Oregon National Guard Soldiers support Operation New Dawn
Approximately 600 Soldiers from 3-116 Cavalry to join Soldiers from Idaho, Montana head to Iraq

Oregon Blackhawk pilot saves lives, uplifts spirits
Anderson’s magic show helps raise funds for Canby veterans’ memorial

Story by Kimberly Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

“It was the best show I’ve ever seen, and I’ve been to Vegas…”

“I thought he was fantastic; he was funny, personable, just fabulous…”

If the reaction of audience members is any indication, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Anderson’s magic show is destined for the stars.

More than 400 people packed the Canby High School auditorium for a magic show to benefit the Vietnam Era Veterans Memorial, on Sept. 11.

“It was awesome,” said Mike Breshears, of Canby. “He had everyone spell bound for the entire performance.”

Anderson’s journey to the stage at Canby High School auditorium for a magic show to benefit the Vietnam Era Veterans Memorial, on Sept. 11.

Over the past decade, Breshears has been working to complete the Vietnam Era Veterans Memorial in Canby. With contributions drying up due to a sour economy, Breshears was left with a shortfall of $10,000 for the memorial.

“I decided to do a benefit show in my hometown and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the memorial,” Anderson said. “As a veteran myself, I wanted to do something to help.”

Photo by Master Sg.t. Thomas Hovie, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Anderson narrates through a photo montage of injured Iraqi children he entertained with magic during his 2009 deployment. Anderson helped raise funds for a veterans memorial in Canby, Ore., during a local magic show held Sept. 11. His show helped raise more than $5,000 with 100 percent of the proceeds going toward the Vietnam Era Veterans Memorial.

See OREGON on PAGE 6
In the near future our organization looks to face significant budget cuts from state funds. Likewise, federal belt tightening is likely to continue. Our force has already seen this with the reduction of temporary and indefinite technician employees. State employers and contractors will see additional decrease in staffing in the near future.

The Oregon National Guard continues to meet both domestic support missions in addition to our overseas defense missions, we will have to operate with a reduced support force, while also maintaining the same quality of service as we have in the past.

We will have to meet this challenge and continue to operate at the same proficient manner that our state and nation demand. The Army National Guard comprises nearly 40 percent of the Army’s operating force and the Air National Guard conducts 16 percent of Air Sovereignty Alert missions throughout the country.

Citizen-soldiers and airman continue to prove we are the most cost effective means of defense for our nation and our states. Here in Oregon we are charged with the Air Sovereignty Alert mission for the Pacific Northwest. We also operate the only F-15 fighter training facility in the nation, along with Joint and Air combat and service support elements, which have mobilized in support of multiple operations to include Operations Freedom Shield, Freedom, and now Operation New Dawn.

In addition, we respond not only to a governor-declared state of emergency, but also to support civil authorities throughout Oregon’s counties, and when requested, we even provide regional support. Our soldiers and airmen do this with an allocation of only five percent of the Department of Defense total budget.

In July, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Craig R. McKinley wrote what I believe the National Guard is to America:

He stated, “Efficiencies must be gained to achieve the delicate balance between national security and fiscal reality. Maintain a ready, accessible, and cost-effective National Guard, a solution to achieving the necessary balance.”

As we start the new fiscal year we are faced with some very difficult issues. The most pressing issue, or should I say “depressing,” is the budget reductions we currently face. As Warrant Officers we are not only the subject matter experts but also the middle-level supervisor of a great number of programs which have been affected by the reductions in funding and personnel.

This current financial situation involves ALL of us, regardless of where we work—OMS OMD, the Brigades or on the flight line at the Wing.

Taking a page from my civilian experience, I have dealt with budget and staff reductions many times. It is painful for both the supervisors and Soldiers who were just laid off or had their orders not extended.

Experience has taught me there are two ways people usually respond. The first reaction is for people to take the “us versus them” attitude and fight over the table scraps. Those who have not been a part of the decision-making process feel排除被排除的感和怨恨。

Comments like “they don’t understand” and “without us the system will fail” or “I’ll show them!” and others begin to surface.

The first time I had to lay off personnel I thought it was a great idea to involve the entire staff. That was a mistake.

For example, Human Resources is not going to say they do the job best. It is easier to save money by laying off too many staff members, so we can cut them. The more professional way to look at this is to take a step back, assess the situation and determine what you need to do as a member to make sure your team succeeds. This is tough to do no matter what your position or rank.

Within the Warrant Officer Corps it has to be “we instead of me.” Now more than ever all 119 of us must pull together as one. Remember our actions will speak louder than our words.

I would like to say goodbye and best of luck to CW2 Lenora Landwehr, Warrant Officer Strength Manager as she prepares to deploy with 249 Engineer Battalion. Job well done! I would also like to welcome CW3 Rob Kanes our new Warrant Officer Strength Manager. I know he will do a great job and look forward to working with him again.

We have had two senior warrant officer retirements; CW5 Barry Brown and CW5 Debbie Murphy. Their expertise was second to none. They will surely be missed.

For the Corps!

New Warrant Officers the key to Oregon National Guard future

The Oregon National Guard: A great deal for Oregon and America

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For the Corps!
162 Engineers participate in international training competition

Story and photo courtesy of Capt. Bob Baca, Commander, 162 Engineer Company

HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN—Under a bright Afghanistan sun in August, the 4th Platoon of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 162 Engineer Company met with British Royal Engineer Soldiers to spend a day comparing and learning about each other’s tactics, techniques, and procedures for clearing routes of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

The meeting happened at the IED lanes on Camp Bastion, in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. The British Engineers began the day by demonstrating how they operate within a route that is supposed to have IEDs hidden in and along the road. The Oregon Soldiers watched as the British Engineers located, marked, and destroyed the emplaced training IEDs. One of the British NCOs briefed 4th Platoon on exactly how, and what the British Engineers where doing during the demonstration.

Staff Sgt. Seeger and 1st Lt. Selander asked questions and listened, as they were told of past encounters and challenges that came with operating in this region of Afghanistan.

Once all the questions had been answered, it was time for the demonstration. The British Engineers conducted a demonstration of how IEDs are identified and cleared. After the demonstration, they showed the Oregon Engineers how the British Engineers had been operating for the past eight months in Helmand.

Seeger explained to the British Engineers how the inverted-V sweep worked, and how to use the hand IED detection technology, while 4th Platoon Soldiers showed off their expertise during a practical exercise.

The Oregon Engineers ended the demonstration with the use of the air digger, mounted on the Buffalo.

The British Soldiers responded with looks of approval and amusement. They stepped closer to see the effect of the pressure exerted by the apparatus on the Afghanistan soil.

The two different nations completed the day at the IED lanes with a Tallon robot race. These robots assist the Engineers of both countries to help find, mark, and destroy the IEDs while keeping Soldiers at a relatively safe distance.

The race consisted of the robots carrying a bottle of water in their claws from the starting line, around a course, and back to the starting point. The Tallon rolled through an obstacle course containing a three-foot deep ditch, and stacked wood pallets. The operator of the robot had to drop the water bottle into a wheel barrel at the other end of the course and pick up a second bottle of water, which was placed on a 50 gallon drum.

The robots returned to the finish line with the new bottle still in its claw. The Soldiers lined up on each side of the ditch, with the Oregon Citizen-Soldiers on the left side, and the British Soldiers on the right.

The British Engineers gave the Oregon Guard Soldiers a run for their money, and while the race was close, it was the 162 Engineer Company who won the event. After the race both groups congratulated one another, exchanged tokens of appreciation, and took part in a group photo.

This gathering of Engineers allowed all the Soldiers to compare and compete, and the opportunity to help write a multilingual “how-to” handbook on route clearance, which will help future engineers in the Helmand Province as well as a training guide for colleagues back in the U.S.

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Kulongoski caps role as Governor with 3-116 CAV mobilization ceremony

Governor Ted Kulongoski glances out of the Army cargo plane at a rugged Oregon.

“Gone are the days of the military, when military commanders stood at the head of the state government, with control of the Oregon National Guard. The Guard has become a part of the state, and the governor is the commander of the Guard.”

LA GRANDE, Ore. - Just weeks after President Obama declared an end to combat, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry headquartered in La Grande mobilized for Iraq on Sept. 21.

Their mission has a new name: Operation New Dawn, but an old and dangerous undertaking: guarding convoys and U.S. bases, supporting the Iraqi army and police.

More than 500 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers heading to Iraq have a clear mission, so does the governor.

He steps onto the tarmac and for the next three hours, will shake Soldiers’ hands. Already, the former Marine is the longest serving governor during wartime. He has sent more Oregon Guard troops to war in the past 10 years than any other (12,000 Soldiers and Airmen).

He has traveled to Iraq three times and Afghanistan twice. He has spoken at nearly every deployment and demobilization – 17 last year, 11 so far this. He has attended and given eulogies at the funerals and memorials of more than 120 service members killed in action.

And in the waning months of his administration, his role as commander in chief of the Oregon Guard has become a major enduring accomplishment of his administration.

In the moments after an emotional ceremony at Eastern Oregon University, he said, “I truly believe when I get ready to cross to the other side of the river, the last thoughts I’m going to have are the men and women of the Guard. They are the ones that I have taken such great pride in, I identify with them."

More than 500 Oregonians will serve with 1,500 members of the Idaho National Guard. The Idaho mobilization was a picnic the week before the ceremony.

“Operation ceremonies, though, are steeped in military protocol that begin and end with the governor. After speeches and the presentation of flags, Kulongoski always walks to the lines of Soldiers and one-by-one shakes their hands.

He asks: Where are you from? How long have you been in the Guard? How many have you deployed?

And the answers. “More than 20 years,” says Staff Sgt. Matthew Mintz of Garibaldi.

“Three times to Iraq, five times total, including to Guantánamo Bay and Hurricane Katrina.”

Kulongoski grips Mintz’ hand listening and murmurs his thanks and encouragement. As he moves to the next Soldier, Mintz says, “It’s nice he’s here, but there is no way to make this easier.”

But the governor has worked to make their return much easier. His task force on veterans’ affairs put service officers on college and university campuses, created new state rules to protect veterans’ jobs, and insured all public agencies to help identify veterans and connect them to benefits.

The task force also spun off cutting-edge pilot programs on suicide, military sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury and housing help.

Education has been a focal point. Kulongoski, a former Marine who went to college and law school on the GI Bill, pushed through tuition and housing assistance for student veterans.

He’s also made the Oregon Guard more essential. After the Kim family was lost in southern Oregon two years ago, he placed all emergency management and homeland security under the Oregon Military Department.

“I decided there would be one person the governor turns to who could get people where they were needed to help.”

“I truly believe when I get ready to cross to the other side of the river, the last thoughts I’m going to have are the men and women of the Oregon Guard.”

Ted Kulongoski, Governor of Oregon

Throes of well-wishers and family wait for Soldiers in formation as the governor personally greets them one by one. Kulongoski has made this ritual a tradition at each ceremony.

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Because of Kulongoski, that person is Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, the state adjutant general and highest ranking officer in Oregon.

The governor flew to Colorado Springs, Colo., to recruit the general to lead the Guard and convinced him to forego retirement so he could offer Oregon’s next governor continuity.

The formal events around the Guard that have sustained Kulongoski through this political and economic maelstrom.

And given him personal purpose.

“What I’ve been trying to do is to get Oregonians to pay more attention to these people.”

He doesn’t want citizens to forget the price parents have paid.

“I don’t think anyone can comprehend what it means to a parent to make the investment in a son or a daughter and then have them die -- and have to ask ‘Does anyone care?’

“What I try to do is fill the vacuum and say, ‘I care.’”

Karl Johnson, a chief medic from Scappoose, was the last man standing on the field, waiting for the governor’s handshake.

 Married just six weeks ago, his wife Helen and children Dezary, 12, and Jessy, 9, waited as the governor shook hands with the hundreds of Soldiers standing in front of him.

The kids laid on the grass; Helen fought back tears.

He’d been serving in the California Guard when he noticed how much support and attention Oregon Guard received from their state leaders. He transferred to Oregon where he was happy to wait for Kulongoski.

The governor finally reached him.

“We’ve met,” Johnson said with a big smile.

“Oh yes,” Kulongoski breaks into a smile.

“Oh yes, oh yes.”

They stood like old friends, shaking hands.

It’s his third deployment, he told the governor.

“Thank you, thank you. Be safe.”

The Soldiers had an hour between the speeches and boarding buses for Boise and final training in Mississippi. They expect to reach Iraq in December.
The Oregon National Guard has become a national model for its focus on using green technology. This year alone, the Oregon Military Department dedicated four major facilities using green technology, like solar panels, energy efficient mechanical systems, and environmentally safe finishing projects.

In August, military and civilian leaders dedicated the Captain John W. Brown Armory in Ontario, Ore. The 36,000 square foot facility is powered by a hydrothermal-based heating system, making it one of the largest solar power arrays on the Idaho Power Company’s electrical grid.

The Armory’s green design meets the leadership in energy and environmental design (LEED) standards and is currently being considered for silver certification from the U.S. Green building association.

“Most of the energy we get is from the solar,” said Maj. Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, Ore., Sept. 27. “We have (with) the Oregon National Guard,” said Dana Young, President of Treasure Valley Community College.

“The Readiness Center also boasts an array of solar panels that not only provide power for the site, but will also serve as a training facility for TVCC’s emerging solar power program,” Young added. In Springfield, Ore., officials dedicated the 162 Infantry Regiment Readiness Center in September. The facility runs on green energy with a minimal amount of solar panels and a highly-efficient mechanical system.

“It’s a win-win for us and the community,” Swafford said.

The Major Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, dedicated in August, also boasts a variety of green innovations. The 39,000 square foot facility will house the 2-441 Aviation and the 102 Civil Support Team. Builders used environmentally friendly products, and a highly-efficient heating and cooling system.

We are living in a world where energy prices are driving the need toward sustainability...

— Roy Swafford, Oregon Military Department Installations Manager

In addition to the Oregon Army National Guard, the new facility will also provide much-needed space for college classes. Students from nearby Treasure Valley Community College will utilize the classrooms, and athletic teams will be able to use the Readiness Center’s gymnasium for additional practices throughout the year. In addition, the solar panels used at the Ontario Readiness Center will also serve a dual use as a training tool for soldiers.

“I’m excited to be a part of implementing the college’s use of this new center, and to continue strengthening the partnership we have with the Oregon National Guard,” said Dana Young, President of Treasure Valley Community College.

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NEW ARMED FORCES READINESS CENTER DEDICATED IN SPRINGFIELD

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

The Oregon National Guard held a dedication ceremony for the Lane County Armed Forces Reserve Center in Springfield, Ore., Sept. 27.

The 156,000 square foot facility, which will serve as the new headquarters for 2 Battalion 162 Infantry, includes a full service kitchen, a 7,400 square foot assembly hall, and six classrooms totaling almost 6,000 square feet.

The classrooms and facilities can be utilized by community partners and organizations, such as local Scout Troops, Drivers Education and Canine Obedience Training groups.

“The project has exceeded our expectations by integrating and becoming a foundational part of the community,” said Doug MacDonald, facilities community liaison.


The facility is located at 3110 Pierce Parkway in Springfield. In addition to the Oregon Army National Guard, the new facility will house offices for the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the United States Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps.

Joseph Calcaro, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Housing also attended the ceremony. Calcaro oversees all physical installations throughout the United States Army.

Following the Lane County dedication, Calcaro spent the day touring other Oregon National Guard facilities including the Maj. Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, Ore., and...
The Oregon National Guard: 100 years of fighting forest fires

Story by Warren Aney, Special to the Oregon Sentinel

The Oregon National Guard’s first forest fire-fighting duty took place 100 years ago this August.

A particularly bad forest fire season prompted requests for Oregon National Guard assistance in August 1910. Five units were sent to fight fires threatening the Portland City watershed, private property east of Portland, a local sawmill, and settlers and private forest in Linn County southeast of Eugene.

Oregon National Guard units in Portland received fire-fighting orders on Aug. 24, 1910, and Battery K was sent to a fire southeast of Gresham, where they engaged a conflagration along the Multnomah-Clackamas county line, where strong east winds had created a firestorm. Three other rifle companies proceeded to the vicinity of Marmot, east of the town of Sandy, where five fires were burning in that area. Their marching orders had come from the U.S. Forest Service.

The Oregon Citizen-Soldiers fought a fire threatening the pipeline for Portland’s water system and a lumber mill on private forest land near Loring. Their efforts saved a fish hatchery on the Salmon River, and large tracts of forest on Zig Zag Mountain.

On Aug. 26, 1910, the Oregon National Guard unit based in Albany received orders to proceed to Brownsville, where they saved a sawmill twenty miles south of the town. Although not trained for this particular duty, the Oregon units came equipped with axes and shovels, bedrolls and camping gear, and their own command and support structure. The Portland units even experimented unsuccessfully, at the time, with wireless communications.

These Oregon National Guard Soldiers were trained to fight under simple and primitive conditions, so the austere environment they encountered in the forests made it easy for them to do what they knew how to do.

Their combination of organization and discipline was cited as an important reason for successfully controlling several fires over a wide area, where they dug fire lines and set backfires.

T.J. Sherrard, Supervisor of the Oregon National Forest, said, “The success with which these fires were handled was largely due to the effective service of the troops.”

On Aug. 28 the individuals fighting the fires were relieved to see rain clouds. With the shifting winds and coming rains, the fires were largely brought under control.

The Albany unit went home on Aug. 29, and the Portland units were sent home the next day.

National Guard is a national treasure, says NGB Chief

OXON HILL, Md. – The National Guard is a national treasure that we need to preserve and protect, said National Guard Bureau Chief at the 2010 Air Force Association Air and Space Conference, in Oxon Hill, Md., Sept. 14.

“The dual mission of the National Guard, and its ability to combine and work with local, state and federal governments, makes us a force that I think is arguably a force that this nation cannot do without,” said Gen. Craig McKinley.

The National Guard has always had a dual mission at home and abroad, but it is now also considered an operational reserve providing forces for missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Sinai, Haiti, the Horn of Africa and Kosovo.

“The citizens of the United States expect the full might of the armed forces to come to their aid in the event of a natural disaster, and the National Guard has been there every time,” McKinley said.

Since Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and then Katrina in 2005, the Guard has made rapid improvements to its response with local, state and federal governments.

“Our domestic mission is a piece of our fabric, it’s a piece of our culture,” he said. McKinley also described the overseas missions the Guard has been a part of since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

“The Army Guard has been involved in operations for the last nine years, while the Air Guard is going on nearly two decades,” he said.

“The Air Guard has been supporting the Air Force, and has been fully integrated into operations, such as Northern Watch and Southern Watch.

“Under great leadership, the Air Guard has been able to achieve this full integration with the active force and perform its missions in a very professional manner.

Currently, about 44,000 Soldiers and 10,000 Airmen are deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Continued:

Continued from front page

The Sept. 11 show raised $5,000 for the memorial.

The military-themed performance brought the audience back through some of the experiences Anderson went through as an Oregon Army National Guard flight medic in Afghanistan and a pilot in Iraq where he connected with injured children by utilizing his skills as a magician.

The greatest medicine I could administer was magic,” said Anderson.

During the show, Anderson weaved pictures of the kids from Iraq in with magic tricks he did overseas including making snow—a trick he devised after he received a special request from an injured Iraqi girl.

“Magic broke down language barriers and allowed us to communicate and brought smiles to their faces,” Anderson said.

Anderson’s journey to the stage at Canby High School came after a chance meeting with Mike Breshears, a fellow Canby resident and disabled Vietnam veteran.

“I decided to do a benefit show in my hometown and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to the memorial,” said Anderson. “It makes you feel really good.”

Since returning from Iraq in January, Anderson’s has performed magic on stages across the country with a stint on NBC Nightly News, and the hit NBC show America’s Got Talent, where he made it to the top 50 before being voted off. But it’s often the smallest shows that mean the most.

“It feels really good to know we raised a lot of money for the memorial,” said Anderson. “I’m glad I was able to help out.”

Continuing with the show, the audience smiled and the nurse said it was the only time she would ever see any emotion,” said Anderson. “I’m glad I was able to help out.”

During the Sept. 11 fundraiser show, Anderson brought audience members on stage to include them in his tricks. He said every part of his show is based on a real life event.

“My goal is to take the audience and not only get them a first-rate show but transport them into the areas when that (situation) happened,” he said.

Anderson’s story and photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

Photo courtesy of the Oregon National Guard’s Battery A Fighting fires near Gresham.

Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Hovis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Anderson goes through a magic trick during a show held in Canby, Ore., Sept. 11, 2010. Anderson helped raise over $5,000 for a veterans memorial during the show.
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OREGON NATIONAL GUARD
TRICARE available for gray-area retirees
Story by Kimberly Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

On Sept. 1, 2010, TRICARE launched TRICARE Retired Reserve or TRR, which allows members who are not yet age 60, also known as “gray area” retirees, to purchase TRICARE health coverage for themselves and their eligible family members.

This new program offers a health coverage opportunity for “gray area” Guardsmen and Reservists who served America Honorably,” said Navy Rear Adm. Christine Hunter, deputy director of the TRICARE Management Activity.

The TRICARE Reserve Retiree Program will cost $388.31 per month for single coverage and $976.41 per month for family coverage through the end of the calendar year. On Jan. 1, monthly premiums will increase to $408.01 for single coverage and $1,020.50 for family coverage.

Gray area retirees number about 180,000 throughout the National Guard and Reserve. The group is defined as those whose service has ended but their retirement benefits have not started.

In addition to the monthly premiums, those enrolled in the new program must meet an annual deductible before health costs are covered. The current annual deductible is $150 for individual coverage and $300 for family coverage.

For more information on TRICARE Retired Reserve please call Triwest Healthcare Alliance 1-888-874-9378.

Measure 70 to benefit veterans, families

There is a measure on the ballot this November which would expand availability of home loans to veterans of the National Guard, non-combat veterans and those serving after Sept. 11, 2001.

Under existing laws, nearly two-thirds of Oregon veterans—including most from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan—do not qualify for the loan program today.

Measure 70 allows for an amendment to the Oregon Constitution making loans available to more veterans, low interest home loans be a lifetime benefit, and an increase in the number of honorably discharged veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for the low-interest loan program.

Pons takes over as 1-186 commander

Army Guard names top recruiter

Photo by Guy Britnell, Recruiting and Retention Battalion Marketing Director


If you’re interested in learning more or becoming a member of the Oregon National Guard Ultra Running Club, please contact Lt. Col. Cary Miller at Runner_trail@yahoo.com

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Ducks visit Oregon Guard’s newest building
University of Oregon cheerleaders tour Maj. Charles L. Deibert Operations facility

Above: The University of Oregon cheerleading squad visited the Oregon Army National Guard’s Maj. Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, Ore., Sept. 22 for a facilities tour. The group took advantage of a parked UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for an impromptu photo opportunity.

Left: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers give the University of Oregon “Duck” a boost. From left to right are; Staff Sgt. Justin Thomas of Delta Co., 7-158 Aviation, and Staff Sgts. James Tournay and Mark Carter, both of Charlie Co., 7-158 Aviation.

Photos by Spc. John T. Dowd, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Air Guard sends F-15 package to United Arab Emirates

Oregon Airmen to take part in month-long overseas training tour

Right: An Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle from the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland, Ore., takes flight with full afterburner, on its way to an overseas training tour in the United Arab Emirates, Oct. 2. Above: Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Adam Stiler goes through the pre-flight check of his F-15-C Eagle prior to take-off from the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Oct. 2. The Oregon Air National Guard sent a package of six jets and support personnel for an overseas training tour in the United Arab Emirates. The group will return to Oregon in November 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs).

Oregon Air Guard sends F-15 package to United Arab Emirates

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing’s Civil Engineering Squadron assisted with construction on a high school stadium in Corbett, Ore.

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The community of Corbett turns out for the dedication ceremony of the Jeff Lucas Memorial Veterans Stadium on Sept. 4. Oregon Airmen helped with the construction of the project.

Story by Sentinel Staff

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing’s Civil Engineering Squadron assisted with construction on a high school stadium in Corbett, Ore.

The community of Corbett turns out for the dedication ceremony of the Jeff Lucas Memorial Veterans Stadium on Sept. 4. Oregon Airmen helped with the construction of the project.

The program is part of the Innovative Readiness Training Program (IRT), which improves military readiness while providing quality construction services to local communities throughout Oregon.

The stadium grandstand and football sports complex in honor of local hero, Jeff Lucas, during a period of two weeks, masons, carpenters, steel workers, electricians and other Air National Guard civil engineers poured concrete, wove electrical wires together and installed steel pillars as the new stadium and complex took shape.

The stadium grandstand and football sports complex was dedicated as the Jeff Lucas Memorial Veterans Stadium in time for Corbett High School’s first football game of the season on Sept. 4.

Jeff Lucas was a Corbett High School graduate who joined the U.S. Navy, becoming a Navy SEAL. He was killed in action in 2005.

Oregon Airmen assist with Corbett memorial stadium

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