Co-workers send basket of thanks to Guardsman called to active duty

By MONA SPEENST JORDAN

142ND FW PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The pen-and-ink sentiments reflect heartfelt thanks for his service to America and anecdotes typical to in-house office humor.

But the card attached to the giant basket of appreciation given to Tech. Sgt. Harry Lund by his civilian office mates last month is testimony to the fact that they miss him and are proud of his commitment to the nation since being called to active duty in September.

“Thank you for protecting our country—it is most appreciated!”

“Thank you for looking out for the rest of us citizens. We miss you, so hurry back.”

“You’re taking a pretty long vacation, aren’t you?”

“It isn’t the same without you! Thanks for serving the country.”

“Thanks for protecting us from the bad guys!”

“Harry, come home!”

Lund was among the more than 200 members of the Oregon Air National Guard, activated shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks on America.

He left his position as a software developer with the state of Oregon department of consumer and business services to assume full-time duties as an information systems specialist with the 142nd Communications Flight.

“Today, Army and Air National Guard members are deployed to Southwest Asia in support of the war in Afghanistan, Bosnia in support of the continuing IFOR peacekeeping mission and stationed around our nation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.”

National Guard members are out there making a difference, day in and day out, trained and ready to go anywhere our national security interests may take them.

On the 365th birthday of the National Guard, we give thanks for our past successes in war.

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National Guard members are out there making a difference, day in and day out, trained and ready to go anywhere our national security interests may take them.

Remember those who have gone before us to preserve and protect this great nation.

May we carry forward the memory of our forefathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters who have made the National Guard what it is today, and to continue the quest in building and sustaining our National Guard for success in the future.

Tech. Sgt. Harry Lund hefts a basket of gratitude and support from co-workers at the Oregon state department of consumer and business services.

Friends from the organization’s information management division in Salem presented Lund with the red, white and blue package on Nov. 27, thanking him for his service to America following his federal activation in September.

Lund told me they totally understand that what I am doing now is more important than what I was doing for them. I work with such a great group of people,” Lund said.
As I write this, everyone is preparing to celebrate the holiday season. It is certainly the time of the year that we should make the effort to offer good will to everyone. It is a time for families and friends to enjoy being together.

Our Guard family is as busy as ever. All of you know that the president asked each of us to enhance our airport security mission.

Our governor was more than willing to support this initiative. The responses I have received from the public regarding our soldiers and airmen in Oregon’s airports has been nothing but praise. Pride and professionalism can be derived by the actions of these outstanding Guard members.

As those serving in the airports, we have been asked each state to enhance our airport security mission.

As we near the end of the first year of the 21st century, I pause to reflect on the remarkable contributions of American soldiers throughout the years to our nation and to freedom throughout the world.

Over 365 years ago, citizen-soldiers took a stand for what was right and ushered in a new era. Their fight for freedom produced the greatest testament to the human spirit in the history of man—a nation so committed to the blessings of peace, hope and liberty—that it sent its best sons and daughters into harm’s way to keep the flame of freedom burning for all mankind.

Preserving liberty always has and always will continue to require tremendous personal sacrifice.

Like our forefathers, many of whom gave their youthful lives, we stand ready to shoulder today’s heavy burden when we are called to guard the frontiers of freedom—be it in Afghanistan, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, or around the great state of Oregon. Often in harm’s way, you are willing to sacrifice to comforts of your own home and the joys of sharing the holiday season with your families to give hope to others around the world.

We are there because the world is depending on the greatest fighting force on the face of the planet to give every man, woman and child the opportunities Americans take for granted. No matter what the challenge—from conflicts to natural disasters—the National Guard has the capability to quickly restore order and stability. You are there, because we want others to know the joys of freedom, so they will join us in guarding that freedom.

Your nation is so profoundly grateful for your service. People the world over are grateful. As you celebrate this holiday season, many of Oregon’s Guard members are deployed far from home. May you find comfort and joy in the hope you bring to the less fortunate and in the light of peace you bring to the world.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season and a peaceful new year.

Thank you for serving.

Another mission that is on the horizon is providing security at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Oregon will train and deploy over 100 soldiers to support this critical effort.

The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron from our Air Guard is also scheduled to support the Olympics if they are not totally committed with their Operation Noble Eagle requirements.

This may seem a unique role for the National Guard, but I know we are up to the task.

Recently we announced that the 1-186 Infantry Battalion will deploy to the Sinai for a six-month rotation.

They will be replacing a battalion from the 99th Separate Infantry Brigade from the Arkansas National Guard.

The United States Army has been enhancing this mission since 1982, and this will represent the first rotations comprised entirely of National Guard soldiers.

The 41st Separate Infantry Brigade was chosen based on its status as an enhanced brigade, and its reputation for performance excellence.

They will go on active duty in April or May 2002, deploy to Fort Carson for certification, and then deploy overseas in July.

The whole state is proud of their selection, and we will do everything within our power to support their efforts and help their families and employers.

I will close by wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season.

I also ask that each of you take time to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11.

Take time during this holiday season to remember them, as well as their family and friends, in your prayers.

As we prepare for the holidays this year, many of us have been affected by the events of 9-11.

Guard members have been activated around the state and some outside the state.

Business as usual takes on new meaning. Aircraft, pilots, and maintenance are on alert around the clock.

Men and women in uniform are in our airports, and countless others have been called up to do the jobs we have trained for.

The first week of this month, I attended a senior leadership conference with our commanders in Washington, DC. This was the first time in many years I have traveled commercial air lines in uniform. It was a great experience. Many people, young and old, were glad to see us. Veterans especially would approach and say thanks.

In this time of renewed patriotism, don’t be afraid to be seen in your uniform. It is a time for families and help their families and employers.

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Soldiers and airmen performing airport security throughout Oregon

By CSM RAYMOND BERRYMAN

On Nov. 13, 85 National Guard soldiers and airmen trained at Portland International Airport and Kleiver Armory for deployment to Operation Eagle. This airport security mission saw 54 soldiers and airmen placed in seven of the airports around the state. The security detail learned how the security systems and equipment work and the laws and regulations that the FAA enforces. Additional training was provided by the Oregon Air National Guard. There continues to be many misconceptions on what the soldiers and airmen are doing at the airports. There is a two-part mission. First, our soldiers and airmen are to monitor the civilian screeners operating the airport equipment for the FAA. If the screeners are not doing their job properly, the soldiers and airmen are to immediately inform the airport security managers who in turn report the issue to the authorities. This process has worked only because our soldiers and airmen have been professional in their actions.

The second mission is for the National Guard detail to be armed and act as back up to the civilian law enforcement. Each airport has its own police force, and city and law enforcement officers working at the check stations. The Portland Airport has the Port of Portland law enforcement stationed at that facility. Our soldiers and airmen work closely with these officers and are ready to respond when asked to assist at most of the state’s airports. The police are providing additional training to our details. This training includes firearms, use of force, interview techniques, and other police techniques.

Public misconceptions to what the airport security details are there for includecouting passengers and baggage searches. The troops know how to do this but are there to oversee that it is done correctly. People see our soldiers and airmen and often report that they are not doing anything. Our detail is in place so that no checkpoint is operated improperly. No person is allowed to bypass security or have any item that is contraband pass through. A deterrent to tourists is the objective.

The airport security mission is also a unique state mission. President Bush asked each state governor to voluntarily put soldiers and airmen at the airports. Nationally there are 441 airports that the National Guard is manning for up to a six-month mission. Each state has decided how to arm and equip these details. This is why we see different weapons carried by different airport details on TV across the country. National Guard Bureau is providing the funding to buy the state the soldiers and airmen are on title 32 funding.

On Nov. 9, President Bush announced the authorization of a 25 percent increase to the airport security mission. This 60-day increase started on Nov. 15 and provides additional security during the holiday period. A class of 25 soldiers and airmen was trained at RTI in Monmouth, and 18 were put to work at the airports. Addition security activities such as concourse and airport parking patrols have been added to our mission with these extra soldiers and airmen.

As of Dec. 9, there have been no breaches of security at any of the Oregon airports. There have been several incidents however in which our soldiers and airmen have assisted law enforcement with these include drug smuggling, unruly passengers, contraband and persons with outstanding warrants. With any security mission or police mission success will be measured by having no breaches or security during our deployment. There will be those that will say the mission has been a waste of time and money. These same people are the ones that do not support the military or the police at any time. For now, our airmen and soldiers are doing what is asked by our national and state leaders.

If you are in one of the airports, say hello and thanks to those who are serving quietly and professionally.

September 11 tragedy prompts local letters of thanks

By Master Sgt. LES HUBBLE

While we are far from the scene of the recent catastrophe, my son looked up into the sky above Portland Wednesday and saw one of your aircraft. Presumably, this was one of your surveillance patrol aircraft you had up.

Later in the day, he excitedly told me that we would be OK because the fighter pilots would take care of the bad guys. Thanks, and if or when the time comes, good hunting.

Sincerely,

The Hunter Family
Portland, Ore.

I work just east of the airbase and feel safer seeing your F-15s guarding our skies. Please pass on to the brave men and women of the base that we are praying for your safety and our heart-felt thanks from the Shufeldt Family.

Proud to be an American and of the Oregon Air Guard!

To All Members of the Oregon Air National Guard,

As very proud Americans, my husband and I would like to thank you for all that you are doing at this time of crises in our nation.

Every morning and afternoon since this tragedy took place we have heard you in the air. It is a very reassuring feeling to know that you are there and watching out for all of us.

When I hear the jets fly overhead it brings a tear to my eye and a feeling of pride in my heart, and we just wanted you to know how very much you are appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks,
Phyllis and Alan Rayman
Tigard, Ore.

I wanted to pass on a message to the pilots patrolling Portland skies over the last few days. Hearing the jets and seeing them fly overhead gave me an enormous feeling of safety and reassurance that our country will stand strong.

Yesterday evening after watching hours of newscasts, I walked outside and saw two jets right overhead. I must tell you that I felt a surge of patriotism unlike any I have ever experienced. I just wanted to let you know how truly grateful I am for service men and women like you who put your life on the line to protect our great country. Thank you. God bless and be safe.

Jennifer Dooley
Portland, Ore.
This holiday season, families all across the America will gather with neighbors and friends to rekindle old friendships, revive honored traditions, and renew the hope and love that is part of the season.

And as they do, their thoughts and prayers will naturally turn to you, the men and women whose mission it is to defend peace and freedom—especially now when they are under such unprecedented attack.

As America’s Armed Forces, you are the sharp sword of freedom. You fight without complaint forever on foreign seas, in dangerous skies, and on hostile lands.

You voluntarily put your lives at risk, and sacrifice your comfort and the comfort of your families, so all of our fellow citizens can enjoy the blessings and benefits of liberty.

It is a sacrifice made even more precious by the fact that you render it so willingly.

In describing the “citizen soldiers” of an earlier era, historian Stephen Ambrose wrote, “At the core...they knew the difference between right and wrong, and were unwilling to live in a world in which evil triumphed. So they fought and they won, and we—and those yet to be born—are eternally grateful.”

Like those heroes of an earlier era, you too stand against evil—the shadowy evil of terrorism. And like them, you also will be victorious. Of that, there is no doubt.

So as the stars of the winter sky shine brightly, and the prayers of people everywhere who long for peace look up to meet them, know that the hearts and prayers of Americans are with you. We salute your courage, we appreciate your sacrifice, and we pray each day for your success.

On behalf of the President, the Department of Defense, and all the American people, I extend our warmest and most heartfelt wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas,
He lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of
Plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who
In this home did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle,
The room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured
A United States soldier.

Was this the hero
Of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realized the families
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,

And grownups would celebrate
A bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom
Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
Brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice;"

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my Corps."

The soldier rolled over
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still
And we both shivered
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honor
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night."

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Soon round the world,
The children would play,
Pearl Harbor attack witnessed by Johnson

One of the first men to spot Japanese aircraft on their way to bomb Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 was First Sergeant Don Johnson, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Salem. And he was able to describe in detail what happened. In September 1941, he was sent to Kanhoe bay, Hawaii, where he was member of a squadron which patrolled the area. On the morning of Dec. 7, he and a friend were “halfway between the main gate and the barracks,” when they spotted two planes heading their way. Dressed in whites and heading off to town, they weren’t too concerned. “We saw these two planes coming and they were lower than hell and going like mad,” recalls Johnson. “They attacked some hangers and we wondered what was going on. The guy I was with said they might be on maneuvers. A marine stationed at the main gate yelled at us to get in the ditch. We thought he was crazy. We didn’t want to be left out. We lined up. Then the planes gunned an ammunition hill and flew right over the top of us. I looked up and saw the red dot on the wings and said this is for real. We headed for the ditch. ‘I can’t prove it but I think we were the first ones to see the Japanese planes come in.’ He said. Kanhoe bay is three miles from Pearl Harbor.”

From the ditch Johnson and his companion went to the gate where there was mass confusion. People were trying to get in and out, he recalls. “I looked up and here came a Japanese plane bearing down on the gate,” says Johnson. “It might have killed hundreds of people but some soldiers out in the weeds, who were on maneuvers, opened fire. So many rounds hit the plane that it bounced up in the air and then took off, smoking to the sea.”

After his four-year hitch, Johnson came to Oregon to work at the Oregon State Prison as a correctional officer on the 70th shift.

That started a career of 20 years. Three years in between he did police work in Stayton. Presently, he is the director of the forest camps and farms, which provide jobs for 270 inmates.

In 1949, he had a experience that rates with the Japanese attack. He was taken hostage by three inmates with a knife, a sledgehammer and an iron pipe.

Johnson decided to join the Guard in 1952. “It was a proud military life,” says Johnson. “It’s interesting and different. And I like the guys.”

He spent nine years with Company D, 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry. After quitting for eight months, he rejoined and became supply sergeant of his present detachment.

He now has 27 years of service in the Guard and plans to stay a few years longer.

This article was first published in the January 1976 edition of the Azawur.
VA extends open enrollment, lowers outpatient co-pays

The White House has given the green light to extend the open enrollment program for veterans who seek VA health care, according to an announcement by the Retired Officer Association (TROA).

VA Secretary Tony Principi announced that outpatient co-pays are being lowered from $50 to $15 effective late January 2002.

Principi also announced that VA outpatient co-pays for PG-7 enrolled veterans and some PG-6 veterans being treated for non-service-connected conditions would decrease from $50 per visit to $15.

The VA is raising prescription co-pays from $2 to $7 for medications for non-service-connected conditions, effective late January 2002.

DD Form 214—To record or not to record at courthouses

After years of being advised by various military and military related agencies to record their DD Form 214 at their local courthouse for safekeeping, members who are retiring and separating are now getting information to the contrary. There is some evidence that recording the DD Form 214 may not be a wise decision, and definitely it’s a decision that must be made on an individual basis.

Officials in the transition and relocation operations branch in the Air Force Personnel Center report that information has surfaced that a military member’s identity was stolen as a result of an unscrupulous lawyer being able to obtain several thousand DD Form 214s through courthouse public records.

These officials are now advising retired members who have registered their DD Form 214 with a local register- ing agency that they should consider contacting that agency to ensure that their DD Form 214 is being safeguarded from viewing by unauthorized individuals.

This advice is offered on an individual basis because documents are not recorded and maintained the same in all counties in all states.

Officials report that if public access is authorized, it’s conceivable that an unscrupulous person could obtain a copy for an unlawful purpose (e.g., to obtain a credit card in the retiree’s name.).

In the event this public access is permitted, each retiree should attempt to have the document removed from county records.

Once this is done, each retired member should take steps to protect their DD Form 214 as they would any other sensitive document (wills, marriage and birth certificates, insurance policies).

If attendees can not be assured that their DD Form 214 is protected and who can’t get it deleted from the county records may want to discuss the situation with their elected officials, making their views known regarding the privacy act issue of safeguarding a document containing personal information, specifically a Social Security number.

Transition officials report that they are now providing this background information to active members as they retire or separate so they can make an informed decision about this important and sensitive document.

Legislation unveiled regarding Arlington Cemetery burial rules

Congressman Chris Smith (NJ-4), Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, has introduced legislation, H.R. 3423, to reform eligibility rules for burial of reservists at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Smith bill would change existing law by eliminating the age requirement for reserved reservists who would otherwise be eligible for in-ground burial.

In addition, H.R. 3423 would allow in-ground burial of reservists who die in the line of duty while on training duty.

Smith’s legislation would change the Army rule which is preventing Capt. Charles Burlingame, the pilot of flight 77 which crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, from receiving full burial rights at Arlington.

“But at Arlington National Cemetery is an honor that we bestow upon those members of our armed forces for service above and beyond the call of duty,” said Smith.

While it is understandable that the Army would want to maintain strict eligibility rules because of the limited capacity at Arlington, people like Burlingame should not be prevented from receiving the nation’s highest tribute to the family of a deceased warrier, he said.

Furthermore, H.R. 3423 will provide the families of reserve members who die while performing training duty, such as weekend or two-week reserve duty, with the right to have an in-ground burial for their loved ones at Arlington.

“Given the increased responsibilities assigned to our Reserve and National Guard forces, I believe that a compassionate government should treat these reserve component members whose death is in the line of duty in the same manner as those active duty members whose death occurs in the line of duty,” Smith said.

Since 1967, burials rights at Arlington have only been limited to veterans and the families of veterans who were wounded in combat, died on active duty, received one of the military services highest awards for gallantry, were held as a prisoner of war, retired from military service or served in a high federal office.

In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs administers 133 national cemeteries throughout the United States, and since 1980 has provided $82 million in grants to states to establish or expand 42 state veterans cemeteries.

Last year, over 82,000 veterans and family members were interred in VA cemeteries and more than 14,000 veterans and family members were buried in state veterans cemeteries.

Agencies team up in war against Internet health fraud

- cures Alzheimer’s and HIV/AIDS
- proven effective in treating over 650 infectious diseases
- recognized in scientific journals to be a revolutionary breakthrough in treating arthritis

These health product claims found on the Internet can provide hope for those suffering from painful or debilitating diseases.

But they are false claims, leading to false hopes. They are also fraudulent, illegal, and they impede VA’s law enforcement enforcement actions against the companies that made them.

In the ongoing war against Internet health fraud, federal and state government organizations have united, in an effort dubbed Operation Cure-All, to go after the unscrupulous marketers who use the Internet to prey on the sickest and most vulnerable consumers.

Operation Cure-All, a partnership of the Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada (the Canadian federal health department), and various state attorneys general and state health departments, combines a law enforcement effort with a consumer education campaign.

Almost 100 million adults in the United States use the Internet to find health-related information, according to a poll conducted by the market research firm Harris Interactive.

“The Internet provides many benefits. But, its unique qualities—including broad reach, relative anonymity, and ease of creating new Web sites or reopening old ones—pose new enforcement challenges,” said Bernard A. Schwartz, DVM, PhD, acting principal deputy commissioner of the FDA.

In June, the FTC announced enforcement actions against six companies that fraudulently marketed health products on the Internet.

Five of the companies agreed to settle the charges. Settlements included such actions as removal of all unsubstantiated claims for products, warnings about potential dangerous interactions with some prescription drugs, a notice to purchasers with an offer for a full refund, and agreement to pay fines for consumer redress.

The FTC has filed a complaint in federal district court against the sixth company.

Among the many false and unsubstantiated claims challenged in the June complaints, the FTC said, people could cancel their surgery, radiation or chemotherapy in favor of herbal cures that cost hundreds of dollars; a device that delivered mild electric current would kill the parasites that cause such serious diseases as cancer and Alzheimer’s, and those with HIV or AIDS could use St. John’s wort as a safe treatment for the disease.

The FDA and FTC warn that St. John’s wort may have dangerous interactions with other medications, including some proven HIV/AIDS medications.

Since the launch of Operation Cure-All in 1999, the FDA and FTC have won a number of battles against Internet health fraud.

All 11 were required to remove their bogus claims from the Web.

In addition, the FTC estimates that more than 100 other Web sites have taken down their false or misleading state claims after the FTC contacted them.

“Consumers should avoid Web sites that promise quick and dramatic cures for serious diseases,” said Howard Beales, director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection. “And they should always consult a physician or other health-care professional before using any product or treatment.”
Comparing the 'Arsenal of Democracy' after 60 years

**The Revolutionary War**

The Revolutionary War 1775-1783

Washington crosses the Delaware

Dec. 25, 1776

During the American Revolution, Patriot General George Washington crossed the Delaware River with 5,400 troops, hoping to surprise a Hessian force celebrating Christmas at their winter quarters in Trenton, New Jersey. At about 11 p.m. on Christmas, Washington's army commenced crossing the half-frozen river at three locations. The 2,400 Hessian troops were caught off guard and were successfully braved the icy and freezing river and reached the New Jersey side of the Delaware just before dawn.

Washington's men quickly overwhelmed the Germans' defenses, and by 9:30 a.m. the town was captured, and the Hessians were taken captive. Nearly 1,000 were captured at the cost of only 40 Americans.

The victory was not particularly significant from a strategic point of view, but news of Washington's initiative raised the spirits of the American colonists, who previously feared that the Continental Army was incapable of victory.

The Civil War 1861-1865

Sherman arrives in front of Savannah

Dec. 30, 1864

General William T. Sherman completes his “March to the Sea” when he arrives in front of Savannah, Georgia.

Since mid-November, Sherman's army had been sweeping from Atlanta across the state to the south and east towards Savannah, one of the last Confederate seaports still occupied by Union forces. Along the way, Sherman destroyed farms and railroads, burned stonehouses, and fed his army off the land. In his own words, Sherman intended to “make Georgia howl,” a plan that was approved by President Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, general-in-chief of the Union armies.

The Spanish-American War 1898-1905

Treaty of Paris ends Spanish-American War

Dec. 10, 1898

In France, the Treaty of Paris is signed, formally ending the Spanish-American War and granting the United States its first overseas empire.

The once-pride Spanish empire was virtually dissolved as the United States took over much of Spain's overseas holdings. Puerto Rico and Guam were ceded to the United States, the Philippines were bought for $20 million, and Cuba became a U.S. protectorate.

The Cold War 1945-1990

Bush orders US troops to Somalia

Dec. 29, 1992

President George H. Bush orders 28,000 U.S. troops to Somalia, a war-torn East African nation where rival warlords were preventing the distribution of humanitarian aid to thousands of starving people. Unfortunately, America's humanitarian troops became embroiled in Somalia's political conflict, and the controversial mission stretched on for 15 months before being abandoned.On Dec. 20, 1995, President William Clinton issued an order ending the mission.

On March 25, 1994, the last U.S. troops left Somalia, leaving 20,000 U.N. troops behind to facilitate “nation-building” in the disintegrating Somali state.

On September 11, 2001, President Bush declared war on Japan, and aid groups, and showing support for the United States “the Arsenal of Democracy.”

The United States declares war on Japan

Dec. 8, 1941

The United States declares war on Japan, as it had been sweeping from Atlanta across the state to the south and east towards Savannah, Georgia.

In September 1941, the U.S. Congress on a bet.

The once-proud Spanish empire was virtually dissolved as the United States took over much of Spain's overseas holdings. Puerto Rico and Guam were ceded to the United States, the Philippines were bought for $20 million, and Cuba became a U.S. protectorate.

The Philippines insurgents who fought against Spanish rule during the war immediately embraced the chance to strike back at their new occupiers, and 10 times more U.S. troops died suppressing the Filipinos than in defeating Spain.

The U.N. troops departed in 1995 and political strife and clan-based fighting continued in Somalia into the 21st century.

The Vietnam War 1964-1975

Army captain awarded first Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam

Dec. 2, 1966

The first Medal of Honor awarded to a U.S. service member for action in Vietnam was presented to Capt. Roger Donlon of Saugerties, N.Y., for his heroic action.

Donlon and his Special Forces team were manning Camp Nam Dong, a mountain outpost near the borders of Laos and North Vietnam. Just before 2 a.m. on July 6, 1964, a Viet Cong attack commenced. The battery of fire met with fury, as the troops responded to seven rounds of fire.

In a White House ceremony, with the deputy defense secretary, the president praised Donlon's nine surviving team members for their heroic actions.

The Cold War 1945-1990

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America's typical responses were not options. In the days after Sept. 20 speech to Congress, Bush said, "We are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom. Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."
Legion of Merit

COL Charles Ayers
HQSTARC
COL Shirley Fong
1/HQSTARC
COL Bernard Gerding
HQSTARC
COL Robert Tomosovick
HQSTARC
CWO Jacki Johnson
HQSTARC

Army Meritorious Service Medal

MAJ Laura Garren
HQSTARC
LT David Enyart
HHC/1-186 IN
CPT Michael Doyle
HHC/41 SIB
CPT Lynn Jones
82 Bde
1LT Charlotte Fish
1/HQSTARC
CWO James Corney
4/D/41 OD
CSM Michael Warner
82 RCT
MSG Robertson Cooper
HHC/1-141 SIB
MSG Jonathan Shew
HQSTARC
SFC Danial Charter
HHC/1-162 IN
SFC Gery Powers
HHC/A-116 CAV
SSG Michael Knight
HQSTARC
SSG Terry Sammon
HQSTARC
SSG Arthur Peresta
1/A-142 99 EN
Sgt Terry Kennedy
A-149 AVN

Army Achievement Medal

Maj Laura Garren
HQSTARC
MAJ Timothy Phiel
HHC/41 SIB
MAJ Donald Ralph
CPT Michael Doyle
HHC/1-186 IN
CPT Robert Fraser
HHSB/2-158 FA
CPT Thomas Lingle
1/HQSTARC
CPT Carey Milker
C/1-162 IN
C/2-162 IN
1/HHC/3-116 CAV
CSM Leonard Holmes
HHC/1-186 IN
CSM Michael Digiastrito
241 MI
MSG James Slater
HHC/41 SIB
SFC Michael Amen
1,682 EN
SFC Gregory Bogard
HQSTARC
SFC Gay Byrdell
HHC/41 SIB
SFC Michael Bruno
HQSTARC
SFC Donna Demery
241 MI
SFC Robert Evans
HHC/1-141 SIB
SFC Kevin Gegg
A-41 SPT
SFC Janice Gilly
USArmy
SFC Kevin Harvey
HHHC/1-41 SPT
SFC Kenneth Landgrave
41 SIB
SFC Robert McGaffie
HHHC/1-41 SPT
SFC Patrick Pence
1/682 EN
SFC Michael Polley
1,249 RIT
SFC Michael Potter
1/682 EN
SFC Alan Schell
1/682 EN
SFC Christopher Settell
1/682 EN
SFC Craig Shiflett
HHSTARC
SFC Dawn Taylor
HQSTARC
SFC Lenard Warren
D/2-162 IN
SFC Scott Woods
41 SIB
SFC Theodore Raye
B-3-162 IN
SFC Bradley Hodges
D-2-162 IN
SFC Stephanie Hunting
1PS-163 IN
SFC Andrew James
B-3-162 IN
SFC Michael Kirkpatrick
HQSTARC
SFC Michael Knight
HQSTARC
SFC Sydney Martin
1/661 EN
SFC James Reister
HQSTARC
SFC Brian Whitaker
41 SIB
SFC Michael Wooldic
B-3-162 IN
SFC Dora Vanzandt
C-3-166 IN
SFC Clinton Blevins
B-3-163 IN
SFC David Braeimall
HHC/1-41 SPT
SFC Clifton Blevins
B-3-163 IN
SFC Donald Cady
C-3-163 IN
SFC Ronald Cady
C-3-163 IN
SFC Theodore Fletcher
D-2-162 IN
SFC Dennis Jowell
A-1-166 IN
SFC Robert Jett
CA-3-166 IN
SFC Brock Kelly
HHC/1-162 IN
SFC Richard Kepler
D-2-162 IN
SFC Lee Larson
HHC/1-162 IN
SFC James Pedersen
HHSTARC
SFC Janet Shull
HHSTARC
SFC Andrea Toombs
HHSTARC

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CPT Lynn Jones
82 Bde
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1/HQSTARC
CWO James Corney
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HHC/1-162 IN
SFC James Pedersen
HHSTARC
SFC Janet Shull
HHSTARC
SFC Andrea Toombs
HHSTARC

Army Achievement Medal

Maj Terry Sereblick
HHC/41 SIB
CPT Bruce Alzner
1/HHC/3-116 CAV
CPT Gene Cunmul
C-3-164 116
2Lt Gary Gilman
B-3-162 IN
WO1 Melanie Smith
HQSTARC
MSG Randy Farmer
HQSTARC
SFC Samuel Huy
HQSTARC
SFC Edward Giles
HQSTARC
SFC Timmy Johnson
HQSTARC
SFC Gregory Perez
HQSTARC
SFC William Smith
HQSTARC
SFC Mark Tommer
HQSTARC
SFC Rodnec Wicker
G-2-162 CR
SFC James Bock
3/HQSTARC
SFC Michael Pena
HQSTARC
SFC Russell Jeffman
A-1-167 EN
SFC Jeremy Klock
HQSTARC
SFC El Smith
HQSTARC
SFC Christopher Johnson
B-3-162 IN
SFC James Lopetico
C-3-162 IN
SFC Kathryn Pritchard
HQSTARC
SFC Ian Alexander
HHC/41 SIB
SFC Charles Booth
HHC/3-162 IN
SFC Charles Broene
3670 MC
SFC Robert Cox
G-2-162 CR
SFC Travis Dyer
B-41 SPT
SFC Gregory Gibb
C-3-162 IN
SFC Michelle Moore
1/682 EN
SFC Alexander Nick
241 MI
SFC Dawson Officer
B-4-162 EN
SFC Matthew Peeler
HHC/1-62 IN
SFC Ryan Ralston
HHC/1-62 IN
SFC Anthony Ray
C-3-162 IN
SFC Bonnie Robertson
1/HQSTARC
SFC Sharonne Socia
1/HQSTARC
SFC Caleb Taylor
HHC/41 SIB
SFC Don Wilks
1/HQSTARC

Soldiers from HHC/1-186 Infantry from Ashland receive the Oregon National Guard centennial unit streamer from Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin and Mr. Ron Ruecker, superintendent of the Oregon State Police, at the National Guard birth-day celebration on Dec. 13.