Oregon’s 1-162 IN BN, 82 ROC return home

By Sgt. Cherrie Cavallaro
State Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. — You couldn’t have ordered up a more beautiful day as the plane carrying the remaining soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry touched down at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., on April 3rd. Alpha Co. had arrived the night before and were there waiting for their comrades. The arriving soldiers were greeted by warm, sunny skies as they stepped out onto familiar ground—many of them happy to see the green grass and trees of the Pacific Northwest once again.

Some family members, anxious to see their loved ones, stood by as the soldiers crossed the tarmac and headed inside the building to await further instructions.

Although Spec. Anthony Dix said he wasn’t going to miss the smells and noises he experienced almost every day while in Iraq, he said his time there taught him a lot.

“It was a good experience, providing great training,” Dix said. He was most looking forward to being with his family and having the freedom to do what he wants, when he wants.

With the entire unit back in the United States, they boarded three yellow buses that took them to the north part of Ft. Lewis.

“The ORARNG units spent almost one year in Iraq

By Maj. Mike Allegre
and Capt. Stephanie Banen,
142nd FW Public Affairs Office

REDMOND, Ore. — “The National Guard’s mission should not be focused only on Homeland Security, but also provide one-stop shopping for federal support. The American military must continue to evolve and stay ahead of terrorists.”

This was the main message from Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, the commander of North American Command, to nearly 400 Oregon National Guard officers April 24, in Redmond, Ore. Accompanying Eberhart was NORTHCOM Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon’s former adjutant general.

Eberhart is Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) at Peterson AFB, Colo.

As the nation witnessed on Sept. 11, 2001, America’s enemies have the resolve and means to commit acts of terrorism against innocent civilians and commercial interests within our country. As a result, NORTHCOM was formed in Oct. 2002 to provide a single command for Department of Defense homeland defense missions. Emerging threats for the new command include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and 

Despite challenges, 2-162 fights on through Baghdad

Story by Rebecca May-Brunas,
39th Brigade Combat Team,
Arkansas Army National Guard Reprinted from the Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — “Let them know he wanted to keep on fighting,” said the intense 22-year-old Private Andrew Molero of Roseburg, Ore., as he sat restlessly smoking a Lucky cigarette.

It was the same situation Molero and Sgt. Lucas Wilson, of Eastern Oregon, had trained for in Ft. Polk, La., at the Joint Readiness Training Center a month earlier. During the mock battle, Wilson had lost a leg and Molero was the combat lifesaver.

This time it was real.

The two soldiers and their platoon from Company A of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry found themselves ambushed on an overpass in downtown Baghdad while providing convoy security for Arkansas’ 39th Brigade Headquarters Company.

The convoy came to an alarming halt as two Bradley Fighting Vehicles which were leading the convoy took hits; the first with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and the second with a rocket propelled grenade (RPG).

“There was some machine gun and small arms fire that initiated it,” said 1st Lt. Dewayne Jones, of Medford, Ore.

Jones, a platoon leader and vehicle commander, was part of a security team that included Molero and Wilson, who carried M4 rifles, and Spec. Steven Baldwin, a 240B machine gunner. As a fire-fight ensued, their vehicle became trapped in the halted convoy.

“I saw a flash to my rear and thought it was an IED,” said Jones. “I radioed it in and then heard screaming from the back.”

An RPG had hit their vehicle above the back wheel and smashed through a wooden beam, Wilson’s leg, two rucksacks and Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) boxes, launching

See ORARNG unit page 6

See ORARNG unit page 5
Okay, so there’s no whole lot to say this time. Things are pretty much the same. The boys are still at Camp Provider in Baghdad. Things are peaceful for the most part and time is going by very slowly! Here is a picture of Matt with some Iraqi kids at an orphanage in downtown Baghdad. Thanks to their employer, The Rose Garden and The Portland Trailblazers, they were able to brighten these little guys’ day with stuffed animals and other fun stuff.

Nicole Robinson

Pictured above: Sgt. Matt Robinson (r.), originally from E-Company, 82nd Cavalry, who is assigned to Delta-Company, 2nd BN, 162nd IN, with some new friends.

Media not telling the whole story in Iraq

Hello All,

Still, I have no dedicated e-mail so I am writing this via bulk mail. I am also return- ing letters back when I receive mail or packages from home. I have never written so much in my life, so keep those cards and letters coming! I just wanted to tell you all how things are going over here. Don’t let the media fool you, we are doing great things here. Even with the prison scandal being all over the news, don’t forget that the soldiers implicated in the reports make up a very small percentage of the soldiers over here and do not even come close to representing what the vast majority of the soldiers are doing in Iraq. While the prison situation is a terrible thing, it also sells newspapers and ad space on the six o’clock news. Conversely, what the average soldier is doing does not.

They are out there every day watching their buddies’ backs. They are bringing clothes and toys to local orphanages and soccer balls to local schools. They are interacting with neighborhood and district councilors and teaching them about democracy and freedom, and are training the Iraqi police and civil defense corps. They are protecting local government buildings so that on June 30th, they can be turned back over to the people intact, and in usable condition. However, the national media has deemed that these great acts of humanity and caring are not newsworthy. They feel that none of these wonderful things being done by our troops will sell newspapers. The Iraqis are not yet ready to defend themselves against outside terrorist groups. If we do this right, Iraq can become a great country.

Maj. Arnold V. Strong,
Editor in Chief,
The Oregon Sentinel

Tell us what you think!
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The Oregon Sentinel
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Oregon National Guard

115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Letters From The Front

FROM THE EDITOR

Exceptional times call for exceptional people on the team, and in the public af- fairs office here in Salem, we are blessed with a team that has one goal as its mission statement: to tell your story. It has been a year since we first released The Oregon Sentinel as the official publication of the Oregon National Guard. Since then, we have witnessed the return of Iraq of three major Army units (cover story), the redeployment of elements of the Air Guard from almost two years of active duty, the return of units from duty across the United States performing Homeland Security roles, the deployment of another infantry battalion into Iraq (see page one) and the preparation of another two units for duty as part of the Global War on Ter- ror (see cover photo). We have also witnessed an expanded role for the Public Affairs Office and its ability to support units in the field. I am delighted to introduce Capt. Mike Braibish (Air) to the team as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer and to recognize the year-long contributions of Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, brand manager and managing editor of this publication. Mike joins us from the active Air Force, were he has served as a public affairs officer for the past three years. He comes with a breadth of experience that is as diverse as it is deep in operational relevance. His previous as- signments include joint and overseas tours and he has already proven his skill in bal- ancing out the team. Nick came onboard a year ago this month with a more corporate background that he readily adapted to the Oregon Military Department.

The experience in managing brand strategy for major Oregon corporations such as Nike and InFocus has strengthened the work that we do as an organization and the finesse of this publication is due in large part to the commitment to excellence that he brings to the job.

Furthermore, Mrs. Kay Fristad was recently recognized for fifteen years of service to the Oregon National Guard, almost all of which have been here in the Public Affairs Office. She is a strong team, focused on telling your story here and abroad.

We are working to get more coverage of what our soldiers and airmen are doing outside and inside the United States and hope that you will “heed the call” and send us your story ideas and submissions. The men and women on your team deserve to be heard about the work their peers are doing on a daily basis. Thanks for all the con- tributions to date and keep those stories and photos coming our way.

Maj. Arnold V. Strong,
Editor in Chief,
The Oregon Sentinel

JFHQ swears in new Inspector General, Col. Bernard “Kimo” Gabriel

Joint Forces Headquarters welcomed the new Inspector General, Col. Bernard “Kimo” Gabriel on May 27, 2004. Gabriel’s last assignment was in the Office of the Chief of Staff and Secre- tary of the Army at the Pentagon. He served as the Director of the Executive Communications and Control. He previ- ously served in both staff and troops in CONUS and overseas commanding the 9th Adjutant General Company, 9th Infantry Division at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and as the Executive Officer of the 18th Personnel Service Battalion, and later the Group 53, 18th Personnel Support Group (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Gabriel has also served as a Foreign Area Officer Trainee, assisting the Army Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. Gabriel and his wife Debbie, originally of Taft, Calif., have three sons; Christo- pher, Eric, and Matthew.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office

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Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Acting Adjutant General, State of Oregon

Over the past several months I have been working closely with rear detachment commanders and family program coordinators both informally and at the state level coordination meetings. Most frequently the issues and the discussion is centered on soldiers and families having inadequate being financially prepared for the deployment. While not everyone in our organization is going to deploy, the near future I would like all of you to consider the following items and develop a working financial plan for yourselves and if you have one, your families.

1. Develop an estate plan. As we go through periodic Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) you can talk to the IAG's representative who can assist you in preparing the necessary supporting documents at no cost to you. Examples of documents they can prepare are wills and powers of attorney.
2. Develop a backup plan for emergencies that may occur while you are away. What if you lose your credit card? Who has emergency access to you savings and checking accounts? Who can take care of an overlooked bill?
3. Develop a filing system. This is especially helpful for you when tax season arrives.
4. Insurance. Again, as you go through the SRP check to see if you have adequate insurance, (SGLI), to cover obligations you may have as well as provide coverage for your family. You may need additional coverage.
5. Protect your property. Consider your automobile or house, whether it is rented or owned, and other personal property.
6. Fund the future. People in the United States do a very poor job in saving money for the future. It takes discipline to set up a savings account but is well worth the effort.

A good time to “practice” or test your financial plan is during a training deployment or annual training. Please take time to develop a plan. If you don’t have a plan you are placing a burden on others as well as trusting them to read your mind or follow your intent in a time of crisis.

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith, incoming State Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith is a full time technician serving as the 142nd Fighter Wing/AMXS Superintendent at the Portland Air National Guard Base. He served on active duty and in the National Guard from 1971 and did an extended tour in Vietnam as a Structural Repair Technician and part-time door gunner on CH-47 “Chinook” helicopters. He was released from active duty in 1972 and joined the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Consolidated Air Maintenance (CAM) Squadron in Portland, Ore. In 1975, Smith was hired on as a full time technician in 1980 during the conversion from F-101s to F-4C aircraft, and in 1998 he was selected as the Weapons Element Supervisor.

Smith was promoted to Chief in July 2000 while he was serving as the Wing Weapons Manager and 142nd Fighter Wing. In 2002, he was selected as the 142nd Fighter Wing/AMXS Superintendent. In March 2004, Smith was appointed as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of Oregon, succeeding Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Stuart. His deployment experiences with the National Guard include Incirlik, Turkey; Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Aalborg, Denmark and numerous CONUS stops.

Major awards and decorations include the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Refueling Incentive Award, numerous Commendation and Meritorious Service Awards, and the ORANG Faithful Service Ribbon.

Greetings,

I am State Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe, incoming State Command Sergeant Major. I want to recognize the outstanding enlisted men, women and officers who you serve with. You acknowledge the outstanding leaders that provided you the opportunity to make a difference, by allowing you to fail and then helped you overcome those failures.

When I was given this opportunity in December 2000, there were many things I wanted to accomplish. Many are still undone, but we have made some positive changes and more will be completed in the future.

The State Chief Command Master Sergeant position is the best position in the Oregon Air National Guard. I was able to see the good, the bad, and the ugly. I am happy to report the good far outweighs the bad and the ugly.

The men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard are indeed the very best. We are a family — a very large family that supports and takes care of its own. When I retired as a technician four years ago, I mentioned some of the family members that have touched my life in the Guard. I am going to list them here, as well as a few new ones.

From Headquarters – Lt. Col. Mary Brant who hired me. Maj. Gen. Ded Ward, Chief Warrant Officer Jack Cronise; Brig. Gen. Bill Doctor; Col. Noel Kemmerich; Col. Gary Dean; Col. Spike McKiniss; Col. Larry Heard; Col. Lyke Cabe; Chief Master Sgt. Wilber Belkure; Chief Master Sgt. Gene Thomas; Chief Master Sgt. Owen Hinkle; Chief Master Sgt. Vie Struznia; Chief Master Sgt. Rich Ramey; Col. Bruce Marshall; Col. Dave Ferré; Maj. Ron Kessinger; Chief Master Sgt. Claudia Polen; Senior Master Sgt. Erin Parks; Senior Master Sgt. Ulana Cole; Senior Master Sgt. Mark Russell; Master Sgt. Linda Nunez and Mrs. Terry Knepper.

All of these people live the Air Force Core Values – Integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do.

When Gen. Cunningham selected me to be the first 142nd Fighter Wing SEA/CCM in July 1996, and then the State CCM in December 2000 he told me to “tell it like it is and I will support you.” I am happy to report that I did tell it like it was, and he supported me in every way. It has been easy to represent the very best enlisted men and women in uniform.

Thank you everyone, for the career of a lifetime. I hope you are happy with your job. I would have preferred if you had a better one, but I couldn’t do it without you. God bless you all. God bless America.

Wayne Stuart

Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart, former State Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart served as the State Chief Command Master Sergeant. How do you sum up 39 years in a couple of paragraphs?

Here’s how: You say thank you to the great men, women and officers who you serve with. We are a family — a very large family that supports and takes care of its own. When I was called out, I was able to see the good, the bad, and the ugly. I am happy to report the good far outweighs the bad and the ugly.

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Wayne Stuart, former State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Military Department brings Earth Day to Salem-Keizer school

Mark Stein and Jim Arnold (volunteers at the Water World booth) teach kids at John F. Kennedy School the differences in water sampled from several water sources in the Willamette Valley at a recent Oregon Army National Guard Earth Day event.

By Sgt. Cherie Cavallaro, State Public Affairs Office

KEIZER, Ore. — For the second year in a row, the Oregon Army National Guard sponsored an annual Earth Day event in April. This year, the event was held at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Keizer. The 5th and 6th grade students experienced a day of hands-on learning, and environmental awareness.

With the help of several volunteers, teachers, and soldiers, the Installations Division Environmental Branch at Joint Forces Headquarters, Lt. Gen. Steve Miller, co-sponsored this Earth Day event and the installations office were credited with organizing the event.

We felt that Earth Day should be a community outreach event and it is important to give the kids fun and easy earth friendly tips and treasures that will pay dividends for years to come,” Howard said.

Howard began working in the Environmental Branch at JFHQ in 1998. Her desire is to create awareness and educate school-age children about the importance of Earth Day. After getting permission from management she began recruiting volunteers for a core group that would design and organize Earth Day 2004. They put together booths, gathered information, and planned activities throughout the first quarter of 2004.

Christi McAfee, one of the two 4th grade teachers worked closely with the Oregon Army National Guard to bring the event to John F. Kennedy School.

“It’s amazing how the children are repeat offenders at this event, nationally for us so involved and enjoying the process,” McAfee said.

“The whole event has been so well organized and the projects have engaged the children like we’ve never seen before, they are so enthusiastic about learning.”

An Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopter touched down at the school in the morning. The crew: Staff Sgt. James Tournay, co-pilot 1st Lt. Sean Tognesson and pilot Chief Warrant Officer Karl K. Poole. It was greeted by surprised children, who ran to the aircraft as soon as the rotors stopped turning.

“It’s always good to get the kids interested in advanced technology fields early in life so they have a good idea of what they want to do later in life,” Poole said.

“Our mission is to protect the Pacific North west is fighting forest fires and protecting natural resources, and our aircraft are the best symbol of that mission,” Poole continued.

Students were allowed to climb into the helicopter, and several were allowed to be strapped into the pilot and co-pilot’s seats. The crew answered questions about their MEDEVAC and search and rescue missions.

Poole told a few of them that if they could start it, they could fly it. Since the battery had been disconnected, there was little chance of the children following through on the offer.

“It’s still amusing and fun to watch them try though,” he added.

The students then moved to the school gymnasium, where several demonstration booths displayed different aspects of environmental care and awareness. Titles like “Oily Ocean,” “Disaster Clean-up,” “Hazardous Waste,” and “Global Warming” were familiar to many attendees. But there were booths issuing challenges specifically to the audience present that day, such as “The Brain Teaser Trivia Game,” “Traveling Museum of Oregon Prehistory” and “The Candy Land Fill” which showed the kids how garbage is handled in landfills and what happens to it over time. Kids were asked to crush cookies, cut up fruit, and other goodies, depositing them in layers to show how landfills can reach capacity in a short time.

Children learned about oil spills and the effects they can have on the environment. They donned jumpsuits and rubber gloves, and tried to contain their own miniature ‘oil spill’. Others tested their knowledge of the environment, by participating in a mock trivia game where correct answers got them a hook and a dip and a spin at the ‘prize wheel’, which determined what prize they could take home.

Also on hand was Scott Stuenke, Natural Resource Specialist for the Oregon Military Department, who demonstrated the age-old technique of flint knapping, the age-old art of tool making.

“These stone tools show the inter-relationship of Native Americans to their environment,” Stuenke said.

Accompanying him was Dr. Le Gilson, who brought with him several replicas of Native American artifacts, including baskets, fishing implements, and other every-day tools used by local area tribes. Their display illustrated how Native Americans wasted nothing – though animals were hunted for food, all their parts were used. Hides were used for clothing and shelter, bones, antlers, and even stomach linings were used as containers. The display helped children understand how people can be ‘stewards of the earth’.

“The kids are so fortunate to have such positive role models who are willing to teach them environmental awareness and make it fun,” McAfee said.

Everyone was a winner however, as t-shirts, tree seedlings, and other souvenirs were passed around. Each child also received information packets with directions and recipe cards so they could re-create the day’s activities when they got home. In return for the day of fun and education, the students of Kennedy School presented the ORARNG with hand-written thank you notes from each of the children, and a group student photo signed by all the children and teachers.

“I believe we succeeded far beyond our expectations this year,” Howard said. “We are already looking forward to next event in 2005.”

Personality Profile: Vanderlugg leads Oregon marathon team

Story by Maj. Mike Allocare

Public Affairs Officer, 142nd Fighter Wing and Col. Larry Studer, Chief of Staff Joint Force Headquarters

The Oregon National Guard’s five-man Marathon Team ended their two-year reign as champions at the Lincoln (Nebraska) Marathon, May 3, while finishing a strong second to Puerto Rico in the 27th annual race. Three Oregon runners earned a spot on the all-Guard Marathon Team

Sgt. First Class Tim Vandervlugt, A/1249th Engineer Battalion, 18th Chemical, 18th Engineer Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., in support of Operation Noble Eagle. While deployed, he trained with and returned from deployment at Fort Lewis in several major marathons during the year including the Marine Corps, Blue Angels, and Air Force, Chicago and San Diego Marathons. They will participate in this program over the years. Exceptional ORNG athletes interested in this program should contact AR 215-1 for further information at (541) 390-3157, or email: timothy.vandervlugt@or.ngb.army.miil.

White finished third in his military age (50-54) division and fifth overall in that age category. White has run 16 Lincoln Marathons and been named to the all-guard team 16 times. Nixon (11th overall and 6th among Guard runners) was second among Guard runners) was second among Guardsmen aged 30-34 and first in his military age division. Pritchett finished 35th overall and both soldiers earned their third selection to the All Guard Team.

The Oregon Joint Forces HQ Chief of Staff, Larry Studer, also ran and was clocked in 4:11:34.

Oregon’s Acting Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, later thanked and congratulated the Oregon Guard members from 48 states and Puerto Rico, including National Guard Members from 48 states and Puerto Rico, enjoyed near perfect running conditions. The runners were greeted with a clear sunny day, winds of 4 to 14 mph, and temperatures ranging from the high 30s at the start of the race to mid 50s by the time the final runner crossed the finish line. This was a welcomed change for all runners who ran in last year’s marathon, which was delayed because of ferocious rain, which thunderstorms and heavy rain threatening throughout the race.

“The All Guard Marathon Team is comprised of the fastest male and female runners from these time trials. They will participate in several major marathons during the year including the Marine Corps, Blue Angels, Air Force, Chicago and San Diego Marathons. They will also run in international competitions.”

Students were allowed to climb into the helicopter, and several were allowed to be strapped into the pilot and co-pilot’s seats. The crew answered questions about their MEDEVAC and search and rescue missions.

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“I believe we succeeded far beyond our expectations this year,” Howard said. “We are already looking forward to next event in 2005.”


Gen. Wilson: “Soldiers did their duty with grace and elan”

As the gathering ended, Wilson said, “Each one of you made a difference, and this is the proudest day they’ve had at Ft. Lewis in five years... this is for you!”

“I would be proud to stand in your formation, God bless you and thank you,” he added.

Brigadier General Raymond C. Byrme Jr., Acting Adjutant General for the state of Oregon reminded the soldiers of what they would need to accomplish as they progressed through their demobilization process prior to their return to Salem that Thursday. The soldiers then left the chapel to waiting families and a had a chance to relax after the morning’s activities. Outside the chapel Gen. Wilson continued to praise the men. He said, “I think this Battalion is one of the best Battalions we have in the Army, and as the 76th Infantry Division Commander, I am so proud of the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry and what they did. They did it with grace and elan.”

On Thursday, April 8, the unit returned to the Salem Armory, and more friends and family, who waited for their arrival for over 3 hours. Eight busses, escorted by a fleet of POVs carrying more troops and their families pulled into the armory grounds through a make-shift archway created by Salem Fire Department ladder trucks. Hanging from the apex of the arch was a welcomed sight — the United States flag framed by the 82nd ROC completes mission in Iraq

Story by Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore., — On April 10, the 82nd ROC returned to their home station at the Lake Oswego Armory. They were deployed to Iraq for 14 months, where they took part in Command and Control at LSA Anaconda. They completed their out-processing at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and traveled back to their home station via privately-owned vehicles. Waiting patiently for their arrival were families and friends waving flags, banners, flowers and huge smiles.

New babies and grandchildren, children, wives, husbands, and members of the media insured their arrival back home was a joyous occasion.

It was evident that the signs of the deployment lingered on as the cultural differences practiced in a foreign country remained automatic to these men and women. All returned safe and happy, although changed by their long absence from home, and their being witness of a nation at war.

Their return was delayed by several weeks and they departed just four days prior to a possible extension for an additional three to four months to help maintain strength requirements.

“We got out just in time,” Maj. Scott Farish said as he introduced his family.

Rocko: ORARNG dog stays in the ‘family’

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

State Public Affairs Office

Most people who have served in the National Guard agree, it is a family. It’s no surprise then that this family unit would extend to include furry four-legged pals as well.

Rocko, a mini-schnauzer, originally lived with Lt. Col. Dan Bredel and his wife Laurie. Bredel, commander of the 365th Civil Affairs Unit (USAR) was deployed to Afghanistan when tragedy struck. Laurie, his wife of 14 years, passed away in their northeast Portland home, leaving Rocko without a human caretaker.

Enter Mark Williams of Dayton, Ore. Williams, Laurie’s brother, agreed to help his brother-in-law find a home for Rocko, since the nature of Bredel’s work would take him away from Oregon for extended periods of time. As director of the Salem Community Chorus, Williams had a wide network in which to search for Rocko’s new family. Keeping Rocko in his house was unrealistic because the Williams household already had three dogs, and because Rocko was essentially part of his family, Williams’ task of finding a new home for the dog took on a special precedence.

“Finding a home for Rocko was very personal,” Williams said. “Dan loved Rocko... when he went jogging in the morning, Rocko would run with him. When Dan was overseas, he became my sister’s [Laurie’s] companion.

Williams spoke about the dog at one of the Chorus’ meetings one evening, catching the attention of Staff Sgt. Tomas F. Franco, of HHD, JFHQ in Salem. "Tom said to me, ‘Hey, he’s a military doggie, he belongs with a military family,’” said Williams about Franco’s initial reaction to Rocko’s dilemma.

"He [Williams] asked the chorus group if anybody could take him in and after telling us a little about him I seized the opportunity,” Franco said. “He then went on with the rest of the story concerning how Rocko became homeless. And then everybody wanted him but it was too late. He was already mine.”

"It seems like Tom and Rocko hit it off right away,” said Williams. "When Tom [Franco] came out to the house, Rocko jumped right into his truck. And that was it.”

Bringing a pet into the house is not a light endeavor, according to Franco.

"For a healthy relationship between a human and an animal it needs to be gentle and kind,” Franco said. "This does require bringing the pet into the household and not just into the house.”

When asked about the turn of events that brought him to be with Franco, Rocko simply licked the microphone and declined comment.

"I think Rocko is an optimistic dog,” said Williams. "You can tell some dogs are just happy with their situation. When he gets fed, you can tell this is great food. When he sees people, you can tell he loves the person he’s meeting. When he goes running, you can tell this is the best run he’s ever been on. Optimism plays a big part in his life journey,” Williams concluded.

“Rocko is a good and faithful companion,” Franco said. "With such a vibrant personality he not only brings motivation but laughter as well.”

Though Rocko remains silent, reputable sources within the National Guard agree that he was fortunate to be part of the Guard family. If you would like to meet Rocko, or have an interest in the Salem Community Chorus, a secular group that brings together individuals with an appreciation for singing and music, contact Staff Sgt. Tomas Franco at 503-584-3894, or via e-mail at Tomas.franco@or.ngb.army.mil.

82nd ROC completes mission in Iraq

Story by Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. – On April 10, the 82nd ROC returned to their home station at the Lake Oswego Armory. They were deployed to Iraq for 14 months, where they took part in Command and Control at LSA Anaconda. They completed their out-processing at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and traveled back to their home station via privately-owned vehicles. Waiting patiently for their arrival were families and friends waving flags, banners, flowers and huge smiles.

New babies and grandchildren, children, wives, husbands, and members of the media insured their arrival back home was a joyous occasion.

It was evident that the signs of the deployment lingered on as the cultural differences practiced in a foreign country remained automatic to these men and women. All returned safe and happy, although changed by their long absence from home, and their being witness of a nation at war.

Their return was delayed by several weeks and they departed just four days prior to a possible extension for an additional three to four months to help maintain strength requirements.

“We got out just in time,” Maj. Scott Farish said as he introduced his family.
high-yield explosive weapons, ballistic and cruise missiles, and electronic/cyber warfare. These threats have given way to an era of cruise missiles, and electronic/cyber warfare.

Eberhart identified the challenges for the Oregon's Air and Army Guard officers that America is much better off militarily since 9-11. “We've flown over 35,000 sorties over America since 9-11 and we'll continue to secure the skies and remain a deterrent for years to come. We must keep the war on terror an away game, not a home game. Terrorists are hoping Americans will have short memories, therefore we need to perform exercises in our new coalition environment,” he said.

“At the end of the Cold War, there was a threat, an opponent. Today that threat is an event, an opportunity,” said Eberhart. “We must continue to maintain our grassroots community support. Your role of defending our homeland will increase because the Guard responds better and more efficiently to local and regional threats. Your role is to provide Homeland Defense and support to civil authorities.” He said. “We're here to entertain questions in an interview for civic leaders at Portland's City Club and 173rd Fighter Wing Commander on the Apr. 23. Later that same day, Eberhart spoke to Molero to the other side of the vehicle. As fighting continued, Wilson tried to get up but fell across the side of the vehicle.

“Getting on the radio, Jones reported there was a casualty and they needed to get Wilson medical attention. Seven and half minutes later they arrived at a medical facility. Wilson was in good spirits – he even joked with the medics. “I got one won’t be an anymore of my services.”

Baldwin and Molero were dazed. It was the same scenario in Ft. Polk La., where Wilson also wanted to keep on fighting after he had been 'mock' injured.

Mt. Angel business donates BBQ supplies to ORARNG troops deploying to Cuba

On Saturday, May 29, 2004, Capt. Trent Klug (center right) and 1st Sgt. Mike Schuman (right) presented Traeger Industries with a plaque of appreciation for their support of the men and women of the 1186th Military Police Company.

Traeger Industries, based in Mt. Angel, Ore., provided a pellet barbecue and 1,000 pounds of wood pellets to the unit. They will take the barbecue with them on their deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Hometown support like this is widespread in Oregon and the gift from Traeger will likely help to keep morale high while these men and women are away from home, families and jobs.

Cavalry “Soirée” set for Sept. 3-5

The Oregon National Guard will host the Cavalry Soirée, Sept 3-5, 2004 at Warrior Hall, Bldg. 7022, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore. Registration starts on Friday, Sept 3, 2004.

A $21.00 registration fee is required for each attendee upon sign-in. This fee will cover the cost of a hosted social on Friday evening, and a prime rib dinner on Saturday evening. Reservations for all lodging can be made by calling Camp Rilea Billeting at 503-861-4052.

Lodging at Camp Rilea will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Rooms are available at Koski Hall, which has 72 rooms available at $15.00 per night for a single bed, $20.00 per night for a double bed, or $25.00 per night for a suite.
Several groups are trying to register veterans for the National War II Memorial currently under construction in Washington D.C.

Evidently, not many people know about the registration. Out of some 16 million people who served in WWII, only 1.5 million are actually registered. Veterans groups and individuals involved in the effort are concerned that many will be left out without even knowing about the memorial.

"Some of those grandkids will go there [to the memorial] and say, 'Hey, Granddad isn't in there,'" said a Vietnam veteran who served in the South Pacific aboard the USS Tingey (DD 539).

About 30 years ago, the government lost about 80 percent of all the names on the original memorial. Both organizations encourage veterans of America and Point Man Ministries. In the 1990s, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was established.

"We are proud to include the ESGR logo on our military packaging," said John Ty- son, Chairman and CEO of Tyson Foods. "This is another effort in honoring our Team Members and their families who are serving in the military. We appreciate their sacrifice insuring the peace and security of our country.

Tyson Foods is the world’s largest pro-cessor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork, and the second largest food company in the Fortune 500. Founded in 1935 with headquarters in Springdale, Arkadelphia, the company has approximately 120,000 team members and 300 facilities and offices in 26 states, including Oregon.

"Mr. John Tyson is a true American Pi-tot who is wholeheartedly committed to honoring those who serve in the Guard and Reserve. Employer advocates such as Tyson Foods willingly serve as role models in their industries. They are an example to other employers of patriotic sup-port that goes “Above and Beyond” what is required by law,” said Bob Hollingsworth, ESGR Executive Director.

"We are honored to have the ESGR logo on Tyson Foods’ military packaging. This is a first for ESGR, and we are thrilled that the men and women of our armed forces will see that Tyson Foods is a ‘Proud Recipient of the Freedom Award’ above the ESGR logo,” added Hollingsworth.

ORANG names 2004 recruiter of the year

The Oregon Air National Guard has named the 2004 Recruiter and Unit Career Adviser of the Year. Tech. Sgt. Marilyn Crow, of Joint Forces Headquarters, Air National Guard, is working to make it easier for disabled Soldiers to get the help they need. Part of the expanded VA service on military instal-lations is ensuring that a VA counselor talks to wounded veterans in military hospitals before those veterans are discharged from the military service.

Those organizations include Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Eisen-hower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, S.C.; Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Madigan Army Medical Center at Western Regional Medi-cal Command, Tacoma, Wash.

For more information, see http://www.military.com/News_current/2004/1013.html
Members of the 1184th Military Police Company stand in formation at the unit’s activation ceremony on May 26, 2004 at the Salem Armory at 1711 SE 1st St. Events, friends and dignitaries were on hand to honor the deploying soldiers. The unit will deploy for approximately one year to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

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**Veteran’s Park dedication set for Sep 25**

The Oregon Heritage Education Center will dedicate the Veteran’s Park next to the Oregon Military Department on September 25, 2004.

The non-profit group hopes to raise funding to build a 10,000 square-foot educational center on the park’s grounds. The building will serve as a repository which will share stories of Oregon’s military veterans, of which there are approximately 356,000 living in Oregon alone.

If you would like to make a donation to the foundation, or have any questions regarding the dedication ceremony, please call 1-877-589-9757 for more information.

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**Retiree Service Office**

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

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