Far from home, still a family

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

WARRENTON, Ore. — Overlooking one of the highest points at Camp Rilea, radar and communications equipment from the 116th Air Control Squadron of the Oregon Air National Guard are providing surveillance and intelligence as part of their daily mission.

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They were joined by three members of the 276th Air Control Squadron, based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., one Airman from the 133rd Test Squadron, Iowa Air National Guard, and two members from the 141st Air Control Squadron, Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

Oregon Airmen train, deploy together as friends, family

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Soldiers vie for ‘Best Warrior’ title at Rilea

Oregon Army National Guard members compete for NCO, Soldier of the Year

Story by Sgt. Eric Rutherford, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WARRENTON, Ore. — Oregon Citizen-Soldiers battled fatigue, foul weather and stressful conditions to compete for the title of Oregon Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, during the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, March 11-13.

Ten Soldiers and 12 Noncommissioned Officers spent the weekend demonstrating soldiering skills vying for the opportunity to represent Oregon at the regional competition later this year.

The competition kicked off Friday night with an essay and appearance board, and the following day started early with an Army Physical Fitness Test, followed by an obstacle course, rifle zero and stress-shoot event, three-mile run with a 35-pound rucksack, and a night land navigation course.

Sunday saw an Urban Operations course where competitors completed a hand-grenade course and casualty evacuation, followed by an Army Combatives competition where
The Oregon Sentinel

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Commander

The Oregon National Guard: Moving Toward the Future

It is hard to believe two years passed since we broke ground on a project dedicated to honor our heroes from World War II’s famed 41st Infantry Division in Clackamas. This summer marks the opening of the 41BC, 82nd Airborne and several other units begin to move into this amazing Armed Forces Reserve Center. The project is nearing completion and will be covered through the end of the year. It will be the new home for 1,300 members of the Oregon National Guard and US Army Reserve. An official dedication is scheduled to take place in Sept., along with an expected grand opening of the Army Air Force Exchange System outlet. Both of these have been long overdue for our service members. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure plan that impacted the Clackamas Army Air Force Exchange was a major setback for the project. We had the impetus behind this amazing AFRC. However, it was not immediately obvious how the dedication, leadership and teamwork of our installations division was able to work together and execute this operation. It was this amazing work by an amazing staff. It will pay dividends for many years to come. It truly was a 21st Century center for 21st Century Soldiers.

As you know we are about to begin our annual training and it is great to see our units and personnel begin to get back to business. I encourage each and every Soldier, Airman and civilian to be as safe as possible as we execute and support these trainings. Conduct after action reviews and discover areas to improve, except when it comes to safety. Safety should never be an after action thought.

We have more than 1,000 Oregon citizen-soldiers and Airmen mobilized supporting operations throughout the world. On April 27, one of Oregon’s Soldiers died in a non-combat related suicide, while supporting Operation New Dawn. Specialist Andrew E. Lara, assigned to F Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 110th Cavalry Regiment, was a driver for one of the Convoy Escort Teams. Specialist Lara’s death was non-combat related, it is not less tragic. As we begin our annual training, I urge all of our Oregon National Guard members and their families to remember Specialist Lara and his family and service to our country and our nation.

In regards to the death of Ilin Iladen, we have currently increased our security of Force Force Condition Bravo. Although there has not been a specific threat identified, it is prudent to elevate our security awareness. Remain on your guard and remain vigilant. In addition, for all those who have worn the uniform, and for the families and communities who have endured the death of loved ones- take a moment to reflect- we got him.

 Armed Forces Day and Armed Forces Month are a celebration of those who have served. This month we should all be proud of our service. Thank you to all those who have served and for the sacrifices you have made to keep our nation safe. For those currently wearing the uniform, wear it proudly. It is truly about being professional and ready! We are the guardians of freedom.

Always Ready! Always There!

Suicide a problem for Oregon Guard and communities

Army Leadership Development Strategy is coming our way!

Last month the Army National Guard’s Warrant Officer Leadership Development Strategy group met in San Antonio, Texas. The group was divided into Life Cycle Management and Leader Development to adapt the Army’s Leadership Development Strategy (ALDS) and Life Cycle Management (LCM). One of the tasks of the ALDS group is to identify the uniqueness of the ARNG Warrant Officer Corps and how to address and overcome these challenges; keeping in mind that the ALDS is designed and published by the Oregon National Guard.

Based on our force structure the challenge will be to develop senior warrants as technical and tactical experts who have the strategic and global concept that comes from Division, Corps and Theater level experience.

NCOs are being asked and is expected of a Chief Warrant Officer Four and Five. ARNG junior warrants, traditional or full time, will be able to meet the more representitive and assignment recommendations of the Army Leader- ship Development Strategy (ALDS) and Life Cycle Management (LCM).

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At first glance this task seems daunting. However, as we listed the opportunities and taking into consideration our civilian expertise it became obvious these new warrantors will bring to the table a broader view of the issues.

We bring to the fight both a Home Game (State Mission) and Away Game (Fiscal Mission) approach and practice. The next logical step is how to incorporate that into the ALDS for the National Guard.

I will post on the CCWO website the back brief of the group.

You will see the timelines for presentation and Professional Military Education (PME) requirements. I would encourage taking a look and give feed back to your senior warrants.

You will also see the LCM slides that will help you better understand the changes. Right now there is a strong move to require an Associate Degree for promotion to CW3 and CW2, and promotion to CW4. There will be a phase in process but that has not been determined yet. One of my CCWO goals was to conduct the first ever All ORARNG Warrant Officer Professional Development Conference. That will not happen this fiscal year due to budget constraints, there is an opportunity to submit a fully funded conference for FY12, which I would encourage you. Your senior warrants will be setting a draft agenda. Please contact them with any suggestions.

I would like to welcome WO1 Jeremy Andrew, AV and WO1 Rob Penge, LG to the Warrant Officer Corps. You accepted the challenge and succeeded! Congratulations! Please see the photo of WO1 Penge’s pinning ceremony here.

If you or you have a NCO that has the special qualities and ability to become a Warrant Officer, have them contact CW3 Rob Karnes, WSO/M at 503-384-2886.

For the Corps!

Chief Warrant Officer 5
Michael D. Gaylor
Command Chief Warrant Officer, Oregon National Guard

Commander

Oregon National Guard

Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
The Adjutant General

Oregon Army National Guard

The Oregon Military Department

OR ARNG

April 2011

ReCRUIT on NEXT PAGE
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, discussing the history of SAAM

By Judith Watson,
JFHQ Sexual Assault Resource Coordinator

Oregon National Guard is proud to be a part of this annual time of recognition for the survivors of sexual assault. The National Guard, through its Sexual Assault Prevention & Response program, planned a number of activities to highlight awareness of this issue that affects all citizens, military and non-military, adult and child, and poor, male and female and young and old.

On April 5, we brought Dr. Suzanne Holroyd from the DoD SAPRO program. She spoke at the Military Department on “DoD SAPRO’s Strategic Approach.” It is unusual to be able to access a speaker from the national SAPRO.

Representatives from the Chaplain’s office, HRO, command, and Victim Advocates were present at the talk. We collaborated with the Portland VA, Military Sexual Trauma staff to sponsor The Clothesline Project.

This is an opportunity for male and female survivors of sexual trauma to design a t-shirt which was displayed in the skybridge between buildings 101 and 104 at the Portland VA, April 5-7.

ORNG SAPR program staffed a table at the event. A concerted effort has been made to travel to numerous armories and bases to ensure that posters and other educational materials are visible. Armories and bases that have been visited include Prineville, Bend, Redmond, Riddle, Grants Pass, Medford, Ashland, Klamath Falls, Salem, and Roseburg.

This effort will continue over the next several months until all sites have been visited. Informational tables will be set up at various sites in the Willamette Valley and Portland through April.

Why is there SAAM? Women began protesting against violence in the late 1970s in England with Take Back the Night marches.

In 1978 the first marches were held in the US in NYC and San Francisco. ‘Over time, sexual assault awareness activities expanded to include the issue of sexual violence against men and men’s participation in ending sexual violence’ (National Sexual Violence Resource Center website).

In the late 1980s April was selected as the month to highlight awareness about this issue but SAAM was not observed nationally until April 2001.

Over the last few years more attention has been focused on the prevention of sexual violence. This coincides with the military’s emphasis on Bystander Intervention which promotes the idea that sexual assaults can be prevented in many situations.

We encourage you to join one of the activities listed above or stop by an informational table during the month of April.

Remember My Service Project needs your historical input

By Capt. Timothy Merritt, Historical Outreach Project Officer

The Remember My Service (RMS) Project is an interactive, historical record that documents the command and unit history. This DVD-ROM in a hardbound format is a comprehensive resource for our history and serves as a reference to the past.

This journal includes video, text, documents, photos and web links – up to 1,000 pages and six hours of video.

Since September 11, 2001, the Oregon National Guard has deployed over 25 units to various theaters along with dozens of individual Soldier mobilizations.

Due to the large numbers, the criteria for documenting deployments with an RMS project are combat deployments of units with more than 500 personnel.

Based on the criteria, we are currently in the process of creating a historical record for the following four deployments:

- Project 1: The 2/162 IN BN’s deployment to OIF from 2003-2005
- Project 2: The 3-116 CAV’s deployment to OIF from 2004-2006
- Project 3: The 41 IBCT / 141 SPT BN deployments to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and OEF from 2005 – 2007
- Project 4: The 41 IBCT’s deployment to OIF from 2009-2010

These projects are extensive and each includes a Soldier Gallery displaying the names and associated bios of all the current Soldiers of these units. We want you to be included in this gallery. If you participated in any of the deployments listed above, please create your own bio via an online submission wizard located at: www.RMSRollCall.org.

The submission process is simple and takes about 10 minutes to select from pre-defined options—if you don’t see the exact unit that you deployed with, help update the record by using the “suggest” button in each category.

Please complete your RMS Roll Call Profile as soon as possible. We thank you for your support and participation in this significant and meaningful project.

Recruit Sustainment Program key to suicide awareness, education

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

will really take hold. This will only be successful if implemented at the grass-roots level.

3. The Warrior Ethos. I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade. Every Soldier learns this Ethos. What does it really mean? And how do we use it to reinforce the above information.

I will always place the mission first. This sentence means that we put service above self. We place great emphasis solving problems in order to accomplish the mission. We leave our families, employers, and communities when our State and Nation call, and we must be ready.

I will never accept defeat. We are a nation of competitors and winners. We do not like to lose and it is unacceptable. Choosing Suicide is accepting defeat. I will NEVER quit. I will NEVER quit. I will NEVER quit. I will NEVER quit. I will NEVER quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade. This is a battle buddy and leader phrase. We must know everything possible about a Soldier in our formation. We must communicate and make sure that if a Soldier is having issues that we leave no stone unturned in help. We owe that to them because they are us.

In summary, I want to paraphrase Col. Eric Bush, 41st Brigade Commander, and Prineville Police Chief, who I believe said it best:

“We not only have a Suicide issue in the Guard, we have a Suicide issue in Oregon and our communities. We owe it to our State to solve this problem internally, and then export our solution to our cities, employers, families, schools, community organizations and anywhere else that needs it. That is what our Culture is all about.”
Some might say Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Rick “The Horror” Story has a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde persona when it comes to fighting in the UFC “octagon.”

But according to people who know him well, he is anything but a horror outside the ring.

“He is the nicest guy you will ever meet, but when the fight starts he will punish you,” said teammate Ray Armstrong.

“I have trained with some of the best Mixed Martial Arts fighters, and his work ethic is the best I’ve ever seen,” Armstrong added.

Armstrong said Story also thinks about others and always wants them to improve—a trait which caught the attention of his former commanders and trainers in the Oregon National Guard.

According to Maj. Travis Lee, Rick Story had a bright future ahead of him in the Oregon National Guard.

“He would have had a promising career—he deployed as the joint quintessential officer with his background and value set,” said Lee, who in 2005, helped train Story during ROTC at Southern Oregon University.

“He is a loss to the organization,” he added.

Lee, who now serves as the Executive Officer for 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment in Ashland, Ore., said Story is a humble and hard-working Soldier who had a bright future as an officer in the Oregon National Guard.

But Story gave it all up to become a top fighter in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

On May 28, Story will battle one of the top Middleweight UFC fighters in the world, Thiago Alves, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Story said he is thankful for his time in the Oregon National Guard and that the benefits he received not only helped him finish college at SOU, but also helped shape him as a person.

“I learned how much you can get done if everyone works together,” he said. “That and the importance of integrity are probably the two most significant things that carry over into my career now.”

After spending 18 months training to become an officer in the Army, Story learned about teamwork and attention to detail.

For anyone who is struggling to get ahead in life and motivated enough to learn about teamwork and attention to detail.

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‘Airmen ready to take on mission,’ says commander

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

For many, this is their first deployment. The ongoing training early in 2011 has introduced them to some of the most state-of-the-art equipment used as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The pre-mobilization training utilized the in-theater system, Battle Control Center-CENTAF, otherwise known as the BCC.

One of the newest battle staff managers in the unit is 2nd Lt. Wayne Doyle, who finished more than a year’s training to upgrade his skills prior to joining the unit on the deployment.

“We have to ascertain incoming threats so we can split the airspace, to get both a clear picture of what is happening and then be able to talk to the fighter jets and air tankers while they are in their missions,” Doyle said.

“Everyone in the unit is currently going through a rapid learning curve and a big focus right now is getting our younger Airmen the hands-on training they need before they leave,” he said. This will be the largest unit and operations section deployment undertaken by the 116th ACS, according to unit commanders.

Training has always been a part of Doyle’s life. He taught High School math and coached track prior to joining the 116th ACS shortly after September 11, 2001.

Several of his students are now young Airmen in the unit and will be deploying with their old teacher.

“Everything we train to do is about protecting and saving lives,” Doyle said.

The leaders taking many of the younger Airmen have seen a lot of deployments over the last decade. Chief Master Sgt. Bob Birman has been on multiple CENTAF missions, but this deployment is different. His son, Staff Sgt. Tyler Birman has joined him on trip.

As the operations superintendent, Chief Birman will be able to share a unique experience in a deployed environment, and pass on real-world knowledge to his son.

“I am ecstatic to be able to do this mission with my son,” the elder Birman said.

“This is something I wanted to be able to do with Tyler before I retire.”

As for Staff Sgt. Birman, his job in computer maintenance will keep him busy and make the time pass quicker with his dad as a helpful guide.

“When I am able to ‘Skype’ back home, I know that seeing my own wife and children will (also) allow my dad to see his grandkids at the same time,” he said.

“I think my mom is both relieved and worried that we both are going together on this mission.”

The Birmans are not alone as a family unit on this deployment. The 116th will also be sending a husband and wife team. Tech. Sgt. Michelle Lowe and Staff Sgt. Richard Lowe spent their last deployment working in Afghanistan. Although they’ve been married since mid-2009, they will spend this deployment just like their last one—living in separate quarters. Unlike the U.S. Army, it turns out the Air Force does not allow married couples to cohabitate while on deployments.

“We have been really professional about it and found ways to spend time together and still maintain our professional standards,” Michelle said.

In her civilian job, she is high school counselor at Mulino Elementary School, in Mulino, Ore. She plans to share her deployment with her students via e-mail and web updates.

The Lowes spent their pre-deployment training on the rifle range at Camp Adair in February. They qualified on weapons training and technical equipment in preparation for their Middle East tour.

Richard Lowe is a full time member of the 116th ACS, and knows from past experience that having Michelle at work each day brings them closer.

“We find humor in our situation so we try and make it fun when we have time together,” he said.

The Yellow Ribbon Program’s pre-deployment event recently held at Camp Rilea addressed finances, military benefits and other issues facing families whose loved ones will be gone for extended periods of time.

Lt. Col. Gregor Leist, 116th ACS Commander, said his Airmen are ready to take on the mission, and are looking forward to supporting the ongoing contingency operations in the Middle East.

“We’re grateful for the shared sacrifices that the employers, family and friends make during our deployment,” he said.

“The ongoing training allows our people to be ready to support this operation and will be a chance for our younger members to be part of this real-world assignment.”
For 3-116 Cavalry officer in Iraq, safety is serious business

Sagen said he often draws on his experience as a full-time police officer at the Kennewick Police Department to help him with his safety officer responsibilities. “As a police officer, before I even go out, I go through a routine,” he said. “I put things like my weapon in the place every time. And that is the same type of safety checks you do before a mission.”

Sagen’s Soldiers in A Company spend a lot of time on the road escorting convoys. While the mission tempo can be hectic, Sagen said that a fast pace demands a high degree of awareness regarding safety. “Safety is a huge deal,” he said. “I think about it in terms of how many people we lost to IEDs [improvised explosive devices] versus getting injured when an ammo can isn’t tied down and hits someone in the head.”

The little things mean a lot, he added. And common sense also plays a big role. “If you have to spend three hours doing something you are taking is safe or not, chances are it probably isn’t,” he said.

Sagen’s Soldiers’ commitment regarding safety inside his company is based on spot checks and consistent oversight.

“With the platoons, I look for things specifically they are not looking for,” he said. “Simple details. And make sure I hit every platoon when I can. Most of the time I go out and spot check them. Tie downs, are they storing ammo correctly, that kind of stuff.”

Sagen said there is usually a different safety issue to look for every few weeks.

“Recently it has been tie-downs,” he said. “I ask certain questions like, do the crews need equipment to help them tie stuff down?”

The safety officer position is a key one because the A Company command chain, added Sagen. “First and foremost, I manage all the [safety] reports and counsel the commander on what the safety protocols are,” he said. “I offer solutions and recommendations.”

While his job as safety officer is a busy one, Sagen said the devil is in the details. “You have to double-check Soldiers,” he said. “You can control whether stuff is tied down in the vehicle or whether a weapon is on safe. Those things we can mitigate ourselves,” Sagen added.

Oregon National Guard’s ‘Spur Ride’ returns after six-year hiatus

From the days when Troops rode horses into battle Cavalrymen have been distinguished by their silver spurs that separate the best of the Soldiers, but it is the Order of the Spur that is the custom well known through generations, listening post/observation fire, rappel operations, land navigation, calling for weapons maintenance, call for fire, and a seven-mile ruck march under adverse conditions at night.

Sagen’s duties as a safety officer and the company executive officer keep him busy. He must manage all the pieces that go with being the executive officer and ensure his Soldiers are using proper safety measures while conducting convoy escort missions.

“For one officer deployed here, safety is more than just another buzzword,” said 1st Lt. Jeff Sagen, with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Supportive Brigade, 103rd Support Command (Expeditionary), his company is based on spot checks and consistent oversight.

“In our mission, you try to mitigate the things you can,” he said. “You can control whether stuff is tied down in the vehicle or whether a weapon is on safe. Those things we can mitigate ourselves,” Sagen added.

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Veterans' Affairs Director Jim Willis and Attorney General John Kroger today announced an agreement with Fred Meyer. The agreement provides back pay and pension benefits to Oregon employees who were deployed for military service during the last seven years and to modify its employment practices.

“We are pleased that Fred Meyer, a progressive and prominent Oregon employer, has taken a proactive approach to comply with re-employment rights for all of its veteran employees,” said Director Willis.

The Department of Justice in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs launched an investigation after receiving complaints from veterans that they had not received step increases and pension benefits during their periods of military deployment in violation of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and state law.

Once the concerns were brought to Fred Meyer’s attention the company was cooperative during the investigation and agreed to correct pay discrepancies for certain qualifying veterans.

Under the settlement, Fred Meyer agrees to:

- Identify all Oregon residents who took military leave from Fred Meyer employment on or after January 1, 2000 who returned within 30 days of discharge, and who were subject to a compensation structure providing for pay increases and pension benefits based on their time of service;
- Calculate and provide a pay and pension adjustment that represents the difference between what the veteran received in pay increases and pension benefits and what the veteran should have received if the veteran had completed the years of military leave;
- Go forward, provide deployed veterans step increases and pension benefits consistent with the terms of the agreement; and
- Contact all qualifying veterans who were employed by Fred Meyer and advise them of the agreement.

Assistant Attorney General Diane Sykes and Keith Dubanевич, Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to Attorney General Kroger, handled the case.

Attorney General John Kroger leads the Oregon Department of Justice. The Department of Justice is devoted to fighting crime and fraud, protecting the environment, improving child welfare, promoting a positive business climate, and defending the rights of all Oregonians.

Hoopla tournament set for July

The 13th annual Oregon National Guard Hoopla is scheduled to be held July 22-24.

The three-day event closes out Court Street in front of the Oregon State Capitol in Salem, Ore., every year. Brown and Standley are scheduled to compete in the regional competition in 2010.

The event joins similar programs, such as those with the Portland Trail Blazers NBA team, University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

The event has generated over $175,000, which was donated to local youth sports and charities in the Keizer/Salem area.

The event attracts over 700 teams, 3,000 participants and 40,000 spectators.

The event includes the free kid’s clinic, three-point shoot out, and slam dunk contest. In 2009, the West Coast Bank Shoot Turn Shoot contest featured a $25,000 cash prize. The West Coast Bank is the event’s founding partner.

“The Oregon National Guard promised the state’s largest three-on-three basketball tournament in 2010. The event joins similar programs, such as those with the Portland Trail Blazers NBA team, University of Oregon and Oregon State University.”

The new system uses Amateur Radio frequencies and can provide email type messages in and out of areas impacted by natural or man caused disasters in addition to giving access to weather bulletins, tsunami alerts and weather forecasting tools when the Internet is unavailable.

The HAM (Amateur Radio) system is one of many vital tools the Oregon Office of Emergency Management can use in a disaster.

“Each county has volunteers and do so we,” said Jennifer Chamberlain, Public Affairs coordinator for Oregon Emergency Management.

“If communications are down, our ham radio operators are the ones that pass on the requests for assistance,” she added.

When an emergency strikes, there is a system in place to respond.

“Once the Governor declares a state of emergency in the county, Oregon Emergency Management becomes a coordinating agency for all state resources including the Oregon National Guard,” she added.

Once that happens the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in Salem is activated and as requests for assistance come in from the counties, Officials in the ECC coordinate with other state agencies to fill those requests.

It’s a well thought out system, Chamberlin said, and with the added security of the HAM radio system, functions as a machine ready to be activated at any time.

Some members of the Oregon State Defense Force train and assist with communications during times of natural disaster, to include HAM radio operators.

Continued from front page

‘Best Warrior’ Competition: For Soldiers, title doesn’t come easy

Due to a state grant, Oregon’s emergency responders now have a more robust communications system in times of natural disasters.

In early December 2007, an intense storm struck the Oregon Coast, flattening 3,500 acres of trees, leveling 40 million board feet of timber, and killing 18 people.

Flooding from the Nehalem River and landslides caused the town of Vernonia to be completely cut off from the rest of Oregon.

The Oregon National Guard responded to the crisis by evacuating residents and helping emergency responders—still communication was difficult.

Oregon Emergency Management’s methods of communicating with counties by land lines, cell phones, and computers was impossible, because the county’s emergency communication system had been wiped out in the floods.

Marty McKeil, Communications Officer for Oregon Emergency Management, said a state grant allowed officials to develop a better method of communication during times of natural disasters.

“A lot of work was put up by our employees. They will go to the next level and ask the county, and finally the state,” said Chamberlin.

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**Oregon Air National Guard celebrates seventy years of protecting Pacific Northwest**

**Photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs**

The STARBASE program has been helping Portland students since 1998. As World War II began, then Maj. G. Robert Dodson, an Oregonian serving with the 321st Observation Squadron Reserve at Pearson Field, in Vancouver, Wash., requested the National Guard Bureau’s authorization to form an Oregon flying unit. The 123rd Observation Squadron was soon launched, and would become the first unit to conduct maritime surveillance of the Continental United States coastline following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The squadron was federally activated under different unit designations and flew the O-47, BC-1A and later the F-5 reconnaissance version of the P-38 in the China-Burma theatre. Others would serve in Europe. After the war, the unit regrouped as the 123rd Fighter Squadron. By 1946, the unit was redesignated as the 142nd Fighter Group and, in 1951 the unit mobilized in support of the Korean War. After supporting the Korean War it remained very active in air defense matters through the intervening Cold War years, eventually becoming a Fighter Wing in 1995.

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**Portland Air Base sees last STARBASE class through it’s gates**

**Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office**

PORTLAND, Ore. – An eager group of fifth graders from Woodstock Elementary School are quick to answer questions from Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Durfee, standing next to an Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle aircraft.

The group is touring the Portland Air National Guard Base as part of the Oregon Air National Guard STARBASE Program, which provides an up-close look, as well as hands-on education into Oregon’s premier strike fighter, the F-15 Eagle, in addition to how Oregon Airmen uphold the unit’s Air Sovereignty Alert Mission.

“The kids just love the program because they get to see firsthand the airplanes and how they function and that provokes a new way of thinking,” Durfee said.

Through the program, Airmen open up a whole new world of science and mathematics for students.

The hangar tour and up-close look at the jets have long been the highlight of the STARBASE Program, but recently the program has shifted to more class room and a core textbook approach.

The curriculum is funded by the Department of Defense, with over 60 programs providing students with 25 hours of exciting learning time on military installations across the nation.

The Portland program is a partnership between the Portland Public Schools and the Oregon National Guard. Since 1993 Marilyn Sholian has been working with STARBASE Portland, and helped the program grow and develop many of the classes in chemistry, fluids and avionics, and other areas the students see when they are on base for the two week class.

The Portland-Metro area has 21 schools which send 1,340 students through the program each year.

“The kids are here four days each week and the classrooms are full all the time,” Sholian said.

Planting the seeds for science and technology is the key to that makes the program so successful, she added. The program is designed to focus on at-risk students, and in urban areas where access to math and science classes are a challenge, Sholian said.

“For some of our kids, this is almost all the science that they sometimes have for the entire school year,” she said.

The tour for Woodstock Elementary School students was the final STARBASE class for the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Senior Master Sgt. Stanley Durfee, with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, speaks to students from Woodstock Elementary School as part of the STARBASE Program, which opens up students to science and math in a non-traditional curriculum.

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The Department of Defense directs many of the classes the children will have, governing the education curriculum to the classroom rather than touring the base or meeting military personnel like Durfee.

“This is the last year we are doing the tours because now all the classes will be selected and scheduled by the DoD,” Sholian said.

The tour was also the last of Durfee’s military career.

“I am retiring in a couple months so the weekly tours I have been doing since 1998 will be ending just as I retire,” he said.

In the future, the classes will no longer be so close to the Oregon Air National Guard’s premier strike fighter jet. Classes will be held at neighboring Jackson Armory, and administrators said the curriculum will continue to help area students develop strong math and science skills.

The STARBASE program has been helping Portland students since 1998.