1-186 prepares for Sinai mission; Shinseki visits SRP

By JOE BURLAS
Army Link News Service

Replacing an active-Army unit originally slated for peacekeeping duties in the Sinai region of Egypt this summer, the Oregon National Guard's 1-186th Infantry Battalion is in the final stages of preparing for deployment and its soldiers say they are ready to go.

Scheduled to train at Fort Carson, Colo., for the last of its mobilization requirements in May, and formally assume the US portion of the Multinational Force and Observers mission in July, the 1-186th conducted soldier readiness processing as part of home-station mobilization on April 13 and 14.

The 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade out of Fort Wainwright, Alaska, had originally been tasked to provide one of its battalions for the next six-month MFO rotation.

The tasking of the 1-186th to assume the MFO mission is significant for three reasons, said Col. David Teeples, a special assistant to the chief of staff of the Army. Teeples traveled with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki to meet with Army leaders in the MFO mission and with the Sinai. First, the switch frees up an active-duty unit for other missions related to the war on terrorism if needed, Teeples said. Second, this is only the second time a reserve-component unit has been called upon to perform the Sinai mission.

The MFO Sinai mission has several differences from traditional peacekeeping missions. The MFO operates within the two nations of Egypt and Israel, bound by a treaty of peace. Each nation exercises sovereignty over its respective territories. Thus, the peacekeeping force not act as a buffer between combatants. Rather, it works closely with both nations to support a permanent peace they had already struggled together to forge and maintain.

“I am patriot,” said Staff Sgt. Mark Dalton, a 1-186th medical treatment noncommissioned officer. “Going on a deployment is part of what a soldier may get called upon to do—whether he or she is active-Army, Reserve or National Guard. I am looking forward to being part of a real-world mission and very proud that this National Guard unit has been selected to do it.”

Owner of an Oregon-based e-commerce business that builds and tracks customer databases, Dalton has given up his business going while he is away. Dalton said, “I am ready to go and do my part.”

A prior-service cannon crewman who served in Germany from 1985 to 1989, Dalton said he drifted without much purpose, working as a carpenter, doing odd jobs and earning a college degree, after leaving active-duty. He joined the Oregon National Guard last August and said it was like coming home.

“I missed the camaraderie, adventure, challenge and security of being a soldier,” Col. Cook said. “The Guard gives me back all that. My life once more has direction.”

Cole has a strong soldier tradition in his family. A grandfather served in the Army during World War II. His father, stepfather and an uncle served during the Vietnam War. And like his grandfather who joined to avenge the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Cole said he hopes to have the opportunity to avenge his generation's Pearl Harbor—the terrorist attacks on the New York City World Trade Center and Pentagon.

“I am ready to go and do my part,” Cole said. “We are capable, well-trained and ready to do what is asked of us. I welcome the opportunity the Army has given us to prove ourselves in a very hot spot of the world.”

Headquartered in Ashland with units in Medford, Roseburg, Grants Pass and Klamath Falls, the battalion was selected by the National Command Authority to mobilize, train and deploy over 500 Oregon soldiers. Most of the soldiers come from 1-186th Infantry.

The 1-186th Infantry Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Dan Cameron, will receive theater-specific training at Fort Carson in May and June before deploying to the Sinai region. The unit will mobilize under Partial Mobilization Authority (Operation Noble Eagle). This level of mobilization authorizes soldiers to be activated for up to one year, no longer than two years. It is expected that they will return to Oregon in January or February 2003.

There are 11 nations, including US forces, which participate in the MFO Sinai mission. US forces represent about 900 of the 1,900 soldiers and civilians currently in the MFO mission force. This force, along with the observer mission roles, ensures freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran at the southern entrance to the Gulf of Agaba. The task force will be responsible for the operation of checkpoints, reconnaissance and other observation points along the international border separating Israel and Egypt.

On April 3, 2002, the 241 Military Intelligence Company returned to Oregon following a seven-month deployment to Bosnia.

At the Jackson Armory, adjacent to the Portland Air Base, members of the 241 were reunited with their friends and family.

The demobilization ceremony was held in Tigard on April 12.

The deployment represented a three-state cooperative effort to deploy from a home station mobilization platform, Camp Rilea. Soldiers from these units, the 223rd California Army National Guard and 341st Washington Army National Guard, also deployed to Bosnia.

While in Bosnia, the 241 MI supported Operation Joint Forge.

As part of the NATO force, the company's mission was to assist in the continuation of stability operations and the promotion of peace in the region. Through these efforts, the goal of the coalition forces is to assist the people of the Balkans in the redevelopment of industry, commerce and the political structure in a peaceful environment.

The 241 MI Company continued the Oregon National Guard's long and great tradition of answering their country's call to duty when needed.

This was Oregon's ninth unit to mobilize and deploy since the Gulf War. Oregon National Guard last August.

241 MI returns from Bosnia

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: Members of the 241 MI Company were greeted at Jackson Armory in Portland by friends and family. Below: The 241 MI soldiers get off buses at Jackson Armory.
State Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman

The first six months of this training year ended March 31 with numerous successes in the personal readiness and homeland defense arenas.

While we have been successful in these areas, I feel that we are falling short in the mentoring of our soldiers.

Mentoring today is synonymous with the process by which we guard and guide others. Mentors seemingly "adopt" those placed in their care.

Although mentorship is not new to the Army, it is most often associated with officers.

But, mentors can be—and are—squad leaders, section or platoon sergeants, first sergeants and sergeants major, as well as officers and civilians.

Mentoring is a critical skill for NCOs because they are charged to train and develop junior leaders. Ideally, every soldier is both a practicing mentor and a protégé recipient of mentorship.

This ideal circle of mentoring only allows leaders to grow.

The military ball is the next thing to put on your calendar.

Hope to see you there.
Pleasure or pain? Running provides “inner connection” for ONG racers

By Sue LUCIE ELLIOTT

15th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

To some, running is punishment. To others, like Spc. Bill Raitter with the Oregon National Guard’s 1249th Engineer Battalion, it’s way of life.

“I saw a quote once that read ‘Running is like hitting yourself with a hammer; it feels great when you stop,’” said Raitter jokingly as he stretched his legs for the race. “This is hard to argue with, but when you’re about to start a race and you look around and see hundreds of people doing the same thing—it’s a great feeling. It’s neat to see so many people, all in nature, and out to run as fast as their bodies will allow.”

Hundreds of runners, like Raitter, gathered Feb. 6-7 in Vancouver, Wash. to do just this.

They were there to compete in the four-kilometer, eight-kilometer and 12-kilometer races for the USA Track and Field Winter National Cross Country Championship.

But that wasn’t the only reason why Raitter and many other soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines were there.

The Oregon Sports Committee had decided a few years ago that the Armed Forces Championship should be run in conjunction with this event. So, for the past two years, runners from each of the services have competed for their branch’s bragging rights.

The committee decided to make the military competition more interesting by giving the service members a little more experience and exposure by letting them “run with the best in the nation at the winter nationals,” said Ken Polk, sports specialist for Army Sports Office in Alexandria, Va. “Basically, the service members are competing on their own time, and the service members are competing in them both.”

Race times for each runner in the different branches were averaged together at the end to get a team score for each branch. The lowest-averaged branch is declared the winner of each event in the Armed Forces championship.

Adding to the confusion of the multi-layered race, there was a third military competition being assessed. The overall military’s top four runners for the four-kilometer race, top five runners for the eight-kilometer race and the top eight runners for the 12-kilometer race will go on to represent the United States at the Conseil Internationale du Sport Military (CISM) World Military Cross Country Championship, which is scheduled to be held March 18-22 in Instanbul, Turkey.

Raitter finished sixth out of all the military members in the four-kilometer race and doesn’t know if he will go to Turkey with the CISM team yet.

“I last year I was 11th and was selected for the team, but the competition was cancelled,” said Raitter. “Someday I would like to compete on the team, but the worst would be to be the hardest time for me to be in shape.”

Despite Raitter finishing the four-kilometer race in good standings, he said he felt like he could have done better.

“February is the hardest time for me to stay in shape, because the weather makes it difficult to train,” said Raitter modestly. “When it’s like 10 degrees outside, it makes it hard to put the running shoes on every morning.”

Like many other runners, Raitter has developed the ability to train and take the fitness test, Raitter was able to compete with the many nationally-ranked runners that were competing that day in the competition.

“When I’m in super-good shape, I get really competitive,” said Raitter. “I try to repress it, but I guess it’s a part of running.”

Raitter also races for the Oregon National Guard in running events and competitions. In 2000, he competed with members from his unit in the Army Ten Miler competition. Out of 20,000 competitors, Raitter placed a remarkable 17th. One of his favorite aspects of being in shape is that he gets to motivate and encourage the people in his unit to excel at physical training.

“It’s really great to get back to my unit and take the fitness test,” said Raitter. “I really enjoy being able to inspire people to pass the test. I know it really helps to learn how to train for the test, instead of just taking it.”

With more than 10 years of running experience, Raitter has developed several humanistic theories about the sport.

“Running kind of makes you feel like you are a part of something bigger than yourself,” said Raitter. “It’s like an inner connection with the world around you.”

He explained his theory by saying that he pictures the world to be on fire, constantly burning and moving, and that running helps to push him in the same direction as the earth.

“If you can learn to think and live aerobically, it will really help you to feel the connection between yourself and the earth,” said Raitter. “Sometimes before I start a race, I feel that I squint just right. I could see everything in this level!”

“It really makes you feel more human,” he continued. “When you finish there’s just no room for violence or hostility—just peace with it all.”

ORNG energy savings could heat 205 homes for 1 year

By WAYNE GLADAM

OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT AGI

Energy issues occupied the front page of most newspapers in 2001 with several issues causing concern to Oregonians in general and to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) in particular. Issues of power availability, rate savings, blackouts, weather, deregulation, regulatory activities, and technologies all gained public attention.

Energy problems date back several years; public awareness however, became focused in December 2000 and early 2001 when the press became alert to the issues.

In 1992, the federal government enacted legislation that subsidized power generators to market power. Un fortunately, deregulated power generators were mainly interested in maximizing profits by supporting the marketing of power. Unfortunately, federal guidance was lacking. Enacted legislations were different and sometimes inconsistent.

Early trial runs, in select markets, made the idea of free power marketing look attractive. These early trials were in fact, subsidized by various suppliers and resulting false conclusions suggested gested lower rates would accompany deregulation.

Northwest utilities came to the aid of California’s privately owned utilities, after deregulation caused inadequate power transmission, selling power for inflated revenue. A hungry California took all they could get, sometimes paying as much as $1.40 and selling to the consumer for 10 cents.

The resulting losses were better than risking blackouts to their system.

With this favorable climate, the Oregon National Guard saw opportunity.

Partnering with Portland General Electric, the Guard installed 1.6 megawatts of power capacity as part of the Conservation Project at Salem. Armed Forces Reserve Center. This power capacity is available as facility backup during emergencies and has limited availability for ONG during times of peak power draws. This was accom plished by placing two diesel generators, obtained from the Biak Training Center, into service at the site. Under the agreement PGE maintains, fuels and maintenance are frequently as close as the light switch, the window latch or a heater control. At the same time, focus on tech nologies that will provide equivalent service for a cost effective price.
142nd Fighter Wing warmly welcomed the new Protestant chaplain during the March drill weekend. The welcome was greatly received, for not only is the chaplain making the transition to a new unit, but he is also making the transition from one branch of service to another.

Still donning his Army uniform, Chaplain (Maj.) Dan Thompson made the rounds through the wing on Saturday, introducing himself with a handshake, a smile, and an invitation, of course, to attend his Protestant church services on Sunday.

Thompson comes to the Air Guard with a vast amount of experience. He has served for 13 years in the ministry.

After graduating from the Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho, he attended Nazarene Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

While there, he met his wife, Kristina. The two recently celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary. While there, he met his wife, Kristina. They have four children: Daniel; Hailey; Amanda, who was born while Thompson was deployed to Saudi Arabia; and their youngest, Josiah.

Thompson currently pastors a church in Camas.

Thompson became a military chaplain because he felt like it was what the Lord wanted him to do. He did, however, receive a little bit of prompting from one of his friends in seminary.

His friend, who had initially made the decision to become an Army chaplain, decided that all things are better in numbers, so he encouraged Thompson to take the journey with him.

Thompson served on active duty for eight years and has been in the National Guard for three years.

His last duty station was with the 1-162 Infantry Battalion in Forest Grove.

Thompson made the decision to transfer to the Air Guard so that he could be more involved.

“Anytime someone (in the 1-162 Infantry) needed me, I had to drive an hour and a half to help. This way, my ministry is a little closer,” Thompson said. “I am looking forward to building relationships and getting to know people. That’s what makes being in the military worthwhile; the people you come into contact with and being able to help them.”

Thompson would like the 142nd to know that he is very a very approachable person and easy to get to know. He describes himself as someone who has a sense of humor, likes to preach, and likes to work with his hands on cars and remodeling houses.

Finally, he would like people to know that, “Real people can follow the Lord. You don’t have to be anything but what you are to serve the Lord.”

Protestant services are held UTA Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the base chapel. Catholic services are at 3 p.m. on UTA Saturdays. All are welcome to attend.

**News Focus**

**May 2002**

**Chaplain finds his calling in the military ministry**

**By Staff Sgt. Amy Elker**

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**Second black berets fielded to reserve component units in April**

WASHINGTON—Active-duty and mobilized reserve-component soldiers will soon be getting their second black berets.

By the end of April, installation-level central issue facilities, including those in Korea and Europe, will be equipped to field soldiers with their second berets, said Dave Geringer, assistant product manager for Product Manager Soldier Equipment.

“Berets will be at the installation level by April 36, but not necessarily in the hands of the soldier,” Geringer said. “Each installation is responsible for (its) own beret distribution.”

The fielding of initial berets was completed in Jan. 25, 2002, with distribution to soldiers in 88th Regional Support Command, Fort Shelling, Minn.

The fielding of second berets to reserve-component units that are not mobilized will be complete by Sep- temper 2003, Geringer said.

“Afghanistan is why fielding is going so well. Last May when berets were scheduled to reach the troops in time for Army’s 226th birthday, delivery was delayed when three contracts were canceled with US companies that had beret factories in Romania, South Africa and India due to quality issues and an inability to meet delivery schedules,” said Dave Geringer, assistant product manager for Product Manager Soldier Equipment.

In addition to the contract cancella- tions, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki announced that US troops would not wear berets made in China or berets made with Chinese content. An order for about 618,000 black be- rets had been contracted to Kangol Limited, a British firm that subcontracted to produce the berets at a Chinese factory in China. Currently Bancroft Cap Company in Cabot, Ark., and Dorothea Knitting, Canada, are the only beret manufactur- ers, according to officials at DLA.

Small businesses have been solicited to compete for beret contracts, and two contracts will possibly be awarded in May to domestic small businesses, officials said.
Annual training or vacation... Could they be the same?

So you have annual training scheduled for the near future? Great! Let’s see whether or not you can make this more enjoyable for you.

First of all, hopefully, you sent a note to your adjutant saying:

Get on the bus or metro, library, and anywhere else you might be interested in visiting.

So do we. What to visit and what is most important.

Now remember, you are on active federal duty at this time, so carry your orders, ID card, and a smile when you explore.

I was ordered to Camp Parks, Calif., one summer for three weeks. I found out that the local bus stopped within three blocks of the front gate, and I was off!

One dollar fare down to the BART (Bay Area Transit System), and then a transfer to the Oakland’s Stadium. No ticket? No problem. I went up to the ticket window, showed my ID card, and asked to go to the game. Since I was alone, the ticket agent gave me a ticket, and I inquired about the cost of the bus fare for military, and the single seat was behind home plate. Perfect! What a memory! Free is always best. And guess what? It worked at Candlestick Park too.

Many local and regional transit systems have military fares. Always check out Greyhound and Amtrak. My last ride on Amtrak was from Vancouver, Wash. to Tacoma, Wash., and I always got military fares back and forth from Vancouver, Wash.

Don’t forget to go to the base ITT/MWR offices and see what they have for discounts, trips, or adventures. Warn-

If you’re a reserve component service member, you should know that you do not have to be a real bargain. Do the research.

If you are 50ish, join AARP (American Association of Retired People). Annual dues are $16 a year and gives you discounts everywhere.

Do tell your less-adventurous fellow soldiers and civilians about how you really visit the annual training area for less... the military way.

Relief act protects Guard members on active duty

If you’re a reserve component service member called to active duty, you’re protected by a law that can save you some legal problems and possibly some money.

Under the provisions of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act of 1940, you may qualify for any of the following:

• Reduced interest rate on mortgage payments.
• Reduced interest rate on credit card debt.
• Protection from eviction if your rent is $1,200 or less.
• Protection from military courts, such as bankruptcy, foreclosed or divorce proceedings.

“Although all service members receive similar protections under the SSCRA, additional protections are available to reserve components called to active duty,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in the Office of the

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel Policy and Readiness. Most active duty service members are familiar with the provisions of the SSCRA that guarantee service members the right to vote in the state of their last residence and protect them from paying taxes in two different states.

One of the most significant provisions under the act limits the amount of interest that may be collected on debts in military service to 6 percent per year during the period of military service. This provision applies to all debts incurred prior to the commencement of active duty and includes interest on credit card debt, mortgages, car loans and other debts. The provision, Lindemann emphasized, applies to pre-existing debts, and its invocation does not occur automatically—service members must request it.

Once a service member requests the rate reduction, the creditor must either comply or apply for court relief. The SSCRA puts the burden on the creditor to prove that they were materially affected by the member’s military service and that the rate reduction would prevent the creditor from returning the amount of the debt. The court generally grants relief if the creditor can make the necessary showing.

Lindemann advised that service members notify lenders of their intent to invoke the 6 percent cap in writing, along with proof of mobilization activations and service preparation courses as equivalent to civilian equivalents that are subject to federal taxes.

In these instances, families may elect to utilize their Tricare Standard or Extra benefit. For more information regarding all of the Tricare programs and treatment options, call the worldwide Tricare Information Center at 1-888-899-9949.

Develop professional civilian skills while serving in the Army

Soldiers who want to develop professional civilian skills while serving in the Army now have a COOL way to see what can be required for the career they are interested in.

The Army Continuing Education Service launched a Credentialing Opportunities On-Line, or COOL, web site that identifies the education, experience and testing requirements to earn certification or licenses for hundreds of civilian and military careers.

Soldiers can use COOL to prepare for civilian careers that are important to the Army. To learn more about COOL, please go to www.armygov/education.army.mil/cool.

About 50 percent of Army MCs have civilian equivalents that are subject to certification or licensure.

Soldiers are encouraged to use Army McNichols, the Army’s learning center. SmartForce, for information technology preparation courses as equivalent civilian courses can be costly. A service member must be physically accessible through an Army Knowledge Online account or from a Department of Defense computer.

In the near future, SmartForce courses are free to soldiers and Department of the Army civilians.

SmartForce Web site address is www. atrs.army.mil/channels/elearning/armyforce.
The French and Indian War

The Seven Years War begins May 2, 1756

The Seven Years War, a global conflict known in America as the French and Indian War, officially begins when England declares war on France.

In the early 1750s, French expansion into the Ohio River valley repeatedly brought France into conflict with the British colonies. In 1756—the first official year of fighting in the Seven Years War—the British suffered defeats against the French and the broad network of Native American allies.

However, in 1757, British Prime Minister William Pitt (the elder) recognized the imperial peril that would come out of victory against the French and borrowed heavily to fund an expanded war effort. By 1760, the French had been expelled from Canada, and by 1763 all of France’s allies in Europe had either made a separate peace with Prussia or had been defeated.

The Seven Years War ended with the signing of the treaties of Hubertusburg and Paris in February 1763.

In Treaty of Paris, France lost all claims to Canada and gave Louisiana to Spain, while Britain received Spanish Florida, Upper Canada, and various French holdings overseas.

Fifteen years later, French bitterness over the loss of most of their colonial empire contributed to their intervention in the American Revolution on the side of the patriots.

The War of 1812

May 1816

The 54th Massachusetts leaves Boston May 28, 1863

The 54th Massachusetts Infantry, the most famous American-European regiment of the war, leaves Boston for combat in the Sout

lookingback

The Azuwur staff recently found back issues of the paper dating to 1974. As the Oregon Guard continues to publish, weight control program regulations by ‘03 will be fielded next.

Army reviews weight control program regulations by ‘03

The Army is currently reviewing its rules governing the weight control program covered by Army Regulation 600-9, but new changes are expected before fiscal year 2003.

The regulation was last reviewed in 1986, and the new review is the result of a General Accounting Office report and DoD directive for the armed services to create more standardized diet tools.

Weight control and physical fitness standards are currently developed independently by each service.

The Army is still in the information-gathering stage of the review, and final regulations and practices will be fielded next.

Following the field test, recommendations for any changes will be staffed at both the Army headquarters and major military command levels.

This month in military history

May 1983

The Spanish-American War officially begins when England declares war on France. England had attempted to negotiate a peace with Prussia or had been defeated.

May 2002

Japan sinks six US Navy ships in the Battle of Midway, 12 May 1942

The story of Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Regiment is one of the most inspiring in military history.

What's your paper's name, AZUWUR?

The situation is encountered every year at the annual Oregon National Guard members travel out of state to other military facilities.

The scenario usually goes something like this:

"What's the name of your paper?


"Azuwur?" Sergeant Oregon responds with obvious frustration.

Almost without fail the next question concerns the origin of the name or the name's meaning.

At this point there is all too often an uncomfortable moment of silence.

Careful research and interviews with retired guardsmen turned up several meanings for the name of the Oregon National Guard newspaper.

First, AZUWUR can be literally translated as "the name of your paper"—Army queries again with a puzzled look on his face.

"Azuwur," Sergeant Oregon responds with obvious frustration.

What's your paper's name, AZUWUR?

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 read selected stories to look back into the past.

May 3, 1842

The Spanish-American War officially begins when England declares war on France.

For $20 million, and Cuba became a US occupation of Manila in August 1898.

The battleship USS Lexington; the battleship USS Lexington,Ordinal 1941-1945

The Battle of Manila Bay

On July 16, 1863, Shaw led a bold but failed attack on Fort Wagner in which he and 20 of his men were killed.

On April 30, Dewey’s lookouts caught sight of Luzon, the main Philippine island.

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The retiree office is attempting to identify former Oregon National Guard members who would be interested in serving as instructors for a recently-developed new employee orientation course.

Work is part-time, and a wide variety of services are taught during the course. If you are interested, contact:

RSO@or.ngb.army.mil or call (503) 584-3804 or toll-free 1 (800) 542-7500 ext. 3804.

Wanted WWII veterans

Please join the Oregon Military Department, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Oregon Department of Education as Oregon’s World War II veterans are honored.

Wednesday
May 29, 2002
Lee Greenwood
L ee G reenwood
will perform a live concert.

The event will feature entertainment, guest speakers, the work of Oregon veterans and exhibits participating in Operation Recognition.

Exhibits and displays open at 11 a.m.
Program: 1 to 3 p.m.
Reception following program

Parking available through Main Gate off Sunnyview Road.

Retiree office looking for new orientation course instructors

Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) have not been updated, and they have not renewed their military identification (ID) cards.

Continued eligibility for military beneficiaries must be established periodically, because certain events (like divorce from a military retiree, or remarriage of a widow) may cause eligibility to end.

As a result, when Medicare “automatically” sent its first five million claims to Tricare for its newly eligible over-65 beneficiaries, it became evident that some of these claims belonged to beneficiaries whose information had not been updated, and whose ID cards were expired.

These claims initially were denied by Tricare, but agency officials have announced that they will pay these claims temporarily, without requiring beneficiaries or providers to resubmit them.

“We will use this opportunity to advise people on their explanations of benefits that they must update their information and ID cards. Those who fail to do so will have future Tricare claims denied,” explained Carrato.

After Aug. 1, 2002, all claims for beneficiaries with expired eligibility will be denied until their eligibility information is updated.

During March, DEERS notified many of the people with outdated information and expired ID cards with a letter. DEERS also sends an “age-in” letter to newly eligible beneficiaries 90 days before their 65th birthdays, explaining how they can remain eligible for Tricare benefits.

The best way to verify Tricare eligibility is to go to an ID card facility. Its personnel will automatically reprocess claims initially denied because of ID card discrepancies. Beneficiaries with claims problems can call 1 (888) DOD-LIFE (363-5433).

DoD’s Medicare wraparound coverage offered for retirees

Since the implementation last year of expanded pharmacy and medical benefits under Tricare Senior Pharmacy and Tricare For Life, many Medicare-eligible uniformed service beneficiaries, age 65 and over, are now enjoying the peace of mind that comes with having a robust health care benefit.

They no longer have to pay expensive supplemental insurance premiums, higher co-payments, or entire prescription charges because the Tricare For Life program acts as second payer to Medicare, and the pharmacy program provides coverage they don’t have from Medicare.

“Beneficiaries have reported savings of $3,000-4,000 on their prescriptions, alone. With most prescriptions available to them for a $3 or $9 co-pay, some can now purchase prescriptions they didn’t feel they could afford before. Not only are they saving money, but many are enjoying a better quality of daily living,” states Thomas Carrato, Executive Director of Tricare Management Activity (TMA).

While most of the 1.5 million Tricare For Life-eligible beneficiaries have been located through extensive outreach communications efforts by TMA, regional lead agents, managed care support contractors, and various beneficiary associations, many still do not know they have this coverage.

Their files in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) have not been updated, and they have not renewed their military identification (ID) cards.

Applicants can call 1 (888) DOD-LIFE (363-5433), for guidance.

If you are interested, contact:

RSO@or.ngb.army.mil or call (503) 584-3804 or toll-free 1 (800) 542-7500 ext. 3804.

Address changes

Retiree Services Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309

New Retiree
Change
Stop
Deceased

Name of retiree ____________________________
Rank of retiree __________________________
Current address
City __________________ State ______ Zip____
Retired from
Army NG __________________________
Air NG ____________________________
Federal __________________________

Historic concurrent receipt developments in Congress

Under present law, military retirees, unlike any other retirees, generally must forfeit one dollar of retired pay for each dollar of VA disability they are awarded.

In a major step to eliminate this inequity, the House has approved $581 million in the fiscal 2003 budget, with a total five-year funding of $6.1 billion.

Although this is short of the $2.9 billion needed annually for full concurrent receipt, the action is a historic first step.

Following the House’s action, the Senate Budget Committee has approved a similar measure. The next move is up to the full Senate. If the Senate hears the measure this next week, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is expected to propose an amendment that would add funding to fully eliminate the inequity.

To learn how you can aid in the push for concurrent receipt, contact your local veterans organization.
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Making its debut in the Pacific Northwest, the Holiday Bowl big flag was displayed at the Portland Beavers’ home opener at PGE Park in Portland. Members of the Oregon Air Guard sang the National Anthem, members of the Army Guard participated in holding the flag, and Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin threw out the first pitch.

**ANG 1st Sgt. of the Year**
MSgt Max White

**ANG 1st Airman of the Year**
SSGt Eric Evstihh

**ANG Unit Airman of the Year**
SrA Christine Longfield

**ANG Overall Airman of the Year**
SrA Charles Adams

**ANG Chester E McCarty Superior Performance Award**
SrA Dina Merrill

Legion of Valor—the elite group of our nation’s war heroes—has selected Portland as the site for its 112th national convention, to be held this year from Aug. 7-11. Legion of Valor members have been awarded one or more of our nation’s two highest awards for bravery—the Medal of Honor, and/or Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross.

Legion of Valor members have been awarded one or more of our nation’s two highest awards for bravery—the Medal of Honor, and/or Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross.

Area fire, police and military personnel will host a fundraiser on Saturday, June 1, to help bring LOV members to this reunion.

The new Jeff Morris Fire and Life Safety Learning Center, old fire station #7 at the east end of the Hawthorne Bridge on the esplanade next to OMSI, will open its doors with bar-b-q, music and an opportunity to visit with members of the Legion of Valor.

There are only 139 MOH recipients living today and 640 living members who hold service crosses.

The majority of these members now depend on retirement incomes with many unable to afford travel expenses.

The LOV has a goal to bring every able member to this year’s reunion.

To accomplish this, the organization is seeking community support and financial assistance.

To find out more about the Legion of Valor and how you can meet these remarkable individuals, go to www.legionofvalor.com.

Donations can be sent to LOV 2002 Convention, 201 NE Salzman Rd., Corbett, OR 97019.

Call LOV national commander Larry Dobert at (503) 695-610 for more information.