The Oregon National Guard hosted a ceremony commemorating the construction of a new facility at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., May 29. The 41st Infantry Armed Forces Reserve Center, with a projected cost of more than $74 million, will be the largest facility built by the Oregon National Guard. The project will generate much needed jobs at a time when the state’s unemployment numbers hover just over 12 percent. Planners say the project will create more than 800 direct construction as well as an additional 525 indirect jobs. “This will give us 1,300 jobs,” said Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski. “We’re putting people to work right now.”

Kulongoski also highlighted the new building as a positive outcome to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, which in 2005, threatened to close the Oregon Air National Guard’s Portland Air Base. “We need to thank the federal government, and especially Senator Ron Wyden for their work, because this is one of the good things to come out of BRAC,” the governor said.

Majority of the cost for the project is funded through the federal government, with $51 million coming from the National Guard. This includes $1.3 million in stimulus funds for storm water management and $21 million from the U.S. Army Reserve. The State of Oregon will contribute another $2.9 million.

“Every member has a number of reasons for wanting to serve,” he said while standing next to a light-armored vehicle (LAV). “Events like this help youngsters develop a sense of duty, loyalty and dedication.”

SALEM, Ore. -- The Oregon National Guard celebrated Armed Forces Day at the State Capitol Mall on May 13 with a ceremony, a roar of fighter planes and a 21-gun cannon salute.

The annual celebration gives Oregonians an opportunity to see the Oregon Guard’s capabilities and introduces them to the agencies that support the state and work with federal partners.

During the ceremony, Gov. Ted Kulongoski thanked Oregonians in uniform for their contributions and sacrifice. A highlight of the event was a flyover by four Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles from the 142nd Fighter Wing that broke through the clouds and flew in tight formation over the assembled crowd.

As a tribute to those in uniform, soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery, fired three 105mm Howitzer cannons, filling the Capitol Mall with smoke. Passersby paused to watch, as a thunderous echo reverberated off the buildings in the mall.

Oregon Guard soldiers and airmen were on hand to answer questions about the equipment they use and the jobs they perform. A steady rain forced Guard members and attendees to retreat under tents and canopies where displays and booths promoting different groups within the Guard were featured.

The 24-year member of Oregon’s Army Guard, Marines said the goal of Armed Forces Day is to not just promote the Guard, but to also help the public understand the benefit Guard members bring to their communities.

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Kevin Maries, Logistics NCO for the Counterdrug Support Program, said the event is a chance for young people to explore opportunities offered by the country’s military services.

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

Withycombe to get new Armed Forces Readiness center

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The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Army and Air National Guard, and other interested persons by request, free of charge.

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New Witcymore facility a tribute to 41 IBCT’s past, present, future

As the Command Chief of the 142nd Fighter Wing, I am concerned about the health of every airman in the Oregon National Guard. And if each airman would only focus on habits to improve their health, then none of them would have to worry about passing their fitness test. The test would take care of itself.

Let me explain more fully why this is the case. At the Senior Enlisted Leaders Summit that I recently attended in Alabama, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, recommended one book for the audience to read. The book is entitled “Younger Next Year” and is written by Dr. Randy Smith and Dr. Michael Smith. The authors, former Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, and Dr. Michael Smith, recommend in their columns to adopt habits to improve one’s health and performance. And if each airman would adopt habits to improve their health, then none of them would have to worry about passing their fitness test.

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State budget: Funding bill saves Oregon National Guard armories, Youth Challenge

Story by Kim L. Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore.--In what the Deputy Director of the Oregon Military Department calls the tightest legislative session he’s ever been through, the budget for the Oregon Military Department is expected to pass without feared armory closures. “We’ve been able to work with the Oregon State Legislature to prevent the closures from happening, but all of this is predicated on revenue estimates that some consider rosy,” said Brig. Gen. Mke Caldwell.

The current budget for the Oregon Military Department includes 14 percent below the base budget passed two years ago. The department was able to avoid more significant cuts after the Oregon State Legislature passed legislation that increases tax revenue by raising corporate taxes and additional taxes on those making $150,000 a year.

At one point, the Oregon State Legislature asked the department to come up with a 30-percent reduction proposal. Under that proposal, the Oregon National Guard could have closed as many as five armories and shut down the Oregon Youth Challenge program.

The cuts would have also severed the State Legislature to prevent the closures from happening, but all of this is predicated on revenue estimates that some consider rosy,” said Caldwell. Under the current deal Caldwell said the Oregon Youth Challenge program will remain in place and funding for the Oregon National Guard Reintegration program is secure.

Caldwell praised those successes but quickly added that in any legislative session, things can change in an instant—a reality even more evident with the state of the economy this year.

“We are still trying to pick up additional resources and we don’t know what the outcome will be,” said Caldwell. The final legislative vote on the Oregon Military Department budget should come by the end of the month. We will have a complete synopsis of all the legislation impacting Oregon veterans and an update on the budget in the Summer issue of the Oregon Sentinel.

Programs:

The Oregon National Guard’s Coos Bay Armory, which is currently undergoing an upgrade, was one of the facilities slated to close if the current legislative funding budget did not pass. Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Department.

“Much of the decision making came from legislators hearing the voices of support for keeping the armories open for the troops and their families,” said Caldwell.

Homefront Heroes kicks off new kids program in Salem

Story by Kim L. Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore.--Military spouses and kids came together for a day of activities under sunny skies at North Salem High School Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the first ever Homefront Heroes event, kids climbed an artificial rock wall, toured an OH-58 Helicopter, played video games like Guitar Hero, and even did arts and crafts.

“I just made a bracelet with my name on it,” said 7 year old Jade Sparks. Sparks’ stepmother, Tamara Sparks said her son’s name was wax and J.J. needed a robe. “She’s been talking about it all week,” said Sparks. “I thought it was important for her to know that there are other kids experiencing the same thing she is. We haven’t had much contact with other military families so this is a big support for her and me.”

Laura Conley, spouse of Oregon National Guard 1st Sgt. Trent Grim, said one of the rewarding parts of the day was seeing the bonds being formed. “Being around kids is the best part, hopefully this will help them get through a tough time,” he added.

The event was made possible with support from various community organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, Salem Police and Fire Departments, Salem Public Library, Salem Public Schools, North Salem High School Army Junior ROTC, Oregon State Police, American Red Cross, Operations Military Kids and the Association of the United States Army.

With the 41st Brigade Combat Team deploying to Iraq, and two other Oregon Guard aviation units already there, thousands of military kids in Oregon will be without a parent this summer. Conley plans on doing another Homefront Heroes event in the Portland area this August.

Emergency Relief Fund seeks donations

The Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund is seeking donations which provide cash aid for Oregon National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their Families.

The program is designed for soldiers and airmen of the Oregon National Guard and their immediate family members (spouse, surviving spouse, child, or stepchild) who are in need of emergency financial assistance.

The fund is tax-exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Although sponsored by the Oregon National Guard, the Emergency Relief Fund receives no direct funding from the government.

Checks should be made payable to Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (or simply the letters “ORNGERF”). The online donation form can be found at: www.oregon.gov/OMD/ORN_GEmergency_Relief_Fund.shtml.

Contributions should be mailed to: Oregon Military Department, Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund, Attn: DCSPER, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309-5047 or via phone at: 503-584-3989 or 503-584-3939.

COMMENDATORY

Dear General Rees,

I want to thank you for your leadership and service to the Guardsmen of Oregon during one of the most challenging and dynamic periods in the Guard’s 372-year history. It has been a privilege to serve with you during my three years with the Army, and I thank you and your fellow Adjutants General for honoring me with the iconic “Concord Minuteman.” That is something I will treasure always.

During these challenging times, you and your Guardsmen have been called upon to make many personal sacrifices to ensure the safety of our families and the continued readiness of our homeland contingencies. You and your men and women have met these challenges with determination and professionalism. Please pass along my thanks to your Guardsman for all they do for our Nation. Our country needs them at home and abroad and they are greatly appreciated by the American people.

Thank you for all you do to help keep our military strong. Best regards.

Sincerely,
Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Azuwur coming back to the Sentinel!

The Oregon Sentinel is bringing back the Azuwur!

Starting in the summer issue, a new section will be devoted to issues important to our retirees and veterans. It will be called the “Azuwur” as a tribute to the Oregon Sentinel’s predecessor, and to the many citizen-soldiers and airmen who have sacrificed so much for the state of Oregon and our nation.
**Wyden: $75 M construction project a ‘positive outcome’ to BRAC**

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“This building is a brick and mortar representation of what the National Guard is all about,” he added.

The facility is dedicated to the memory of the 41 Infantry Division and its soldiers—a unit which gained recognition for their sacrifice and service during WWII. Retired 41st Division member, and WWII veteran, Leland “Bud” Lewis, who trained at Withycombe for driver’s school in the early part of WWII, said the building will carry on the memory of his unit long after the members are gone.

“Sometimes it’s hard to see something you remember a certain way go into history,” Lewis said about his old unit. “But this building will honor the division forever. I’m very proud and privileged to be a part of this.”

Kalungoski said while he was happy to see all the planning and hard work come to fruition, he was saddened that to see all the planning and hard work forever. “I’m very proud and privileged to see all the planning and hard work forever. I’m very proud and privileged to be a part of this.”

Indeed, almost 2,600 Oregon soldiers are currently training at Fort Stewart, Ga., prior to a one-year deployment in Iraq.

When complete, the nearly 250,000 square-foot facility will be home to more than 1,300 Oregon Army National Guard soldiers and the United States Army Reserve.

The Governor said partnerships between the National Guard and other organizations are increasingly important. He cited the new armory in Eugene, which is shared by Reserve units and the Marine Corps.

“I think it’s a great way to bring the Reserve and National Guard together,” he said. “It’s an investment in the readiness for both organizations.”

Barrentine Bates Lee, of Lake Oswego, Ore., began the design work on March 24. Construction of the facility has been contracted with Hoffman Construction Co., of Portland, Ore., and is scheduled to be completed Aug. 1, 2011.

**ROTC cadets play integral role in Armed Forces Day event at state capitol**

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE**

Two Air Guard air traffic control specialists from the 116th ACS at Camp Rilea and the 270th ATCS from Klamath Falls, traveled a long distance to support the day’s activities. The 125th Special Tactics Squadron, based at the Portland Air National Guard Base, displayed their combat controller equipment, including their dive recovery boat, while the Counterdrug Support Program, and vehicle tactical commander, said the 24-ton LAV acts as a ‘force-multiplicator,’ providing law enforcement with a very effective visual deterrent to high-risk individuals. While it looks like a tank, it’s strictly a defensive vehicle, he said.

“It’s there to provide protection and support to law enforcement,” Sewell said. “But then again, it’s very intimidating. You know it’s going to be a bad day when this vehicle shows up on your property.”

Sewell said there have been instances where dangerous suspects have simply given up as soon as the LAV moves onto their property, even with the SWAT members still inside.

Team Leader Sgt. Mike Johnson, a 16-year member of the Salem Police Department, said the ability for Oregon soldiers and airmen to train alongside local law enforcement officials is important to officers’ safety.

“If we didn’t have access to this equipment, we would be putting a lot of our guys at risk,” Johnson said. “Moreover, the ongoing training has built a solid relationship between the agencies, because training time is so valuable, every minute counts. “We understand each other’s training regimen, so there’s very little down-time,” Johnson said. “Because we train together on a habitual basis, (the Guard) knows exactly what we need to accomplish.”

The all-weather, all-terrain vehicles, were delivered to Oregon in 1996 at a cost of $630,000 each. The two LAVs and have been used in over 200 law enforcement-related missions. The vehicle can carry up to eight occupants, in addition to a driver and a tactical commander, or “TC.”

**Oregon National Guard Counterdrug team completes inter-agency training**

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

**CAMP RILEA, Ore.,** -- Members of the Oregon National Guard’s Counterdrug Support Program and the Salem Police’s SWAT team trained at the Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, May 5, in what organizers have called a successful inter-agency training event.

Oregon Guard members trained alongside Salem’s tactical police unit, using the Oregon National Guard’s two Light-Armored Vehicles, or LAVs.

While Oregon soldiers and airmen went through initial and refresher vehicle driver’s training, law enforcement officers from Salem trained on tactical procedures related to the arrest and apprehension of high-risk offenders. The four Counterdrug trainees learned basic vehicle operations, maintenance, and participated in some inter-agency training with members of the Salem SWAT team.

According to Master Sgt. Keith Moen, an Oregon National Guard Counterdrug NCO, the LAVs allow law enforcement access to high-risk offenders they might not otherwise have.

“A lot of law enforcement agencies cannot afford armored vehicles,” Moen said. “We provide that service to them. One of their primary tasks is driving vehicles, it’s a major function of a leader in the National Guard.”

Master Sgt. Chris Sewell, an Intelligence Analyst for the Counterdrug Support Program, and vehicle tactical commander, said the 24-ton LAV acts as a ‘force-multiplicator,’ providing law enforcement with a very effective visual deterrent to high-risk individuals. While it looks like a tank, it’s strictly a defensive vehicle, he said.

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Right: Some of the original members of the 41st Infantry Division, stand at attention during a groundbreaking ceremony for the 41 Armed Forces Reserve Center, held at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore., May 29. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy. Above: An architectural rendering of the 41 Armed Forces Reserve Center. The building, which will house personnel from both the Oregon National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve, will be dedicated to the stored WWII unit that gained recognition for their courage and determination during some of the fiercest battles of WWII.
Story by Tech. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The Oregon National Guard is once again sitting at the top of the National Guard running world.

Competing in the annual Lincoln/National Guard Marathon held May 3 in Lincoln, Neb., the Oregonians cruised through the 26.2 mile course under clear skies to win this year’s team chase over the Utah National Guard Marathon Team by a margin of nearly 30 minutes.

Leading the way for Oregon was Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Vandervlugt, La Grande, Ore., 1st Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, who finished fourth overall with a time of 2:47:19. He trimmed nearly three minutes from his fifth place finish last year and moved up a notch in the final standings. Also placing for the Oregon team were 1st Sgt. Seven Richmond, Albany, Ore., who finished the race in 2:49:02, and Capt. Sean Nixon, Suntierville, Ore., who finished the race in 2:55:51.

According to Oregon team captain, Vandervlugt, “I wanted to go out on top and finish well as an individual my last time out,” he said. “My unit is scheduled to deploy and then I plan to retire after that.” Vandervlugt has run this marathon 16 times during his career and has averages under 2:40 for all of them and has made the all-Guard team every year.

This year’s National Guard Marathon Team competition attracted 18 team entries from across the United States. The team match results are determined by combining the overall running times of the top three declared members of the team.

In winning the team race, the Oregon National Guard runners posted a combined time of 8:32:21, outdistancing Guard runners from Utah, who scored a combined time of 9:00:04 to take second place. The Oregon Guard team consisted of Vandervlugt, Richmond, Nixon, Smith, and Edward King. Richmond was voted Guard Rookie of the Year by all team coordinators from the respective states as it was his first marathon. Jeff Galloway, a former Olympian, author of books on running and the marathon’s “guest instructor,” told them each marathoner inspires 25 others to improve their physical fitness.

Many of the participating Guard members said they wanted to inspire Soldiers and Airmen to be more physically fit, thereby preparing them for deployment. Master Sgt. Bill Kaemmer, a member of the repeat champion Oregon National Guard Marathon team, said deployed soldiers face a lot of discomfort but the rigors of preparing for a marathon also help prepare them for war.

“You can’t train for a marathon and not be uncomfortable,” Kaemmer said. Five members of the team earned spots on the All-Guard Marathon Team which takes the top 40 male runners and the top 15 female runners. Those runners are Nixon, King, Vandervlugt, Richmond, and Smith. The team is expected to compete in five to eight marathons across the United States during the upcoming running season. The selectees will alternate events that they attend.

Master Sgt. Bill Kaemmer is the official team coordinator and would like any soldiers interested in running for the Oregon Guard Marathon Team to contact him at: (503) 725-3512 or via e-mail at: kaemmerb@gdx.edu.

Quoting the Oregon National Guard marathon team shows top numbers again
Looking forward to the weekend never sounded so good

Almost Friday

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs Office

Almost Friday: upcoming shows and information
Saturday, June 27
2:00 p.m., Hermiston Wal-Mart
FLW Western Division Fishing Tour
Hermiston, Oregon
Friday, July 10
4:00 p.m., State Fair Grounds
Marion County Fair, Main Stage, Salem, Oregon

To send fan mail or book a show, contact:
Almost Friday
PO Box 5621
Salem, Oregon 97304
(503) 689-5504

You can also follow Almost Friday on MySpace and Facebook
MySpace: www.myspace.com/almostfridaymusic
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/April-
Friday/48660396830

Portland moves Rose Festival kick-off, pays tribute to military on Memorial Day

The Oregon National Guard Adjutant General’s Honor Guard enters Tom McCall Waterfront Park as part of a commencement ceremony for the 152nd Annual Rose Festival in downtown Portland, May 25.

Various units from the Oregon National Guard participated in a parade down Front Avenue, ending at the Salmon Street Fountain, prior to the dedication and opening ceremony for the Rose Festival, which culminated in a 21-gun salute by the 2-218 Field Artillery, and an F-15 Eagle flyover by the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing.

Military members and their families were also treated to free admission to the Waterfront Village, where they enjoyed rides, games and food.

1249th Engineers summit Mount Hood

Above: Oregon Army National Guard members pose atop the 11,239-foot peak of Mount Hood.

Left: First Sgt. Michael Polley joins the “veteran high-enlistment club,” as Capt. Russ Gibson reads the enlistment oath atop Mount Hood. Polley signed up for another six years of service. 1249 EN BN Commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Dial said it was “a great day to be an Engineer with a superb view at the top of Oregon.”

Photos by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Howell, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Oregon Soldier honored in Washington D.C. with national award

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office
WASHINGTON, D.C. -- An Oregon National Guard officer was presented the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at a Pentagon ceremony, May 8.

Capt. Scott K. Caughran, who works with the Oregon National Guard Counter Drug Support Program, received the award along with 28 soldiers from active, Guard and Reserve components.

The program recognizes company grade officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood: duty, honor, country.

During his remarks Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. recognized Army spouses in attendance and thanked the parents of the awardees for instilling the values, drive, and ideals that have made these young leaders the men and women that they are today.

“Those award winners demonstrate the tremendous quality that we are privileged to have throughout our Army,” Casey said. “These are top performers that have led in the most difficult and dangerous missions and brought out the best in the men and women they led.”

“You embody the spirit of service that our country will continue to draw upon in the challenging years ahead,” Casey added.

“There are a lot of outstanding officers in the Oregon National Guard, so to be singled out and recognized I think is quite a compliment,” Caughran said.

One highlight Caughran experienced while in the nation’s capital was the number of people who commented on his 41st Brigade patch.

“That definitely made me proud to be with 41st Brigade and have it be so highly thought of and that well recognized,” he added.

Other awardees include: Maj. Benjamin T. Lampe, Iowa Army National Guard; Capt. David M. Haynes, Ohio Army National Guard; Capt. Melissa D. Lashebrooks, Arkansas Army National Guard; Capt. Cliff A. Morales, Pennsylvania Army National Guard; Capt. David P. Santos Jr., Guam Army National Guard and Chief Warrant Officer David J. Steorer, Utah Army National Guard.

Oregon’s quick reaction force trains in Central Oregon

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- When soldiers from the 1186th Military Police company, 82nd Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, arrived for drill on April 3, all they knew was their mission would take them to Central Oregon for training and nothing about the hardship and stress that was to come starting early the next morning.

After a grueling five-hour drive in hamburgers through fog, ice and snow, the soldiers from the 1186th were given the order to sleep. This would be the only sleep they would get over the weekend and within the next hour they would be awakened to new orders as training began.

The chant “We want our money,” echoed loudly through the armory’s walls and woke many soldiers from their deep slumber as squad leaders and platoon leaders started shouting orders and ensuring their troops would be ready for what was waiting for them outside. The chant came from “angry locals” who were upset that the troops would be ready for what was waiting for them outside. The chant came from “angry locals” who were upset that the troops would be ready for what was waiting for them outside.

As the locals pushed their way into the armory, two platoons donned riot gear and took money. Many of these locals believed that Oregon National Guard received stimulus funds for them outside. The chant came from “angry locals” who were upset that the troops would be ready for what was waiting for them outside.

During the convoy training the soldiers received guidance on appropriate vehicle positions while the vehicles are moving and how to call in suspicious items or individuals along the roadway.

The weekend’s training was part of a re-certification process the 1186th is completing to keep their status as Oregon’s Quick Reaction Force. As the QRF, they are responsible for assisting city and county police agencies when situations arise that require assistance.

Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police Company, 82nd Brigade, Oregon Army National Guard, and move on to the All-Army National Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

Oregon ESGR seeks Volunteer Chairman

Oregon’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is seeking to fill the volunteer position of Oregon ESGR Committee Chairman.

The announcement seeks a Chairman Elect to be submitted to National ESGR Committee by Sept. 30, and enable the Chairperson Elect to work with the current State Chairman for one year prior to taking office. The Chairperson Elect will lead the Oregon ESGR Committee effective October 1, 2010.

Please submit questions to Col. (Ret) Bob Elliott, Executive Director, Oregon ESGR Committee, 503-508-3362, or via email: robert.e.elliott@ng.army.mil. Formal Position Description available upon request.

Additional information: All inquiries should be sent via hardcopy to: Oregon National Guard Headquarters, ATTN: Oregon ESGR Office, Search Committee Chair, MG (Ret) Dan Hitchcock, PO Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309

Oregon Guard is looking for competitors in upcoming combatives tournament

What: level-one and level-two combatives tournament
Where: Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore.
When: July 25

Who: Members of the Oregon Army National Guard and the Oregon Air National Guard are welcome to attend and participate in the competition.

Winners of the competition will be sponsored by the Oregon National Guard, and move on to the All-Army National Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

Deadline: Close of business on July 10. Improvising of competitors will begin at 7:30 a.m., July 25.

Any member of the Oregon National Guard who is interested in the event should contact:

Sgt. 1st Class David Hagen
503-409-2870
dave.hagen@us.army.mil
### Former WWII fighter pilot, retired Oregon Air Guard member, recalls his role during D-Day invasion 65 years ago

#### Always a fighter Pilot

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

Sixty-five years ago, Richard flew three sorties over the coast of Normandy, France. About 600 feet below F-15 Lightning, more than 180,000 Allied troops came ashore in what became known as the “Longest Day.”

He and his wingmen would fly six more sorties over the next two days, following the largest amphibious assault in modern warfare. They provided protective air cover as the ground troops moved their way inland, paving the way for an eventual victory in the European theater during the waning years of WWII.

In spite of the six-and-half decades since that fateful day, Richardson’s memories remain vivid, as if it happened yesterday, he said.

“Thousands of men were attacking the beach and climbing the cliffs,” he said. “I looked down from my plane and could see these men dying by the hundreds. That’s a bad memory to have of D-Day.”

As one of the special guests for the 142nd Fighter Wing’s Young America Day at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Richardson spent the day meeting with the unit’s airmen, visitors to the base, and young members of Civil Air Patrol and local scout troops.

Many paused to ask Richardson questions, or to look at photos on display of the then 21-year-old first lieutenant who flew fighter planes for the United States Army Air Corps’ 338th Fighter Squadron.

“We had some good days and some bad days,” Richardson recalled. “One day I remember we called ‘Black Friday’. We mixed it up with the Germans and they shot down 11 of our guys—one of them from my unit. When we got back, myself and one other guy were the only ones in our hut that returned.”

Richardson said when he began flying missions in October 1943, the German Luftwaffe “owned the skies” over the continent.

“So many times there would be 100-200 German planes against our 50 planes,” he said. But after D-Day, Richardson said there were no German planes to be seen.

“It was a gradual process, but we put more fighter units into the battle, and shot down the Germans,” he said. “Soon, there were no German planes over the continent because we owned the skies.”

After his discharge following the war, Richardson arrived in Portland, Oregon. He began flying again—this time commercial planes for Pan-American Airlines.

Richardson was recalled into the Air Force in 1949 for the Korean War, where he was able to gain some experience in the F-86 Sabre, which the Air Force began using in Korea in early 1953.

In August 1953, Richardson returned to the Northwest, and was discharged from the Air Force. He went back to flying commercial planes. One day, while driving past the Oregon Air National Guard Base, he spied a flight line full of P-51 Mustangs.

“I thought I had died and gone to heaven,” he said.

He soon joined the 123rd Fighter Squadron, and because he had flight time in the F-86 jets in Korea, Richardson was given the responsibility of instructing Oregon Air Guard pilots on the new jet.

“I served two years with the Oregon Air National Guard,” Richardson said. “It was a wonderful time of my life.”

Between civilian and military aircraft, Richardson has logged over 30,000 hours as a pilot. He volunteers at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore., and at 86 years of age still gets to fly airplanes—his most recent flight in a friend’s P-51 Mustang about a month before.

“I’ve been a pilot all my life,” he said. “But I’m a fighter pilot, and that’s what I want to be known as.”

Richardson makes no distinction between his military service, and that of some 17 million others who served their country in WWII and Korea.

“They served because their country needed them,” he said. “I signed on because my country needed me, and my country taught me to fly, and gave me an airplane with 3,500 horsepower and five guns—life didn’t get any better than that for a 20-year old kid.

“I’m very happy to have been a part of that,” he added. “This country has been very, very good to me.”

Richardson is a former Oregon Air National Guard member, retired Oregon Air Guard pilot, and Korean War veteran, Stanley P. Richardson Jr., explains where he and his wingman flew aerial support sorties in F-38 Lightnings over the coast of Normandy, France, on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Richardson was one of the special guests at the Oregon Air National Guard 142nd Fighter Wing’s Young America Day, held at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., on the 65th Anniversary of D-Day. Above left: First Lt. Stanley P. Richardson in 1944. Above right: First Lt. Stanley P. Richardson in 1944.

#### Kingsley Field pilot reaches 4,000 flying hours in F-15 eagle

**Story by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office**

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho – The commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field has become the third pilot to ever reach the 4,000 flight hour milestone in an F-15 Eagle fighter jet.

During a training mission at Gowen Field on May 5, Col. James Miller joined a small but elite club of fighter pilots who have also reached this mark.

“It’s pretty good company to be with,” said Miller, a command pilot who’s been flying the F-15 since 1990.

But unlike the venerable aircraft in WWII, he said.

“F-15s have more than 5,000 hours in an F-15,” he said. “I’m very happy to have been a part of that,” he added. “This country has been very, very good to me.”

Miller has flown the F-15 for 19 of his 25 years as a pilot. He flew the T-37 Tweet during pilot training and has more than 5,000 hours combined in both jets.

While this is a significant milestone for Miller, who has been stationed at Kingsley Field since 1999, flying and instructing in the F-15 is something he says he values.

“I appreciate being able to do my part in producing the world’s finest air-to-air and air-to-ground graduates,” he said. “I’m fortunate to have had a career allowing me to fly and instruct in the F-15 Eagle.”

The 173rd FW will be conducting its regular training mission through October during Sentry Displacement. The deployment is in conjunction with runway construction and replacement at Kingsley Field.

The 173rd FW is a schoolhouse which trains F-15 air-to-air combat pilots.

#### Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Stanley Richardson Jr. stands in front of a P-38 Lightning fighter aircraft, similar to the one he flew in WWII.

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