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Oregon National Guard

Salem homes built with Guard-donated materials

By Sgt. AMY ELKIER
15TH PURPLE AIRAFFAIRS DETACHMENT
Salem —

The American dream. Everyone wants it; yet not everyone can attain it. However, due to the joint efforts of the Salem-area Habitat for Humanity and the Oregon Army National Guard, two Salem-area families are one step closer to that dream becoming reality.

Each of these families is about to move into their very own home. Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations, Habitat builds and rehabilitates homes with the help of the partnering families.

The houses are then sold at no profit to these families and no-interest mortgages are issued over a fixed period. The family makes small monthly payments against the mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and a repair fund, which are repaid over 20 years and deposited into a revolving "Fund for Housing." This fund supports the construction of more Habitat homes. A Habitat house in the Salem area currently costs approximately $45,000.

The Oregon National Guard donated lumber used to build both of the Salem-area homes through the removal of the old Naval Reserve center, north of the Military Department. All salvageable materials from the demolition of the facility were donated to organizations like Habitat.

The Garcia family, commented that without donations, these types of projects are not possible due to the costs involved with purchasing the materials on their own.

One hundred percent of the walls on one home, and 100 percent of the exterior and 75 percent of the interior walls on the other home, were built using the Guard’s donated lumber. There is still more lumber remaining, which will be used to build another Habitat home in the near future.

Habitat chose the two Salem-area families based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the no-interest loan.

Once a family’s application has been accepted, that family must invest 500 “sweat equity” hours into the construction of the home.

The family must put in 200 hours on another Habitat home and the remaining hours are invested into their own home. This helps reduce the cost of the house, increases the pride of ownership among family members, and generates stronger community relationships.

“We gave them a hand up, not a hand out. They are earning every part of this,” White said.

Both of the Habitat homes will go to the Aguilar family. Judith, a single mother, cares for her three sons, one of whom became a paraplegic after a tragic auto accident.

She would never have been able to afford to buy her own home; especially one built with wheel-chair accessible modifications.

However, due to the program, she is able to purchase this low-cost, interest free home from Habitat.

The second home will go to Armando Garcia, who also qualified for the program after a friend suggested he apply.

“At first I didn’t listen to him, but he kept after me to apply, so I finally did," Garcia said. "I tried to buy a house on my own, but I could never come up with the down payment.”

His wife, Delma, has diabetes and is unable to work. In addition, a large portion of Garcia’s income goes towards his wife's medical bills.

Despite these obstacles, the Garcia family is currently working, along with many Habitat volunteers, on the construction of their home.

“I enjoy working for Habitat and have learned new things about how to build houses," Garcia said. "I have also enjoyed meeting new people; people who are willing to work for free—that is what has touched my heart.”

One such volunteer is Jerry Shay, site supervisor for one of the homes. He is a stay-at-home dad, and by volunteering to work on the Habitat homes, he is able to get out of the house for a while. Shay has volunteered his time building nine Habitat homes. He said that his payback is in terms of the compliments and socialization he receives.

“I’ve gotten to know the people who live in the homes we’ve built, and they are so appreciative," Shay said. "It is nice to be able to see how other’s lives were improved by the houses.”

Improving the lives of others is the mission of Habitat for Humanity. However, without the help and support of individuals and agencies, such as the donated lumber from the Oregon Guard, and the hundreds of volunteer workers throughout the community, the mission of Habitat and the dreams of these families cannot be achieved.

If you, or an organization you are affiliated with, are interested in volunteering time or donating materials to the Habitat for Humanity, contact the Habitat office nearest you or the Habitat help line at (800) 422-4826, ext. 2551.

Rosenfeld assigned to new post in Korea

Oregon —

Although everyone in the militia must expect to get new assignments, Brig. Gen. Charles Rosenfeld, Oregon’s assistant adjutant general, Army, since 1997, has been selected as the wartime chief of staff for USFOR, Korea (USFK).

Rosenfeld, an officer in the Oregon Army National Guard for the past 27 years, will now devote his entire military focus to coordinating support for all Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine forces assigned to Korea in the event of hostilities.

With a present assigned strength of 36,000 personnel, these numbers approach 250,000 during wartime, Rosenfeld will have the responsibility to coordinate the actions of general officers and their staff sections from all branches of the US military that provide forces to the Korean theatre of operations.

During his service as Oregon’s assistant adjutant general, Rosenfeld became the first National Guard general officer to be “dual hatted” with responsibilities to a deployed active component unit overseas.

He has served as the wartime G1 (personnel), and subsequently as the wartime G2 (intelligence), for the Eighth US Army, Korea. In that capacity he performed 60 days of service annually in Korea, in addition to his duties within the Guard underwrite SGLI, which has been in existence since 1965, said Tower. It has been more than eight years since the last increase in maximum coverage, he added.

He said 98 percent of all service members are covered by SGLI and 80 percent have maximum coverage. This shouldn’t be surprising, he noted, as military members, like police and firefighters, often perform hazardous duty.

At 80 cents for each $100 of coverage, SGLI rates are competitive, and coverage “is guaranteed, whether you’re an aviator, sailor or tanker,” Tower said. Service members can also convert their SGLI policies to the Veterans’ Group Life Insurance program after they leave the service, he said.

Tower noted congressional interest in extending SGLI coverage, in lesser amounts, to service members’ family members.

“It looks like there is support for passing that this year for spouses and children," Tower said. “Can’t say it’s certain, but it looks possible.”

OLBIS increases coverage on April 1

Eligible troops will automatically be insured for a maximum of $250,000 in coverage through the military’s life insurance program starting April 1.

The new coverage marks a $50,000 increase over the previous maximum provided by Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance. The premium for maximum coverage will be $20 monthly, said Tom Tower, assistant director of DoD’s military compensation office.

Participants can decrease or maintain their levels of SGLI coverage, Tower said. Eligible service members who want less than $250,000 of coverage after April 1 must apply for it through unit finance or personnel officials.

“Since the increase in insurance, you have a 30-day grace period to decline it, otherwise, you’ll have to pay two months of increased coverage,” he said.

The government and commercial insurance carriers have been informally notified of the increased coverage, he said.
Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin

Recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend an adjutant general conference. We were briefed by the senior leadership of the National Guard Bureau as well as the U.S. Air Force and Army.

The key points revolve around the new administration’s efforts to define a national security strategy. Obviously, all branches of the military are interested in the possible outcome, since many of the current debates involve how much force structure we as a nation need to meet future challenges. I do not believe we will have a clear picture of what is in store for us for a number of months.

There is a possibility that all the services could face reductions in manpower.

Although Oregon still maintains high-priority units in both the Army and Air Guards, we will not be immune if cuts are mandated nationally.

I believe we are structured in a manner that is designed to support the active components in an exceptional manner. Our current weakness lies purely in the number of soldiers and airmen that we have currently serving.

If there ever was a time to focus all of our collective energies on recruiting and retention activities, it is now.

We need to see a significant increase in our numbers. I need your help to make this happen. I’m not sure what specifically will work, but together we can make a difference.

We have some great full-time recruit

ers in the field, and they are committed to improving our numbers, but there is no way they can do this alone.

I am asking each of you to reach down and give the Oregon National Guard a 110 percent effort.

We have visibility at the national level, and there are those who say we can’t improve. I know they are wrong. While I was in Washington, D.C., a small group of leaders and myself visited our congressional delegation. We had the opportunity to tell your story and indicate our priorities for congressional support in the budget.

Our senators and congresswomen and men are very proud of the service that you continue to render for our state and nation. They were very impressed with your deployment schedule and your response during state emergencies. Our elected representatives are serving us well, and they understand our needs.

Changing themes, I want to make a comment regarding the upcoming fire season.

Due to drought conditions, the experts are predicting a very dry and dangerous summer. Under the direc-
tion of Governor Kitzhaber, we will be prepared to respond in the same professional manner that we have in the past. Remember, the citizens of Oregon are counting on you.

The months ahead will be challeng-
ing and exciting. Each of you play a very important role in our organization. Let’s focus on readiness through qual-

ity soldiers and airmen.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

As the state command sergeant major, I have taken on the additional duty of reviewing all discharge packets for soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard.

After reading over 300 ETS exit questionnaires, I am convinced that we must learn to be better listeners.

Soldiers should not be leaving our organization because of promotions, schools, awards and recognition for jobs well done.

Surveys show that workplace mis-

communication has high costs, includ-
ing lowered productivity, increased turnover, and higher stress. Most people want to be heard but rarely make the effort to listen to others. Effec-
tive, thoughtful listening can help avoid troubled communications that lead to such unwanted outcomes as low mo-

rale, lost respect, reduction of fresh ideas, and poor service.

In a time when retaining and recruit-
ing top talent is tough, alienat-
ing your employees can be very costly. Studies show that employees choosing to leave a company often include the poor interpersonal skills of a supervi-
sor and/or coworkers among chief com-

plaints.

A key trait of influential people is fa-

cility with listening and understand-
ing another’s perspective. Interper-

sonal skills are now high on the list of the abilities that make an individual successful in the workplace.

If people don’t think their ideas are heard or accepted, they’ll stop present-
ing them, reducing the organization’s cache of knowledge and innovative ideas.

Not listening to and understanding soldiers’ needs results in dissatisfied soldiers who gladly turn to a competi-
tor to fill their next need.

As leaders, we must improve our lis-

tening skills. By taking the time to lis-
ten to our soldiers, the soldiers will feel cared about. Caring for our soldiers is a priority for success.

Command Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Leadership. Guard culture, recrui-
ting and retention, professional military education, para-

digm shifts, and mission statements are the things leaders talk about.

As I travel around the state visiting our Air Guard units, I talk to command-

ers and senior NCOs about these things, but I also want to talk to first-term air-

men and new NCOs about the things that are important to them.

As I look back over my first years in the military, the things most important to me were friends, relationships, fam-

ily, and my job—the good parts and the bad parts. How would I get promoted or change the bad parts of my job? How would I know what my supervisors and commander expected of me? How would I keep my family happy when my job and work hours changed on short notice? These are just a few areas that come to mind.

As I continue visiting your units, I want to talk and listen to your con-

cerns. The good and the not-so-good.

The Guard is a family, and the best family communicates with each other. A major part of my job as the com-

mand chief is to communicate your thoughts and concerns to our leaders. That is what I plan to do, and I’m happy to tell you that the leadership listens.

If you have anything you would like to communicate to our leaders, feel free to contact me.

You can reach me via e-mail at jsstuart@orport.ang.af.mil, or by cell phone at (503) 705-7471.

Check out the Oregon Guard on the web at www.oregonguard.com and the Oregon Military Department at www.mil.state.or.us

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Dr. Ben Brown, Kingsley Field’s chaplain, served two tours in Vietnam before receiving a master’s degree in divinity. He went from being the youngest staff sergeant in Vietnam to the oldest first lieutenant in the Air Force.

The chaplain at Kingsley opened, he still had a hurdle—to get an age waiver.

Due to Air National Guard restrictions in the traditional guardsmen system, his education and experience didn’t count towards rank.

He was to come in as a first lieutenant, going from the distinction of the youngest staff sergeant in Vietnam to the oldest first lieutenant in the Air Force.

“The rules in place, even the Pope would have to come in as a first lieutenant. But it doesn’t matter; what matters is the mission of ministering to people,” Brown said.

Recently, Brown completed chaplain’s training with 17 other men representing all faiths.

He had the special experience of becoming close friends with an Orthodox Jewish rabbi that he stays in contact with.

Theological perspectives and sensitivity training is one of those things that take up a lot of time when chaplains of different faiths work together.

However, he gets to work with Chaplain Maj. Promise at Kingsley, who also happens to be an alumnus from Western Baptist.

Both have the same philosophy of getting to know Kingsley’s personnel and being there to minister when there’s a need.

Brown is available for appointments on Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon by calling (541) 883-2289.

He is also the senior pastor at BC Ministries in Klamath Falls.

### Milton-Freewater youth take Guard Adventure program one step further

By: See LAINDA BEREKE

DEP 2/8/45 SUPPORT BATTAGLIA

Although many armories became dimmer this month in an effort to conserve resources, the armory in Milton-Freewater grew bright with hope and adventure.

The Oregon National Guard’s Counterdrug program Guard Adventure came to Milton-Freewater during the first two weeks of January, to help protect the most important resource—our children.

The students of Milton-Freewater’s alternative high school students are currently in the process of organizing their group.

They have come up with some basic ideas of how they want their group to work, ideas like meeting one weekend a month; mentoring younger, “at risk” youth; performing community service; and participating in adventure group activities such as rafting and backpacking, in an effort to help keep kids in Milton-Freewater drug-free.

Several Guard members from Milton-Freewater have requested to be trained as Guard Adventure facilitators.

They would be able to help teach the fundamentals of Guard Adventure, thus keeping the Counterdrug program active in the community and helping serve the organizing youth group as “mentor’s mentors.”

This was such an exciting development in our community. The cost for this was non-existant to the community.

Our taxes had already paid for it.

The Azuwur staff recently found back issues of the paper dating to 1974. As the Oregon Guard continues to excel into the new millennium, we would like to run selected stories to look back into the past.

### Phase II of BDU issue scheduled for March

The number of BDUs requested cannot exceed the assigned enlisted strength on the date the request form is prepared. Nelson said. Camouflage caps will not be requested for the second or third BDU.

BDUs will not be issued to enlisted personnel awaiting or attending EGP-63 training, Title 10 or 32 personnel on active duty for more than six months, or to members who will be discharged within 30 days of the preparation of the AGO form 701.

Officers and active Guard reserve personnel are required to have a second BDU by Oct. 1, 1983, and a third by Oct. 1, 1984.

This article was first published in the December 1982-January 1983 edition of the Azuwur.
THE LEWIS AND CLARK CENTENNIAL

THE WESTWARD JOURNEY CONTINUES AFTER 200 YEARS

WILLIAM CLARK
SACAGAWEA
MERIWETHER LEWIS

MAP LEGEND
- Interstate Highway
- U.S., State Highway
- County Road
- Lewis & Clark Trail Highway
- Travel Restrictions (Local Inquiry)
- Streamflow Direction
The recent visit to the northern Oregon coast by the Secretary of the Interior, Gail Norton, clearly indicates the significance of the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorations,” said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, vice chief of National Guard Bureau, at a summit meeting held at Camp Rilea. “The Lewis and Clark commemoration is an outstanding project to connect with America and explain the militia and Army message.”

Rees opened the summit meeting with encouragement to all the trail states to support the efforts of their local communities as well as a planned relay run. “The Guard has a better opportunity to tell the (Lewis and Clark) Army story than any other component,” stated Rees. By utilizing the Innovative Readiness Training program to assist tribes, local groups, and other entities with federal dollars, and recruiting as a large benefit for the Army and the National Guard, we can promote the commemorations in our states, while educating the public on this effort to connect the east to the west with internal waterways.

The National Guard will represent the military presence along the trail route. Representatives from 17 trail states were invited to attend the first meeting to discuss the ways the National Guard could work together to support the local commemorative activities and a national relay from coast to coast. Also present at the summit was Jean Naus, the national coordinator for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Meredith Rapp, National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and Lt. Col. Sherman Fleek, chief of historical services for National Guard Bureau.

Since the participants of the expedition were regular Army at the time but many had militia service as part of their military careers, Fleek feels the National Guard is a natural to provide military presence at commemorations throughout the nation. “Many citizens have no idea that Lewis and Clark were Army officers and the men were soldiers,” Fleek said. He stressed that the Army cannot expect the Park Service, the Forest Service, or the Bicentennial Council to tell the “military story.” “The Army must educate the American public because no one else will during the commemoration years,” Fleek said.

The US Army center of military history is the lead for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial and will advise the Army leadership and staff on issues through Lt. Gen. John Pickler, chair of the Army L & C executive council. The Army is planning various local and national activities and the state National Guard should get involved with local groups and organizers to assist in planning for the state activities from 2003-2006.

One event in the planning stages is a relay run along the historic route from Monticello, Va., to the Pacific Ocean and Fort Clatsop in 2004. Each state will have the complete freedom to conduct the run safely and independently, although NGB will have some oversight. It has been decided to use a 50-mile-per-day basis for planning the route nationally. As with the Olympic torch, there will be a handoff from state to state of a spoutoon carrying the 15-star national flag of the period. States will be allowed to mount a state flag under the national flag on the spoutoon. A spoutoon is an infantry weapon of the 18th century used by junior officers. Capt. Lewis carried one through the expedition. All commemorative events will be open to both Army and Air National Guarderson. The official title for this relay is to be “The U.S. Army Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Relay”, and as a subtitle, “A National Guard Event.”

Ted Kaye, of the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Lewis Clark Bicentennial Commission, will be compiling a list of planned activities for Oregon. Many of the activities for Oregon may be put together in association with Washington state as the expedition crossed back and forth across the Columbia River enroute to the Pacific.
Retiree Focus

Retirement planning for Oregon retirees

Veterans' benefits and job forum to be held at Chemeketa College

On Nov. 7, the voters of Oregon showed their support for those who have served their country by voting for ballot measure 83 in overwhelming numbers. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is now making the necessary program changes to accommodate those newly eligible veterans who may wish to utilize the department's veterans' home loan program.

The recently-passed ballot measure requires that in order to be eligible, a veteran must have entered active duty prior to Dec. 31, 1976. A veteran must still have the required minimum of 210 days of active duty (unless released earlier because of a service-connected injury or illness), have served honorably, and be a resident of Oregon at the time of application for a home loan.

Ballot measure 83 also created an alternative method of gaining eligibility. Veterans whose service was in a theater of operations for which a campaign or expeditionary medal was authorized by the United States, are also now eligible. All loan applications must be made within 30 years of the date of the veteran's discharge or separation.

The first objective is to identify and evaluate sources of funding. Then, depending upon the funding sources, the department may need to seek changes in current law from the Oregon legislature. Once the specific sources of funding are identified, and any necessary legislation passed, the department will work swiftly to make funds available for newly-eligible veterans.

When those objectives have been met, our experienced loan personnel will be ready to serve this newly-eligible group of veterans with the same level of dedication and professionalism that we have provided for more than 50 years. Of course, all loans will continue to be serviced by our own experienced staff, here in Oregon.

Veterans who believe they are the newly-eligible and who wish to receive further information as the program is developed, should contact the department at (988) 673-8307 (Crismon only) or at (503) 373-2070. If contacting us by email at orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us, please include your name in the subject line.

I-205 designated as Veterans Memorial Highway in November

Veterans, state and federal officials, and others gathered at Willamette National Cemetery on Veterans Day to dedicate Interstate 205 as a Blue Star Memorial Highway and to designate it as Veterans Memorial Highway.

The National Council of State Garden Clubs started the Blue Star Memorial Highway project in New Jersey in 1944 as a tribute to all who have served in the armed forces and also as a demonstration of roadside beautification. It was one of the most extensive projects ever undertaken by garden clubs and the first ever attempted on a nationwide scale.

The name “Blue Star” was taken from the small service flag that family members placed in their windows during World War II. A blue star signified a family member serving overseas, a red star represented someone who was injured, and a gold star meant a family member had died in action. While it originally began to honor World War II veterans, its mission was enlarged in 1951 to include all men and women who had served, were serving or would serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 392 (Portland) worked closely with the Highway Department in the highway renaming, with assistance from elected officials and the Oregon Department of Transportation.


Representatives from 29 veterans' organizations took part in the ceremony.

TriCare benefits extended to Medicare-eligible retirees

According to the TriCare web site, Tricare health and pharmacy benefits were recently extended to Medicare-eligible retirees of the uniformed services, their family members, and survivors thanks to the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Under the new law, pharmacy benefits are effective on April 1, 2001, and the rest of the Tricare health care benefits are effective on October 1, 2001. If you turn 65 prior to April 1, 2001, the new law states that you automatically qualify for the benefit whether or not you purchase Medicare Part B. If you turn 65 on or after April 1, 2001, the law mandates that you must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to receive the Tricare pharmacy benefit.

According to the Medicare web site, you can currently sign up for Medicare medical insurance (Part B), if you are eligible, during Medicare's annual enrollment period which continues until April 2. As long as you sign up by this date, your Medicare Part B coverage will begin on July 1, 2001.

If you are interested in enrolling in Medicare, call Social Security at (800) 772-1213.

For more information on Medicare and the new law concerning Tricare health and pharmacy benefits for Medicare-eligible retirees, visit the following web sites: www.medicare.gov/ and www.tricare.osd.mil/ndoa/
I have been my pleasure to serve as Oregon's assistant adjutant general, Army, since October 1997.
During this time I have seen eight of our units deploy overseas, each having benefited from home station mobilization that kept our soldiers close to their families and employers while preparing to do accomplish vital missions in foreign lands.

Headquarters, State Area Command (STAR) conducted its first unified annual training in over 50 years, in support of the 41st Brigade participation in a JRTC rotation which valorizes the "longing of age" as an enhanced brigade.

In addition to insuring the military preparedness of the Oregon National Guard, we fought fires, floods and storms, built structures to enhance our communities, cleaned up our environment, mentored our youth and took care of our families.

From the governor of Oregon to the state's poorest citizens, the Oregon National Guard is respected for its service and dedication.

While the stature and esteem of our organization has grown in the public eye, we must never forget that this is the result of the efforts of thousands of soldiers and airmen, and their families.

We, as a headquarters, must be equal to our local leaderships' expectations, the well-being of our families, and consideration for those retirees who set the stage for our success with their years of service.

I am pleased to see the progress that has been made, especially with respect to increased administrative leads, more stringent educational and training requirements, and heightened expectations for deployment.

All of this has put a great deal of strain on our staff to meet higher recruiting and retention goals, achieve higher operational readiness levels, and provide increased training opportunities to meet the career goals of our soldiers.

Such achievements are never the result of strictly individual efforts, but reflect that which makes the Oregon National Guard so special, the collective efforts of many for the benefit of all.

I would especially like to thank our often 'unseen' volunteers, those dedicated individuals who have committed so much time and effort to making our mission objectives possible.

The family program and their chain of concern gives every Guard family the assurance that the sacrifices, that inevitably occur due to military service, will be addressed with care and compassion.

I have taken volunteers from our Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee with me on visits to deployed units overseas. They have not only addressed the concerns of individual soldiers, but have rallied employers and communities in support of our troops and their families.

Similarly, the retiree council has endeavored to retain the spirit and enthusiasm of our emeritus Guardians and families, preserving the rich heritage that is so crucial to our future.

I'd like to commend those who have given of themselves to support our National Guard Associations, both enlisted and officer, at the state and national levels.

These fine organizations have worked relentlessly on our behalf, insuring the success of important legislation that will have long term consequences for Guard families.

They lobbyed on our behalf for state-sponsored educational benefits and home loans, and guaranteed health and prescription drug benefits for our retirees and their families, among other things.

This summer, we will mark the transition to the total integration of the Army, as we wear the black beret as a symbol of that change.

It signifies that the Guard and Reserve are full partners in the defense of this nation, increasingly bearing the burden of peacekeeping overseas, and providing the combat strength of our armed services.

But there are things within the Oregon National Guard that I hope will never change, especially the spirit of community that unites our National Guard family.

As my military focus shifts toward Korea, I know that you will receive the best possible guidance and support from Brig. Gen. Terry Barker, who succeeds me as AAGA.

I know that each of you will give him your best efforts, and that the future of the Oregon Army National Guard is assured by your collective dedication. Denise and I regret that we won't be seeing you quite as often, but you will remain in our hearts and prayers... until we meet again.

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**Rosenfeld bids fond farewell to Guard men and women**

**Family Focus**

Mrs. Shirley Davis visits Oregon Family Program

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Mrs. Shirley Davis, the wife of Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, chief of National Guard Bureau, visited Oregon in October.

Mrs. Davis was given a warm welcome and overview of the role of the Oregon National Guard at the Family Readiness Center at Camp Withycombe.

Mrs. Davis spoke to family program coordinators about the value of the National Guard family program, and departed Oregon with a positive opinion of the impact the family program has on Oregon soldiers.

This service to the National Guard should not be overlooked.

Commanders should make a conscious effort to work on this important task.

The Oregon National Guard has approximately 120 hard-working volunteers who work together to help meet the needs of our families.

The Oregon State Defense Force has become a significant and meaningful service organization that supports and ensures our mission success.

I'd like to commend those who have given of themselves to support our National Guard Associations, both enlisted and officer, at the state and national levels.

These fine organizations have worked relentlessly on our behalf, insuring the success of important legislation that will have long term consequences for Guard families.

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