’s challenging and continues to be challenging even at this rank,” he added.

Deploying Soldiers may get healthcare early

courtesy, TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Oregon National Guard members deploying to Iraq in May could be eligible for the military’s healthcare plans as a result of a provi- sion of the Department of Defense’s health care program, TRICARE, entitles Guardsmen and their eligible family members to TRICARE health care benefits for up to 90 days prior to deployment. Eligibility: The key is the early alert order. Deploying troops should be notified of their potential eligibility when the alert order is issued. Also, Guardsmen must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), which is done by unit administrators.

Guard families can update DEERS with any changes in duty status, family status or address. Once DEERS shows approval for early eligibility, Guardsmen and their immediate family members may begin using TRICARE benefits and continue using them through the deployment. If deploy- ment orders are cancelled prior to reporting for ac- tive-duty, or if new release orders are issued before reporting for duty, TRICARE eligibility will end on the order cancellation date.

During the Deployment: Many in the Oregon National Guard live in a TRICARE “Prime Service Area” and access health care through the TRICARE civilian provider network. Families residing in remote locations, more than 50 miles from a military treatment facility, may access urgent, emergent care from a civilian provider network, a certified, authorized or network provider. If the family member resides with a TRICARE Prime Remote eligible service member or member in or Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Mem- bers (TPRADM) and see local civilian primary care providers for regular appointments.

If specialty care is needed, the family provider will send an email to TriWest Health- care Alliance, which administers the TRICARE program in Oregon and 20 other western states. Prescriptions are covered under TRICARE early eligibility with low cost-sharing at retail pharmacies and up to 90-day supply available through the mail.

Health Plan Choices: Family members will have TRICARE Standard and Extra as soon as they show “eligible” in DEERS. With Standard and Extra the family members may see a civilian certified authorized or network provider and pay a 20- or 15-percent cost-share and no deductible. A list of network providers can be found at www.triwest.com or by calling 1-888-874-9378.

Family members may be eligible to enroll in either TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote for Ac- tive Duty Family Members. There is no cost to enroll in these programs but an enrollment form will need to be completed. When a family member sees a provider under TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote there are no cost shares or copayments. Claims using the TRICARE Standard or Extra benefit can be filed as soon as DEERS shows eligi- bility. If a claim is declined because of incorrect eligibility, contact TriWest for reprocessing once eligibility is updated in DEERS.

Dental Coverage: During activation Oregon Guard members have the same dental benefits as an active duty service member. Those who had dental coverage before activation will be automatically re-enrolled upon activation. Visit the Dental Program Federal Dental Program (TPRADFM) and see local civilian primary care providers for regular appointments.

Enrollment for TAMP requires a 12-month commitment. After the Deployment: When the service member returns home from the deployment, the service member and eligible family members will have 180 days of Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) benefits. This period extends to 90 days if the service member is eligible and the family member is eligible. The service member and family members may re-enroll in Prime during TAMP if Prime is available where they live. TRICARE Prime Remote is not an option under TAMP benefits.

After the 180 days of TAMP benefits the service member may be able to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). For more information about TRICARE benefits, visit www.triwest.com/trg.
Mc Cormick & Schmicks offers Vets’ tribute, free meal

All veterans receive a free lunch or dinner entree at McCormick & Schmicks, a National Employer of Volunteers, on Sunday, Nov. 9 in honor of Veterans Day. This popular Sunday event enables veteran’s families to dine together.

As in past years, McCormick & Schmicks will extend this offer to veterans by the Veterans Administration, Title 38 US Code 101, which is a person who served or is serving on active duty in the Armed Forces, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. All veterans must show proper identification.

Traditionally, the McCormick & Schmicks event is held on the Sunday prior to the formal Veterans Day holiday, however this year it will be held Sunday, Nov. 9 at participating locations.

New service for wounded warriors

The Military OneSource service established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center telephonic service for servicemembers and their families if they have concerns or other difficulties during their recovery, transition or rehabilitation. Servicemembers and their family members are encouraged to call the new center at 800-342-9647 or e-mail militaryoneresources.com 24/7 to request support from specially trained counselors.

Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services, but it will offer another avenue of assistance for military families, health care services, and/or benefits information.

To find career resources for the severely injured servicemembers, visit online at www.gatlineducation.com, Severe Injury Career Center.

Soldiers required to update emergency data, DD form 93

In accordance with Department of The Army Regulation Order 08-01, “Executive Order New (Jan 08) DD Form 93”, all Soldiers must complete a new DD Form 93, Record of Family Data, no later than Jan. 31. Information on the form is to be completed during peak mosquito activity hours, which may be different from year to year. The alert level is now at two, which means there is a low risk of human outbreak. Further precautions include taking extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, including insect repellent activity hours, evening and early morning, or avoiding outdoor activities during these times. It is recommended that a low level is now at two, which means there is a low risk of human outbreak.

BLCG offers Gatlin Online classes to military members

Want to take classes but think you don’t have the time? Gatlin Education Services and Linn-Benton Community College have teamed-up to give our military service members access to the world’s largest provider of Web-based, instructor-supported training programs to colleges and universities nationwide.

Choose from courses in healthcare and fitness, business and professional, IT and software development, management and communication, design, house and home, gaming, and skilled trades and industrial. The courses are open to military members on leave or deployed on leave. If you have a computer and internet access to date, you can sign up anytime. The online access allows you to take classes during your own schedule and complete them at your own pace and comfort.

Courses are approved by the ESO as eligible for military tuition assistance.

Gatlin programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field. The programs include textbook and base material to provide the most effective online training experience.

Each program includes a set of lessons that can be evaluated individually or as a combination of instructor/mentor evaluation of students’ work and computer-graded tests.

For more information or to register, visit online at www.gatlineducation.com or call 1-800-737-4738.

Oregon National Guard Association provides scholarships

The Oregon National Guard Association will present six $1,500 scholarships for School Year 2009 at the ORNGA Convention in Salem on Oct. 3-5, 2009. Scholarships are awarded for demonstrated qualities of leadership, civic action and academic achievement. Scholarships would cover attendance at an accredited college, university, trade, or business school.

These scholarships are administered by the Oregon National Guard Charitable Education Fund and paid directly to the recipient’s school or sponsor.

Available to: Active members of the Oregon National Guard, the ORNGA, or their family members.

Current year recipients are not eligible, (winners for school year 2008-2009 may apply until next year). Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate level college, business or trade school.

The application deadline is Oct. 1, 2009. Scholarship applications are available on the website at www.ornga.org or on the RSO office at 770 Commercial St. SE. Attn: Scholarships for School Year 2009.

For more information contact Michelle Kecher at (503) 954-645 or michelle.kochosky@us.army.mil.

For Soldiers, Family

Transition Assistance for Soldiers, Family

For the last three years the Oregon National Guard Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) has helped hundreds of Oregon Guard and Army veterans find jobs. It’s not just service members using CTAP services, family members are also gaining career-building skills.

“We’ve had 463 hires in the last 18 months and not all are service members. We’ve helped to build successful families involving service members and spouses as well,” said Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas, Program Manager for the Career Transition Assistance Program.

The Career Transition Assistance Program offers career guidance to returning soldiers who have experienced combat or other physical challenges, with potential employers and help filling out job applications. Currently, 175 employers from across the state have partnered with CTAP allowing Maas to match job seekers with potential employers.

A soldier who, in creating a career it relieves a lot of pressure not only for the Soldier but also the Soldiers’ family,” said Maas.

Maas said that it is inevitable that the Soldier and his family will change over the course of a deployment. Growing up and taking on responsibilities or a shift in career goals for both the Soldier and sometimes his or her spouse.

Police noted that soldiers and their families that have been through combat or extreme hardship.

Another place Soldiers can speak with CTAP members and potential employers are Career and Benefit Fairs held throughout the state.

“We’re one more iron in the fire, and we’re here to help you,” said Maas.

To learn more information on the Career Transition Assistance Program please call Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas at (503) 584-2389.

West Nile virus detected in Wash.

According to FEMA a dead crow found in Kirkland, Wash. Sept. 15 tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first bird tested to be positive for West Nile Virus in King County this year.

Officials caution that this Medium Level alert requires awareness of potential pre- paratory action. According to the Center’s for Disease Control some general measures that can be taken include avoiding birds from skin when you go outdoors, use an EPA- registered insect repellent such as those with DEET or picaridin or lemon eucalyptus. Further precautions include, taking extra care to use repellent and protective clothing including insect proof masks activity hours, evening and early morning, or avoiding outdoor activities during these times.

Long separations and the stress of de- ployment can subject military marriages to extreme hardship.

Strong Bonds Couples Retreat

There will be a Strong Bonds Couples Weekend Retreat (formerly known as Marriage Enrichment) offered Nov. 21-23. This seminar is open to Oregon National Guard Members (both Army and Air) and their spouses.

Long separations and the stress of deployment can subject military marriages to extreme hardship.

Strong Bonds programs are offered by Chaplains with the full support of Commanding Officers. Participants will gain information about world-class curriculum developed from years of research.

In small groups, you’ll work through exercises in activities that renew bonds with your peers. And, as a couple, you’ll practice communication and relationship building skills, as well as share intimate moments.

The Strong Bonds Couples weekend retreat is designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope and rekindle marriages - even start the journey of healing for relationships under fire.

The retreat will be held at Suntree Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Suntree, FL 32970. Lodging for the retreat is pre-paid. There is a continental breakfast and a lunch provided for S22.50. The course and course materials are free to attendees.

Attending service members need to coordinate their participation through their unit or mobilization station. These programs are designed for couples and require the presence of both partners. They are a different person when you come back for the strong bonds.

For more information or to register, visit online at www.gatlineducation.com or call 1-800-737-4738.

Retirees information available via e-mail

Each Tuesday the Retiree Service Office (RSO) sends out information to retirees via e-mail. E-mails on change of command ceremonies, deployments, Tricare services, survivor’s benefits, quarterly luncheons and ORNGA scholarships are examples. If you are retired and would like to, stop receiving information via e-mail from the RSO, just send your name and e-mail information to ornos@or.ngb.army.mil or phone at (503) 584-2891.

Retirees can update information via RSO

The RSO reminds retirees, “keep your information current.” Phone numbers and phone numbers are kept on every Sol- dier and Airman retiring from the Oregon National Guard. Personnel retirement orders are a different person when you come back from service.

A list of retirees along with their last known address is what standard public uses to mail copies of the Sentinel. Retirees should contact the RSO whenever there is a new or changed address.

You can contact the RSO by e-mail at ornos@or.ngb.army.mil or by phone at (503) 584-2891.

Expanded retiree program available

The Oregon National Guard Retiree and Veterans Council has expanded its area of responsibility to include veterans, and re- tired state or federal civilian employees of the Oregon Military Department.

A veteran is anyone that has been discharged or relieved under honorable condi- tions and is a veteran of a war or conflict.

The Council’s challenge is to recognize the future changes in the makeup of the civilian workforce. The Council has the challenge of recognizing the future changes in the makeup of the civilian workforce.

The challenging role that the Oregon Guard plays in our deployments and con- tinuing efforts for peace throughout the world, brings our people closer together.

It is the council’s mission to provide communications link to veterans and retired military with their units and the Oregon National Guard.

Retiree Service Office has moved

The Retiree’s Service Office has moved to Better Serve You. As of Oct. 14 the RSO has moved to new location in Room 240 of the Anderson Readiness Center. The RSO will share the office space with representatives of TriCare and Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESER).
Newport, Toledo businesses lauded by ESGR

Story and photo by Kay Fristad
Oregon Military Department
with contributions from Mike Allegrae
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWPORT, Ore. -- The Oregon branch of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee honored two central Oregon coast businesses and two cities for their exceptional support of their employees—Oregon National Guard members—who were called to active duty in the past year.

Representatives of these businesses, cities, and the U.S. Coast Guard received awards on Aug. 12, at 7 p.m., at the Oregon's annual awards banquet in Newport.

Both Mo's Restaurants and Rogue Brewing Company earned the highest award presented by Oregon's ESGR Committee—the 7 Seals Award. The seven represent all seven major military branches: the United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and branches of the National Guard and Reserve.

Oregon's State Chairman for the ESGR Committee, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bill Doctor, presented all awards.

"As American citizen citizens, the management and staff of all of Mo's Restaurants believe we should always do whatever we can to support our troops," said Peggy Priez, general manager of Mo's Restaurants. "Our freedom does not come without a price tag and we must support our military and their families." The cities of Newport and Toledo were the recipients of the "Above and Beyond Award." Toleda Police Chief Mark Fandrey accepted the award and was recognized for allowing patrol officer Dave Enyeart to remain on active military duty for three years even though he could have led the training of Oregon Army Guard soldiers preparing to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Recently promoted to the rank of brigadier general, Enyeart is now the Oregon National Guard's assistant to the adjutant general for Army.

Keizer resident Rex Newell was awarded a lifetime achievement award for his work as an ESGR Committee ombudsman and volunteer. He also worked at the U.S. Department of Labor handling veteran related employment concerns.

"For years Rex worked as a Boss Lift coordinator and continued to work with employers to promote cooperation in understanding between Reserve Component members and their civilian employers in an employee's military commitment," Doctor said. "Rex has been invaluable to ESGR."

America's Reserve military components from all branches comprise approximately 48 percent of the total available military manpower. The current National Defense Strategy indicates the National Guard and Reserve will be full partners in the fully integrated Total Force. With that, members will spend more time away from the workplace defending the nation, supporting a demanding operations tempo and training to maintain their mission readiness. The mission of ESGR is to educate, develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. The National organization works to maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and assist in educating National Guard and Reserve members regarding their obligations and responsibilities to employers.

For more information about the awards event, contact Elliott at (503) 508-3362.