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Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

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January 2009

Northwest military leaders meet with incoming NORTHCOM deputy chief

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

Oregon Military Department

Public Affairs Office

PORTLAND, Ore. – The former chief of the National Guard paid a visit to the Oregon Air Guard, Dec. 10-12. Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, incoming Deputy Commander for United States Northern Command, met with five states’ adjutants general at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Dec. 11. He arrived in the region a day earlier, touring facilities and meeting with leaders at the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls. Lt. Gen. Blum’s trip to the northwest was a chance for a handful of states to showcase and discuss emergency response capabilities of the states within the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Region 10, said Col. Donald Bond, Chief of Staff (Army) for the Oregon National Guard. “This opportunity to have the adjutants general collectively meet with General Blum and to discuss the northwest region’s abilities will significantly improve the partnership of these states,” he said. FEMA Region 10 includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Maj. General John Walsh, The Adjutant General, Montana also attended the meeting. The meeting was spearheaded by Oregon’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, in order to give Lt. Gen. Blum a better understanding of the emergency response capabilities of the states within the northwest region, Col. Bond said. “As NORTCOM moves forward with (emergency) exercises, hopefully they can look upon this region as a place to conduct these (events),” Col. Bond continued. Col. John Kent, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, said the visit was also a chance to brief Lt. Gen. Blum on the proposal to bring the F-22 Raptor to the northwest region as part of the “Five Corners” initiative. “It was a great opportunity to have him here,” Col. Kent said. “We want to show him what the state of Oregon offers, and in particular, how the 142nd FW supports [North American Aerospace Defense Command] and USNORTHCOM, and our air sovereignty support mission here.” Lt. Gen. Blum saw first-hand how the Oregon Air Guard employs F-15 Eagle fighter jets to protect skies over the northwest when he visited the Air Sovereignty Alert Facilities at the Portland Air Base. There, he met with crew chiefs, pilots, and 123rd Fighter Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hwang. “I think Lt. Gen. Blum got a real good look at how we cover all the vital areas in the northwest,” Lt. Col. Hwang said. “His itinerary was pretty well packed, so we were honored to have him come out and visit us.” “And if he does have a chance to come back to Oregon, he can count on a ride in one of our F-15s, we’ll show him how it’s done in the Air Force,” Col. Kent said. Lt. Gen. Blum’s previous assignment was Chief of National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., where he was responsible for developing and coordinating policies and programs affecting more than a half-million Air and Army National Guard personnel. He is the first National Guard officer to serve in the role as Deputy Commander of USNORTHCOM.

Air Guard medics reflect on Continuing Promise 2008

Story by Naval Chief Mass Communication Specialist

James G. Pinsky

Continuing Promise Public Affairs

USS KEARSARGE, At Sea – Nine Air National Guard medical technicians from across the United States, including an Oregon Guardsman, traded in their civilian creature comforts for the rigors of a four-month deployment aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), beginning Aug. 6. As their real work began in Nicaragua, the comforts of home seemed less and less important. “Nicaragua left the most lasting impression on me because the people needed the most help, but they also had the most grace and gratitude,” said Staff Sgt. Danae Eskridge, a medical technician assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing Medical Group at Kingsley Field, Ore. “Being on my first ship was quite an experience,” said Senior Airman Alexandria Olson, a medical technician assigned to the 148th Fighter Wing Medical Group in Duluth, Minn. “The quarters were close, and there wasn’t much to do or places to go, but I think we all adjusted after a few days.” Despite the differences, the Guardsmen said they stayed focused on the mission, providing humanitarian assistance. The Guardsmen contributed to the CP medical mission in Nicaragua, and five other Caribbean islands, through a variety of medical care, including de-worming, pharmacy, patient flow, triage, bandage and wound care, and other basic medical care. “Nicaragua really set the benchmark for how things would be for us on this mission,” said Eskridge. “The poverty where we were in Nicaragua was rampant, but people still showed up as well dressed as they could be. It was some of the saddest living conditions I have ever seen, but at the same time they were some of the most gracious people we met on the trip.” On the other end of the medical spectrum, the Guardsmen found Trinidad-Tobago’s people to be the easiest to relate to mostly because everyone there spoke English, but also because their health care needs seemed less dire. In addition to Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago, the CP mission paid scheduled visits to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana, as well as two liberty ports in Puerto Rico and Curacao. The team also answered the call to provide disaster relief assistance to Haiti after it was devastated by Hurricane Ike and several other tropical storms. Throughout the mission, the Guardsmen See Promise on Page 6

U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David D. Crawford
New Year brings challenges, opportunities

Happy New Year! This year will see Oregon's 150th birthday celebration of statehood, Feb. 14, 1859. Our Guard has been part of Oregon history since the provisional government passed its first militia law July 5, 1843. More than 150 years of change has taken place since that time. What hasn't changed is the citizen-soldier who raises their hand willing to serve our state, our nation, and today. We have more than 8,500 guard members who have made this commitment and who serve both here in Oregon as well as around the world. With this, our mission and community leaders need to ensure that our soldiers and airmen as well as their families are ready and equipped whenever called to duty. This includes having full and complete knowledge of all our support programs.

The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team will answer the call later this year. Col. Daniel Hokanson, Commander, 41st IBCT, has been holding town hall meetings at armories across Oregon. The state. This is solely to inform soldiers, their families and local communities of support programs, which are available as well as what can be expected before, during and after their deployment. He has arranged to have representatives from Employment Support of the Guard and Reserve, Career Transition Assistance Program, Tricare, Family Programs, the Oregon National Guard Education and Training and post your answers and provide early planning for Soldiers of the 41st Brigade.

Hokanson is planning to conduct these town hall meetings across the state beginning again in March to provide the most up to date information. When soldiers are supported by their community and families, they are able to fully focus on the task at hand. This is absolutely necessary for readiness, safety and mission accomplishment. Hokanson, along with other Guard leadership, is making this an area priority in order to ensure that airmen and families are ready and equipped when called to duty.

In Oregon, we are fortunate to have many programs which focus on both pre and post- deployment as well as programs for families while guard members are deployed. I encour- age each individual both guard and civilian to inquire about the programs that are available to you and the information on to one another. Although these programs exist to help Guard members and their families, the responsibility falls to the individual to search out the specific assistance needed. If you have not done so already, please visit www.oregvet.org/ or call 1-888-688-2264 for a preliminary guide to what is available for Oregon Soldiers and Airmen.

We have come far in regard to support, but the basics of family and community remain the same just as it was in 1843. Citizen-soldiers stand ready to serve their community and na- tion. We as leaders stand ready to support them when called.

Let's enjoy the opportunity to celebrate Oregon's sesquicentennial, and remember our heritage as we prepare to make our largest deployment since World War II.

Let us also look forward to the challenges of the coming year and all that the Oregon Mili- tary Department will be able to accomplish. Making history every day! Always ready! Always there! Happy New Year!

State Command Chief Smith says farewell

This will be my final article for the Oregon Sentinel. It’s been my honor and privilege to serve as your State Command Chief Master Sergeant. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to represent the best group of men and women to ever wear the uniform for the Air National Guard. As I bring to close my 37-year military career, I want each of you for volunteering to serve our nation, for fighting the Global War on Terror, for protecting our homeland and for continuing to keep the Oregon Air Guard strong and relevant. The State Command Chief Master Ser- geant position is the best job I have ever had in the Guard. I was given this opportunity in June of 2004, it was a chance for me to step up and make a difference for our enlisted force. There were many things that I wanted to accomplish, and at this time there are still many things that I have to do. I was up for a chal- lenging time at but after overcoming many hurdles, it all seems totally worth it. I want to thank all of you, our officers of the Oregon National Guard for stepping up and serving your State and Command. I want to wish you the best. I wish it were possible for me to meet with each of you personally today so I could look you in the eye, shake your hands, express my heartfelt gratitude for your service, and to give you some sense of what you have given me – pride in our state and federal missions and an abiding confidence in our country.

I know you are the best enlisted force in the world. I know this because I have seen many of you elected around our state and personally seen the tremendous feats you have accomplished. Our combat roles started way back with the Desert Storm. You’ve since honed your skills through Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Fallujah, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, among many other challenges. You have taken the fight to the bad guys and defended those whose blood you engaged. As we continue, you must remain resolute, strong and prepared to fight anything anywhere to protect the way of life for those or those of our allies. Our enemies count on us to falter and to fail, however we will not. As Commander of the Oregon National Guard, I have come to know that the strength of our military lies in the hearts of you who serve: your patriotism, your professionalism, your determination to accomplish the mission. Perhaps in 20 years we will look back on your service and say – pride in our state and federal missions and an abiding confidence in our country. I want you in the eyes, shake your hands, express your appreciation – pride in our state and federal missions and an abiding confidence in our country. I want you to know where to turn to for help.

The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, and other interested persons by request, free of charge. Circulation: 12,500. The Oregon Sen- tinel is also distributed electronically, and can be found online at www.oregon.gov/ OMD/OS/015100. Paid advertising is strictly prohibited in the Oregon Sentinel. The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Oregon Military Department or of the United States government. The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard and is not written, edited, or distributed by the Oregon National Guard.

I am currently attending the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course (WOSCC) located at Fort Rucker, Ala. As a Warrant Officer, my courses there are some excellent lessons and some that are difficult to sit through. Of all the course offerings I have enjoyed the most the course called Military Ethics more than any other. Discussing different views from fellow senior warrants is truly an eye opening experience. This portion of the course did not fail to deliver. Listening to Special Ops, Counter Intelli- gence, and Signal or Logistics Warrant share their perceptions on a particular ethical ques- tion was an eye opening experience. Through these discussions I have real- ized that we all have the same goal, but we often take different approaches to meet the same end. These different approaches are not wrong, just different. This course is evenly split between Active, Army Reserve and National Guard senior warrants. The career fields vary between aviation, logistics, military intelligence and food service to name a few.

One of the key benefits to attending professional military education courses like this are the relationships you foster. They are relationships that will help you “get things happen” for your commander. For exam- ple, you may get to know a Kanas Army National Guard admin warrant who is a logistics warrant from the Army Reserve in California who you can call on for future help or ask for advice. The key is, knowing who they are and what they do so when the need arises you know where to turn to for help.

I am a Warrant Officer and a part of the warrant officer career path I’d like to mention, located here at Fort Rucker, is the Warrant Officer Candidate WOC) School. This is the basic course that all warrant officer candidates complete on the road to becoming warrant officers. It is a very demanding job and one that many stop after the first two years. This is one of the first things you notice is the professionalism of these men and women. They are dedicated and working diligently to join, “The Quiet Professionals.” When you walk past them or when they render their sa- lute to all the Soldiers come to attention and yell, “Strength and Honor, Sir!” Their enthusiasm is contagious. They come with or without combat patches but all have in common the technical expertise that will help ensure their commanders are suc- cessful.

It reminds me that these are the young warrant officers that will take the warrant officer corps into the future. It is up to the current senior warrant officer 4s and 5s like me and others to pass the torch. We need to mentor them and recruit more of the same.

Finally, I know in my last article I said that I would be addressing warrant officer deployments but I did adjust fire and take advantage of my surroundings. Stay tuned for more information as the Chief Warrant Officer 5s meet in the next year. I will send the minutes of that meeting to all warrants and discuss my meeting in my next column in February.

Command Chief Warrant Officer stresses ethics, relationships

Command Chief Warrant Officer stresses ethics, relationships

I am very proud of you. You have given of your best and will continue to give your best for our nation. Your love and support throughout my career in the Guard is more than I could ever asked for. I could not have done this without you. To my two sons, Richard and Christopher, thank you both for all the support you have given me throughout my career. To my wife, Christy, you have been my biggest supporter throughout my career in the Oregon Air National Guard. Your love and support means more than I can say. You are the best sons a father could ask for. And to my guard family, I salute you and will miss you all! Command Chief Warrant Officer stresses ethics, relationships
Air Guard commander details vision for leadership

By Jennifer Bailey
Public Affairs Officer
Oregon Emergency Management

Preparing for an emergency in advance makes good business sense. How quickly your company can get back to business after a terrorist attack, earthquake, flood, or fire often depends on the planning done today.

Considering that the number of declared major disasters nearly doubled in the 1990s compared to the previous decade we can expect that it is later. The sooner you can realize that preparedness is an even more critical issue.

Getting your basin up and running quickly not only protects your business investment, but also helps you and your employees and the community.

If businesses are ready to survive and recover, the nation and our economy are more secure. Small businesses alone account for more than 90 percent of all private sector employees and provide nearly 45 percent of the nation’s payroll.

Now that I have your attention, here are some ways to stay in business following a disaster.

Risk Assessment - Know which kind of disasters are most common in the areas where you operate and plan for both man-made and natural disasters.

Go to www.ready.gov to learn what to do during a biological, chemical, physical, or nuclear attack. The days of status quo are gone. The era of entitlement is over. The era of necessity is the opportunity to give full measure in the process.

If you have employees, some passengers on deck simply stopped moving. This is a common problem in disasters. Planning your escape route can train people to override this instinct.

Fire drills, particularly if they are mandatory and unexpected, can dramatically reduce fear. Just knowing where the stairs are gives your brain an advantage. The rituals we consider an utter waste of time actually give our brains blueprints in the event that we need them.

9/11 survivor Bill McMahon, a Morgan Stanley executive said “Knowing where to go was the most important thing. Because your brain at least mine – just shut down. That happens, you need to know what to do next. One thing you don’t ever want to do is to think in a disaster.”

Make a Plan, Get a Kit, Be Informed and go to www.ready.gov for more information on businesses in disasters.

An investment in planning today will not only help protect your business investment and your livelihood, but will also support your employees, customers and stakeholders, the community, the local economy and even the country. Get ready now.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Independent Police Chief thanks guard for support in rescue

Late in the afternoon of November 16, two young men were grabbed from Riverview Park in the City of Independence while they were fishing. During that search effort it became clear that we could not search an extended stretch of the river by boat alone. We then asked for and received a search by air from your unit. I could not speak more highly of the way your agency helped in this effort. Your helicopter was able to search the river between Independence and Salem, while the boats worked on concentrated searches close to the park. I want to extend our appreciation for your significant help in this search operation.

Your helicopters provide a search capability that is simply not available from local police agencies. We could not have completed the search as quickly as we did, had we not had your air support. I have heard nothing but high praise for your agency throughout our community.

Again, thank you and your entire organization for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Vernon T. Wells
Independent Chief of Police

Preparation for emergency in advance makes good business sense. How quickly your company can get back to business after a terrorist attack, earthquake, flood, or fire often depends on the planning done today.

Among the many roles of leadership in an organization, one fundamental role is paramount: direction. Setting direction, whether at the tactical or strategic level, is key to ensuring the effectiveness of the group in achieving its objectives. To translate this direction to the individuals on the team is through expectations. I want to share with you my expectations that I have laid out for each of my senior leadership teams.

We are the leadership and as such we must demonstrate our Core Values, set the example.

Integrity, Service and Excellence: these are the core values we all subscribe to. For those of us in a leadership position, it becomes doubly important to know them, live them and instill them in all of our Airmen.

Meet your commitments: what, when, where.

Commitment is a cornerstone of any military organization. Whether communicating someone’s pay, completing a Maintenance TCTO on time or ensuring your airplane meets an assigned TOT, commitment to the task at hand is crucial to success.

Develop your people – they are what got you to this place today, mentor and lead them.

Each of us was hired into the Air National Guard because of our skills, abilities and potential to be successful Airmen. Successful Airmen translate into success in the organization. Everyone deserves to be led, to be mentored and to be given the opportunity to give full measure in contributing to the success of the team as a whole.

Communicate regularly and frequently; nurture relationships locally and nationally. The days of ‘shooting from the hip’ are gone.

The time of entitlement is over. The era of ‘telling’ people what direction we are going whenever possible. Rather, engage them in the dialogue, get their ideas, share the results and the plan. Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

Decorum, military customs, it’s who we are; part of our fabric – demand it and demonstrate it.

We are a military organization. Let’s ensure we demonstrate that every day we put on the uniform. Senior leadership at a regional level has and will continue to visit our state. Let’s show them just how professional we are.

The Oregon Air National Guard has a proud and envious history, punctuated by the stellar accomplishments of its people.

Every day, with every decision you make, every action you take, everyone you associate with, display the level of excellence and professionalism that has been our hallmark for over 60 years.

Compliment and to maintain good order and discipline. We’re in a dynamic, lean environment; it requires a new vision and fresh thinking.

Never before has there been such consistent change of such magnitude within the Air Force and the Air National Guard. New missions, declining weapons systems, tightening budgets all point to a requirement for fresh, visionary thinking.

ORANG has a legacy of excellence, keep it going!

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"The ability to evacuate work- ers, customers and visitors effectively can save lives. Many people are paralyzed by fear during an emergen- cy. When the Estonia sank in the Baltic Sea, killing 582 people, some passengers on deck simply stopped moving – a common problem in disasters. Planning your escape route can train people to override this instinct. Fire drills, particularly if they are mandatory and unexpected, can dramatically reduce fear. Just knowing where the stairs are gives your brain an advantage. The rituals we consider an utter waste of time actually give our brains blueprints in the event that we need them.

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...the number of declared major disasters nearly doubled in the 1990s.

— Jennifer Bailey, OEM

JANUARY 2009 Page 3
Oregon Guard celebrates National Guard birthday, community support agreement and Soldier homecoming

Legal: providing assistance to Guard and their families

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (OSJA) is committed to providing legal assistance to Oregon National Guard members and their families. The OSJA provides service members with basic estate planning services. This includes wills, powers of attorney, and advanced directives.

A will allows a service member to appoint a person to handle their affairs in the event they are either unavailable or unable to do so. The designee is authorized to access the service member’s bank accounts, credit, and can conduct financial transactions as if they were the service member. An advanced directive tells the service member’s doctor what kind of treatment they would like if unable to make medical decisions. An advanced directive helps avoid the emotional and financial strain that occurs when family members disagree on the course of medical treatment for a service member unable to communicate medical decisions. Service members should review their estate planning documents every five years or in the event of significant life changes that determine whether modifications are necessary.

Basic estate planning services are extended to both service members and their spouses. An appointment with a legal assistance attorney can be scheduled by contacting the OSJA offices at (503) 584-3571. ILT Michael T. Davis is currently serving as the Legal Assistance Attorney at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law.

State Defense Force: Training Year 2008 in Review

The Oregon State Defense Force (OSDF) augments the Oregon National Guard and provides emergency management liaison assistance and back up communication to the Oregon Military Department. During the wind storm and floods in December 2007, the OSDF personnel were at the Clatsop and Columbia County Emergency Operations Centers (EOC). These OSDF members promptly reported and provided a much needed link between the Joint Operations Center (JOC) and the Office of Emergency Management in Salem and the county EOCs. In the JOC After-Action Review, Brig. Gen. Michael Caldwell highlighted the lessons learned in the TOPOFF 4 exercise that took place in October 2007. TOPOFF is a training ground for OSDF members to learn and execute their mission. This real state emergency tested the operational readiness and the effectiveness of the OSDF.

In May, several OSDF liaisons participated as observers in a National Level Exercise called CSEPP, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. These individuals were able to see the National Guard work with Army personnel and state agencies.

The Semi-Annual Training for the OSDF took place at Camp Rilea from 16-18 May. Some 65 OSDF members participated in this event. Training included self defense, message handling and operations procedures, and ham license training. Pictures from this training can be found on the OSDF website – www.osdf.org. Personnel from the OSDF meet once a month to discuss current situations and communication skills as shown on the Regiments Group’s Yearly Training Calendar. This enables members to become proficient as liaisons or radio operators. OSDF members are volunteers who give of their time to contribute to their State, especially during emergency situations. In 2008, these men and women donated some 11,000 hours of service to the State of Oregon.
National Guard to help with security at inauguration

Story by
Army Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. – More than 4,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from at least eight states will provide security, medical and other support during the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration, a National Guard official said Thursday.

“We will be there to fill the gaps and help out the first responders,” said Maj. Kenneth Napier, deputy director of the Deliberate Operations Branch for the National Guard Bureau.

About half of the 4,000 will be dedicated to security, including crowd control, civil disturbance missions, manning traffic control points and assisting with the screening process.

“The states are planning and ready to support,” Napier said. “Making sure that everyone is safe is the priority.”

Gen. Gene Renuart, the commander of U.S. Northern Command, told reporters Dec. 17 that another contingent on alert would be able to respond to a chemical attack.

In addition to marching units, bands and other ceremonial support, the National Guard will provide communication, medical evacuation and explosive ordinance disposal assets.

“Whether they’re doing crowd control or providing that quick reaction for a medical evacuation and explosive ordnance disposal task, they’re there to make sure we have the right resources on the ground,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe Jr., the commanding general of the Military District of Washington.

“Security is the top priority,” Rowe said.

While the National Guard is known for its support missions during natural disasters, such as hurricanes, the inauguration is a rare event requiring the Guard’s full mobilization to ensure security.

“The amount of security that’s been requested in terms of the number of units, the number of people, the number of tasks requested, is unprecedented,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth Bogde, the deputy commanding officer of the National Guard Bureau.

As of Dec. 17, the Guard had activated more than 4,000 members to support the inauguration, including more than 200 active-duty personnel, said Napier.

“These deployments occurred, for child care on the (military) installations, were initially designed for deploying military to plan for the possibility of someone trying to interrupt the inauguration. And how well we respond will be defined by how well we trained,” Napier said.

Earlier this year, the National Guard provided similar support to the Democratic and Republican national conventions, but only about 1,500 troops were involved in each of those missions.

“The size and scope of this mission is much bigger. I can’t think of anything that we’ve done other than natural disasters that would be comparable to this operation,” Napier said.

Guard families eligible for child care subsidy

Story by
Army Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau
Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. – For National Guard members about to deploy there is help to assist spouses and family members with the costs of child care during deployment through the Guard’s Child Care Subsidy Program.

The program, which has been around for about five years, grew out of a program initially designed for deploying active-duty personnel, said Mike Conner, chief of program services for the National Guard Bureau’s Family Program office.

“There was an increased need for child care on the (military) installation,” said Conner. “When the deployments occurred, the day-care centers on the installations were already at the peak. This made it even higher and the stress just increased.”

As a result, changes were made to allow those on active duty to receive a subsidy to use off-post child care, added Conner. Guard and Reserve members were later made eligible as long as they were in Title 10 status.

“If you are deployed in Title 10 status and your spouse is either working or in school full time you are eligible for a child care subsidy,” said Conner.

Recently, those on Title 32 active Guard Reserve orders were also added to the eligibility list.

The subsidy program is coordinated through the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which approves applications and determines the amount paid as part of the subsidy.

Though Guardmembers of all ranks may take part in the program, the amount of the subsidy is based on a variety of factors, rank not being one of them.

“There are a number of things taken into consideration,” said Dr. Kathryn Goedde, the program manager. “They look at total family income, they look at the number of children, they look at the type of child care needed. For instance, full-time care for an infant is going to be way more expensive than after-school care.”

The amount paid as part of the subsidy will depend on the family’s income and the number of children.

“For example, for an elementary-aged child, they could receive $100 per child per month,” said Goedde.

Some of them are Guardsmen, some of them are Guard spouses, so they know what you’re going through. Once the call center is contacted, those at the call center fill out the application and all the paperwork for the Guardmember and submit it to NACRA for approval.

“We do the application for the (Guardmember), so they’re not required to figure anything out,” said Goedde. “We take them step-by-step. We then follow up with their provider and we fill out the provider application as well.”

To date, more than 1,100 Guardmembers have taken advantage of the program, said Conner.

For more information on the program visit the National Guard Family Program’s Web site at www.guardfamily.org or call 1-888-642-2799.


Guard families eligible for child care subsidy

National Guard members and re-entrants from the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, which represents the all-black regiment that fought in the Civil War and was memorialized in the movie “Glory,” has been invited to march in the parade. President-elect Barack Obama said in a statement Dec. 8. “These organizations embody the best of our nation’s history, diversity and commitment to service. Vice President-elect Biden and I are proud to have them join us in the parade.”

The D.C. National Guard’s efforts will be larger this time because of the expected crowds.

“We will be involved in almost every facet of the operation,” said Officer Candidate Robert Albrecht, a spokesman for the D.C. Guard.

In addition to the missions already mentioned, the 113th Wing at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. will lead the air sovereignty effort through North American Aerospace Defense Command, known as NORAD.

The D.C. Guard participated in a media event Thursday with the Military District of Washington as well as the U.S. Park Police and other D.C. area agencies involved in planning for the inauguration.

Renuart told reporters that it is “prudent” for the military to plan for the possibility of someone trying to interrupt the inauguration.

“So even if you can’t provide all your information, they’re going to issue $100 per month per child. Once you provide all your information then that may go up.”

— Dr. Kathryn Goedde

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD POST DEPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Reintegration Program

The Oregon National Guard wants to see you succeed, and it’s ready to help with employment, health care, college, or other matters.

Call toll-free: 1-888-642-2799. 24-hours, 7-days per week.

For more information visit the National Guard Family Program’s Web site at www.guardfamily.org or call 1-888-642-2799.

Oregon National Guard
Public Affairs

For more information on the Oregon National Guard, please visit www.orng-vet.org or call 1-800-828-8801.

Military District of Washington Commander Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe Jr. briefs at a kaleidoscope exercise at the D.C. National Guard Armory Dec. 18. The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee exercise involved the National Guard and a variety of local, state and federal agencies, sitting out details for the inauguration.

National Guard Bureau
Public Affairs

“Because we’ve moved away from a focus on the active-duty personnel, said Conner. “And though Guardmembers of all ranks may take part in the program, the amount of the subsidy is based on a variety of factors, rank not being one of them.”

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“[There are] a number of things taken into consideration,” said Dr. Kathryn Goedde, the program manager. “They look at total family income, they look at the number of children, they look at the type of child care needed. For instance, full-time care for an infant is going to be way more expensive than after-school care.”

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Incoming NORTHCOM deputy chief continues visit at Kingsley Field

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

Klamath Falls, Ore. – Lieutenant General H Steven Blum who transitioned from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the Deputy Commander at U.S. Northern Command toured the 173rd Fighter Wing and met with base and city leadership during a visit Dec. 10 - 11, 2008.

It’s not often we have the first National Guard officer to serve as a Deputy Combatant Commander at United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) to Kingslie Field, so we are very fortunate,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Fuentes, Deputy Adjutant General, Oregon. “He’s been instrumental in bringing the Guard new recognition and status and that’s one reason why he was chosen for the [NORTHCOM] position.”

It’s an appointment that charts a new ground for a National Guard officer.

“In January, Steve [Blum] will become the first Guard officer to become a deputy combatant commander when he assumes his new post at Northern Command - an organization he knows well, having previously served as NORTHCOM’s chief of staff,” said Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said in an award ceremony for Blum, Nov. 17, 2008.

“In my first few months, I have been strongly impressed with the professionalism and exacting standards this unit maintains in order to produce the best trained F-15C fighter pilots for the combat air force,” Miller said. “Our nation demands the best and that is exactly what we provide here at Kingsley.”

Blum responded by communicating his observations of the wing and its mission in a letter following his departure.

“I appreciate your hospitality but more importantly the mission that your Airmen execute everyday,” said Blum. “You command a professional group and have built a great team. Keep up the good work and continue to hold your standards to a high, exacting standard. Our nation needs its best.”

Promising from front page

worked with a variety of medical professionals from the United States Public Health Service, Public Health Nursing, Oregon State University’s OR-SMILE, host country medical personnel, international military medical services from France, Netherlands, Canada and Brazil. All of the Air Force people I deal with have had great attitudes,” said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Matta Weatherby. “People like Senior Airman Olson jumped right in with medical surgery screenings, and Tech. Sgt. Rankin was always helping us out medical or not!”

For some of the Guardsmen it was the first time they got to gauge the differences between the Navy and the Air Force. After getting to know each other and figuring out everyone’s strengths, the Air Force and Navy combatant command combined to become one unified team.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Danae Eskridge gives a Vietnamese girl medicine at Juan Comensal High School in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, Aug. 13. Eskridge supported Continuing Promise 2008, an equal-partnership mission between the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Brazil, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. (Photo courtesy, U.S. Navy)

For questions regarding NOMINATION SEASON continues for 2009 ESGR, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense agency, is continuing the nomination season for the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. National Guard and Reserve members and their families are encouraged to nominate employers who have gone above and beyond in their support of military employees. Nominations will be accepted at www.FreedomAward.mil until Jan. 19, 2009. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The 2009 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. at the 14th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony Sept. 17, 2009. Recipients of the 2008 Freedom Award met with President George W. Bush and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in April.

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Dr. David Chu presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress and senior government and military leaders.

Almost one-half of the U.S. military is comprised of members of the National Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these civic missions with their civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) to recognize exceptional support from the employer community.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at 703-889-4777.
**TSGLI expands benefits for traumatologically injured**

**Army News Service**

WASHINGTON — More troops may now qualify for benefits under Traumatic Service Member Group Life Insurance because of newly expanded coverage following a review by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The review was initiated to find whether additional injuries/losses should be covered, whether the program was operating effectively, and whether other improvements could be made that would allow more servicemembers to benefit from TSGLI, officials said. Though the review’s findings, the TSGLI Schedule on page 1, were not released, additions to the schedule were added, including uniplegia, limb salvage, facial reconstruction, and a 15-day hospital stay.

"The TSGLI benefit expansion helps us further the mission and spirit of the program - help traumatically injured servicemembers at their greatest time of need," said Col. John F. Sackett, chief of the Army’s TSGLI Branch at HRC. "As stated by our prior chief of staff, Gen. Peter Chiarelli, service is the ultimate tool. With these changes we can offer assistance to even more men and women who have so bravely served our country." Servicemembers that have already submitted a claim in the past do not need to resubmit, Sackett said. He said the VA and TSGLI offices for each service will conduct a reachback of previously denied claims to see if they qualify under the new guidelines. Notifications will be sent to the servicemember if an additional award is due.

TSGLI is a Congressionally-mandated program that applies to members of all branches of service and all components—Active, Guard, and Reserve, who incur a traumatic, physical injury based on an external force of violence. TSGLI provides tax-free payments between $25,000 and $100,000 per traumatic event, which may be used to help with unspent expenses or provide a financial start after life on cover.

The TSGLI program began on Dec. 1, 2005, as a non-option selection attached to Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance, known as SGLI. All servicemembers from that point forward who elected SGLI benefits paid $1 toward this coverage each month. In addition, servicemembers who incurred a qualifying traumatic injury from Oct. 7, 2001 through Nov. 30, 2005 while on orders outside the United States in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, or serving in a Combat Zone or Expeditionary Area, were covered by TSGLI regardless of whether they elected SGLI coverage or not.

**National Guard pioneers long-term tracking of blast exposures**

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

**CAMP VICTORY, Iraq** — A new National Guard tool could improve the way servicemembers receive treatment for blast injuries, according to a Guard participant in the test.

"I've been around a lot of battle situations and explosions," said Warrant Officer 1 Weigl here to improve Guard Members' awareness of blast injuries from improvised explosive devices, indirect or mortar fire and even from training accidents. By tracking, we can link the servicemembers, especially National Guard and reserve component servicemembers. That's because demobilized National Guard members back in their communities might not have the same local access to medical care as their active duty counterparts to medical military facilities where care providers are familiar with blast-related issues.

"Documenting this information service members should be made aware they are development," said Warrant Officer 1 Weigl. "Having the documentation available to care providers will give the them the opportunity to treat the issues. Many soldiers don't know how many times they were exposed."

The database also could help with future line of duty (LOD) investigations, Weigl said. According to Army Regulation 26-1, LOD investigation can occur after a Soldier suffers from disease or injury. It helps determine pay and allowance entitlements; accrual of service and leave time, and disability retirement. A Soldier may be due benefits if the final determination is LOD and not their misconduct. LOD investigation will allow us to create a line of duty down the road, if we need to, said Warrant Officer 1 Weigl. LOD investigation currently, servicemembers involved in an IED detonation or similar event are required to receive a mild acute concussive evaluation, or MACE. "If we don't have a way to document the fatalities for Soldiers to go and get a MACE," Weigl said. "We don't want it to be treated and evaluated after incidents."

The database might actually help improve medical care for blast injuries, and similar events, which can be captured so we can link servicemembers, commanders, medical personnel, researchers or historians. Units and individuals can receive reports, and previously deployed units can add past exposure information.

The database offers historical data that might help track blast injuries and other research, as well as long-term impacts to servicemembers of exposure to blasts and contaminants, offering information such as who was in an impact area and how close. Weigl said. "Simple, accessible."

The new blast database was deployed here last week. "We're not trying to put an extra burden on a unit administrator that's already burdened," Weigl said. "The administrator types in the data."

According to Army National Guard Lt. Col. Hunt Kerrigan, Alaska Guard spokesman. "We host reporters and distinguished visitors here from all over the world … cut-edge technology of missile defense, its gates to show the world that the "cutting-edge technology" of missile defense is in operation and under the "capable and skilled hands of National Guard Soldiers."
Oregon Air Guard receives accolades during promotion of deputy IG to rank of major general

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

WASHINGTON - A 13-year member of the Oregon Air National Guard was promoted to major general during a ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Dec. 8, 2008.

Maj. Gen. Gary C. Dean, who works with the Air Force Inspector General’s office at the Pentagon since February 2008, drew accolades from his colleagues and supervisors during the morning ceremony.

“Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Craig McKinley (center) addresses a briefing on mobile communications systems from Sgt. Bernard Fuller of the Oregon Army National Guard during a visit to the Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine, Fla., Dec. 2.”

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – the National Guard is relevant and will continue to be relevant under the new administration, said the guard’s senior officer, Dec. 2.

During a visit to Florida, Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, newly promoted chief of the National Guard Bureau, spoke to reporters from Florida Times-Union about the future relevance of the National Guard and whether ongoing overseas missions have strained the Guard’s capabilities.

McKinley, the first four-star general to hold the National Guard’s top position, credited the nearly 468,000 members of the National Guard with keeping the force relevant, especially over the past eight years of increased operations.

“You have to give credit to the men and women of the National Guard at a significant point in our history where the National Guard has been used so effectively and efficiently by our services,” McKinley said.

“I think that is critical to the mission of the National Guard - both Army and Air - are heavily involved in our overseas operations, but because of Sept. 11, 2001, defense of our homeland became very important for us. That is our main reason for being; we protect our homeland, we protect our communities, we work for our governors and our nation needs us,” McKinley said. “The general said that although the Guard has experienced an exceptional number of diverse missions over the past eight years - including overseas deployments and disaster relief at home - he does not feel the organization is over-extended. "My experience tells me Soldiers and Airmen like to be busy, they like to use the skills and the hardware that we’ve been given by the taxpayer and we like to be fully utilized," he explained. "Do I see a situation developing where we are overusing the Guard? I don’t." Gen. McKinley again credited the Guardsmen with making the National Guard a "highly efficient, community-based defense force."

“It’s always been that way, but when you have the conditions that this world-situation presents us with, it’s a time for our people to really stand out and do what they’ve been taught to do, what they’re motivated to do,” he continued. "As chief of the National Guard Bureau, I will say that the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard exemplify what true patriots are." McKinley was in Florida for the Region III Adjutants General conference, and during his visit he stopped here at the Florida National Guard’s Joint Operations Center on Dec. 2 for a briefing on the state’s emergency operations capabilities.

A Florida National Guard member, McKinley has previously served as director of the Air National Guard, and was sworn in by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates as the 26th chief of the National Guard in November.

New gate, memorial honors Kingsley’s namesake

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

Klamath Falls, Ore. – in a ceremony Dec. 16, 2008, the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field opened its new main gate and dedicated a memorial to the Medal of Honor recipient man the base is named after.

Oregon’s senior United States Senator Ron Wyden, and Col. James Miller, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander unveiled the new entrance marker which signaled the completion of the entire project.

During the ceremony, Wyden honored the sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. David R. Kingsley.

It is especially fitting that we honor David Kingsley today, he is a native son of Oregon - of Klamath Falls - ultimate sacrifice,” Wyden said.

Wyden also said he supports expanding the mission of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

“I want you to know on my watch as long as I have the honor to represent you in the United States Senate we are going to expand the mission here at Kingsley. We are looking forward to the future.”

The 173rd Civil Engineers designed the memorial, which displays a section of Lt. Kingsley’s B-17 bomber which was recovered in Bulgaria, where the plane was shot down during World War II.

In 2006, Bulgarian officials returned a piece of the aircraft to Kingsley Field and today that piece is in the central focus of the memorial. As Guardsmen and visitors enter and exit the base they will see the memorial, which sits just inside the new main gate.

The memorial features benches and bronze plaques commemorating the history of Kingsley Field, and serves as a sister memorial to one constructed in Bulgaria in 2005.

This one-year project provides the base with a new road, Kingsley Way, a guard house, a new motorized front gate lighting, traffic control bollards, sidewalks, landscaping, and sate-of-the-art security system.

“This shift will alleviate congestion on Airport Way during our peak traffic hours, which can cause backed up traffic on to Joe Wright Road,” said Miller. “Additionally the gate adds heightened security for our base personnel.”

The new gate is open 24 hours daily and it is located at the far west side of the base off Airport Way. The gate previously used is now closed.

The new entrance is the first phase of a three phase project. Phase two and three will include the construction of an $18 million joint Armed Forces Readiness Center. This facility will house the Air National Guard, 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, and the Army National Guard, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry. Phases two and three will be funded and scheduled.