

Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team • 142 Fighter Wing • 82 Brigade • 173 Fighter Wing • Joint-Force Headquarters • Combat Operations Group

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.



Photo by Sgt. Zach Holden, Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation

Oregon National Guard Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, commanded by Maj. Geoffrey Vallee, (left), stand in formation prior to a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2010. The National Guard medevac unit was replaced by the active-duty Company C, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, a medevac company from Fort Campbell, Ky.

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.

The Task Force 38 commander, Col.

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Iraq: ORNG Leaders discuss upgrades with troops



Photo by Spc. Anita VanderMolen, 41 IBCT Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (right), The Adjutant General, Oregon, visited soldiers and the command staff of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, Nov. 26-27, 2009. Rees traveled through Iraq on a whirlwind 2-day tour. He received mission updates from the commanders, met with individual soldiers and observed much of the equipment and vehicles used on the convoy security missions by Alpha Company 1-186 Infantry, Task Force Guardian, at Camp Adder.

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

SALEM, Ore. -- In the largest deployment for the Oregon National Guard in more than 60 years the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team had a very large task when it deployed to Iraq last May. As the

Brigade nears the end of its deployment this spring, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard reflects on the successes of the mission.

"They have a very complex requirement and I think they are demonstrating that when you send a guard unit and maintain their unit integrity, chain of

command, all the way up through the brigade commander you get outstanding results," said Rees.

Col. Dan Hokanson, Commander of the 41 Brigade said his troops are doing an exceptional job.

"I am most proud of who they are. Our soldiers continue to impress me, and everyone they work with," Hokanson said.

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 contractor support," Hokanson said and then added that another soldier helped make the convoy route system safer.

"One of our soldiers works for Federal Express and helped us redesign the convoy route system for Iraq to make it more efficient, effective and

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COMMAND

Last decade sees 'significant changes' as new one begins



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
The Adjutant General,
Oregon National Guard

2010 is here! During the past decade there have been significant changes in the military department. Our mobilizations, disaster response, training, equipment and facilities have all improved. Our organization is truly at the top of its game in every aspect. We should be very proud at what we have achieved in ten years. We need to take the time to reflect on these accomplishments. We need to apply lessons learned to our future and provide ways to further improve the Oregon Military Department. As we look towards future success and begin to welcome home the largest amount of Oregon National Guard Veterans since World War II, we need to take a moment to remember the past 10 years.

Look around at the growth in our orga-

nization and in our individual soldiers and airmen. Veterans who have deployed are everywhere and at every grade throughout our Army Guard and Air Guard formations. Oregon Guard members have served with distinction from day one in the War on Terrorism and in every theater. We have protected our homeland in Operation Noble Eagle. We have trained the Afghan army and police in Operation Enduring Freedom. We have fought and bled in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We have sent more National Guard members to serve in the Central Command area of responsibility than in the combination of all our previous overseas deployments since the Spanish-American War.

This is no small matter. No one in their most ardent support of the National Guard could have foreseen this in the 1999-2000 time frame. Nay-sayers saw little or no relevance and no future for the National Guard. You have proved them wrong and you continue to do this everyday.

Take a moment to thank those who have served during this decade. Pat yourself on the back. Every mission has been accomplished. Start with our Sinai deployment. Think of those who provided airport security, air sovereignty alert, and security at federal installations. Think of those first battalions that deployed in the "come as you are" sce-

narios of early to mid decade. Meanwhile, throw in a few of these, Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, Vernonia floods, snow storms and forest fires. Reflect on the successful multiple deployments of our Army Guard aviators- fixed wing and rotary wing-MEDEVAC cargo and now intelligence platforms for Task Force Odin. Find one of those airmen who provided air combat control, security force, civil engineer, air traffic control, or special tactics support and thank them for enabling the success of our great Air Force.

The National Guard celebrated its 373d birthday on 13 December 2009. No decade in the Guard's history has been more demanding. Flexibility, agility, effectiveness, who can match these accomplishments? Are we relevant? The United States can't do it without us!

I have had the privilege of leading in the Oregon National Guard for most of my career. I could not be more proud than I am today. Our leaders from the past and present, both officer and enlisted, have made the Oregon Military Department the success it is. I look forward to the challenges as well as to our success in the next 10 years.

I am confident we will remain, Always Ready! Always There!

Raymond F. Rees

Warrant officers deployment percentages to see increase

Usually in my articles there is one main theme, but this month there are a number of different issues I would like to either address, notify and or just plain give you an update.

In a past article I stated, "To date, roughly 65 to 70 percent of Oregon's Warrant Officer Corps is either currently deployed, has deployed, or is scheduled to be deployed. The fact is that this percentage will increase. Warrant officers are an integral part in the success of the commander and unit." The key phrase in that quote was "...that percentage will increase." The 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3 Battalion, 116 Infantry and the aviation units are being staffed with the required warrants and have met their requirements.

Now is the appropriate time to address the remaining warrants. The Council of Chief Warrant Officer 5's are scrubbing deployment lists of warrants to be placed in three tiers: tier one- those who have never deployed;

tier two- those who have combat experience before 9/11; and tier three- those who have mobilized and deployed for OIF or OEF.

Tier one warrants should be completing a military biography and working with their chains of command for appropriate deployment dates. It is my intent to contact all the command chief warrant officers and request a list of potential warrant positions from all the states, territories and the district to determine what is available. Watch for more information via emails and memos.

The Council of CW5s would like to welcome Chief Warrant Officer 4 Kim Johns of the Oregon State Defense Force (ORSDF) to our monthly meetings. Johns is now a full, active member of the council. Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. J. Michael Caldwell, the ORSDF Warrant Corps has grown from two to 13 warrant officers, with three pending approval. ORSDF Warrants are technical experts in the following areas: Personnel;

Radio Telephone Operators (RTOs), Liaison Officers (LNOs) and ORSDF Pipe Band.

The LNO responsibilities have been with the local county emergency management center. If you are interested in continuing sharing your valuable experience after you retire contact Johns for more information at (503) 557-5458.

Like most organizations there are good problems and bad problems to overcome. For the first time we have surpassed the number of potential candidates and the number of vacant positions. This is a good problem. Last month I reported that we had 15 quality and vetted NCO's interested in the warrant officer corps. That number is growing steadily each day. If you have not signed up work with your unit but also courtesy copy Warrant Officer 1 Lenora Landwehr, the warrant officer strength manager.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Zagyva,
Command Chief Warrant Officer,
Oregon National Guard

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the long and dedicated service of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Paul Dole. He is retiring after almost 40 years in the Oregon National Guard. As you would expect from a quality warrant, comments from his peers and supervisors are exemplary. Chief Dole leaves with our gratitude and thanks for a job well done!

Sgt. 1st Class Jonathon Tygret's pre-determination packet was approved by the quartermaster branch chief and he will pin on his WOC and head off to Fort Rucker. Tygret's hard work paid off. Congratulations!

State Command SGM: Personnel readiness a high priority

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



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 soldier and as a leader through the rank of sergeant first class, I thought the way to keep and retain quality soldiers was through good, tough, 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 per-

cent strength and the appropriate recognition and acknowledgement followed. We were very proud of our team and our success.

When 1-162 Infantry was alerted and preparing to mobilize, my company was called to augment that battalion. We were very excited and ready for the challenge.

We then took 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 cadets, the medical and dental non-deployable, those without good family care plans, and those without a valid Army MOS, we had only 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 prioritized after 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!"

The Army, the National Guard, and our

civilian leadership have done a better job of getting us the equipment we need to conduct training, but a vacancy can't drive a bulldozer. We have met our strength goals, and our quality has never been better, but we can all improve our readiness. We must take advantage of the early eligibility for medical and dental readiness. Leaders, you must become experts on these systems so that you can make sure all of your soldiers will be on that plane when you get called to mobilize.

We must do a better job of getting our soldiers MOS qualified. We must get our prior-service soldiers that transfer from our sister services to the Warrior Transition Course so they become deployable assets. We must ensure that our soldiers have used our legal assets to be legally ready. They have to have the proper family-care plan.

The list goes on and on. I know engineers want to blow stuff up, artillerymen want to pull lanyards, fuelers want to fuel, and cooks want to cook, and they should. But, do you want to do it in a deployed environment at 80 percent strength?

I think you all know the answer to that question.

NEWS

Substance Abuse Policy increases readiness

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

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 overall fitness, effectiveness and readiness of our soldiers and airman. The vision is to achieve a substance abuse-free force of citizen-warriors ready to support our state and nation at a moments notice. This program is composed of three key areas: leadership, testing and prevention.

Commanders and senior non-commissioned officers, this is your program. Guidance is set forth in Air Force Instruction 44-120, Drug Abuse Testing Program and Army Regulation 600-85, The Army Substance Abuse Program. The OSAP offers a course for command representatives on conducting a forensically correct and legal urinalysis testing. Together the command team and designated substance abuse program team set the command climate for this program. The command team has the ability to conduct urinalysis testing, to recommend personnel for prevention training and to provide retention recommendation.

An essential part of the OSAP mission is urinalysis (UA) testing. This is designed to deter service members from using illegal substances and to identify substance abuse (SA) issues. Urinalysis testing is the primary means of identifying SA among service members. Commands are required to randomly test 100 percent for Army and 80 percent for Air, of their assigned strength annually. Testing randomly increases the probability that a service member who is a substance abuser will be identified. However, a service member can opt to "self identify" if the command is not in the process or preparing to conduct a UA. To Self ID does not guarantee continued

service but does protect the service member from OCMJ actions and characterization of service if discharged.

Upon testing positive or self identifying all service members are required to receive prevention training. This is accomplished by providing education, support and resources. Prevention training helps find root causes (poor stress management, bad coping skills, financial hardships, family troubles, etc.) and educating the service member on techniques to overcome these issues. This is accomplished during a course called Intensive Short Term Education Program (ISTEP) and Codependency ISTEP (for family members). This course provides education on addiction and how it can be treated. In addition to education, we are able to connect personnel with resources that may be of little or no expense to the service member. Leaders at all levels are encouraged to attend the ISTEP in order to develop a better understanding of the nature of addiction.

Testing positive is not the end of the world! However, it has the potential to jeopardize a military career. Substance abuse is serious and requires leaders at all levels to be prepared and ready to react.

If you or someone you know has addiction issues refer them to this article and ensure they seek help through the OSAP. In combat we never leave a fallen warrior so let's not fail on the home front. For assistance contact the OSAP team at (503) 584-3831 or via e-mail.

Prevention Coordinator Sgt. 1st Class James Riverman is at skip.riverman@ng.army.mil, the Substance Abuse Program Coordinators are Sgt. 1st Class James Goleman at james.a.goleman@ng.army.mil and Tech. Sgt. James Batdorff at james.a.batdorff@ng.army.mil.

Online education growing rapidly

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



SALEM, Ore. -- The September issue of the Army Times front page reads, *More work to get promoted, 400 hours of mandatory courses*, reading further into the article, page 19-20 (Army Times, 2009) states, there will be a mandatory 80 hours of online training required prior to attending, Warrior Leader, Advance 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 has? Is it because of accessibility, flexibility or quality, all compelling and contributing to the attractiveness of this mode of learning? Why do students flock to the online learning environment? With over 4 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 Regina 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 as 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.

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

24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Students have the ability to read and re read lectures, discussions, explanations and comments. Often spoken material in the classroom passes students by due to a number of distractions, missed classes, tiredness or boredom.

- In an online environment, attendance to class is only evident if the student actually participates in classroom discussion. This increases student interaction and the diversity of opinion because everyone gets a say, not just the most talkative.

- Online instructors come with practical knowledge and may be from any location across the globe. This allows students to be exposed to knowledge that can't be learned in books and see how class concepts are applied in business situations.

- Using the Internet to attend class, research information and communication with other students teaches skills in using technologies that will be critical to workers in the 21st century business community that works with colleagues globally and across time zones.

Whether it's the economy, new academic programs or better recruiting, community colleges are seeing an enrollment boom, according to the Department of Education with over 6.2 million students enrolling in the countries 1,045 community colleges, with 35 percent of all postsecondary pupils that year, according to a new National Center for Education Statistics study.

For more information on this please visit: www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/08/22/growth

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

New dental grant helps OR soldiers

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



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kosterman

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 3 and 4 soldiers, and annual exams for all soldiers outside of mobilization.

"We used to only have funding when a soldier was in deployable window. Now this allows us to provide dental care for those soldiers that are not even alerted yet," said Col. Michael E. Dunn, Deputy State Surgeon for the Oregon National Guard.

Dunn said the grant is significant because the Oregon Guard can use the funding for soldiers that haven't even 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 to each soldier depends 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.

GUARANTEED RESERVE FORCES DUTY (GRFD) SCHOLARSHIPS

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 pay a monthly stipend.

NMMI is one of five military junior colleges that offer 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.



NEWS

Army senior leadership releases new uniform memo



Photo courtesy Army.mil

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

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 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 soldiers want when representing the premier service

of their credentials, and low maintenance and upkeep costs. Survey results told us 98 percent of soldiers wanted recognition of their combat service, 70 percent wanted recognition of their unit affiliation and 75 percent wanted recognition of their regimental affiliation.

Soldiers indicated their preference to allow those authorized to wear "jump boots" with their Class A and B uniform to continue that important tradition. We have incorporated these recommendations into the wear policy.

Tomorrow's message will outline the wear of the current, commercially available blue ASU for wear as our service Class A uniform. As the new blue ASU uniform items come available in Military Clothing Sales Stores, soldiers will replace their current green ASU clothing items.

The new blue ASU will include the coat and low waist trousers for male soldiers; and the coat, slacks and skirt for female soldiers. The fabric of the new blue ASU consists of 55 percent wool and 45 percent polyester blend which is heavier and wrinkle resistant compared to the present commercially available blue uniform.

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

of the United States.

Since the June 2006 decision to transition from the green to the blue ASU, we have actively sought recommendations from soldiers and their leaders who expressed their recommendations for altering the wear policy for the blue ASU.

The message tomorrow will incorporate these recommendations into the wear policy of the current blue ASU and outline the bridging strategy for our transition. This policy change represents the recommendations and inputs from soldiers and leaders in more than 150 soldier forums around the world conducted over the last two years.

In the Army's 2007 formal survey, soldiers clearly indicated they wanted tradition, a uniform reflecting pride of service, recognition

Help your business survive a disaster

Jennifer Bailey
Public Affairs Coordinator
Oregon Emergency
Management



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 than 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.

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 step in our transformation to a campaign quality expeditionary force that is dominant across the spectrum of 21st Century conflict.

Thanks for all that you do for the Nation and the Army.

Command Chief Warrant Luncheon



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

SALEM, Ore. -- Left to right: Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jim Powell, retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jack Johnson, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Scott O'Donnell, the newest Warrant Officer to the Oregon National Guard Warrant Officer 1 Lenora Landwehr, Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Zagya, retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bill Manahan, and retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Floyd Bard. The luncheon was hosted by Zagya and served as a function to highlight those warrant officers who have served the state in the past and help them remain connected with the organization. Following the gathering Zagya noted that as a result of the luncheon, a chapter of the US Warrant Officer Association is being established here in Oregon.

OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT YEARBOOK



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NEWS

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.”



Photos by Sgt. Zach Holden, Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation

Oregon National Guard Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, Commanded by Maj. Geoffrey Vallee, stand in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2010. U.S. Army Maj. Brady Gallagher, Charlie Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment commander, from Fort Campbell, Ky., makes remarks upon assuming the mission from The National Guard medevac unit.

Oregon's Adjutant General visits deployed soldiers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

safer for our soldiers,” he said.

Oregon National Guard soldiers said they were happy to have Rees visit over Thanksgiving. Sgt. 1st Class Robert Jory, of Oregon City, said Rees was particularly interested in seeing equipment upgrades.

“I think he is looking out for Oregon soldiers,” Jory said. “He had some awesome questions in respect to communication and what was happening and what was shared between everybody in terms of equipment such as the CREW served weapon system.”

Rees said the environment in Iraq is much different than just a few years ago, and that equipment upgrades have helped make soldiers safer.

“We have come along way from the come as you are war scenario that we started out with. There used to be thin skinned vehicles that were slapped together and now we have universally mine resistant ambush protected vehicles (MRAP),” Rees said.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley said the improved equipment, especially the MRAP, “is a great vehicle for the 41 IBCT mission.” He said the 41 Brigade BDE logistics experts are using every tool available to upgrade the equipment while they are in-theatre.

“They are searching supply depots, and vehicle yards to turn in older equipment and upgrade to the most current equipment they can find,” Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley said.

The equipment isn’t the only thing that has changed in Iraq over the last few years, the mission is evolving as well. Conley said unlike when the 2 Battalion, 162 Infantry was deployed to Iraq in 2003 current operations must be vetted by the government and the Iraqi security forces.

“That is actually a great thing, because it means that the Iraqi forces are coming into their own and we can get out,” said Conley.

As the deployment, nears its close this spring, Hokanson reflects on the superb attitude his soldiers have maintained throughout.

“When I look back to Camp Roberts, Fort Stewart, and our time here in Iraq, our soldiers are truly exceptional. I have used the term ‘the spades are coming back’ to reference the fact that all the hard work and sacrifices our soldiers have made over the past years are coming back to us. The pride here is knowing these soldiers will lead this organization for the next 10, 20 and in some cases the next 30 years, so we have a very bright future ahead of us,” he said.

Hokanson said he often receives compliments on the soldier’s attitude and focus.

“I’m regularly complimented by general officers on the performance of our soldiers,” he said. “We have always known our soldiers were exceptional. It is nice to see how others recognize that as well.”

It is a sentiment Conley shares. “I made three trips to Iraq and it is very clear that morale is high and that people are working as a team in a professional manner. It can be attributed to leadership, outstanding equipment and good living conditions.”

“The leadership is keeping them engaged and focused and we expect better trained and experienced soldiers to return to Oregon.”

The 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team will return to Oregon in May.

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 capacity 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 leader-



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees (top left), The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, stands beside Staff Sgt. David D. Gowan and other members of Alpha Battery, 218 Field Artillery during a two-day visit to troops currently serving in Iraq. Gowan’s unit is tasked primarily with convoy security.

ship 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.”



From right to left: Staff Sgt. David D. Gowan shows Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, what his specific duties include during a visit by state senior leadership to Iraq in December.

NEWS

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 retired Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum, in Rosenbaum Hangar, a building dedicated to the general, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Jan. 19.

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, working 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 Financial, 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 Commission of Portland, President of Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Trustee of the Boys and Girls Club of Portland, 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 Rosenbaum lived a truly inspiring life.

"We have been blessed that his ardent interest in public service included the military and the Oregon National Guard," Rees said of Rosenbaum.

"Generations of the Oregon Guard can point to his leadership as key to our great success in all areas of fair and equitable treatment of all soldiers and airmen and our remarkable efforts to be of service to our communities," Rees added.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Rosenbaum family stand for the posting of the colors during a memorial ceremony for retired Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum (pictured left) at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., Jan. 19. From Left to Right (center of photo): Daughter Lori Krasnowsky, wife Jane Rosenbaum and son Mark Rosenbaum. The three-hour service, attended by about 500 people, took place in the Rosenbaum Hangar at the Air Base.

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.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, Command Sgt. Maj. Karen Jacobsharryman, Sgt. Maj. James Jungling and several others made a trip to visit those who need the facilities provided at an active duty post.

"We are part of the Warriors Transition Program," said Jacobsharryman. "The goal is to get the soldier to the facility that can provide the best care and this is closest 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, traveled to the post to get a personal feel for the soldiers there and answer any questions they might have.

During an informal session with soldiers 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 experiences, but by overcoming them they will emerge better people and better soldiers.

One soldier listened attentively to Conley 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. Jayson 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 Foidel 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 meniscus surgery.

"The best part is we can communicate with them and they can communicate with us," Foidel added. "I put my foot in the door to get an active 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 forward 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.



Command Sgt. Maj. Karen Jacobsharryman speaks to Pfc. Jayson Southmayd and other injured soldiers during a visit to Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 17. Although the soldiers remain on federal status as they heal, the Oregon National Guard uses visits like this one to remain connected to them and help facilitate smoother transitions into the Community Based Warrior Transition Program. That program allows them to return home and continue healing once they no longer need the services provided at an active duty post.





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PLEASE PRESENT YOUR VALID OREGON NATIONAL GUARD ID & THIS COUPON FOR ADMITTANCE

NEWS



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.orngetirees.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 can 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 vasectomy, 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 a cholesterol test once every five years, starting at 18 years old, 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, January 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 Military OneSource 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 injured 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.

Military friendly schools in Oregon

GI Jobs Magazine has named Clackamas 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 students, 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/mfspr

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/odvavet

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.

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1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

E-mail/ Web:
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Adjutant 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 exclaims as Rees leads them in cutting with gusto, as is customary for events like his Holiday Luncheon held annually at the Anderson Readiness Center 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. Tomasavic 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 Bornhorst
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 Patroness of the Field Artillery and the banquet is held every Dec 4th to honor her. The Field Artillery also uses this opportunity to honor those 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. Marines 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 C. Warren, Officer Candidate James A. Ellifritt, Jr., and Staff Sgt.'s Andrew E. Philpott, Mathew P. Mintz and Travis L. Sheehan.

NEWS

Portland base commemorates troops serving overseas

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

PORTLAND, Ore.—Members 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.

Just as the airmen of the security forces are getting settled from deployment, members of civil engineering were mobilizing for other overseas regions.

Returning security forces airmen spent six months at Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq, and were officially welcomed home by Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General for the State of Oregon.

"To those of you of the 142nd Security Forces, I am honored to welcome you home to the loving

embrace of your families and to the respect of the state and nation," said Kulongoski.

Thirty-two airmen with the 142nd Security Forces Squadron worked security at the Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq.

All returned safely in August 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.

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

"To 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 Af-

ghanistan. Their work is keeping the U.S. military assets and installations running, from maintaining electricity and water, to performing carpentry and other building trades. They expect to be overseas from four to six months on these deployments.

Maj. Jason Lay is one airman in the squadron that will be leaving his family and family business of three generations behind while in Afghanistan.

"I am leaving the business behind in some pretty good hands so I am not worried about that as much as I will miss my family," 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.



Oregon Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, The Adjutant General, Oregon shake hands with the Oregon Air National Guard members who have returned from serving in Iraq during the past year, at the Portland Air National Guard Base during a mobilization and demobilization ceremony held at the 142nd Fighter Wing Dec. 11, 2009.

142nd Jets escort passenger liner back to PDX

Story compiled by
Sentinel Staff,
Oregon Military Dept.
Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. -- Two Oregon Air National Guard F-15 fighters escorted a Hawaii bound passenger jet back to Portland International Airport on Jan. 6 after a passenger in coach became "uncooperative." Under the direction of North American Aerospace Defense Command, Oregon pilots were ordered to intercept Hawaiian Air Flight 39 about 90 minutes into the flight.

Flight 39 had taken off from Portland at 10:10 a.m., with 231 passengers and a crew of 10 aboard the Boeing 767. Shortly after take-off, a passenger caused a disturbance on the plane and the pilot decided to return the aircraft to Portland.

The F-15s, assigned to 142nd Fighter Wing stationed at Portland Air National Guard Base, escorted the aircraft until it landed at



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

the airport at approximately 1:15 p.m. without incident The Hawaiian airliner was then met by law enforcement and the Transportation Security Agency.

The military decided that fighters should accompany the flight after receiving "indicators" of a problem, according to Lt. Cmdr. Gary Ross, a NORAD spokesman. "There was little time

to react," he said. "The prudent thing to do was to scramble the jets."

The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing is assigned the Air Sovereignty Alert Mission, to guard the Pacific Northwest skies from northern California to the Canadian border, on 24-hour alert as part of the North American Air Defense system.

Portland base salutes 'Hometown Heroes'



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, Dec. 13, 2009. 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.

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

PORTLAND, Ore. -- 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.

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.

Brig. 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 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. Max 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. Stencil, 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 children. 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

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 Candidate, 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/Battalion S1 for more information.

STEP FORWARD

