Deployed Oregon aviation unit headed homeward

Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation transfers authority to their replacements as they prepare to make their way back to the State of Oregon

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff Lowry, Task Force 38
Public Affairs Office

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- Two medevac companies transferred authority in a ceremony in Iraq Jan. 5, 2010.

Company C, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment assumed authority for medevac operations based here from the Oregon National Guards Company C, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, who performed medical evacuation missions for Task Force 38’s medevac unit.

“We now stand ready to answer the call of the wounded without hesitation and without fail,” said the unit’s commander, Maj. Brady Gallagher during the ceremony.

Gallagher’s unit takes the reigns from Charlie Co., 7-158 Avn., which is based out of McNary Field in Salem, Ore. and commanded by Maj. Geoffrey Vallee. The Oregon unit safely flew more than 3,000 hours, conducted approximately 380 life-saving missions and carried approximately 900 patients.

During the ceremony Vallee expressed confidence in the incoming unit, “What a professional group. We all feel good about leaving the mission in good hands,” he said of Charlie Co., 7-101 Aviation soldiers.

He then thanked his troops for their hard work during their nearly ten-month deployment. “An awesome job you all did. I appreciate your efforts. You did an outstanding job,” he said.

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The Task Force 38 commander, Col.

See OREGON on PAGE 5

Iraq: ORNG Leaders discuss upgrades with troops

Photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen, 41 IBCT Public Affairs


He went on to say that his troops have one of the best missions in Iraq right now.

“While many of the units remain on their Contingency Operating Base (COB), our units are ‘outside the wire’ every day and our soldiers get to see a lot of Iraq due to the distances we travel,” he added.

“An important part of the current mission is to be a part of the responsible withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq,” Hokanson said. “Our soldiers have the opportunity to help reduce the U.S. presence here, which allows those who deployed here previously to see the results of their efforts.”

Hokanson said one of the major advantages our soldiers have are the skills they bring to the job from their civilian career.

“When we arrived, our soldiers converted a warehouse to a function brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC) in less than a month when we were told it would take three months with contractors. " Hokanson said and then added that another soldier helped make the convoy route system safer.

“Several of our soldiers works for Federal Express and helped us redesign the convoy route system for Iraq to make it more efficient, effective and safe. " Hokanson said and then added that another soldier helped make the convoy route system safer.

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“I am most proud of who they are. Our soldiers continue to impress me, and everyone they work with,” Hokanson said.
I would like to talk about the issue of individual readiness for the soldier and personnel readiness for leaders. In my early years as a warrant officer, I thought the way to keep and retain quality soldiers was through good, realistic training. Everything else was secondary. My thoughts have not changed with regard to this, but it is not the most important aspect of running a unit, or being individually prepared for deployment.

A personal story worth mentioning occurred just after 9-11 and involved Bravo Company, 2-162 Infantry. We had just reached a milestone that was recognized by both the adjutant general and the state command sergeant major. We reached 100 percent strength and the appropriate recognition and the achievement fell on our lap. We were very proud of our team and our success. When 1-162 Infantry was alerted and prepared for mobilization, my commissioned officers were tasked to augment that battalion. We were very excited and ready for the challenge. We felt that our company to the SRP and quickly found that we were only 60 percent deployable. Once you removed those that hadn’t completed basic and AIT, the medical and dental non-deployable, those without good family care plans, and those with no orders to a deployed Army unit, we had about 80 soldiers ready to deploy out of 131 on the books. This was a major lesson for me. I still believe in good, tough, realistic training with the proper equipment, but it has to be preceded by individual readiness. I also believe that in order for a unit to deploy at 100 percent strength, it has to be manned at 125 percent strength. Of course we don’t want to send anyone into harms way without the proper and necessary training, as I have said in the past, “you can’t train a vacancy.”
SALEM, Ore. -- The Oregon Substance Abuse Program (OSAP) is a joint Army and Air Guard program that is directed by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon. The mission is to strengthen the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all Airmen and military personnel in the Oregon Air National Guard and Oregon National Guard. The OSAP offers services to all service members that have been identified as needing treatment for substance abuse or dependence.

SALEM, Ore. -- The September issue of the Army Times front page reads, More work to get promoted. 400 hours of mandatory courses, reading further down the page, page 19 (Army Times, 2009) states, there will be a mandatory 80 hour of online training required prior to attending, Warrior Leader, Advanced Leader, Senior Leader, First Sergeant, and Sergeants Major Courses.

These 80 hour courses are in addition to attending the residence course. The new program is called, Structured Self Development. In this new program, web-based learning throughout one’s career is mandatory. Why has online training become what it is? Is it because of accessibility, flexibility on quality, all compelling and contributing to the attractiveness of the training setting? Why do students flock to the online learning environment? With over 3 million students enrolled in online schools and universities (and that number is growing 30 percent each year), there are many compelling arguments for attending a cyber classroom. According to one Kay Lewis a CBS contributor this type of students may actually outperform traditional students on tests and in the course itself, and that online degrees are generally viewed in an equivalent to an in-residence degree.

To see the article I am referring to, please visit: www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/08/26/earlyshow/contributors/regina-lewis/main570268.shtml.

Below are a few reasons students appreciate online training.

1. Students can “attend” a course at any time, from anywhere.
2. This means that parents can attend with their children, then sit down to class; working students can attend classes no matter what their work schedule is. This might be, folks that travel for business or pleasure can attend class from anywhere in the world that has Internet access.
3. Course material is accessible.

New dental grant helps OR soldiers

Although active duty facilities such as these at Fort Lewis, are not available the Oregon Guard has received a grant to provide equal service to its soldiers. Here, Doctor (Major) Mick Brooks (far right) the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) dental, works on a patient at Marjory Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Wash.

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

SALEM, Ore. -- A new grant makes it possible for Oregon National Guard soldiers to receive free dental care.

The Army Selected Reserve Dental Readiness System (ASDRS) provides dental treatment for Class 1 and 3 and 4 soldiers, and annual exams for all soldiers outside of mobilization.

“Many soldiers only have funding when a soldier was in deployable window. Now this money is available for dental care for those soldiers that are not even alerted yet,” said Col. Michael E. Dunn, Department of the Oregon National Guard. Dunn said the grant is significant because the Oregon Guard can use the funding for soldiers that haven’t been alerted yet.

“If you look at dental health, it’s vital,” he said. “Soldiers can prevent further issues with regular screenings and care and this gives them that opportunity.”

The amount of care available can depend on which class the soldier is in.

Class 1 and 2 soldiers are eligible for a free dental exam if it has been at least 10 months since their last exam.

Class 3 and 4 soldiers are eligible for free dental treatment, which can include fillings and crowns.

Dunn said problems with dental health can prevent a soldier from being able to deploy, so it is imperative to keep those issues in check.

Soldiers are encouraged to call their unit readiness non-commissioned officer for information on how to take advantage of the dental care.

Oregon Online education growing rapidly

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Lopez, 82 Support Detachment Readiness NCO

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3. Course material is accessible.

For more information on this visit: www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/06/24/education_statistics.

I hope this issue has been a helpful as you think about your future educational goals.

I welcome your comments as well as sharing your educational success story. Please e-mail them to me at: jeffery.lopez@us.army.mil

Substance Abuse Policy increases readiness

Commentary by Capt. Greg Fernandez, Oregon Substance Abuse Program Officer

SALEM, Ore. -- Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

JANUARY 2010 Page 3

Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty GRFDScholarships

AVAILABLE NOW AT NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

NMMI currently has a limited number of ROTC GRFD scholarships available for current Oregon Guard members. These scholarships guarantee that commissioned Cadets serve in the Oregon National Guard. GRFD scholarships are available for up to two years and allow simultaneous use with the Select Reserve Montgomery GI Bill. GRFD scholarships pay full tuition and mandatory fees plus a monthly stipend.

NMMI is one of five military junior colleges that offers the Early Commissioning Programs (ECP). ECP allows graduates to become commissioned officers in the Army National Guard in two years, instead of the usual four. Qualifications for admission include being under 22 years of age, never married and have no dependent children.

For more information on GRFD opportunities, please contact LTC Cary Miller at 503.584.3808 or cary.miller@us.army.mil

Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarships
Army senior leadership releases new uniform memo

WASHINGTON -- Army Leadership has announced the wear instructions and bridging strategy for the blue Army Service Uniform (ASU).

These instructions support the decision to consolidate our dress uniforms as part of a streamlining process that began in 2004 with our combat uniforms.

The Army began with the reduction of the number of combat uniforms from three to one with the adoption of the Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

The ACU replaced both the summer and winter weight Battle Dress Uniforms and the Desert Camouflage Uniform.

This uniform consolidation and streamlining has been successful in terms of soldier acceptance and reducing the type of uniforms soldiers must maintain in their clothing inventory.

The new ASU eliminates the need for multiple Class A type uniforms. Streamlining our Class A style uniforms into one ASU reduces the number of uniforms a soldier must maintain throughout their career.

The new ASU coat when available will utilize an athletic cut to improve fit and appearance, and will include a new improved heavier and wrinkle resistant short and long-sleeved white shirt with permanent military creases and shoulder loops. The mandatory possession date for the new ASU is the 4th quarter of FY14. Industry should have the new ASU available for purchase in our Military Clothing Sales Stores in the 4th quarter of FY09 and added to Initial Entry Training Soldier’s clothing bags in the 4th quarter of FY10.

During this transition time, I encourage leaders to begin wearing their current blue ASU as their service Class A in accordance with the wear policy established in tomorrow’s message at every appropriate opportunity and occasion.

The implementation of this wear policy represents another accomplishment in the coordination of our wear policy that would also be happy to assist. More information about COOP plans is available on the Internet and Oregon Emergency Management would also be happy to assist. Planning ahead can save lives and money.

Help your business survive a disaster

SALEM, Ore. -- Keeping your business running or getting back to business quickly not only protects your investment, but helps your employees and the community.

Small businesses alone account for more that 99 percent of all companies with employees.

To make sure your business continues running smoothly, you need to have a COOP. This stands for Continuity of Operations Plan. If your business does not have a COOP you may find yourself floundering during the next Oregon winter storm.

The COOP addresses storm events, bomb threats, and anything else that could cause your business to close its doors.

When you write your COOP, a few questions that need to be answered are:

- Who will be in charge and who will take over if that person is not available?
- Which staff, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating?
- Will it be possible to continue work in the event of a power outage?
- Do you have an alternate location available with equipment readily available?
- How will you communicate with your employees?
- How can we evacuate workers, customers and visitors effectively?

In Oregon it is always a good idea to store important records and equipment up off the ground due to the possibility of flooding.

A waterproof or fireproof portable container is a good idea and a set of records kept at an off-site location may save time and money.

More information about COOP plans is available on the Internet and Oregon Emergency Management would also be happy to assist. Planning ahead can save lives and money.

Command Chief Warrant Luncheon

From left to right: Army Service Uniform Class A- female, Class A- male, Class B- female, Class B- male.

Memorandum from U.S. Army Senior Leadership, Office of Chief of Staff of the Army, Sgt. Maj. of the Army

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The blue ASU eliminates the need for multiple Class A type uniforms. Streamlining our Class A style uniforms into one ASU reduces the number of uniforms a soldier must maintain throughout their career.

The Army will phase out the green uniform and replace it with the blue ASU.

The National blue color of our ASU reflects utility, simplicity, cost-savings and a timeless tradition with roots tracing to the Continental Army of 1700s. Soldiers asked for an army uniform that represents the traditions of our service, looks good in appearance and fit, and generates the pride of service, recogni-
**Aviation unit hands reins to replacement unit**

**Continued from front page**

David Wood, praised the medevac soldiers for their performance in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Maj. Vallee, you and your soldiers have earned a well-deserved rest. Depart theater and execute your de-mobilization as safely as you arrived. Thank you for your service to Task Force 38. Thank you for your service to all the soldiers in Iraq and to the nation," Wood added.

He then had words of advice for the incoming unit.

"During your deployment there will be change here in Iraq. Do not become distracted. Your mission is critical and you must stay focused," Wood said during the ceremony.

"Maj. Gallagher you have brought an experienced team to the fight. I have no doubt you will skillfully execute your mission. I look forward to serving with you—above the best."

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**TAG: citizen-soldiers doing a “superb job” in Iraq**

Story by
Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

**Al Asad Air Base, Iraq — Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard traveled to Iraq over the Thanksgiving holiday to visit soldiers of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team. While there, he had the opportunity to observe citizen-soldiers engaging in their daily activities while deployed. Rees said he was very impressed with the dedication and attention to detail of Oregon's soldiers in particular, Staff Sgt. David Gowan of Alpha Battery, 218 Field Artillery.

"I had the opportunity to observe Staff Sergeant David Gowan in a pre-combat inspection working with his troops and equipment prior to going out on a convoy security mission," said Rees.

"He obviously had the skill and capability to take on the training the military had given him and do a superb job."

Gowan said he was honored to have Rees watch him do his job.

"It was a pleasant surprise, and I am happy he was able to spend some time with the "hands" that get stuff done," said Gowan.

"At the end of the day leading my squad throughout Iraq is motivating in its own right, the unquestioned support I receive from my peers, squad, and leadership makes this job easier," he added.

In his civilian career, Gowan works for Wells Fargo Bank as a Senior Analyst, managing a small team that has a role in the War on Terror.

He said his civilian job helps him in his deployment in a number of ways, including collaborating on complex problems and scenarios, often depending on one another for insight and fresh perspective.

"Similarly, our mission in Iraq, providing security for logistical convoys of all shapes and sizes, is dependent on the team as a single unit working together to deliver our logistic convoys of all shapes and sizes to the intended destination," said Gowan.

Rees said Gowan is just one example of how our citizen-soldiers use their civilian skills and the training the military provides to do a superb job.

"In some fashion we are taking full advantage of our civilian skills and in other cases we are just using our maturity and flexibility in our training to perform to the same high standard," said Rees.

"Gowan has served in the military for 14 years. He enlisted in 1996 at the age of 20, in the U.S. Army and first served with the 25 Infantry Division in Hawaii. Later he moved to Prescott, Ariz., and joined the Arizona National Guard. In 2005 he moved to Portland, Ore. and joined Battery C, 2-218 Field Artillery.

Gowan said he believes National Guard soldiers possess diverse skills.

"We have a blend of skilled tradesmen, law enforcement, technology professionals, and students that provide unique skills and abilities not common to a group working together. We leverage our experiences to get unique solutions to problems, create distinct efficiencies in processes, and create an environment of flexibility that I did not see as an active-duty soldier."

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**Oregon’s Adjutant General visits deployed soldiers**

**Continued from front page**


Retired Brig. Gen. Fred Rosenbaum was honored in a building dedicated to his namesake

Honorable Farewell

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

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard held a public memorial service for re- tired Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum, in Rosenbaum Hangar, a building dedicated to the general, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Jan. 17.

Rosenbaum, who retired from the Oregon Air National Guard in 1986, passed away in the early morning hours of Jan. 12, 2010. He was 83.

Rosenbaum served in the U.S. Army during WWII, and in both the Oregon Army and Oregon Air National Guard over his 42-year military career.

His most recent position was as the Assistant Adjutant General (Air) for the Oregon National Guard.

He attended Reed College, Northwestern College of Law, and Portland State University, earning advanced degrees in po- litical science and urban studies.

He also served as the Chairman for the Housing Authority of Portland for 13 years, work- ing closely with state, federal and local authorities to improve the livelihood of numerous residents in Housing of Urban Development neighborhoods.

He is best known for the founding of Rosenbaum Fi- nancial, LLC, a life insurance brokerage, in 1957, and the annual citizenship youth camp which bears his name, Camp Rosenbaum, in 1972.

Over his lifetime, he was involved in a very active civic life, serving in such positions as the Director of the Urban League of Portland, Chairman of the Human Relations Com- mission of Portland, President of Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Trustee of the Boys and Girls Club of Port- land, President of the National Guard Association of Oregon and the Governor’s Committee on Youth.

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, said Rosen- baum lived a truly inspiring life.

“We have been blessed that his ardent interest in public ser- vice included the military and the Oregon National Guard,” Rees said of Rosenbaum.

“Generations of the Oregon Guard can point to his leader- ship as key to our great success in all areas of fair and equitable treatment of all soldiers and air- men and our remarkable efforts to be of service to our commu- nities,” Rees added.

Enlisted leadership travels to Fort Lewis to visit injured Oregon soldiers

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

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — Members of the Oregon National Guard traveled to Fort Lewis to visit Oregon soldiers who are there recovering from illness or injury, Dec. 17, 2009.


“We are part of the Warriors Transition Program,” said Jacobsharryman. “The goal is to put the soldier to the facility that can provide the best care and this is clos- est to home.”

And although the soldiers remain on federal status, Jacobsharryman said the prime reason for the visits is to remind the soldiers that we care about them and we want them to come home as soon as they are healthy enough to do so.

Once soldiers are rehabilitated enough to return to their local communities they will be attached to a Community Based Warrior Transition Unit where they will continue to heal with their traditional sup- port structures.

On this visit Conley, the top enlisted member of the Oregon Army Guard, travel- ed to the post to get a personal feel for the soldiers there and answer any ques- tions they might have.

During an informal session with sol- diers he spoke of his own experiences and explained that although healing can take time, it is their most important mission.

He also told them that they may have been exposed to some traumatic experi- ences, but by overcoming them they will emerge better people and better soldiers.

One soldier listened attentively to Con- ley and raised his hand promptly during the question and answer session to ask about deploying again.

With a broad smile the sergeant major reminded the wheelchair bound Pvt. Jay- son Southmayd, an Army Medic injured in Iraq, that healing comes first.

Southmayd is temporarily confined to the wheelchair following surgery on a broken leg.

“I think it’s a very good program,” said Sgt. Cayle Fоidеl who was injured during predeployment at Camp Roberts, Calif.

While there he tore both his MCL and ACL and damaged his lateral and medial meniscus as well.

The Warrior Transition Program ensured that he received extensive knee surgery including replacement ligaments from a cadaver and arthroscopic menisci surgery.

“The best part is we can communicate with them and they can communicate with us,” Foidel added. “I put my foot in the toilet and get an activity duty transfer.”

The soldiers are housed in a dormitory in their own room and provided whatever their recovery requires.

The Oregon Guard members visited Pvt. Paul Ranger who showed them the apparatus to keep the swelling down at the surgery site and talked with them about his return to Oregon.

“The State of Oregon is out front on this,” said Jacobsharryman.

Whether they return to service or choose to become veterans we look for- ward to them coming home.”

Pvt. Paul Ranger emerged from surgery on his right leg only hours before members of the Oregon Guard visited the soldier to see how he was recovering in the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 17, 2009.
Updated: Retirees, Veterans Council members website

The Oregon National Guard Retirees and Veterans Council has recently upgraded their web site from a bulletin board format to a full-service site that provides a complete one-stop shopping website.

The Council’s goals are to provide all current and retired members of the Oregon Guard a single point of contact with links to all available services.

Retired Lt. Col. Steve Abel and retired Chief Master Sgt. Bud Snavely have spent the past year developing the site that was placed online at the beginning of the new year.

The Council’s plan for the future is to have links to each regimental command with calendars of events and accomplishments portrayed for all interested persons to review.

The council is requesting input to help develop a useful communications tool for all retirees and veterans.

The site can be accessed by going to www.orngretirees.info/

TRICARE offers cancer screenings

Story by Shari Lopatin
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

SALEM, Ore. -- While January is a great time to plan for your health in 2010, you’ll never find a wrong time to get vital screening tests. Whether you’re a man or a woman, age 25 or 65, make sure to talk with your doctor about the screening tests listed below. These services are available to you and your eligible family members at no cost. You’ll find no authorizations, cost-shares, copayments or deductibles for eligible TRICARE beneficiaries. These tests could save your life.

For women

• Breast cancer: TRICARE covers one mammogram every 12 months for women older than 39. If a woman is considered high-risk for breast cancer, she should begin receiving mammograms at 35 years old.

• Cervical cancer: You can test for cervical cancer by getting regular Pap smear tests. TRICARE covers both pelvic exams and Pap tests together when necessary, or every year beginning at age 18. Once a woman has three consecutive normal Pap tests, TRICARE will cover screenings once every three years unless a doctor recommends otherwise.

For men

• Prostate Cancer: TRICARE covers prostate screenings tests for men who are: older than 50, older than 40 and had a va- sectomy, ages 40-49 with a family history of prostate cancer.

For everyone

• Colon Cancer: Several screening options are available, such as the fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy. People who have a history of colon cancer in their family should talk with their doctor about when and how often to have screening tests.

• Cholesterol: Know your numbers! It could affect your heart. TRICARE covers cholesterol tests once every five years, starting at age 18, unless it’s medically necessary for more frequent screenings.

Remember that when you obtain these services from a TRICARE-authorized provider, you are not responsible for any portion of the cost, even if you have not met your deductible.

For additional information, visit the prevention page at www.TriWest.com/prevention.

Military OneSource offers free tax svc.

Stock photo courtesy Army.mil

Military OneSource is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, June 18, 2010, we will once again provide free tax consultation and free on-line tax filing services to military service members and their families during the tax season. As in the three previous years, participants will have free online access to the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Basic tax product.

A brief overview of the program:

- Participants must register for MilitaryOneSource and log on to the site for access to the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Basic product. A separate logon for the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) site is required.
- Those eligible for the program are active duty, Guard and Reserve (regardless of activation status), spouses and dependent children (authorized in DEERS), family members handling the affairs of a deployed servicemember, and severely in- jured service members or family members handling their affairs.
- Participants will have free access to the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Basic product. Those with more complicated returns may incur charges if they upgrade to the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Premium product.
- Participants can file up to three state resident returns for each federal return that they file with the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Basic product.
- Participants can speak with a Military OneSource Tax Consultant if they have tax related questions, or need assistance using the H&R Block At Home (formerly TaxCut) Basic product.

ODVA Joins social media, Facebook

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs has increased its outreach on the Internet and now has its own Facebook page located at: www.facebook.com/odavvet

It is ODVA’s goal to keep veterans up to date with the latest information by posting current news onto their Facebook page nearly everyday. If you have a Facebook page sign in to your account at: www.facebook.com

- Type Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs into your search box
- Find the ODVA page and click on it
- Click on Become a Fan.
- You can sign up for Facebook at www.facebook.com and follow the instructions above.

Retiree Service Office
Open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(503) 584-2891 or 1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

E-mail/ Web: ORRSO@or.nbg.army.mil
www.orngretirees.info/

US Mail:
Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350 Salem, OR 97309

Military friendly schools in Oregon

GI Jobs Magazine has named Clacka- mas Community College and Eastern Oregon University as “Military Friendly Schools for 2010.” Both schools are well known in Oregon for their proactive outreach to veterans and their families.

Surveying more than 7,000 schools nationwide, GI Jobs Magazine awards the military friendly moniker for schools that actively recruit and retain veteran stu- dents, as well as schools that provide on-campus veteran programs, such as credit for military service, spouse programs, student veteran support groups and more.

To view the complete GI Jobs 2010 Military Friendly School list, visit: www. militaryfriendlyschools.com/mfsp

Retired Col. Robert S. Tomasavicius who is a former recipient of the St. Barbara award as indicated by the red jacket, presents Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon with the Order of St. Barbara Medal.

Adjoint General hosts annual luncheon

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. -- Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon is accompanied by the most junior member present of the Oregon National Guard, Pfc. Nathan Boone, and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown for a ceremonial cake cutting, Dec. 15, 2009. Brown exalts as Rees leads them in cutting with gusto, as is customary for events like his Holiday Luncheon. Rees is followed by the Oregon National Guard Band in Salem, Ore. In her remarks Brown spoke of the value that servicemembers of the Oregon National Guard bring not only to the world but to communities around the state as well.

Military society honors TAG, soldiers

Retired Col. Robert S. Tomasavicius, who is a former recipient of the St. Barbara award as indicated by the red jacket, presents Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon with the Order of St. Barbara Medal.

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. William Bormhorst

BEAVERTON, Ore -- The 2-218 Field Artillery Unit Public Affairs Representative

BEAVERTON, Ore -- The 2-218 Field Artillery hosted the annual banquet in honor of Saint Barbara, December 4th, at the Shiloh Inn in Beaverton. Saint Barbara is the Pa- troness of the Field Artillery and the banquet is held every Dec 4th to honor her. The Field Artillery also uses this opportunity to bring together in their ranks and supporting unit members, who have distinguished themselves, by presenting them with the Order of Saint Barbara Award. The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery Association. Both U.S. Navies and Army Field Artillery, along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership.

This year’s recipients were: Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Capt. Christopher Warren, Officer Candidate James A. Ellifrit, Jr., and Staff Sgt. Andrew E. Philpott, Mathew P. Minuz and Travis L. Sheehan.
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. -- Benefits of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron and 142nd Security Forces Squadron took part in a mobilization and demobilization ceremony Dec. 11, 2009 at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Two Oregon Air National Guard members and brothers Tech Sgt. Grant Roper and Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Roper of the 142nd Fighter Wing both received recognition during the Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony held at the Portland Air National Guard Base. The Hometown Heroes Salute is an Air National Guard program which recognizes citizen-airmen who were deployed for a period of more than 30 consecutive days in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The event was sponsored by the Oregon Air National Guard and local civic leaders honored airmen and their families during a ceremony at the 142nd Fighter Wing, Dec. 13.

The Hometown Heroes Salute program pays tribute to thousands of citizen-airmen throughout the Air National Guard for their service since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Those in attendance braved frigid temperatures and icy streets to witness the ceremony at the Rosenbaum Hangar located on the west end of Portland Air National Guard Base.

A 142nd Fighter Wing sits at the ready on the ramp at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland. The black photo by Staff Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.

The program was initiated by the National Guard Bureau for Air National Guard units across the nation. It recognizes airmen who have been on orders for more than 30 consecutive days for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and other contingency operations.

Bragg, Gen. Bruce W. Prunk, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, said with the increase in overseas assignments, some airmen are seeing two and three or even more successive assignments, some airmen are seeing two and three or even more successive deployments.

Today is a great opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing,” he said.

Prunk said while the program recognizes the service of Oregon’s citizen-airmen, it is also a chance to thank the families and surrounding communities for their support.

The Oregon Air National Guard is seeing some of the largest deployments since World War two,” he said. “It’s wonderful to recognize the sacrifices of our airmen, their families, employers and communities.”

One of the coordinators of the event, 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark White, said the national program is designed to recognize airmen during a formal ceremony held at the wing level. Most importantly, he said, the program focuses on the support of airmen by their families and the communities in which they live.

“Without the families’ support, we could not be successful,” White said.

Each airman made their way across the stage after their name was called and were congratulated by Prunk, the 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Michael E. Stencel, State Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell, and by White.

The honorees received a framed letter of appreciation, a commemorative coin, a Global War on Terror ribbon, and a framed copy of the Airman’s Creed. Their spouses received a carved rosewood pin, and a pair of engraved dog tags for any child. They could also designate another individual who acts as a “center of influence” to receive a special Hometown Heroes Salute medallion.

Tech. Sgt. Misti Gremaud, an accounting technician with the 142nd Fighter Wing, said it was nice to have her husband Mick, who returned home in August from a deployment to Iraq with the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, recognized in front of the large group.

“It’s a nice program, and the right thing to do,” Gremaud said.

Oregon’s citizen-airmen who are currently on deployment, or who were not present at the ceremony will be recognized at a future event.

For more information on the program, visit the National Guard Bureau website at: www.ng.mil/news/archives/2009/04/040709-Hometown.aspx

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The ceremony was unique as some airmen were being welcomed home others prepared to leave in early January of 2010.

“The families of the 142nd Civil Engineers, you have just heard how your fellow Redhawks have set the bar in Iraq. You are about to embark on a dangerous and difficult mission,” said Kulongoski. Most are bound for Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

“Today marks an end to their missions,” said Kulongoski. “There was little time to react,” he said. “They are now going to be deployed to the area of responsibility in the Mediterranean region.”

The ceremony recognized the men and women of the squadron who had just returned home from overseas deployments.

A 142nd Fighter Wing sits at the ready on the ramp at Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland. The black photo by Staff Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs.

“Because of the work of our airmen around the world,” said Kulongoski, “we know the work of our Civil Engineers and Security Forces is absolutely critical.”

All returned safely in September despite 24 rocket and mortar attacks, numerous small arms skirmishes and several unexploded rockets. They also completed close to 20,000 miles of patrols at the base, sometimes during rocket attacks and under enemy gun fire.

“With the increase in overseas assignments, some airmen are seeing two and three or even more successive assignments, some airmen are seeing two and three or even more successive deployments,” he said.

Today is a great opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing,” he said.

To date more than 600 members of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing have deployed across the globe since September 11, 2001. Most of these members are traditional guardsmen that leave full time jobs or school to serve in harm’s way in Iraq, Afghanistan or other missions that their country and the U.S. Air Force need them.

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Story and photo by Staff Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OFFICER/WARRANT OFFICER TRAINING WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 18-21, 2010
HALLMARK RESORT, NEWPORT

The Recruiting and Retention Command is hosting an informative workshop for those enlisted soldiers and their spouses who are interested in becoming an officer or warrant officer. Presentations include: Avenues to Commissioning, Benefits, Civilian Education Leadership 101, Life as an Officer/WO/1SG, and Life Cycle Management. Training will also include Area of Concentration (AOC), Military Occupation Specialty (MOS), Specific Career Opportunities and Potential Assignments. In addition, spouses will receive an introduction to the National Guard and training on pay, benefits, and Family Readiness Groups. Application packet processing will occur daily.

All interested applicants are asked to contact their respective Units Battallion S1 for more information.

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