Wing to temporarily relocate flight operations to Idaho

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- For the first time in many years, there will be no F-15s flying in or out of Kingsley Field. The pending removal and reconstruction of the old runway has forced the 173rd Fighter Wing to move its flight operations to the 124th Wing at Gowen Field, Idaho during the last week of April.

“We’d like to have the contractor begin the full rehabilitation and reconstruction of the runway by April 1,” said Derek Martin, the Klamath Falls Airport Director.

As of March 12, the project was running on schedule and is currently waiting on the Federal Aviation Administration to release the necessary funds to begin actual construction. Martin estimates the project will be completed this October.

“We’re deploying all of our jets and about 225 people during the last week in April,” said Maj. Gregory Johnson, 173rd Operations Support Officer and deployment project officer for Sentry Displacement.

Johnson said there were a variety of reasons for choosing Gowen Field, located near Boise, including affordability and the ability to accommodate the 22 Kingsley Field F-15 Eagle aircraft.

“We selected the location based upon three criteria: mission, money and people,” said Johnson. “Ultimately, Boise was the best at satisfying all three.”

“Without the support from the 124th Wing we wouldn’t be able to accomplish our mission,” said Col. Jim Miller, 173rd FW Commander. “We are grateful to them for accepting us. The guard is a wonderful network of support in times like this and during state or national emergencies.”

The logistics involved in relocating the unit make it a highly unusual deployment.

The number-one challenge is simply the magnitude of it all. We never deploy this many for this long, to accomplish our primary mission,” Johnson said.

That mission is to train the best air-to-air combat pilots to fly one of the most sophisticated air defense aircraft in the world.

Oregon names 2009 soldier and NCO of the year

The Oregon Army National Guard will continue on to a regional competition later this year.

Guard members put on their class-A uniforms for the first two events; an appearance board followed by an essay.

After a few short hours of sleep, the competitors were back at it at first dawn, taking a physical fitness test before moving out to a land navigation course. The soldiers got a short break for lunch before heading back out to the field to compete against each other in an obstacle course, which consisted of rope ladders, low-crawl course, and log obstacles.

With no rest time they moved out again to a rifle and pistol range, staying outside in the rain until after dark to qualify with their rifles in a night-fire event.

After a short dinner, they headed back to the field to compete in a night land navigation course before getting a chance at any more sleep for the evening.

The final day wrapped up with weapons familiarity tests before the award ceremony.


Staff Sgt. Jesse Ginestar, of Charlie Company, won the title of the Oregon National Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year. Ginestar, his M-4 rifle for qualification during the Oregon National Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year/Staff Sgt. Eric A. Rutherford, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. -- Twelve Oregon Guard members from around the state met at Camp Rilea, Feb. 27 – March 1, for the 2009 Oregon Soldier of the Year/Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year competition.

The competitors, six soldiers and six NCOs, faced lack of sleep and physical and mental challenges in a shot at the title of Oregon’s best.

The competitors had previously been recognized as the best soldiers and NCOs at the unit level before heading to the state level competition. Winners of the event will continue on to a regional competition later this year.

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Staff Sgt. Jesse Ginestar, of Charlie Company, won the title of the Oregon National Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year.
Discipline and uniformity make perfect impression.

Greetings. I hope that all is going well with every member of our organization. I would like to discuss with all of you the basics of our organization. Discipline and Appearance.

Every single one of us is responsible for our military bearing and appearance. We have all been trained on the basic responsibilities of being a soldier. Sometimes in our hectic lives, we are tempted to let some of these basics slip, or we forget the lessons we were taught by our leaders and instructors. Other times, we may not know the standards or rules, but we should remind ourselves that the leaders established them to benefit Oregon Guardsmen and their families.

We must all adhere to the standards. In this organization, from the stars and stripes to the beret. Make sure the word “standard” is understood by our commanders.

Always There!
We belong to Uniformed Services, the professionalism that we have honed to perfection, the discipline and uniformity that we display every time we are in uniform. There is nothing more attractive to the public at various times when we are publicly representing the Oregon National Guard and the Nation. It is important that we continue to represent our state as best we can.

The immediate take away for Oregon is that the Army National Guard will soon be announced. These projects not only help set a positive example for the Oregon National Guard to continue in its successful protection of our nation. The Oregon Military Department has received national recognition in our environmental branch for the second year in a row. The Army National Guard Environmental Security Award was presented by Mr. Addison D. Davis IV, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environmental Security and Occupational Health, in March. The Oregon Military Department continues to demonstrate our stewardship with what we are provided. I am proud of what our environmental branch has accomplished to achieve and expect continued success.

Previously, all warrant officers were required to wear the same individualized uniforms and display personalized name tags. However, this made the Corps appear unorganized and contributed to the perception that the Warrant Officer Corps was not cohesive. The WOSAC proposed three specific recommendations for improvements:

1. Allow each individual state to complete more details on the specific recommendations and adopt the policy that makes theгенерал/адъютант head the biggest policy in the way of the Middle East from the very beginning of our operations. I would plan on attending in the fall. The Army National Guard will be the first warrant officer of all warrant officer corps, second to ensure that the warrant officer corps remains a cohesive and relevant force; and third to ensure that the warrant officer corps is second in support of global military operations.

We have all been reminded to demonstrate our professionalism in the Year of the NCO. As warrant officers, we are in a unique position to lead by example. The Oregon National Guard warrant officers are the best in the Army National Guard, second only to the very best in the Army and Air Force, or the Department of Defense.

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Paid advertising is strictly prohibited in the Oregon Sentinel. All editorial material must benefit Oregon Guardsmen and their families.

State Command Staff Maj. Brunk W. Conley
State Command Sergeant Major Oregon National Guard

We are in an historic time not only for the Oregon National Guard but the National Guard in its entirety. While the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is conducting pre-mobilization training for its upcoming Iraq deployment, we have more than 350 Oregon National Guard members deployed across the world in support of global military operations. The National Guard itself now has the fourth-star, chief, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, as well as a newly appointed Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III. A new Director of the Army National Guard will soon be announced. Historic changes have already begun. We have received federal stimulus dollars to fund the Oregon National Guard Bureau in order to fund state projects. Additional projects were made possible through legislation granting approximately $4.5 million in state stimulus funds that will assist in updating our armories and maintaining backlogs at facilities throughout the state. These projects not only help set the Guard up for the future but also help sustain and create new jobs with our communities. These projects also include elements helping to reduce overall energy consumption into the future.

The 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field is currently temporarily moving its flying operations hundreds of miles away to make room for soldiers to establish a new military readiness airfield. This refurbishment will allow Kingsley Field to demonstrate the overall effectiveness of our Guard.

We feel obligated to review the current mission to determine where we are and will be: Always Ready! Always There!
Oregon top warriors compete to earn title of ‘the best’

Oregon Army National Guard Specialist Donald Snyder negotiates an obstacle course during the Oregon National Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year/NCO of the Year competition, Feb. 27-March 1, at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore. Snyder, of Tri-Cities, Wash., won the title of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year. Snyder is a medic with Detachment 1, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry.

COMPEITION from front page Troop, 1st Battalion, 82nd Cavaliy, was named 2009 Oregon NCO of the year, and Spec. Donald Snyder, with Detachment 1, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry was named 2009 Oregon soldier of the year.

Ginestar, of Klamath Falls, is an infantry platoon sergeant, and Snyder, of Tri-Cities, Wash., is a medic.

Ginestar said his training and dedication to physical fitness were what helped him win the competition, which he added was fierce.

“It still hasn’t sunk in,” said Ginestar after the ceremony. “This is a great honor.”

Snyder said he was happy to have even made it to the competition, but was also a little shocked that he won.

“This was a really tough competition,” said Snyder. “It was the best of the best out there and of look forward to heading to the regional level to represent Oregon.”

Ginestar is set to deploy with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team later this year, so he won’t be able to continue to the regional competition. He said he plans to compete again next year.

42-year soldier retires from Oregon National Guard

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

SALEM, Ore. -- After more than forty years of military service the joint chief of staff of the Oregon National Guard retired in a ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, March 7.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard recognized Col. Donald F. Bond for his years of service culminating in his tenure as the Chief Joint Staff/Chief of Staff, Army, Salem, Ore., a position he has held since January 2006.

The ceremony began on a festive note as State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunck Conley led those assembled in “Happy Birthday” to commemorate Bond’s 60th birthday earlier in the week. Bond celebrated his March 3 birthday at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls in the back seat of an F-15 Eagle.

During the ceremony Rees addressed the crowd with a smile on his face saying, “my favorite task is to send Don [Bond] to D.C.—typically with a tin cup to ask for more money—Don comes back with a wheel barrel full, that’s a hooah!”

He went on to thank Bond for bringing millions of dollars back to the state making the Oregon National Guard solvent and able to perform duties in support of both state and nation. He summed up Bond’s career saying, “Don is the epitome of selfless service.”

In his closing remarks Bond shared reflections on the last 42 years saying “the majority of us know we are not successful by ourselves, we are successful as teams and because of the people who work for us. From the bottom of my heart I just wanted to say ‘thank you’ to every one of you.”

Bond joined the Guard in 1967 and was commissioned in 1974 after serving as an enlisted soldier. His military education includes: the Infantry Officer Basic Course; Finance Officer Advance Course; the Army Command and General Staff Officers Course; the Advanced Resource Management Course; the Reserve Forces Professional Comptroller Course; Mobilization and Demobilization Planning Course; Defense Resource Management Course; Military Support to Civil Authorities Course and the National Security Course. He holds a bachelor of Arts degree in Management of Human Resources from George Fox University.

Bond’s military assignments include: Infantry Platoon Leader, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment; Assistant Finance Officer, Finance Officer, Detachment Commander, and S-1, 14th Support Battalion; Assistant Brigade S-1, 41st Infantry Brigade; Budget Analyst, Readiness and Force Integration Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Training, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, JFHQ-OR. He spent 14 years in the banking industry prior to joining the technician workforce of the Oregon Army National Guard on a full-time basis in November 1986.

Bond’s awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with four devices, the Army Commendation Medal with two devices, the Army Achievement Medal with two devices, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Bond is married to the former Kathy Kunzman of Salem, Ore. They have two daughters, Katie and Kyla, and granddaughter, Kassidi.

I never wanted to be in the Army. I never, ever wanted to go to war. But when I needed money to get back to college and couldn’t afford it, the NG offered to help. So, being a member of the ORANG meant an opportunity to develop as a person, but it was only a means to an end.

October 26, 2007, I left my home in Richland, Wash., to begin Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga. Starting that day, my membership in this historic brotherhood began to take on a new meaning. By the time I graduated, as Soldier of the Cycle, I had learned the true value of the military, especially the National Guard. At the risk of sounding trite, I will honestly say that the Oregon Army National Guard is my personal vehicle to realizing all my dreams by developing each of the Army Values in my own life.

Loyalty had never occurred to me until my entire platoon in BCT went to “the gravel pit” in support of Pfc. Brian Plant, who confessed to an infraction we all committed, and was being “smoked.” After an hour we quit for dinner chow and when the 1st Sergeant took Plant back to the pit afterwards we all followed . . . reluctantly and one by one. That day, a group of recruits had become a team.

At Fort Sam Houston, Texas, duty as a medic became a reality as I attempted to save the life of a wounded mammoquin while Capt. Riley relayed in detail the true story of a single mother in Iraq who died of the injuries I was “treating,” while the medics made the same mistake I was making. This wasn’t a way to college anymore — I had a job to do, and people WILL die if I fail.

. . .

Two years ago, I was a bit of a punk. A year ago, I thought I knew — and now I know I am only beginning to discover where I can go in my life. I am understanding the effects I can have on others and how catastrophic success is — as I see it in the NG. I am eager to fully comprehend how a system of values designed to benefit everyone around me will make this old skeptic realize his own potential. The Oregon Army National Guard is a vehicle to greatness as a team and as an individual.

To read the essay in its entirety please visit the official blog for the Oregon National Guard at: www.oregonmildep.blogspot.com/ . . .
Story and photos by
Sgt. Eric A. Rutherford,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. -- Citizen-soldiers and airmen from around the state came to Camp Rilea to compete in the Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Match, March 14-15.

The match pitted 80 Oregon National Guard members against each other as individuals, as well as teams, in several shooting events throughout the weekend. Soldiers and airmen faced several inches of rain on the firing ranges, shooting their individual weapons at pop-up targets during individual weapons qualification (IWQ), Field Fire, Across the Course, Run Down and the Team Challenge. There were two classes, novice and open. Open class was for soldiers returning to the match while novice was for soldiers who had never competed.

In the IWQ, competitors fired their rifles from several positions ranging from 50 to 300 meters. Competitors fired 20 rounds from the prone unsupported position, ten rounds from the kneeling, and ten rounds from the prone unsupported prone position. In the Field Fire Challenge, competitors fired at 75 to 300 meter targets to simulate longer firing distances.

The Across the Course Challenge was a timed, two-minute event where every target on the course was up, and competitors had to shoot each of the eight targets twice.

In the Run Down, soldiers ran laps on the firing line to simulate elevated heart rate and stress levels prior to firing several rounds at targets.

The scores from all of these events were tallied to determine the aggregate team winner.

The overall match winner was Staff Sgt. Matt Kuhnel of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, track target data during The Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Match at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., March 14. Mitts and Morris are set to deploy with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team this summer.

The SELC is an annual conference designed to bring senior noncommissioned officers together to fire their rifles at pop-up targets. This type of event will help us tremendously,” said Sgt. 1st Class Randall Mitts, of 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf., and member of the competitor team “Chaos.” “If we need it.” The firing events were followed by an award luncheon where plaques were given to the overall match winner, top three open class scoring competitors, top three novice competitors in the individual aggregate match, top three teams in the aggregate class, the top scoring team in the Team Challenge Match, and the Lt. Col. Brent McTaggart’s Unit Achievement Award for the unit entering the highest number of competitors in the event.

“I would love to get some of the younger soldiers out here to get the experience and do some of the fun stuff. Support like this,” said 2nd Lt. Rocky Kumin, “If you get to involved in great events like this, just ask about it. Have your leadership get involved and get yourself out here.”

Kumin, a platoon leader of the 118th Military Police Company, said events like Tag Match help readiness as well by giving soldiers and airmen more opportunities to train and fire their weapons.

One unit, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, sent two four-man teams to compete. The two teams have been practicing competing in civilian matches and training together in preparation.

The soldiers from 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf., knowing that next time they fire their weapons, it might be the real thing. They are set to deploy to Iraq with 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team this summer.

The winning members of Charlie C Co., 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf., will not be able to continue on to the regional matches due to their deployment this summer.

“If you want to fly us home from Iraq, we would be more than happy to compete in the regionals,” Kuhnel joked.

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Kevin Hartman
115th Mibile Public Affairs Detachment

REDMOND, Ore. -- Nearly 200 Oregon National Guard soldiers and airmen attended the 2009 Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference at the Eagle Crest Resort near Redmond, Ore., 13-15 March. The SELC is designed to bring senior noncommissioned officers from all Oregon National Guard units from across the state together to discuss issues as well as learn from one another.

The conference began Friday morning on the Eagle Crest Golf Course. With the backdrop of Three Sisters and Mount Bachelor, teams of four from each unit spread out across the 18 holes for what’s called a scramble. As a scramble is where the team plays off the best hit. Oregon State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, the organizer of the event, said this style of play was selected to take the pressure off the actual game so players could spend their time getting to know each other better.

Saturday, the senior enlisted leaders settled in for the actual conference. The day began with an address from The Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, and continued with a series of briefs on issues from recruiting and retention to programs designed to reintegrate military members returning from deployments back into society.

Keynote speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciota, attended both the conference and the formal dinner Saturday night. Ciota, the Command Sgt. Maj. for III Corps and Fort Hood, said he’s a big fan of the Oregon National Guard, specifically 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.

“2nd Bn., 162nd Inf., is one of the best units I have had the privilege of serving with in my 33 years,” he said in reference to his service with the 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf., during their deployment to Iraq in 2004. “If God grants me one wish, it’s to serve with anyone from the Oregon National Guard.

Ciota also said the skills brought to the battlefield by National Guard members greatly helped in the building up of Iraq’s infrastructure.

“In 2004, we were looking for electricians, government experts, and setting up a police force. We found them in the National Guard,” Ciota said, adding, “You took the Active Army to school.”

Ciota also focused on the Army’s Year of the NCO, which is being honored this year. The Year of the NCO is designed to highlight the accomplishments of the Army’s NCO corps, often referred to as the Backbone of the Army.

“The thing that sets the U.S. Military above all others is personal leadership,” Ciota said. “Every year is the Year of the NCO as far as I’m concerned.” The SELC is an annual conference designed to continually improve the strength of the Oregon National Guard.

Guardmembers shoot for the title at annual TAG Match

Sgt. Tyrone Morris, and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Mitts, both of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, track target data during The Adjutant General’s Combat Marksmanship Match at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., March 14. Mitts and Morris are set to deploy with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team this summer.

Senior enlisted leaders meet to network, improve organization

Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciota, the Command Sgt. Maj. for III Corps and Fort Hood, poses for a picture with the Oregon Army National Guard’s Soldier of the Year and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year during this year’s Senior Enlisted Leadership Conference’s formal dinner at the Eagle Crest Resort, 14 March, 2009. Nearly 200 Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state attended the SELC. Command Sgt. Maj. Ciota was the keynote speaker.

Senior enlisted leaders meet to network, improve organization

NEWS
Researchers try new treatments for stress

Story by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

PORTLAND, Ore. – Soldiers, providers, and community members gathered at a conference March 6, 2009 in Portland to discuss treatment options for those dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Some new treatment options include Cognitive Behavior Therapy, medication, exercise, art therapy, and even camping. Some therapists use animal therapy, which uses the positive effects of pet ownership to minimize the cognitive side effects of PTSD.

The symposium brought both healthcare providers and those with PTSD together in an effort to discuss different programs and talk about how to deal with possible mental health issues when they arise.

“Being part of a unit in combat and the feelings of loss and guilt when losing people in the unit are really very powerful experiences,” said Dr. William Weisdorfer, psychologist and Vice President of Integrated Behavioral Health at TriWest.

“A lot of things is a lot is about understanding PTSD and what these problems are,” said Weisdorfer.

Mandy Martin knows the symptoms too well. When she returned from Balad, Iraq with Alpha Company 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment, a reserve unit, in 2003, she took part in the standard reintegration briefing which discusses possible symptoms one may encounter as they assimilate into the community. She and others were very much aware of the problem.

“I thought ‘I handled Iraq, this is nothing!’ You need to get used to me this is who I am and I’m not going to change,’” she said.

But when Martin suffered a panic attack at work, she knew it was time to seek help.

“I have managed to find post traumatic growth in that I don’t have to keep the negative changes in me, I can take those changes and find what is positive in them and expand on those differences and do my best to make a difference,” said Martin.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Daggett is the chaplain assistant for the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He said he will be focused on helping soldiers with any emotional issues that may arise while they are deployed and that the seminar gave him some fresh ideas on the treatment of PTSD.

“We are more involved with our health than ever before, you get help to decide what therapy is best for you,” said Daggett.

“If one doesn’t work you can try another way,” he added.

“Now you have many different treatment options,” he added.

Community and business leaders came together for a Reintegration Summit in Salem, Ore., March 19. The meeting focused on the upcoming deployment of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq in May. More than 3,000 Oregon National Guard soldiers expected to leave with the brigade this spring, the focus of the seminar was on how to help those soldiers and their families reintegrate upon their return.

Maj. Matt Lawson with the 141st Infantry Brigade Combat Team said that as many as 33 percent of the soldiers deploying are unemployed. 58 percent are employed by government entities, and 7 percent are college students.

“How do we get them employed when they get back?” said Lawson. Employment was was one of the many issues leaders tackled during the four hour seminar. Topics of discussion included mental health, education, and family issues.

“Without community support we are not going to make this happen,” said Brgr. Gen. Mike Caldwell, Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department.

Caldwell discussed the importance of the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team, which was created in 2004 to focus on the needs of returning soldiers.

Back then the team consisted of a handful of people within the Oregon National Guard who worked tirelessly on employment, referrals for mental health treatment, and any other issues a returning soldier may have. In the last two years the team has grown into a comprehensive team that assists soldiers integrate even after leaving the service.

The team has received national recognition for its efforts and has grown in size and scope.

“Within the medical command we now have over 200 full time employees working on these issues on a daily basis,” said Caldwell.

Although the majority of soldiers, about 80 percent according to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, have no longstanding emotional issues some will not be so fortunate.

In the event a soldier needs help with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or mental health issues, the reintegration team will refer the service member to a provider.

Paul Evans, Military Liaison for Governor Ted Kulongoski, said over the next few years actions will matter more than words.

“What really matters is what happens during those times, we have to make a commitment to do things right,” said Evans.

The summit wrapped up with break out sessions focusing on family support, education, and employment.

“We care deeply about the well being of service personnel and we are determined to make a difference in the lives of those we serve,” said Representative Jean Cowan, Chair of the Veterans and Emergency Services Committee.

For more information on Oregon National Guard Reintegration and Service Member Support programs, visit their website at: www.orng-vet.org

Guard program helps children shift perspectives

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

OREGON CITY, Ore. – For years educators have approached drug education with the “Just Say No” mantra.

But, according to an Oregon City middle school teacher, that philosophy is short in today’s schools.

“It’s not enough,” says Ron Weisdorfer. “We need to be education behind it.”

That is why a group of dedicated individuals from the Oregon National Guard’s Counterdrug Support Program visited teachers, parents and students at the Oregon City Middle School March 3. There, they worked to equip students with critical life-skills through a program called The Guard Adventure Program.

Sgt. Karissa Graetke, who is assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard’s 82nd Brigade, works full time as a Drug Demand Reduction NCO with the Counterdrug Program. She said the kids might already contain the symptoms one may encounter as they assimilate into the community. She and others were very much aware of the problem.

“We’re bringing to it their attention and helping them realize these skills are a group,” Graetke said.

Prior to the Guard members’ visit to the school during the first two weeks of March, school officials had never heard of the Oregon Guard’s Counterdrug program, said Weisdorfer, who has been a teacher since 1976.

“I routinely teach drug education the old fashioned way: tell kids not to drugs and tell them to stay away, but the approach here is based on wise decision-making.”

The free 10-day program’s curriculum is based on research in the area of developing assets and risk protection.

The goal is to help youth develop personal and social skills in an effective manner, and to give students an opportunity to practice newly acquired skills through positive peer interaction.

The students are divided up into groups of about 20, with each group cycling through the day’s classes one after the other. The team will sometimes administer up to five classes per day throughout the 10-day period. Each group will visit schools based on requests by administrators.

One activity involves educating the kids about shifting the way they look at a situation. Called the “para-digm shift,” the exercise uses distracting techniques to pull the attention of the kids away from the true message being conveyed.

Tech. Sgt. Bobby Vickery, an NCO with Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing, told a story about when he deployed to Iraq to approximately 20 middle school kids gathered in the Guard’s Gardner Auditorium.

Vickery explained there was a secret code at the entrance to the compound who had a secret code to allow people to enter the base.

Weisdorfer believes the program helps boost the kids’ self-worth—a key to keeping kids away from drugs.

“People use drugs because they don’t have an understanding of who they are and where they’re going,” he said.

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“People use drugs because they don’t have an understanding of who they are and where they’re going,” he said.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Simons, who is new to the Counterdrug Program, said the life-lessons taught by his group focus not so much on avoiding drugs, but a completely new way of thinking.

“Now you have many different treatment options,” he added.

“Now you have many different treatment options,” he added.

“We were introduced to new thoughts on mental and family health and some of the new treatments for soldiers experiencing PTSD, which helps bring us up to speed on what we can do to help our soldiers,” said Daggett.

The symptoms of PTSD vary from soldier to soldier but often include increased agitation, anxiety, avoidance, and isolation. Just as symptoms can vary so do treatment options.

“We are more involved with our health than ever before, you get help to decide what therapy is best for you,” said Daggett.

“If one doesn’t work you can try another one.”

“Now you have many different treatment options,” he added.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Bobby Vickery (left), leads 20 students through the Oregon Military Department’s Counterdrug Support Program curriculum based on research in the area of developing assets and risk protection.

The team has received national recognition for its efforts and has grown in size and scope.

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Local engineers battle at future demolition site

DALLAS, Ore. — Soldiers in tight-knit wedge formations held weapons at the low-ready, took cues by hand and arm signals, and stealthily made their way down a wooded hillside toward their objective, a concrete building attached to an abandoned swimming pool. Inside the building an unknown number of Punkin, and possibly hostages awaited. March 7, found soldiers from the 1st, 2nd, and headquarters platoons of the 162nd Sapper Company, 124th Engineer Battalion, engaging IED explosions, sniper fire, and assault technique training scenarios using the soon to be demolished Dallas Municipal Pool. Each of the participants was armed with a paintball gun.

The training was part of a larger cooperative effort between the Oregon National Guard and the City of Dallas, in which the engineer soldiers volunteered to demolish the decommissioned pool complex, closed for the last six years, and in return they were allowed to use the area to practice combat maneuvers with local volunteers for a day.

"Demolishing the pool is something we can do for the city that will give us practice using the big equipment," said 1st Lt. Ben Selander, 3rd platoon leader. "It also created a good opportunity for us to do some training."

The idea for the partnership came about some time ago when National Guard engineers helped the City of Dallas level out an area of town to make way for a basketball court, said Dallas City Manager Jerry Wyatt.

"We told the engineers we had another project, the pool building and the conversation started from there," he said.

The engineers later asked the city if they could combine the demolition with a training and recruiting event, the city manager said. "We said we wouldn't mind that," Wyatt said. "It's worked out really well."

Soldiers in Humvees established a cordon on city streets around the park during the training event, to prevent city residents from unwarily walking into the path of flying paintballs. The day ended in no incidents. Groups of family members watched from the sidelines, cheering and snapping photos.

Tyson Phelps, 15, a freshman at Dallas High School, and his sister, Shelby, 16, a junior, were the first to volunteer for the event. "I've played against soldiers and Marines before," Shelby said. "But this was probably the most fun I've had.

The pool and building were scheduled for demolition later in March. The city has conceptual plans to build a senior center at the location.

First cadets sworn into new Guard Officer Leadership Detachment

Bend, Ore. -- Oregon State University’s Cascades Campus, in Bend, swore in their first cadets in Central Oregon Guard Officer Leadership Detachment, Jan. 20.

Through an affiliation with Oregon State University ROTC, the Oregon National Guard, Central Oregon Community College and OSU Cascades, a new ROTC program is being offered to students in Central Oregon.

Cadets can compete for scholarships including a $10,000 two and three year Guaranteed Reserve Forces Scholarship directly to the program from a junior college as a first year student. Students earn a four-year degree, they take Military Science classes, when they graduate with their bachelor’s degree, they receive their commission.

"We want to make sure they graduate in a timely manner, so we monitor their academic progress," said Capt. Sean Nixon, detachment commander.

"This program is bringing a great opportunity to Central Oregon for military and civilians alike," said Detachment Cadet Jeffrey Prine, of Bravo Company, 351st Aviation Support, in Pendleton. "I've played against soldiers and Marines before," Shelby said. "But this was probably the most fun I've had."

The pool and building were scheduled for demolition later in March. The city has conceptual plans to build a senior center at the location.

The American Civil War in a military perspective

The echo of guns from Fort Sumter, South Carolina and President Lincoln’s call for 75,000 volunteers reached Oregon May 11, 1861. The Governor, John Whiteaker, did not respond at first because he felt our remoteness from the general conflict and division political sympathies should exempt the state from sending its young men to the front lines of war.

By the start of the war many had joined a secret society known as the Knights of the Golden Circle with the intent to create a “Republic of the Pacific” which would join the Southern Confederacy. There were estimated to be 2,500 members of the Knights in Oregon with the central focus in the mid Willamette Valley. As the war progressed, more settlers came from such states as Missouri and Kansas known for their divided loyalties. It was precisely this threat that provided motivation for the creation of the 1st Oregon Volunteer Infantry in late 1864.

In the end there was no secessionist uprisin and no Republic of the Pacific. Most of the volunteers who served in the state, whether they came from Oregon or not, performed very tedious but valuable duty in securing this area and its resources for the Union cause. By mid 1867 they were replaced by regular army units and could return to their homes again.
Oregon's first African American soldier celebrates diversity


SALEM, Ore.—The Oregon National Guard celebrated the first African-American soldier during a ceremony commemorating an African-American Heritage Month, held at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem, Feb. 26.

Organized by the Oregon National Guard Diversity Council, the ceremony honored retired Master Sgt. Earl Henry Winchester—who joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1955. Oregon Army National Guard Joint Chief of Staff, Col. Don Bond, presented Winchester with a Purple Heart, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star Service Medal and a framed copy of the NCO Creed.

Oregon State Defense Force Colonel, Warren Aney, said a lot has changed since Winchester joined the Oregon Guard.

“You broke ground. You set a standard for all minorities to follow,” Aney said to Winchester.

According to a legal essay by Bill Long, Oregon was known as the “Dixie of the North,” with laws prohibiting African Americans from owning property, and a provision in the territorial constitution, passed in 1857, banning freed slaves from entering Oregon. As recently as the late 50s, the city of Medford had a “Sun-down Law,” prohibiting African Americans from being in public after dark.

“We’ve come a long way,” Aney said. Master Sgt. Winchester symbolizes our ability to recognize talent no matter what the color of your skin, or your religious background. Thank you Earl!”

Keynote speaker, Ron Brooks, who is the Executive Board Member of the Salem Chapter of the NAACP, addressed about a hundred guests consisting of veterans, civilians, and military attendees who turned out for the lunch-time event in the Owen Sum- mers building.

Brooks thanked Winchester for his service and sacrifice, saying he would not be today’s keynote speaker had it not been for the sacrifices of African Americans like him.

“I stand on the shoulders of this man,” Brooks said, as he pointed and smiled at Winchester, who sat in the front row with his wife, Virginia, sister Norma Kennedy, and son, Peter.

Winchester’s long military career began in 1942 when he joined the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 356th Engineer General Service Regiment in the European Theater as a truck driver, and served in Normandy and in northern France during World War II.

After being honorably discharged in late 1945, he re-enlisted for three more years, serving at Fort Leavenworth until being honorably discharged in 1948.

After joining the Oregon Army National Guard in December 1955, he rose through several ranks, including company First Sergeant with Company A, 162nd Combat Engineers, and worked for a number of units within Oregon.

In 1974, after being honorably discharged from the Oregon National Guard, he re-enlisted with the U.S. Army Reserve, where he served as battalion operations personnel at Headquaters, 3rd Battalion, 415th Regiment at Vancouver Barracks in Vancouver, Wash. All told, Winchester compiled 32 years of military service.

Brooks thanked Winchester for his service and sacrifice, and encouraged Americans to come together to bridge the racial divide. He also thanked the men and women in uniform for their “supreme sacrifice for us and our children.”

Brooks spoke about his personal struggles growing up in a segregated society during the late 1960s, and how many people helped him overcome obstacles throughout his life. He eventually graduated from Texas A&M University (formerly East Texas State University), and later returned to work as the diversity program director for the school.

“This angry young man had come full circle,” he said about his success. “If told myself I’d ever get a chance, I’m going to help people as much as I can.”

He said Guard members can help others by talking to young people, and sharing with them the sacrifices made by those in the military. Brooks suggested visiting high schools to talk about the National Guard, and to challenge youngsters to become an active participant in their communities.

“Share with them the sacrifices you’ve had to make. It will arouse the consciousness of our young people help them connect with our country,” he said.

“It starts with you,” he continued. “If you believe in yourself, then you can be somebody that others believe in.”

National group offers free camp for military youth

The National Military Family Associa-
tion (NMAO) Purple Poppy camp is a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the Nation’s young heroes.

The program aims to help military kids experience carefree fun while also learning coping skills to deal with deployment-related stress and fostering relationships with other children who know what they are going through.

The camp for Oregon youth ages 8-13 will be held at the Oregon 4-H Center in Salem, Ore. July 19-24. Activities will be held at the Oregon 4-H Center in Salem, Ore., July 19-24. Activities will include swimming, horses, crafts, field-games, archery and canoeing.

The camp offered for teens ages 14-17 will be held at the Oregon 4-H Center in Salem, Ore., July 19-24. Activities will include water slide, swimming, paddle boats, zip-line, field-games and a ropes course.

For more information about Operation Purple and to sign up for youth camp in Oregon visit: www.operationpurple.org.

Please email Ethan Erickson, Operation Purple Director in Oregon, with specific questions about camp at: ethan@tsuga.org.

Registration ends April 19.

Cash stimulus checks due out to veterans, feds say

President Barack Obama has signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

As Congress approvedly节课 legislation includes tax-related provisions providing cash payments to certain veterans. The Economic Recovery Payment only will be paid by the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Railroad Retirement Board.

Disabled veterans that are in receipt of VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) will automatically receive a cash payment of $250. Economic Recovery one-time payments will be deposited to the account on file with VA and are expected to arrive during the summer.

Last year veterans and spouses received an economic stimulus payment. Unlike the last payment, no action is required on the part of the veteran to receive this economic recovery payment. Also, there is no additional amount allotted for spouses of veterans like the 2008 Economic Stimulus.

For more information, please contact the VA at 800-827-1000.

ORANG Chief’s Council offers scholarship

Need help paying for college? You’re in luck!

The Oregon Air National Guard Chief’s Advisory Council will again sponsor a scholarship opportunity this year.

The Chief Master Sergeants in the council contributed $500, with matching funds from the United States Air National Guard, Oregon.

The $1,000 scholarship will be used for undergraduate educational or technical training tuition and books for selected applicants.

EANGOR will provide an additional $500 scholarship to the next highest runner up that is a member of EANGOR or their spouse or parent is a member of EANGOR.

Eligibility Criteria requires affiliation with the Oregon Air National Guard either as a member or dependent, a GPA of 2.0 or higher, completion of the questionnaire and an educational goals summary essay. The application deadline is May 31, 2009.

Applications can be mailed to 216 Gentle Street, Suite 36, Bldg 211, Kingsley Field, Ore. 97603, ATTN CMSgt. Les Tyree, or by e-mail: leslie.tyree.1.1@oklram.ang.af.mil.

Oregon National Guard soldiers in the Oregon National Guard joined by members of his family during the invocation at an event commemorating African-American Heritage Month at the Oregon Military Department in Salem, Feb. 26. Winchester was recognized for being the first African-American member of the Oregon National Guard. Above left: Winchester sits with family members during the celebration.


Oregon soldiers participate in Read Across America program

For students in Haley Meadows first grade class at Yosaki Elementary School in Salem story time was a bit different March 2. That’s because the featured reader was an Oregon National Guard soldier, Capt. Bobby Baca.

“It’s great to be here,” said Baca. “Just seeing the kids and letting them know we are here to help the community,” added Baca.

Baca read Dr. Seuss book to 21 students as part of the Read Across America program.

Read Across America, sponsored by the National Education Association is an annual reading motivation and economic program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading March 2, the birthday of bestselling children’s author Dr. Seuss. The event brings together people from all walks of life to read.

“I think it’s motivation for kids and such a special day for them to have all of these different people reading to them,” said Meadows.

The students laughed as Baca read the rhymes from Dr. Seuss. Afterwards they listened intently as Baca told them about the value of reading.

“There is not a career you are heading to that you don’t have to read, reading is very important,” said Baca.


Oregon welcomes home airmen from Iraq deployment

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

WARRENTON, Ore. -- Members of one of the most activated and deployed units in the Oregon Air National Guard participated in a demobilization ceremony at the Riley Training Facility Feb. 25. The members of the 116th Air Control Squadron were deployed to Iraq from September 2008 to February 2009, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, State Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose); Oregon Representative Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach); Warrenorton Mayor, Gilbert Gransom; Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, members of both the Oregon Air and Army National Guard, in addition to family and friends of the returning airmen, attended the event.

Prunk said the airmen were ready when their nation called, and collectively did an excellent job.

“They are an example of what I’m looking for out of the rest of the Oregon Air National Guard. I’m very proud of what they do,” Prunk said. Well 22 F-15 Eagle pilots provided remote radar and communications support to Balad airbase from a region known as Qayyarah, northwest of Baghdad, a five-member team worked directly with the Air Operations Center at Balad airbase. The group was part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group, 727th Air Control Squadron, based in Iraq.

Maj. Keith Townsend, Director of Operations for the 116th ACS, who was the Assistant Director of Operations for the 727th EACS while deployed, said the experience helped his airmen improve their skills for both their state and wartime tasks.

“Anytime Oregon’s airmen can go abroad, it allows us to do our state mission much better,” he said. “But in the AOR (Area of Responsibility), we are challenged in ways we aren’t anywhere else.”

Rees told the gathering that the units’ collective expertise makes them a valuable addition to any deployment.

“There are no apprentices in this organization,” he said. “When they go and participate with the Air Force, the Department of Defense knows they’re going to get top-notch people.”

He also thanked the members of the unit who stayed in Oregon, for their assistance during Force winter storms in December. During the ceremony, the unit was awarded the Iraqi Campaign Medal. The Air Force Expeditionary Service Medal with Ribbon, The Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, and Oregon Faithful Service Ribbon with M Device, for outstanding service in support of Operation Iraq Freedom.

Senior Airmen Rick Lowe, the lowest ranking member in the unit, was presented the Iraqi Campaign Medal by Rees in front of his fellow airmen.

“I encourage other airmen to deploy, now that I’ve been there and I know what goes on,” said Senior Airman Lowe. “It was my first deployment, but it was a good experience, and a great learning opportunity.”

Lowe, who grew up in Florence, Ore., said the operations tempo was pretty high during the first two months the unit was in Iraq.

“We worked seven days a week, 12 hours a day,” he said. “Our annual training is pretty laid back, but it gets a bit more serious, and busy, in a war zone.”

Luke Deployment a ‘Total Success’

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

Klamath Falls, Ore. -- In January and February, the skies above Kingsley Field were filled with more than just the standard roar of the F-15 Eagle. From Jan. 7 through Feb. 25, Six F-16s from the 308th Fighter Squadron were deployed with 76 personnel, from Lake Air Force Base, Ariz., provided adversarial support for the 114th Fighter Squadron’s flight students through dissimilar air combat tactics training (DACT).

The DACT exercise provided an opportunity for both student and instructor pilots to train against a diverse range of combat aircraft with different capabilities and tactics, enhancing the students flying skills.

The 113rd Fighter Wing and the “Emerald Knights” share a similar mission. While Kingsley instructors train the best F-15 pilots in the world, the 308th’s mission is to train the top F-16 pilots. This training gave Eagle and Falcon student pilots a venue to further enhance their skills.

In the time the 308th FS was at Kingsley, they supplied 66 training sorties for pilots with the 114th FS. These additional sorties also allowed six students to graduate during that time. Additionally, the sorties generated by the deployment saved students to graduate during that time. Additionally, the sorties generated by the deployment saved time for the 727th EACS while deployed, said the experience helped his airmen improve their skills for both their state and wartime tasks.

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KINGSLEY from front page

“What many don’t realize is that for all of that metal in the air, there is an entire support structure that enables it: maintenance equipment, computers, vehicles, emergency landing cables, runway sweepers—all-in-all nearly trucks worth of equipment, not to mention all the people, to have been transported to Gowen Field,” he added.

During the deployment the most non-flying support functions, such as the military personnel flight and the finance office, will continue to operate normally. The Idaho deployment is planned to run through the end of November 2009, but Johnson says he expects to finish the deployment before then.

“Thankfully there are a lot of people here with years of expertise in their primary duties as well as in peripheral areas,” said Johnson. “Their job skills and knowledge are directly responsible for getting this accomplished, for taking processes that normally take six months to a year, and truncating them to two or three months.”

National Guard vehicle license plates available

Recognizing Guard members for their service is done in many ways. A patriotic option is to get Oregon National Guard License Plates through the department of motor vehicles. Plates are also available for veterans and can be personalized by choosing any of the five military service branch seals or, to display one of several service-connected or campaign medals that a veteran has earned while serving. Combin- ing a service branch seal with a medal is not allowed.

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

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

For more details on obtaining your plate, visit: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/vehicle/platetv.shmling.

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