Oregon hosts open house for elected officials

Oregon National Guard

Rep. Ben Westlund (R-Bend) learns about the Oregon Youth Challenge Program from OYCP director Rick DeMars and two program cadets.

I am impressed with the soldiers’ general knowledge and ability with the equipment.”

Rep. Kathy Lowe (D-Milwaukie)

I have to go home from this session with a new armory for Ontario.”

Rep. Tom Butler (R-Onalaska)

I didn’t realize the capabilities of the Oregon National Guard prior to this open house.”

Sen. Ginny Burdick (D-Portland)

142 FW welcomes Dean as the new wing commander

PORTLAND – The Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing changed command on Jan. 21, 2001. Col. Garry Dean replaced Col. Lyle Cabe at the 2 p.m. ceremony in the Portland Air Base’s main hangar.

An African-American, Dean is the first man of color to become an Oregon Air Guard pilot, to be promoted to the rank of colonel, and to lead the Oregon Air Guard’s largest flying unit.

A traditional Guard member, Dean now leads the more than 1,000 personnel and 18 F-15 jet fighters responsible for the air defense of the Pacific Northwest and worldwide deployments supporting national objectives.

A 1978 graduate of the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Dean flew F-15 Eagle jet fighters on active duty for nine years, and for three years was an F-15 flight instructor for the Georgia Air National Guard.

In 1990, he joined the 142nd FW, where he has held numerous positions throughout the organization, including chief of safety, 142nd Aircraft Generation Squadron commander, 123rd Fighter Squadron commander, and vice commander of the wing.

He has more than 4,000 hours flying military aircraft, 2,600 of which are in the F-15.

As a civilian, Dean is a pilot for Delta Airlines, flying as first officer in the MD-11 on routes to and from Asia.

Cabe’s retirement from the 142nd FW marks the end of a 34-year military career — all within the Oregon Air National Guard.

He enlisted in the organization in April 1967, and was commissioned in December 1971.

A command pilot, Cabe held numerous command and staff positions before becoming wing commander one year ago. He was the mission commander for the wing’s recent deployment to Southwest Asia as part of the Air Expeditionary Force defending the no-fly zone over Southern Iraq.

Cabe’s more than 3,700 hours flying military aircraft includes time in the cockpits of the F-101 VooDoo, F-4C Phantom, and the F-15 Eagle jet fighter.

As a civilian, he will return to Continental Airlines where he has flown the MD-80, A-300 Airbus, and will cross train in the Boeing 737.

The Oregon Air National Guard has been an integral part of the nation’s air defense since 1941. The 142nd FW, grandfather to all other Oregon Air Guard units, maintains continuous alert with F-15s stationed in Portland as part of the Western Air Defense System.

Both operational and training missions put flying and ground units around the globe, supporting drug interdiction efforts in Central America, providing humanitarian relief in underdeveloped areas, and supporting multi-national exercises in the Northern Territories.

At home, Air Guard members are involved with numerous community service projects, youth citizenship forums, educational adventures, and mentoring programs.
command
focus

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

We are well into our new year and the new administration in Washington, D.C., is formulating the policies that will affect our lives for years to come.

The defense budget will continue to receive scrutiny from many sources, and the president, as well as his advisors, will certainly have an impact on many programs and policy issues.

The bottom line remains the fact that there is never enough money to meet all our priorities.

How the National Guard fares in this process will be a function of how relevant we are deemed to be in the future national security strategy.

Our obligation is to maximize our potential based on the resources we receive. Full time support and military construction continue to exhibit significant shortfalls at the national level, and the Association of Adjutants General, the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Enlisted Association of the United States all pledge to continue their efforts to procure adequate funding in future budgets.

Speaking of budgets, we are currently working with the state legislature on the governor’s recommended budget for the Military Department to be executed in the next biennium (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2003).

We have been working with the governor’s office since last June on this very complex document.

In a time when the state of Oregon is short of the revenues necessary to maintain all the current services we enjoy as citizens, our department has been treated very fairly. There are certain items we would like to fund, but this budget allows us to maintain the force structure we have throughout the state. I believe the legislature will support our plan.

Recently we sponsored an open house at the Army Aviation Facility in order to acquaint our state legislators with the value the Oregon National Guard adds to our great state. It was a resounding success, and I want to personally thank everyone who participated in the planning, execution, or recovery from this event.

I am always impressed when I get the opportunity to see first hand examples of the capabilities that you collectively represent to the citizens of Oregon.

Your professionalism does not go unnoticed.

Again speaking of budgets, there is one variable out there that may impact our operating costs in a significant way. Energy costs are very volatile, and the future is uncertain. Energy conservation is a prudent business practice at all times, but it has recently become a necessity.

Please take to heart the guidance we received from the governor and the directives you will receive from this headquarters.

The intent is not to create a dismal work environment, and if you feel it is too dark in your work area, please inform your supervisor.

Common sense rules should be utilized in these decisions.

Any suggestions you may have to conserve energy will be reviewed, and I encourage each of you to let us know what you can do more efficiently.

I opened this article with some observations regarding our new commander in chief on the federal side.

Following is a quote from President George W. Bush, which is directed to the armed forces of the United States and the men and women whose work supports them:

“Your service in the cause of freedom is both noble and extraordinary. Because of you, America is strong and the threat of freedom's enemies brighter than at any time in history. Your country can never repay you for the sacrifices and hardships you endure. But we are grateful for the liberties we enjoy every day because of your service. As your commander in chief, I will always support you and your families so that this great nation continues to have the greatest armed forces in the history of the world. Thank you.

Take pride in your service to state and nation. Help maintain the volunteer lifestyle in the Oregon National Guard.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

On the eve of the 2001 Presidential inauguration, Dick Cheney, the vice-president-elect, saluted America’s veterans at George Washington University’s Smith Center.

“It is sometimes said that heroes are hard to find,” Cheney noted. “But I never heard that said around the Pentagon. Those who would understand the meaning of duty, honor and country, need look no further than the nearest veteran of America’s armed forces.”

The United States is a peaceful nation and its people are reluctant warriors, Cheney told the veterans.

“We take up arms only to protect our country, to throw back tyranny and to defend the cause of freedom,” he said. “At times the price has run high and never higher than in the last century with so many conflicts.”

After acknowledging Secretary of State-designee Colin Powell, Defense Secretary-designee Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Secretary William Cohen, and others in the front row, Cheney paid tribute to the nearly 100 Medal of Honor recipients in the audience.

“When you meet one of them,” he said, “remember the moment. For you have just met one of the bravest men in our nation’s history.”

After a nearly two-hour tribute of poignant tales of heroism, patriotic music and expressions of gratitude and pride, excitement among the several thousand veterans and family members ratcheted even higher when Cheney made a pledge to the military.

Of the many duties the president and vice president were about to assume, he said, “non is greater than preparing the military for the challenges and the dangers to come.”

“We will give them training that is thorough and missions that are clear,” he vowed. “We will give them the kind of military where men and women are proud to serve and proud to say. We will give them the respect they have earned and the support they deserve.”

Each of you as soldiers in the Oregon Army National Guard have contributed in so many ways to secure the values in the American way of life.

No matter how small or large your contribution as a soldier or veteran, I give you my thanks.

Retiree Service Office

Open every Tuesday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain Azwr readers, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 15th of each month.

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Top hydroplane driver volunteers for desert duty in Southwest Asia

By 2nd Lt. ELENA O’BRAYAN
H.22 Fighter Wing, Vava’u Public Affairs

PORTLAND—Tech. Sgt. Brian Cummins is a full-time vehicle mechanic with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, but he is better known as one of the nation’s top hydroplane drivers.

The drag boat racer had volunteered to spend three weeks in the desert maintaining flight line fire trucks at AlDhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates, but his tour of duty scheduled for November was cancelled due to terrorist threats on U.S. military installations in the area.

The 32-year-old Vancouver, Wash., native is the number one racer on the west coast and number two in the nation.

He is only in his third year of racing hydroplanes.

“Hydroplaning is one of the most extreme sports out there,” Cummins said. Cummins grew up drag racing cars. The Air National Guard member connected with owners Scott Peterson and Claire Unger, who were searching for a driver for their 18-foot 900 Cote Hydro.

“Drag car racing would be boring after this,” Cummins said. “In the event of a crash, a helmet, kevlar suit and parachute would be his only protection against almost certain death.”

“But crashing isn’t in my vocabulary,” he said.

Neither is losing, according to Cummins’ consistently good times.

Accelerated by a 1,500 horsepower motor to speeds of at least 140 miles per hour in less than eight seconds on a slim layer of air, Cummins said he feels like a fighter pilot.

He also likes his four-person hydroplane maintenance team to the crew chiefs and mechanics who work on the F-15 fighter planes at the Portland Air Base.

Cummins helps keep the 142nd moving and mission-ready by maintaining fuel trucks, fire trucks and aircraft towing equipment.

“Standing as a hydroplane driver might have suffered had he deployed to the Persian Gulf, but he said he would have willingly gone out of a “sense of duty.”

“Hydroplane drivers don’t practice anyway,” he said. “We just race.”

SRPs provide moment’s-notice deployability for units

By Sgt. JOHN GLOVER
155th Police Detachment

Readiness is one of the most important traits in an Army National Guard unit because at any moment it may be called to duty to defend our country and way of life.

A soldier must be physically and mentally ready for any mission. The unit must be ready with required equipment and transportation.

In addition to these basic requirements, there are a plethora of things a soldier may consider trivial or unimportant, but are extremely important for a successful deployment.

The 41st Personnel Services Company, along with elements of the medical detachment of HQ STARC and the judge advocate general’s office, come together at soldier readiness processing (SRP) to ensure every soldier is ready to deploy at a moment’s notice.

While no element of the SRP is more important than any other, the bulk of the soldiers involved are those of the 41st, which brings nearly the whole unit to the event.

“The 41st PSC is sort of the glue that brings everyone together,” CW2 Steven Payton, executive officer of the personnel support system (SIDPERS) branch, said.

SRPs are a great opportunity for the units to make sure their soldiers are ready. The units don’t have their own doctors or nurses.

Individual units aren’t always prepared to handle the level of administrative support the SRP can offer their soldiers, either, according to Payton.

Every National Guard units should take part in an SRP at least once every 18 to 24 months to minimize the number of problems if the unit is deployed, Payton said.

The SRP is completed at 10 stations. At the first station, soldiers pick up their military personnel records jacket, which they will take with them throughout the circuit.

The second station is where members of the standard installation division personnel system (SIDPERS) branch review key data elements in the system.

SIDPERS is a database that stores an electronic version of a soldier’s military personnel records jacket in a central location, according to Staff Sgt. Jerald Brown, senior files supervisor.

The next station handles pay issues.

“It’s a huge deal to take a guy out of his job and send him somewhere, but then to complicate that with having his family not get the money they need...that’s what we’re preventing,” Sgt. 1st Class William Boyd, staff accountant with the US Property and Fiscal office, said.

The soldiers at the pay station verify data in the master military pay account system and ensure things such as essential documents, tax status and SGLI information are all in order.

Station four, the medical screening station, is in the capable hands of HQ STARC’s medical detachment, where doctors, dentists and nurses make sure the soldiers are medically fit for deployment.

Station five handles identification cards for soldiers whose information has changed or whose cards have expired. The SRP uses a new deployable ID card station, which links to the DEERS system and allows soldiers to make new cards anywhere.

The JAG office runs station six, and ensures soldiers have the opportunity to write a will and handle other legal issues that may affect the soldier while deployed.

“Help the soldiers make sure their personal affairs are in order,” Maj. Theresa Peterson, JAG officer, said. “We also handle any legal issues that may cause a glitch for the average soldier on an average deployment.”

Additionally, the legal personnel can answer basic legal questions the soldiers may have about a mobilization.

Station seven is staffed by the family readiness program.

“Unit family program coordinators make sure soldiers fill out information cards with information about their family members. These cards help the family coordinator make morale calls to families and assist them with any issues that may arise while their soldier is deployed, according to Jennifer Barber, family program coordinator for Co. B, 141 Spt. Bn.

Engine shop sets standard in fuel control

By 2nd Lt. ELENA O’BRAYAN
H.22 Fighter Wing, Vava’u Public Affairs

PORTLAND—In October, eight members from the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center visited the 142nd Engine Shop at the Portland Air Base to study the Oregon Air Guard’s conservative use of fuel controls.

Engine fuel controls carry a hefty price tag.

When a unit rejects a fuel control and returns it to the Air Logistics Center, the control must be returned to the manufacturer, Honeywell, and then overhauled at a cost of $44,000 to the US Air Force.

Removing and replacing a fuel control also consumes 16 hours of labor.

The fuel control, which acts like a carburetor in an automobile engine, is a complicated engine element composed of more than 4,000 pieces. Fuel controls should last 5,000 hours out of the box.

But many Air Guard units are returning brand new fuel controls at the rate of 30 or more per year.

The Oregon Air Guard has utilized hush house technology when fuel controls don’t appear to work properly to determine if the engine is in need of trimming. The Oregon Air Guard’s automated ground engine test system eliminates the need to automatically return a fuel control to Honeywell for retesting.

“We didn’t know we were doing anything special until this team came out here,” Propulsion Section Chief Senior Master Sgt. Rick Maenza said. “It’s been business as usual for us.”

No SRP is complete without station eight, the urinalysis station.

Station nine is full of soldiers working on manual typewriters, diligently fill out serviceman’s group life insurance (SGLI) information and emergency data forms to make sure the process will flow smoothly in the event of an urgent situation.

Once each station has been visited and all administrative tasks completed, the soldiers turn in their records at station ten to be reviewed by senior members of the personnel support branch.

At that point, the process is complete.

Even with the immense amount of information screened at the 10 stations set up for the process, the SRP team can successfully complete approximately 100 people in three-and-a-half to four hours.

The process is fairly quick but soldiers feel the monotony and frustration while moving from station to station. In order to lift the mood, Payton tries to bring humor to the SRP.

“We work long days,” Payton said. “I like to keep it light because what we’re doing is important. I try to bring a little levity to the situation and hope that helps the approachability. I think a lot of my clerks try to do the same thing. It makes the day go by a lot easier.”

Anything to make the day go by a little easier is a great help to the SRP crew who will be performing an SRP every drill weekend for the next 10 months.
Oregon man named Intelligence Officer of the Year

Capt. David “Hairy” Durgarian was named Outstanding Air Reserve Component Intelligence Company Grade Officer of the Year by the 1st Air Force in December.

Durgarian has served with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, since 1998.

He was recognized for his outstanding performance in extensively training pilots on Iraqi weapons systems and tactics and support personnel on force protection measures both before and during the 42nd FW’s participation in Air Expeditionary Force-9 at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, last year.

“The most important reason I got this award is the folks I have working here in Intel,” said. “I am surrounded by excellence.”


Rindfleisch and Colley were both honor graduates at Intel school, known as one of the toughest programs in the US Air Force.

“The knowledge base of my NCOs is extraordinary,” Durgarian said.

Durgarian’s experience as an intel officer dates back to 1992 when he was an intel liaison officer with the Marine Corps.

One of the most demanding steps in becoming an intel officer is centrifuge training, when an intel officer is exposed to g-forces in preparation for two-seater flying.

“The training was painful and terrible, but when it was done, it was like conquering a big monster,” he said.