Northwest energy conservation intensifies with winter months

SALEM — On Monday morning, Jan. 22, 2001, staff from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services intensified the state’s efforts to conserve energy. Staff finished cutting the wires on roughly half of the exterior lights on the Capitol Mall in Salem, began removing non-essential building hallway lights, and took immediate and long-term steps to reduce other exterior and interior lighting in state facilities.

The expectation is that these and other conservation measures will remain in effect for at least a year. The goal is to cut state government’s energy consumption by at least 10 percent.

“We cannot emphasize this enough,” Gov. John A. Kitzhaber said. “While energy conservation always makes sense, now and for the coming months, it is absolutely critical for Oregon and the Northwest to reduce the amount of power we use. Although we have enough electricity to meet our day-to-day needs, we’re currently operating with little or no margin of error—a sudden cold snap or a power plant break-down could easily push us into a power emergency.”


The governors suggested specific actions that could be taken both by homeowners and businesses and committed both state governments to conservation plans.

“We need to conserve now so we are prepared if the weather gets colder,” Kitzhaber said. “Oregonians and Washingtonians showed their community spirit (in December) when we were facing a shortage and cut consumption by more than 800 megawatts over a weekend. We need to make that kind of conservation standard operating procedure for the remainder of the winter.”

The potential energy shortage has been caused by a number of factors, chief among them strong continued growth of both the western and northern-western economies and a slower than expected growth in electrical generating capacity.

The situation has been made worse by an energy shortage in California. Normally exports power to the northwest during the winter but is unable to do so this year.

Ten days ago, Gov. Kitzhaber issued a conservation directive to state agencies, requiring them to take steps to reduce energy consumption at state facilities.

Now, the governor has informed state agencies that additional measures will be implemented. Staff have been instructed to:

- Turn off or reduce overhead lights where fluorescent task lights will do.
- Replace incandescent task light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs.
- Reduce lighting in hallways, parking areas, and exterior spaces, consistent with essential safety requirements.
- Ensure that lights are turned off in areas that are not in use, for example, conference rooms.
- Experts say lighting accounts for 20 percent of office energy consumption. Other measures will include turning off the heat at 4 p.m. daily in state offices that close to the public at 5 p.m., and coordinating custodial services so that heat and lighting demands are minimized.

In addition, state agencies with more than 100 employees will form conservation committees to assure that all feasible steps to reduce energy use are identified and implemented.

The Department of Administrative Services will hold weekly meetings with agency facility coordinators to receive agency reports, share ideas, and coordinate conservation measures.

Previous state agency measures ordered by the governor included removal of portable space heaters, adjustment of heating controls and water heaters for minimum energy use, reduction of unnecessary lighting, and powering-down of office equipment (computers and computer monitors) when not in use for more than an hour.

Staff have also been instructed to close window blinds at night to conserve heat.

Homeowners have been asked to:

- Turn off or reduce overhead lights where fluorescent task lights will do.
- Replace incandescent task light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs.
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Staff have also been instructed to close window blinds at night to conserve heat.

Homeowners have been asked to:

- Lower water heating temperatures and use less hot water.
- Lower space-heating temperatures. Use less artificial lighting.
- Invest in energy-efficient appliances when it’s time to replace the old.
- Switch incandescent lighting with fluorescent lights.
- Weatherize homes by contacting the utility that provides heat for a free energy audit to determine the best measures.
- Find and seal all of the leaks in homes such as entry and exit holes for piping, floor and ceiling cracks, door and window frames.

A DOD press release reports that nearly 1.4 million members of the National Guard and Reserve will benefit significantly from the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

In addition to the 3.7 percent increase in active duty pay, Guard and Reserve members can now receive up to 90 points each year for inactive duty training, completion of correspondence courses, and membership in the Guard or Reserve.

This is a 15-point-per-year increase over the previous limit.

The NDAA also:

- Authorizes either drill pay or a $50 stipend to Guard and Reserve members when training for or performing funerals honors.
- Allows Reserve forces to travel “space required” on military aircraft when traveling between the member’s home and the place of annual training or inactive duty training (IDT), both inside and outside the United States.
- Retains Reserve forces officers who are called to active duty, with their consent, for three years or less, on the reserve active status list rather than placing them on the active duty list.
- Authorizes National Guard and Reserve members and their dependents legal assistance for their personal legal affairs (subject to availability of legal staff) following release from active duty from a mobilization for more than 30 days.
- Authorizes National Guard and Reserve members who are in certain skills or jobs designated by the service secretary to special duty assignment pay when performing inactive duty training.
- Provides Active and Reserve forces officers equal eligibility for involuntary separation pay.
- Enables Guard and Reserve officers to be considered for continuation without first applying for continuation.

Dependent dental care stopped Dec. 31, 2000

Dental system undergoes changes showing “allotment” instead of “deduction” on LES

The December 2000 leave and earnings statements (LES) for military members has an incorrect re- membering the dependent (DC) entry.

The LES states “stop dependent dental care 00120L.”

The LES remark should have read dependent dental stopped Dec. 31, 2000.

Please note that deductions were made for the entire month of December 2000 on the DC entry. The contractor, United Concordia Corporation Incorpo-
rated (UCCI), has been receiving phone calls from members regarding their coverage.

The deduction was made for December 2000; therefore, the mem-
bers are covered for the month of January 2001.

The January 2001 LES will reflect an AI allotment deduction for de-
pendent dental coverage next month.

The bottom line is dependent dental care has not been stopped. The system is changing so that it will be an allotment rather than a deduction. It will happen automatically.

If you have any additional ques-
tions, please call your brigade or battalion PSCO; DCSPER-AGR Sg’t. 1st Class Yolanda Ramirez at (503) 945-3550; or military pay branch Spc. Patricia Marin at (503) 945-3761.
I hope the holiday season was safe and happy for you and your families. It always nice to take time to enjoy the feeling of good will that is associated with the last two weeks of every year. One thing is for sure—the Beaver and Duck fans certainly are happy and proud. What a year for both teams.

The year 2000 presented many challenges for the Oregon National Guard which included long-term deployments in support of our national security strategy, overseas training opportunities, operations in support of state emergencies, large and small construction projects, and focused efforts to increase assigned strength in all units. What a magnificent job each of you did. I am truly impressed with your professionalism and your work ethic. Now we look to the year 2001. We will again deploy units to foreign soil, and I’m sure we will face unexpected contingencies. It looks like another exciting year to be a part of the Guard.

As the year unfolds, I will try to improve our visibility throughout the state and in the nation on that don’t know enough about us. As you know, we have a new commander-in-chief in Washington, D.C. Will this change the focus of our military forces? I’m sure no one can answer that, but I sure new priorities will surface. President-elect George W. Bush did serve in the Texas Air National Guard, and I know he respects the valuable contribution made daily by our Guard forces.

A quadrennial defense review mandated by Congress is underway, and that could ultimately affect the force structure as we know it. Our job is to maintain high levels of readiness, and to ensure that our units reach their respective personnel strength goals. If we do that, we can survive any review designed to determine the relevance of our force. Recruiting and retention remain our top priority. I’m looking forward to recognizing your successes in this critical task. Have a great new year.

State Command Sgt. Maj.
Donald F. Newman

The Azuwur

Oregon National Guard

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Command Chief Master Sgt.
J. Wayne Stuart

Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Stuart was born June 4, 1944, in Jack sonville, Fla., and moved to Iowa in 1948 and to Illinois in 1952. He attended public schools in both Iowa and Illinois and graduated from East Rock ford High in 1962.

Stuart enlisted in the United States Air Force on Sept. 11, 1962, and completed basic military training at Lackland AFB, Texas, on Oct. 20, 1962. He entered U.S. Air Force aircraft mechanic training in October 1962 at Amarillo AFB, Texas, was promoted to airman 3rd class in November 1962, and graduated from training in December 1962.

Stuart was assigned as an assistant crew chief to the 29th Fighter Intercep tor Squadron (FIS) at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, in February 1963, and was appointed as crew chief and promoted to airman 2nd class on the F-101B fighter aircraft in June 1963. His responsibilities as crew chief included aircraft inspections, launch, recovery, servicing, and general repairs on the F-101B.

In 1964, he became an alert crew chief and was promoted to airman 1st class in October 1965. Also in October 1965, Stuart was transferred to Logan Field, Montana, and appointed as the alert supervisor for Detachment 1, 29th FIS. In November 1966, he was transferred to the 57th FIS, Keflavik, Iceland, as a crew chief for the F-102 aircraft, and in May 1967, he was promoted to staff sergeant and supervisor of aircraft records. Stuart was selected to attend instructor training and was assigned to the 503rd Field Training Detachment at Oxnard AFB, Calif., instructing both pilots and crew chiefs on the F-101B and F-106.

In September 1968, he transferred to the 512th Field Training Detachment at Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., as instructor for the F-4C and U2R aircraft.

Having received a line number for promotion to technical sergeant, Stuart chose to leave active duty in April 1970 and relocate to Portland, Ore. He worked as a manager of a local automotive parts store from 1970 to 1973. During this time Stuart decided to re enter military service by enlisting in the 142nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance (CAM) Squadron as a crew chief on the F-101.

Please turn to Page 3
By Capt. ROBERT FRASER
2-218 Field Artillery

Combined Arms Services Staff School. Normally an officer's first experience at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., but also taught across the country by reserve component institutional training brigades.

Captains must complete CAS3 to be eligible for selection for promotion to major. However, Capts. Robert Fraser and Mark Collinger, from the 2-218th Field Artillery, completed CAS3 at Fort Richardson, home of the Arctic Warriors’ Training School, in Anchorage, Alaska.

CAS3 is a rigorous and demanding instructional program which prepares officers to function as members of coordinating staff at brigade and division level organizations. It is considered to be the best officer professional development course in the Army’s educational system and requires the officer to demonstrate improvement in each of the four goals in order to graduate.

The four goals of the course are: improve an officer’s ability to analyze and solve military problems; improve an officer’s ability to interact and coordinate as a member of a staff; improve an officer’s written and oral communication skills; and improve an officer’s understanding of the Army’s organizations, operations, and procedures.

All captains must attend the six-week CAS3 course, the staff process phase of the captains career course. As part of the captains professional military education program, all basic branch officers attend the course immediately after completion of branch/technical training at officer advanced courses. The staff process course is designed to provide the students with the skills necessary to serve as key staff officers with the Army in the field.

The staff leader, Lt. Col. Wong from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, noted in her speech to the graduates: “Throughout this process my focus was to improve each of the officers in the four areas emphasized in this course: military problem-solving, verbal and written communications, staff coordination, and understanding Army functions.”

“My goal was to help each officer be better prepared by the end of the course than they were at the beginning of the course for all the assignments and duties they would encounter in their future,” Wong concluded.

A significant portion of the skills and knowledge gained from the course transfer outside the military environment. For example, the techniques of problem-solving and decision-making, for preparing and presenting oral presentations, and leadership skills for creating and fostering teamwork are but a few of the tools the officer can apply to his civilian occupation and to everyday life.

The officer also uses computer software designed to support decision-making as well as Microsoft Office software for the preparation of written correspondence and information and decision briefings.

The Alaskan environment provided these two officers with an experience they will never soon forget.

In addition to the hard work, physical training, and late nights of group projects and study, they also traveled because of class “Jump TOCs”: taking a train ride down to Seward, riding a boat on Resurrection Bay that sighted orca pods, numerous puffins, and bald eagles, and staying overnight at a classroom’s cabin along the outskirts of Denali.

Fraser and Collinger did indeed labor during CAS3, and worked hard together with their staff group to succeed and complete another milestone in their careers.

In addition to receiving their diplomas, they also received an engraved crystal cube from their staff leader as a moment of their experience at CAS3.

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Klamath Falls opens new recruiting office; Air Guard enlistments up since 1997


The first enlistment for the storefront office was Virginia Hamilton, a prior service member who will be assigned to transportation. Burgin performed Hamilton’s oath of enlistment.

Following Hamilton’s enlistment, Burgin, Kelstrom, and county commissioner Steve West spoke about the Guard and the local history of the Guard in Klamath Falls.

Walk-in traffic has increased dramatically since the storefront office opened, with a total of 53 recruits in the first quarter.

In 1997, Kingsley had 19 enlistments, while that number jumped to 121 in 1999.

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Stuart: Arriving with both active duty and Guard experience

In November 1973, he was selected for a full time technician position and was assigned to the organizational maintenance inspection section.

In early 1975, he was selected as the quality control section assistance supervisor and promoted to the grade of technical sergeant. His involvement in this challenging position improved both the work environment and streamlining procedures for all aircraft maintenance areas.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Stuart received the Chester E. McCarty Award twice for maintenance and administration, Airman of the Year for two years and promotion to the grade of master sergeant.

In May 1986, he was promoted to senior master sergeant and selected as NCOIC of quality control.

Stuart was promoted to chief master sergeant in September 1988. During his tenure in quality control, he was detailed as the NCOIC of the avionics maintenance section of the 142nd Aircraft Generation Squadron. In December 1992, he became the branch chief and NCOIC for the organizational maintenance branch, overseeing flightline and inspection sections and the maintenance alert facility.

In October 1995, the Air National Guard reorganized and Stuart became the chief NCOIC of the 142nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, which included the organizational maintenance branch, weapons element and avionics flightline.

He also served as the Oregon Air National Guard NCOIC of numerous statewide deployments and overseas deployments to include Hawaii, Panama, and Iceland.

In July 1996, Stuart became the first 142nd Fighter Wing senior enlisted adviser to serve under Col. James Cunningham, Col. Granath, and Col. Kemp.

Stuart currently resides in Newberg, Ore., with his wife Sharon. Their son, Patrick, and his wife live in Naples, Fla., with their two children. Patrick is an ordained Lutheran and Christian School head master. Stuart’s daughter and her husband reside in Lafayette, Ore., with their three sons who are home schooled.
The 142nd Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight deploys throughout Oregon to dis-arm and detonate munitions

By 2nd Lt. ELENA O'BRYAN

PORTLAND—

It was 2:20 a.m. Oct. 28 when Tech. Sgt. Tom Alt of the 142nd Fighter Wing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight awoke to the shrill ringing of a phone.

Within minutes, he was heading for Hood River, Ore., and the site of a residential fire where firefighters had reported mysterious detonations.

The explosions were no surprise to Alt and the rest of his team who meticulously sorted through the burned remains of the house and uncovered more than 100 pieces of military ordnance.

What was at first uncertain was the origin of the weaponry, which included a 50-caliber machine gun with accompanying ammunition and a 120-millimeter anti-aircraft gun used to down bombers. Both were traced to a World War II-era anti-aircraft gun used to down bombers.

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Most of the explosives which EOD uncovers are inert. However, the team is always on the lookout for the 10 to 15 percent of live ordnance.

“When a call comes in, it’s an adrenaline rush,” Alt said. “You get on the scene and lots of information flows at you. You have to think carefully and fluidly in that situation.”

It is not hard to see why the EOD motto fits its mission: “Initial success or total failure.”

On both his watch and his T-shirt, Alt sports the badge which is the same for EOD specialists across the services. “This badge is a constant reminder of what we do and why,” Alt said.

On the logo is a bomb, which “represents why we came into being,” Alt said.

Three fires symbolizing chemical, biological and nuclear threats are surrounded by lightning bolts demonstrating devastating power. But within the design is a shield showing a commitment to protect personnel and assets.

The wreath is a reminder of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

All who graduate from the nine-month EOD school have already overcome the 60 percent drop-out rate and have earned the right to wear the badge of the profession.

“They’ve met a standard that the other EOD people recognize,” Alt said. Though they draw on more than 50 years of career field knowledge, EOD technicians are constantly learning about new explosive hazards in an ever-changing environment.

“Experience counts more than stripes in this career field,” Alt said. In 30 years, his team has had plenty of it. Flight Chief Master Sgt. Marc Savvy has been at the helm for 16 of those years. During that time, he’s encountered suspicious packages, buried land mines, old artillery ranges and discarded collector’s items.

None of his experiences compare to the April discovery in Keizer, Ore., of 6,000 grenades, rockets and mortars. The pieces were found in the home of a retired U.S. Army colonel suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease.

With the passing of more veterans in years to come, that record is bound to be broken.
From left: Thomas "Tad" McCall, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for environment, safety and occupational health, retired Navy captain, and son of the former Oregon Governor with the same name; Jan Benfordoro, US EPA deputy associate administrator for the office of policy and environmental innovations; Master Sgt. Deborah McIntyre, environmental project officer and 173rd Fighter Wing first sergeant for command and operations; 1st Lt. Joe Harris, 173rd environmental officer.

Klamath Falls—

O
n Dec. 13, the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, along with 225 individual facilities, was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as a charter member of the National Environmental Achievement Track.

The achievement track is a program that recognizes and rewards American businesses for doing more than the law requires: to protect the nation's air, water, and land. EPA congratulated the visionary leadership of these companies as they usher in a new era of environmental protection that will preserve the environment for future generations of Americans.

To qualify, Kingsley Field demonstrated a systematic approach to managing environmental responsibilities, a strong record of environmental compliance, a high level of achievement, and a commitment to publicly report their progress.

Kingsley Field committed to specific improvements over a three-year period: 10 percent reduction in energy consumption, 15 percent increase in solid waste diversion, 20 percent reduction in hazardous materials usage, and a 30 percent decrease in hazardous solid waste generation. These commitments follow a nine-year history of environmental impact reduction. Past achievements include: 1994 ODEQ Governor's Award for Toxic Use Reduction, 1996 Air National Guard Environmental Restoration Award, and 2000 Government Recycler of the Year Award from the Oregon Association of Recyclers (AOR).

Kingsley Field also applied to ODEQ for a Green Environmental Management System (GEMS) permit that is Oregon's version of a similar program.

The two programs will formalize the partnership relationship that Kingsley Field has always enjoyed with its environmental regulators and provide new avenues for further improvements in environmental performance and sustainability.

Kingsley Field receives EPA membership

Seeds of the Blue Mountain Valley: yesterday, today, tomorrow

By Sgt. LACINDA LEFORE

I was standing in the sunflowers, which grow around the armory at Milton-Freewater, enjoying the warm October sun, painting the exterior windowsills.

I could hear the kids across the street at the high school getting ready for their homecoming parade and the busy hum of traffic on Highway 11.

It was, all in all, a very pleasant day.

Then, out of nowhere, a thought hit me. Wow! I thought, I wonder what the window sill painter thought 50 years ago when he was painting this window sill for the first time? (Milton-Freewater armory was built in 1952) I wonder if the window sill painter thought 50 years ago when he was painting this window sill to paint in Milton-Freewater.

I wonder if he was thinking about his homecoming parade and the busy hum of traffic on Highway 11.

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Mountain rescue teams trained in Eastern Oregon

Soldiers in the 3-116 Cavalry are being trained to form mountain rescue teams in all regions of the state. The goal of the teams is to provide trained mountain and wilderness rescue teams to conduct search and rescues in all climactic conditions within one hour. The rescue training includes high altitude and high angle rescue over snow and ice, avalanche and crevasse rescue, and litter extraction with air mobile capabilities. Each team will have trained EMT-1 personnel, and all will contain five to 15 people.

For further information, contact 1st Lt. Class Smith at (541) 396-1827 or (541) 980-8213.
WASHINGTON—Veterans Affairs transforms health care for retirees

By LINDA D. KOSARYN
American Forces Press Service

Veterans’ health care is now more accessible, efficient and patient-centered, according to Thomas L. Garthwaite, undersecretary for health at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

“In the last six years, the VA has changed dramatically,” he said in a recent interview with American Forces Press Service. Today, he noted, the VA has the data to prove it provides as good quality care as in any health care system.

The VA has changed from a hospital-based system to a primarily outpatient system, Garthwaite said. The ratio of outpatient visits to inpatient admissions in 1995 was 2-to-1. By 1999 it was 48-to-1.

“We’ve gone from mostly an inpatient setting where we treat illness in its latter stages to a system focused on prevention of disease, early detection, health promotion and easier access,” he said.

VA officials also introduced performance measures to ensure administration and clinicians focused on the same goals.

“What we’ve tried to do is determine what’s important to patients, measure it and reward that,” Garthwaite said.

As a result, the department has treated more veterans, improved quality and patient satisfaction and reduced the cost of care per veteran served by more than 20 percent.

VA officials call the department a leader in patient safety, computerized patient record keeping, surgical quality assessment, rehabilitation, mental health care and medical research.

“We have one of the best immunization rates in the country, the best use of aspirin and beta blockers after heart attack or vascular attack, and we use pre-scrub screening data,” Garthwaite said.

“We’re not just trying to say we’re better, we’re trying to show people. We look for other health care systems to compare ourselves against.”

VA health care facilities provide medical, surgical and rehabilitative care for about 3.7 million people each year. From 1997 to 1999, with 20,000 fewer employees and a budget that increased only minimally compared to inflation, VA cared for an additional 500,000 veterans.

“We opened the doors of eligibility and half a million people walked in—they didn’t run the other way,” Garthwaite stressed. “And people keep coming back. The evidence indicates that they’re largely satisfied with our care.”

The VA now operates 173 hospitals with at least one in each of the 48 contiguous states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. It also operates more than 650 ambulatory care and community-based outpatient clinics, 134 nursing homes, 40 domiciliaries, 206 readjustment counseling centers and 73 home health care programs.

In fiscal 2000, the VA treated more than 670,000 veterans in VA hospitals, 110,000 in nursing homes and 26,000 in domiciliaries. VA’s outpatient clinics registered more than 37 million visits.

“We’ve closed over half the inpatient beds while at the same time seeing half a million more people.” Garthwaite said.

VA officials restructured the medical system into 22 integrated networks that pool resources to meet local needs in the most cost-effective manner.

By decreasing the amount of inpatient care, Garthwaite said, VA officials could put more resources into community-based facilities.

“About 100 new community-based outpatient clinics are now located closer to veterans, requiring less driving and effort to reach them,” Garthwaite said.

“Health care is local,” he stressed.

“It needs to be closer to where people live. You can’t expect to get your hypertension treated by someone 200 miles away. It’s worth driving for brain surgery or heart surgery, but is it really worth driving that far to have your blood sugar checked or a physical exam or get a prescription for your cold?”

Officials have also worked to reduce red tape. From fiscal 1995 to fiscal 1999, they eliminated nearly 2,800 VA forms. They scanned their remaining forms onto a CD, which is then distributed to field facilities. Forms are also now available on the Internet.

“We’ve taken a long form and now call it ‘1010EZ’,” Garthwaite said. “It’s much easier and it’s now up on the Web if you want to file electronically. We’re trying every way we can to minimize that look and feel of government bureaucracy and make it effective and efficient.”

A 1999 survey commissioned by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government found that veterans who use VA hospitals and clinics were increasingly satisfied with VA health care. Eighty percent of VA health care users were more satisfied than two years earlier.

The survey confirmed that administrative changes have led to better health care and greater satisfaction among the veterans the VA serves, Garthwaite said.

“This survey gives us the field information as we plan further improvements in VA health care for veterans,” he said.

VA’s emphasis on reporting and correcting medical errors makes it a national leader in patient safety programs.

VA approaches safety with a broad strategy that includes error prevention and reduction, education and research, he said.

VA has pioneered a bar code system for administering medication that cuts medical errors by two-thirds, for example.

VA’s emphasis on patient safety and ensuring consistently reliable, high-quality care has resulted in improvements that meet or exceed national standards, according to Garthwaite.

At a Dec. 7, 2000, National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, attended by 3,000 health care professionals, Dr. Donald M. Berwick, a leader in the field, cited the VA as a positive example.

“Heaven with us in this industry to do some of our quality initiatives, so he’s gotten to know us a little better, he’s come to see what’s going on, he’s gotten to know us a little better,” Garthwaite said.

“We’ve worked with his institute to do some of our quality initiatives, so he’s gotten to know us a little better, seen some of our data and seen what we’ve done,” Garthwaite said.

VA is also affiliated with 107 medical schools, 54 dental schools and more than 1,140 other schools across the country, he noted.

More than half of all practicing physicians in the United States have had VA researchers involved in Persian Gulf-related projects have established three environmental hazards research centers. This year, VA officials announced plans to establish a research center to investigate potential environmental reproductive hazards of military service.

All in all, Garthwaite concluded, the VA has come a long way. “We’re not your father’s VA,” he said.

For more information on VA health care go to: www.va.gov.
Military funeral honors provided by DoD for eligible veterans

The Department of Defense (DoD) provides military funeral honors at the burials of veterans. When requested, funeral honors can be given at any cemetery—private or government-operated. Most large cemeteries make those arrangements with DoD on behalf of family members.

Military funeral honors are a long-standing tradition, it wasn’t until 1999 that the rights of veterans and the responsibilities of the federal government were enshrined in law. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65), which took effect Jan. 1, 2000, was the National Defense Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-65).

Under the new law, at a family’s request, every eligible veteran will receive military funeral honors, to include a military funeral honors facility, which will oversee fold and presenting the U.S. flag and playing “Taps,” either by a high-quality recorded track or by a bugler. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the veteran’s branch of military service. DoD provides an information kit to funeral directors to help them make arrangements. The same procedure for requesting military honors is followed when burial is at a national cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) staff at national cemeteries will help, when necessary, to facilitate a request for military honors at VA national cemeteries. Veterans organizations may provide military funeral honors or may assist the military members rendering the honors. A few VA national cemeteries are served by veterans groups that regularly provide funeral honors. DoD maintains a military funeral honors website at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil. Questions or comments concerning the program may be sent to this DoD address: Military Funeral Honors 9501 Longfellow Drive, Suite 320 San Antonio, TX 78233-6635.
Awards and Decorations

Oregon Recruiting Ribbon
Majg Michael Ellis
HQ ORANG
HQ ORANG
HQ ORANG
272 CBCS
Army Meritorious Service Medal
COL Bernard Gerding
HQSTAR
COL Robert Allen
HQSTAR
LTC Daniel Radakovich
HQSTAR
Army Commendation Medal
COL Orin Brunton
1/HOSTARC
COL John Stevens
1/HOSTARC
LTC Gregory Browning
HOOI\249 EN
LTC Daniel Radakovich
HOOI\249 EN
Maj Mark Allen
HOOI\249 EN
Army Achievement Medal
Cdr Michael Hanratty
USCGR
Maj Duane Stanton
3/HOSTARC
PT Charles Ryan
USNR
Capt Patrick Stuart
3/HOSTARC
LIL Carmelo Nuestro
HQ/82 BDE
SFC Mathew Warren
HOSTARC
SFC Robert Wunderlin
HOSTARC
SFC Daniel Bilyeu
1/82 CAV
SFC Scott Mansfield
1/82 CAV
Sgt David Houston
HOSTARC
Sgt Kathryn Pritchard
HOSTARC
Sgt Joel Timmerman
1/82 CAV
SFC Troy Blanchard
1/82 CAV
SFC Sandra Heaton
41 PSC
SFC Jon Hannigan
1/82 CAV
SFC Stephen Leonardo
1/82 CAV
PFC Bryan Donnon
41 PSC
PFC Matthew Morris
1/82 CAV
F32 Leif Dumm
USCG
Oregon Exceptional Service Medal
Majg Michelle Axelson
HOOI\249 EN
CPT Linda Ballard
HOOI\249 EN
Sgt Evelyn Caster
HOOI\249 EN
Sgt Siye Deran
HOOI\249 EN
Sgt Veronica Helle
HOOI\249 EN
SSG Brian Creigh
HOOI\249 EN
CPL Julio Cotto
HOOI\249 EN
CIV Jeannie Moores
MDP
CIV Michael Campbell
MDP
WO3 Dennis Eggman
HOOI\249 EN
MSG Grant Leihg
3/HOSTARC
MSG Charles Spiker
HOOI\249 EN
MSG Dennis Eggman
HOSTARC
MSG Brian Creigh
HOOI\249 EN
CIV Joyce Allen
MDP
CIV Mary Jean Crawford
MDP
CIV Franklin Fristad
MDP
Oregon Achievement Medal
CIV Mary Jean Crawford
MDP
CIV Franklin Fristad
MDP
LTC Charles Ayers
HOSTARC
LTC Carl Radakovich
HOOI\249 EN
LTC Gregory Browning
HOOI\249 EN
LTC Daniel Radakovich
HOOI\249 EN
SFC Mathew Warren
HOSTARC
SFC Robert Wunderlin
HOSTARC
SFC Daniel Bilyeu
1/82 CAV
SFC Scott Mansfield
1/82 CAV
Sgt David Houston
HOSTARC
Sgt Kathryn Pritchard
HOSTARC
Sgt Joel Timmerman
1/82 CAV
SFC Troy Blanchard
1/82 CAV
SFC Sandra Heaton
41 PSC
SFC Jon Hannigan
1/82 CAV
SFC Stephen Leonardo
1/82 CAV
PFC Bryan Donnon
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F32 Leif Dumm
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