ORARNG unit awarded Combat Infantry Badge

2-162 is the second Oregon unit to be awarded the citation

By 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs, Special to the Oregon Sentinel

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, currently serving in Baghdad, Iraq, recently awarded its soldiers with the battalion’s first Combat Infantryman Badges (CIB). The badge, which originated in 1941, is an award reserved only for those infantrymen who have fought in battle.

“It was created as an award which would provide special recognition of the unique role of the Army infantryman, the only soldiers whose daily mission is to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold the terrain,” said the battalion’s senior noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunak Conley.

The battalion’s soldiers were awarded the CIB for their role as infantrymen while engaging in active ground combat to help liberate Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

This is the second time the CIB has been awarded to Oregon soldiers. The 1-162 IN BN was awarded the CIB in 2003.

Hooley’s Congressional efforts pay off for Oregon National Guard aviation unit

By Capt. Michael Braibish, State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon National Guard received a symbolic check from Congresswoman Darlene Hooley on Oct. 26, to build a new state of the art aviation facility at the Salem airport.

The funding, more than $4.9 million, was approved by the House of Representatives on Oct. 9, and later approved by the Senate in defense spending bills. The president signed the bills into law.

Hooley, who represents the fifth Congressional District, was instrumental in getting the funds approved. She presented the symbolic check to Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., Oregon’s Acting Adjutant General.

Hooley said the facility will benefit both the Salem economy and the Oregon National Guard.

See Federal Funding PAGE 8
Soldier receives quite a scare in Baghdad

Well as you heard the other day there was an attack on the Green Zone. We were out working when all of a sudden we heard a “whoosh” — then something flying through the air, then a boom. That was first. Good thing none of us got hurt. We’re all doing well just getting used to working in Baghdad.

Sgt. Adam Rolando Garcia

Guard wife proud of husband’s contribution

My husband has been in the military for 17 years, and was just deployed with F Troop to Fort Bliss, where we are now heading to Iraq. We have five children, and I would never have planned to be a “single parent” for any length of time. However, I knew Derek was in the military when we met, and after over 12 years of marriage it is his turn to go. I have supported him in the Army, and I would never pretend or complain about his going. That is who he is, and what he does. Not everyone may feel as he does these days, but I am extremely proud of him for going and doing his part. He did volunteer to be in the Army, and I was with him when he re-enlisted at the Arizona Memorial in 2001. He is fully supported by his family and we miss him.

Trena Steinmetz
Portland, Ore.

Families of Fallen Heroes spearhead Living History Day program

My name is Ken Buckles, a high school teacher at Milwaukee High School and for the past nine years we have held an annual Living History Day program that educates our high school students on the value and high cost of freedom. This day brings veterans of WWI, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and now Iraq and Afghanistan into the classroom to share their experiences with the students. At the end of the day we have an assembly honoring and recognizing all whose service was valued and especially those who never came home.

This past year, we remembered Oregon’s Marine Travis Braduch-Nall, Army Brandon Tobler, Marine Aaron Contreras, and Army Donnie Watters during the recreatsted USO show. In attendance were the parents of these fallen American heroes. Lynn Braduch spoke to the student body and pleaded with the students to never forget the incredible sacrifice that these young men and women gave for all of us. Although this was an extremely difficult and emotional day for the families, I know that I can speak for them to say that it was also a very healing day and a day they felt just had to be done. I strongly feel that their sons must be remembered and I also want Milwaukee High School students to always remember them too.

Three of the families followed me to Pendarren and Redmond high schools to repeat this experience. I want to personally invite you to Milwaukee High School’s Living History Day on Monday, November 8, 2004. You and your fallen American hero would be recognized, honored, and remembered during the assembly. The classroom sessions are strictly optional.

If you are interested in reading more about our Living History Day programs, please go to www.rubahs.us. Last year’s recreatsted USO show website video revealed over 300,000 hits from around the United States including 27 different countries. This also included our military bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, and South Korea (even naval ships). Please contact me if you are interested in discussing this event further. My email is kbuckles@canby.com and my cell phone is 503-351-2632.

Sincerely,
Ken Buckles
Director, Families of Fallen Heroes

Redmond Family Program revs into high gear

The Family Program In Redmond as well as the Lebanon program raised enough money to send their soldiers home for during their leave and return back to Louisiana as far as Huston, Texas. They worked really hard selling magnets, had a garage sale, and got grocery stores involved by having items in their store flagged for care packages. These items were things the soldiers will need over in Iraq. These units are F-Troop and G-Troop of the 82nd Cavalry. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternity of Eagles in Bend, Ore., started selling car magnets by getting a radio station involved to return to Iraq in mid-November. If you are able to wish he and his wife my best regards, please do so. I want to thank you, and guardmans Sap for your fine service to this country. I pray and hope for his safe return.

Bob Knorr,
Silverton, Ore.

Central Point school shows patriotism, support for deployed Oregon soldiers

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rep. Dennis Richardson, asked me to forward the attached photo of approximately 900 students of Scenic Middle School in Central Point. The students in the photo are showing their patriotism, and expressing support for our troops. A more detailed explanation from Principal Bob Bowers follows this message.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very sorry for Mr. Sapp and his wife. He was home on a two-week leave and is to return to Iraq in mid-November. If you are able to wish he and his wife my best regards, please do so. I want to thank you, and guardmans Sap for your fine service to this country. I pray and hope for his safe return.

Bob Knorr,
Silverton, Ore.

Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to ensure better coverage.

The Oregon Sentinel
Troops continue to serve in Iraq

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon National Guard, authorized under the oversight of the Oregon Military Department. Sentinel is published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309. Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation: 10,500. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically via the Internet at http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml.

Tell us what you think!

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The Oregon Sentinel

The Oregon Sentinel utilizes Times New Roman and Arial fonts, and is designed using Adobe InDesign CS. Graphics are produced using Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop. All design and layout work is done on a Macintosh Q5 computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.

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Command Message

Over the course of my career and personal life I have been fortunate to serve in multiple countries and locations where American service members have performed their duties. At each location I have learned many things about the different reasons why soldiers and airmen were brought to that particular location. I would like to share some of these reasons with you, the thoughts and the reasons why I had.

Valley Forge is located in eastern Pennsylvania and was one of the key events during the Revolutionary War. The Continental Army was struggling to survive and the soldiers were suffering. The Continental Army faced many challenges, including cold and harsh conditions, lack of supplies, and morale issues.

Another important event is the Battle of Gettysburg, which took place in 1863 during the Civil War. The battle was one of the bloodiest battles in American history, with thousands of soldiers on both sides casualties. The battle is remembered as a turning point in the war, marking a shift in the war's direction.

These are just a few examples of the many locations where American soldiers have fought and died for our country. It is important to remember these events and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives for our country.

Lastly, I would like to reflect on a couple of those locations where American service members have brought to that particular location. I would like to share some of those locations and the thoughts I had.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this article and have a better understanding of the important locations where American service members have fought and died for our country.
ORARNG medics rely on training when faced with real world scenario
Oregon’s 2-162 IN BN soldiers spring into action following attack by insurgents

Story by 1st Cavalry PAO, Special to the Oregon Sentinel
Photos by Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MFPA

CAMP TAJI, Baghdad — Amidst the noise of incoming medical evacuation helicopters, calls for stretchers could be heard as multinational forces concentrated on tending to the wounded and prepared them for transport back to Camp Taji for medical treatment.

Their helpful aid came quickly after anti-Iraqi forces launched an indiscriminate mortar attack on an Iraqi National Guard (ING) patrol base in northern Baghdad that killed six ING troops and wounded 38 more Oct. 19. The ING soldiers were from the 307th ING Battalion and were outside for their morning formation when the mortars first struck.

"Those people who attack Iraqis everyday don’t care who they kill," lamented one Iraqi at the scene of the attack. "If they had missed us they could have hit the primary school next door. Thank God the children didn’t get hurt."

During the ensuing chaos, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division who were nearby, immediately began to assess the damage, rendering first aid and calling for assistance.

Soldiers from Charlie Medical Company, 39th Support Battalion, 39th Brigade Combat Team and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry (Oregon National Guard attached) responded immediately by providing life-saving first aid and casualty evacuation.

Preempting their original mission to go to a nearby Iraqi police station to train police men in first aid, Capt. Demian San Miguel, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, volunteered to assist in the casualty evacuation.

"We were getting ready to go out and do our mission, which is to train and mentor local Iraqi policemen, when I heard from battalion that the forward operating base was under attack, so I got my soldiers ready and went up to the Tactical Operating Center to see how we could assist," San Miguel explained.

Charged with providing convoy security for Charlie Medical Company, Soldiers of the 2-162 played a pivotal role in treating the wounded and securing the casualty evacuation.

"As soon as we got there, our medic and all our combat lifesavers secured their rifles and began the process of helping with bandaging the wounded and transporting stretchers," San Miguel said. "I didn’t have to say anything, they all grabbed their bags and went to work triaging and assessing and bandaging those in need. We even got our translators involved to help interpret the needs of the injured ING.

"The ING are fighting for their country and the way I look at it, they are just like any American soldier…fighting for a free Iraq, which is why my Soldiers took it very seriously when they heard the ING needed assistance and were there to support them 100 percent," San Miguel said.

"When I first heard what happened I thought it was a bad joke, but when we got there and I saw what had happened, I immediately started checking the bandaged wounds of ING personnel that didn’t have an attendant with them, and the only thing that goes through your head is the training," Sgt. Andrew Morey, a member of 2-162 Infantry, remembered.

"Looking back at what I saw, the first thing that came to mind was figuring out where to start and the extent of the injuries," said Spec. Ryan Miller, a medic with 2-162. "Ultimately, it all falls back on training. You don’t really think about it, you just act on what you know."

San Miguel said after the casualties had been safely evacuated he went with his men to the IP station to explain why the first aid training was postponed.

"They said they understood, expressing their concern for what happened to the ING," San Miguel said. "It was good see that the IPs were concerned about the ING, because it shows that there is professional relationship starting to build between the two security forces."

1-162 IN BN's active duty brings together seasoned warriors with new recruits

"It is my belief that competition instills bonding, so that was the tool that gave us the leverage to accomplish the goal," Stuckey continued.

Throughout the two-week annual training, the Battalion was split into 27 teams who competed in events such as land navigation, hand grenades, first aid, basic rifle marksmanship, individual movement techniques, and a 10- to 12-mile ruck march. The Battalion attached a drill weekend at the end of annual training to involve the soldiers returning from deployment in Iraq, so the Battalion was split into 27 teams who never worked with before.  He said something to learn from each other.  He said it helps the unit become better because both the soldiers are now part of a team, they know how to work with a group of people we've never worked with before."

"Training events like this are good for team building," said Lombardi. "It teaches us how to work with a group of people we've never worked with before."

"It is my belief a training is vital for the soldiers returning from deployment in Iraq, so the Battalion attached a drill weekend at the end of annual training to involve the soldiers who did not attend the training during the previous two weeks. During the drill weekend, the unit conducted a 'Commander’s Cup' event in which teams participated in different athletic events such as football, volleyball, softball, an obstacle course and a tug-of-war competition.

"Sporting events are a great way to increase morale," said Schleining. "Infantrymen love to compete."

"The event reached its culmination with an awards ceremony. The winners were determined by points they earned. Schleining said the winners were spread throughout the Battalion and every team won at least one event, but it was the Headquarters Commanding Officers who won the overall "Commander’s Cup"."

Schleining said the team building would help the unit become better because both the returning soldiers and new enlistments have something to learn from each other. He said the new troops have an infectious drive and energy that is motivating, while the seasoned guys have the experience of a deployment and are eager to train the others.

"The best thing about this AT is the soldiers are now part of a team, they know that they can have trust and confidence in each other to accomplish a common goal together," said Stuckey.
**Air Assault School:** Valuable tool for leaders, valuable training for soldiers, airmen

Continued from FRONT PAGE.

The MTT is traveling to four pre-certified National Guard training facilities for the next two years to teach the Air Assault course. They are also conducting a Pre-Ranger course at Ft. Benning.

"Each state has its nuances that make it a good state to train in, but I think overall [Camp] Ricea has been the best facility we've conducted training at so far," said Sgt. 1st Class Gavin McIlvenna, NCO in charge of the MTT.

Gardner stated that Oregon provided a great location for an Air Assault course to train soldiers from the West Coast.

"Most of the Air Assault courses in the nation lie on the East Coast or the Midwest, so Oregon was a great place to train soldiers from this side of the country," he said.

The Air Assault training is no longer exclusive to Army soldiers. The training rotation at Ricea was the first time that personnel from the Air National Guard were enrolled. The training is open to members from any branch of service, according to McIlvenna.

"My unit provides air support to infantry in the 41st Brigade all the time, so they extended an invitation for us to attend the training," said student, Senior Airman Jon Bruce, 116th Air Support Operations Squadron, located in Washington State. "It's good for us to be Air Assault-qualified so we can provide proper air support for them during missions."

During the Air Assault course, a combined class of 77 soldiers and airmen from many different states persevered through 11 days of rigorous training, including path-finding missions, sling-loading, rappelling, and physical and mental endurance tests.

The first day of training, also referred to as "zero-day," included significant physical and mental endurance tests. The students who were able to pass the zero-day trial were allowed to continue to phase one of the course, known as the Combat Assault Phase. During this phase students learned ground-to-air communications, hand and arm signals for guiding aircraft, medical evacuation operations, and were required to complete a six-mile road march.

They also learned path-finding operations, which helps determine a site's capabilities as an aircraft landing field. The students learned how to drop into a landing zone and evaluate the area for obstacles, wind direction, and determine how many aircraft can land there, said 2nd Lt. Robert Bellomo, Executive Officer for the MTT and instructor for path-finding operations.

"Path-finding is important because it allows us to know how many soldiers or what equipment can be loaded into an area by determining what size aircraft can fit into a particular drop zone," said Bellomo.

The students were given the opportunity to become familiar with many different types of aircraft, including the UH-60 "Blackhawk," an AH-64 Delta "Chinook," which were provided by 1042nd Medical Evacuation Company from Salem, and the HH-60 "Jayhawk," from Pendleton, respectively. A HH-60J "Jayhawk" from Coast Guard Station Astoria added a splash of color to the lineage.

"This is the first time that the Coast Guard has been on board with the training," Gardner said.

Those students who pass phase one begin phase two, where they learned how to perform sling-load operations.

The training included learning how to rig, inspect and attach loads to selected aircraft. The loads were rigged using specialized hooks, ropes, cargo nets, cargo bags, or two HMVV's strapped together, known as a shot load. Students also learned the hook capacities of each type of load and the weight limits of each aircraft. At the end of the phase they had to perform a sling-load hook-up underneath the helicopters. This class was the first to use the Chinoos during the sling-load phase.

"The sling-load is the bread and butter of Air Assault operations," said Staff Sgt. James Catthfield, phase two chief Instructor. "It is the forward or lateral movement of equipment through the battlefield and can be done quickly and conveniently, even behind enemy lines."

"The purpose of the Chinoos for the Air Assault School is to familiarize the student with doing external loads properly," said Sgt. Scott Duran, flight engineer, 113th Aviation Battalion. "The Chinook is the helicopter the Army uses the most for sling-loading because of its 26,000 lb. weight capacity."

Phase three of the training allows students to tie their own hip rappel seat, perform a proper rappel hook-up, and proper body positioning during rappels. The students were slowly introduced to rappelling, starting out on a 45-degree angled slant wall, progressively to the 90-degree wall of the rappel tower, and finally graduating to the open side of the tower.

"We teach this phase in a crawl, walk, run approach," said Cpl. Benjamin Widich, phase three Rappel Instructor. "The first few rappels are done on walls because it increases the students' confidence level by having something under their feet at all times."

The students were tested on their rappelling skills from the open side of the tower. If they passed the test on the tower they were then allowed to rappel from the Blackhawk.

To graduate from the course, the students had to complete the 12-mile road march. The students navigated through wooded trails, open beach and paved roads carrying nearly 30 pounds of equipment in their backpacks. The students practiced sling-loading with load-bearing belts, Kevlar helmets and M16-A2 rifles.

"The purpose of the MTT is a valuable tool for leaders in moving personnel and equipment great distances behind enemy lines and having the soldiers know how to be leaders so they don't have to be told to do it," said McIlvenna.

The Warrior Training Center MTT will return to Camp Ricea in April 2005 to teach the Warrior Training Center Air Assault School to a new class of students.

For more information on the Air Assault School, contact Staff Sgt. Michael Parkins, RTI liaison, at 503-838-8558, or via e-mail at michael.parkins@or.ng.army.mil.

See other Camp Ricea related story on page 8.

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Oregon Air Guard takes second place in '04 William Tell competition

By Capt. Michael Braiblish, State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon’s 142nd Fighter Wing placed second the 2004 William Tell air-to-air competition Nov. 8 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

The 123rd Fighter Squadron, known as the Fight’n Redhawks, hails from the Oregon Air National Guard along with maintenance and weapons teams, the Redhawks represent the Air National Guard contingency at the competition which takes its name from the legendary archer who shot an apple from atop his son’s head with a crossbow.

Whether the story of Tell’s superior skills are mythical or true is subject to debate, but the competitors in William Tell 2004 vied for definite bragging rights as the best contemporary jet-armed archers of today.

In all, 40 members of the 142nd FW spent two weeks at the base in Florida. The F-15 Eagle aircraft flown by the Redhawks are the oldest in the competition, but the maintenance team has an average of seventeen years experience.

Major Garret Schmidt, the team’s captain and deployment officer says it takes more than new gear and equipment to do well in the competition.

"New stuff can break down just as much as old," said Schmidt. "Our experience is our advantage. Our maturity gives us an edge.

"Airmen competed in air dominance and air sovereignty missions as evaluators judge their employment of tactics and use of cold/live fire munitions. The competition included weapons loading, maintenance and weapons’ director competitions.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of William Tell, but it’s the first time in eight years’ been held. The meet was placed on hold in 1996 due to military operations tempo and contingency requirements.

"Although operations tempo remains high with the new gear members supporting the Global War on Terror, William Tell planners hope resuming the event will help foster the exchange of tactics and better prepare Airmen for combat operations, according to Lt. Col. Edward Nagler, William Tell director. "It is very exciting about re-energizing and modernizing this competition. There are so many opportunities to become familiar with the wide-spectrum of Air Force operations today," said Nagler.

The new format will reflect the multifunctional role of the aircraft, added Nagler. "This competition has left its roots as an air intercept event to become an air superiority event," Nagler said.

In addition to the 142nd FW team, the two teams representing the air-to-air capabilities of F-15C units from four major commands: Air Combat Command: 71st Fighter Squadron from the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB; Air Education and Training Command: 95th Fighter Squadron from the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB; Pacific Air Forces: 189th Fighter Squadron from the 3rd Wing at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and the U.S. Air Forces in Europe: 493rd Fighter Squadron from the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England.

William Tell is sponsored by Air Combat Command, based at Langley AFB, Virginia.

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By Staff Sgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.

Senior Airman Stephen Staudinger, of the 142nd FW, prepares an F-15 for a live ammunition load during Exercise William Tell 2004 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., on Nov. 10.
What he actually didn't surprise me because he was that kind of a person,” she said.

As a widow, Agnes Kingsley refused to give up any of her children. She worked as a seamstress from her home to provide for them during the Depression. Rolison said Tom Kingsley, the eldest brother, entered the Navy to earn money for the family. David Kingsley stepped into the role of being the main of the house.

When Agnes Kingsley was diagnosed with cancer in 1936, David took on even more responsibility. Agnes Kingsley died in 1939, and the younger children were divided up among relatives. David, who became a pharmacist, served in the military and as an aunt and uncle, and continued to visit his seven younger brothers and sisters in the homes where they lived.

As America prepared for war, David entered the Army on April 14, 1942. He trained as a bombardier at Kirtland Field, N.M., and departed for Europe on April 11, 1944. He died less than three months later as his plane was returning from a bombing raid on oil fields at Ploesti, Romania. Phyllis remembers being in church when someone brought her the news.

Religion was such a force in the Kingsley family that when the congressional Medal of Honor was awarded to David the following year, the presentation was celebratory at a high mass at St. Michael’s Catholic Church. That was the first time for the award to be presented in a church in Oregon.

A few years later, when Phyllis Kingsley was working for the local phone company, she met and married a coworker, Joe Rolison. Over the past 60 years, they have been members of the weekly choir and as attendees of a memorial to honor 2nd Lt. Kingsley.

On Sunday, the Kingsley family gathered for a church service in Ploesti, the hometown of the Italian aviation cadet.”

Sixty years later, on an overcast Saturday morning in late October, the people of these two countries would come together again as friends — to remember the lives lost on that fateful day in 1944, and to ponder the possibilities for future friendship.

The Klamath Falls municipal airport, which had served as a naval air station during World War II, was turned over to the Air Force in 1957. It was named Kingsley Field on July 3rd of that year.

The US Department of Defense closed its base at Kingsley Field in 1978, but the Oregon Air National Guard reopened the facility in 1980. Today, it is home to the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Three members of the Opissoyana crew gathered for a reunion at Kingsley Field in June 1995. They were pilot Edwin “Andy” Anderson, ball turret gunner Stanley Kimiec, and tail gunner Mike Sullivan, whose life was saved by Kingsley.

Kimiec is the only member of the crew still living. Over the past 60 years, the Kingsley family cherished fond memories of a brother and the military honored him as a hero.

But there was also mourning in Bulgaria, which became a satellite nation of the Soviet Union. While the story of Kingsley’s sacrifice was widely known in America, it’s rarely mentioned that the crash killed members of a Bulgarian family on the ground.

Villagers who knew the family were among those attending the dedication of the memorial in the tiny village of Suhozem, Bulgaria.
ship between their two nations. — this time as friends — to remember the lives lost on that fateful day in 1944, and to ponder the possibilities for future friend

A Labor of Love

The dedication of the memorial near the site where 2nd Lt. David Kingsley’s plane crashed in 1944 capped a three-year effort to honor the airman and the seven local vil-

lagers who died.

It all started by a chance encounter involv-
ing two Air Force pilots who visited Bulgaria in 2001, according to Air National Guard

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William Doctor.


Harmett were serving as special operations pilots during the multinational Operation Cooperative Key training exercise in central Bulgaria.

The site of the crash of Kingsley’s plane came as a surprise, since military offi-
cials in Oregon had always believed Kingsley crashed in Romania, where his bomb-
ing target was. As it turned out, the B-17 has crossed into Bulgarian air space before it was brought down by German fighters.

Douraliiska said she had used the “tin” for decades to dry apples, plums, pears and wood. It served well, she said, because it was wide and flat, and got hot in the sun.

Doctor photographed of the 6-foot-long aluminum wing piece, and took it to the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville. The curator of the B-17 display at the museum confirmed the debris as indeed being from a B-17.

Funk and Doctor began raising funds to build a memorial at the site. They received $16,500 in donations from a variety of sources, and worked closely with Maj.

Nickolay Dimov of the Bulgarian Air Force to develop plans for a memorial.

Vessela Facheva, an architect in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, was contracted to design it. She created a design using the piece of wing, and a relief image of the piece. Set beside each other, Facheva said, the images resemble an angel’s wings. The concrete memorial is set in stainless steel, with steel letters spelling out “In Memoriam” at the center of town. American and Bulgarian flags fly beside the memorial, which is lighted at night.

Though Funk and Doctor are both retired, Funk said they plan to continue efforts to memorialize Kingsley’s sacrifice. They hope to raise money to build additional memorials on the 39th Group, Bulgarian, and in McMinnville and at the Oregon Air National Guard headquarters in Salem.

The Crash Site

Undisturbed grapesvines and abandoned fruit trees cover the knoll in central Bul-

garia where Kingsley’s plane came down 60 years ago.

Villagers in the nearby village of Suhozem called it “Alba Bai,” a Turkish phrase mean-
ing small hill. It’s the spot where Kingsley paid with his life for giving up his parachute to the B-17’s wounded tail gunner. And it’s the place where Kingsley’s sister found some closure this afternoon.

“I think this will help me put it to rest a little bit,” Phyllis Kingsley Rolison said as she paced back and forth among the vines and weeds.

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Camp Rilea could become permanent home for National Air Assault school

By Spec. April Dustin and Spec. Annie Baxter, 115th MPAD, Oregon National Guard

The Rilea Training Site located in Warren- ton, Ore., has become the newest training facility for the Army National Guard Air Assault School. Rilea hosted the training September 10-22.

"Rilea is an ideal place to run the Air Assault Course," said Lt. Col. Steve Dick-enson, Commander of the 249th Regional Training Institute. "It is a real jewel in terms of the training opportunities it provides."

The training unit was in charge of hosting and supporting the MTT school at Rilea. They provided medical personnel, food service, supply and logistics as well as command and control operations.

“We know the Air Assault mission is extremely complex and that’s why we are here so we are doing whatever we can to provide the best support," said Dickenson.

According to Dickenson, hosting the Air Assault School is a unique opportunity for the Oregon’s militia. The National Guard Bureau and the United States Army Infantry School authorized the experimental program for two years, to be instructed and operated entirely by National Guard soldiers and trainers.

"It is pretty unprecedented for the full- time military to authorize National Guard soldiers and trainers to do an experiment that provides a qualification patch," said Dickenson. "We are very proud to host the school and we are especially proud of the fact that six of the school’s instructors are from the Oregon Guard."

Months of planning and preparations took place to pre-certify Rilea as a training site for the school. The RTI was also in charge of that pre-certification process.

Adjudgments had to be made on Rilea’s equipment and training sites to meet TRADOC standards for the course," said Staff Sgt. Michael Parkins, RTI liaison.

Parkins said safety mats and cargo nets had to be ordered for the obstacle course, and the UH-1H helicopter that previously perched atop the rappel tower had to be removed. Parkins said the RTI coordinated with a number of other institutions to make adjunc- tions possible, including the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Air Station in Astoria assisted with the removal of the UH-1H by providing an HH-60 “Jayhawk” helicopter to lift off the rappel tower. The Coast Guard aircrew also provided assistance during the course by providing rehearsal flights for the instructors and aircraft orientation briefs for the students.

The Coast Guard was not the only air asset that the RTI had to coordinate. The 115th Air Avionics Out of Pendleton provided CH-47 Delta Chinnick flights and the 1042d Medical Evacuation Company out of Salem provided UH-60 Black Hawk flights to support the Air Assault training. Parkins said the pilots from the 1042d had to be pre-certified in Air Assault operations before they could provide support for the school. The school’s ground master from Kentucky had to be brought in to help certify the pilots, Parkins said. “Rescue helicopters are not normally used for combat rappel operations, so the Oregon Guard has re-written the book on that and we did it in a very short amount of time.”

Although providing aerial operations is not the usual mission for the Blackhawk pilots and crew chiefs, the support they provided to the Air Assault School was still beneficial for training them.

“We are getting some practical training by supporting this mission because we are putting our piloting skills into practice,” said CWO-4 Rick Chagnon, a pilot with the 1042d Medical Evacuation Company. Dickenson said making the necessary preparations to certify Rilea for the Air Assau lt School was an important job because its success may potentially bring future long-term benefits to the Oregon Guard. Oregon is one of only four states (along with Indiana, Massachusetts and Georgia), to be chosen to host the school. After the two- year trial period, the National Guard Bureau may consider the possibility of permanently stationing the Air Assault School in one of these four states.

“Our hope and desire is that the 249th RTI and Rilea Training Site will become a permanent home for the Air Assault Mobile Training Team, with perhaps two courses per year being taught here," said Dickenson.

**Funding Federal**

**Federal Funding: Will help Oregon Guard build new aviation facility in Salem**

Continued from FRONT PAGE

Army National Guard.

“The $4.9 million to construct the new Army facility will provide an immediate boost to the Oregon National Guard and create new jobs,” said Hooley. “And the finished facility will increase our troops’ productiv- ity and boost their morale.”

The current Army Aviation Support Fa- cility, located at McNary Field, comprises several buildings, including an aging pre-fabricated building. The organization cur- rently has operations disbursed in a number of different offices throughout the site.

The new facility will consolidate many of the current aviation functions and management.

In addition to consisting the structures and operations for the AASF, the new facility will include workspace and storage for the 102nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction). The CST (WMD) provides unique support and ca- pabilities to state government agencies in times of crises.

Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, commander of the 102nd CST (WMD), said that relocating from current offices at the Anderson Readiness Center to industry leading standards.

Lt. Col. Jason Schwabed, principal ex- ecutive consultant for the state installations office, said that construction of the new facility will not only focus on function, but also on efficiency. The intent is to enter to a contract to update an existing design and build a facility that is not only affordable, but also easy to maintain and sustain.

There are a number of ways the facility will ensure the energy is spent wisely.

Through integrating the AASF and the CST, some costs can be kept down by hav- ing the organizations use common facilities such as conference rooms and break areas, according to Col. Mike Caldwell, Deputy, Chief of Staff for State Affairs.

Officials also note that combining the design and build process instead of going to separate repairs and adjustments on specific equipment. Environmentally friendly pro- cesses will also reduce both the construc- tion and maintenance of the facility.

Natural lighting through skylights and bro- ad windows will minimize the need for electrical lighting. In addition, the contrac- tor will install environmentally friendly ap- pliances and plumbing fixtures. Recycling materials will also play a large part in the construction, according to Schwabed.

Even the landscaping will be designed to support the environmental friendliness of the facility. The plan is to use native plants that thrive in the Willamette Valley climate.

**Deployed soldiers and families to re-ceive free webcams to “stay in touch”**

By Kay F. Fristad, State Deputy Public Affairs Officer

What do computer webcams, the Salem Statesman Journal and the Oregon National Guard have in common? Everything if you’re a deployed soldier or related to one.

In mid-October, Statesman Journal Metro-section editor, Mary Irby Jones struck up a conversation with Mrs. Conley whose husband, Command Sgt. Major Brunk Conley, is currently serving as the Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in Iraq. The Conleys had found the computer webcams to be an incredible asset to keeping in touch with loved ones overseas.

According to Conley, the virtual connection afforded them by the computer webcams has helped to soften the almost year-long separation.

“Children are happy because they can share their school papers with their dad, and at the same time, he can watch as the children grow,” Conley said.

With previous deployments, soldiers would return home to find small children who had left as infants, now having trouble recognizing them.

“It’s sad when these guys come home and their own children don’t even recognize them,” said Kay Fristad, Deputy Public Affairs Officer. “Even long-time family pets are hesitant to go up to these soldiers when they come home.”

Inspired by the conversation, Irby-Jones coordinated with the Joint Forces Public Affairs Office, writing a column that appeared in the Salem Statesman Journal in early November. In it, Irby-Jones encouraged donations of webcams for the families of de- ployed soldiers, and highlighted how it had been a God-send for the Conley family.

KEX Radio reporter Robert Kennedy read the piece and contacted the Oregon National Guard for a follow-up interview, which was broadcast over several days.

The result of all the media coverage was more than anyone had hoped for.

“We have literally received hundreds of phone calls since the second week of No- vember,” Fristad said.

Then Jennie Biermann of Digimarc, a Beaverton-based software company, got wind of the call for computer peripheral donations. She told Fristad, “Let me talk to our upper management, there is a good possibility we may be able to donate a large number of webcams for this program.”

The following week, after receiving the nod from corporate leadership, Biermann announced that Digimarc would donate the webcams if the Oregon National Guard would set up a website to accept donations for the transportation, and distribution.

“I told her, you name the time and place and we’ll be there,” Fristad said.

The result, from both business and private donations, was almost 2,000 webcams – 1,500 of them donated by Digimarc alone.

“I think it’s a wonderful gesture for Digimarc to help out families of deployed soldiers,” said Spec. April Dustin of the 115th MPAD, as she helped load the boxes into the two vehicles in front of Digimarc’s headquarters on November 19. “This is great.”

Fristad was amazed at the response.

“This just goes to show how involved the local community is in supporting our sol- diers and their families," she said. “The kindness and generosity of Oregonians for our troops never ceases to amaze me.”

According to Fristad, the program would provide a free webcam to the immediate family of deployed soldiers, provided the family has a personal computer and Internet access. By providing a video link between soldiers and their families, reintegration into the family, and indeed into the community, may be easier because of the continued line of communication, Fristad said.

If you are interested in obtaining a free webcam, please contact your unit’s individual Family Support Coordinator, or Diane Gooding at 503-932-2810.

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

State Aviation Office Col. Tim Kelly, (r) speaks to Congressman Hooley as she visited the Oregon National Guard Aviation Facility in Oregon following a presentation ceremony on Oct. 26.
Hello, and greetings to all.

I have good news and bad news to report this week.

First the bad news, the sports bar is no longer. We had an electrical fire last week that totally demolished the sports bar. An electrical fire broke out and the building burned to the ground. It also took out the phone center, which was right beside it. After all of your efforts to help us decorate it and the soldier’s efforts to equip it will satellite TV and furniture, it is no longer with us. We are deeply saddened at the loss. It was a place for soldiers to congregate and share some of the sports activities that kept us tied with our favorite teams. We were starting to get quite a following on Sunday nights to watch the NFL games. We also enjoyed the local teams when their games were televised. We still have the ability to watch games but no longer will it be done in the cozy confines of the sports bar. It was sad because we had invested over $5,000 in the building and equipping of the bar. Also, all the great decorations that you all donated were totally lost. The local businessman that owned the phone center is planning on rebuilding, so we may get that back up and running soon. I don’t think we will rebuild the sports bar, however.

Now for the good news. We have received over 60 replacement soldiers for the impending loss of the soldiers who went to the Sinai mission with the 1-186 Infantry. The state of Oregon was very proactive in assembling them and pushing them forward. It took just over a week for them to leave Oregon and arrive here at Patrol Base Volunteer. They were sorely needed and will be valuable members of the team we have assembled here. The commander and I are extremely pleased with the quality of these great Americans and their enthusiasm and motivation. They are just finishing up the training that we have set up for them that will prepare them for missions in our sector. The timing was perfect.

They couldn’t have gotten here at a better time. I have included a picture of 2nd Lt. Ji, from the 2-218th Field Artillery, who is attached to Company 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, handing out a book bag full of school supplies to a local child. We have handed out over 3,000 book bags to the local children, all filled with supplies the great people of the Northwest have sent over for them. It was one of the most positive experiences for our soldiers to share your selfless gifts with them. The distribution is going very smoothly and we are still looking to send another 2,000 book bags soon.

We continue to develop a plan for a move to the Camp Taji. It is still up in the air as to whether we will move, and the exact time line is not fully developed. We are still hoping for the chance to use them before the IED season is fully developed. We are still hopping for the chance that we will not have to leave. We don’t want to get caught short, so we are planning on moving and are putting all the pieces together to make it as easy as possible.

We just passed our seventh month in this theatre of operations, and the ninth of November will mark our seventh month in Iraq.

So far, Ramadan has not had a huge effect on our area of operations. We hope that the local populace is tired of the violence and are ready to move on to bigger and better things. Our soldiers continue to do great things and are showing that Oregon has some of the best soldiers in the world. They are truly amazing and you would still all be very proud of them. They get up every morning put on their boots and go out into a dangerous situation with the utmost pride and professionalism.

On a personal note, only two more weeks until I get to come home on leave for a much-needed reunion with my family and friends. I am looking forward to it very much. I will be away from the fighting with the utmost pride and professionalism.

Shimshaw promoted to rank of Major by Afghani Brigadier General

Shimshaw is part of the 41st Brigade Combat Team stationed in Afghanistan.
COLA to see increase of 2.7 percent in 2005

People receiving military or federal retired pay, including VA disability compensation, FEduCARE benefits, TRICARE and Social Security programs will see a 2.7 percent cost of living adjustment, or COLA, increase in their payment amounts starting in January.

Retirees who entered military service before Sept. 8, 1980 or had non-pay service after that date and retired before Sept. 1, 2003 will receive the full 2.7 percent COLA increase.

Retired pay is calculated on their highest 36 months’ basic pay and who entered military service on or after Sept. 8, 1980, who are discharged between Jan. 1, 2004, and Oct. 31, 2004 will receive a partial COLA increase based on the calendar year in which the retirement is effective.

The COLA increase is based on inflation and is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U) released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in September, the last month of the fiscal year. For more information, visit www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/pr/2005/cola-pr.htm.

Medicare, Social Security payments, refunds to see changes

Uniformed services beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare may see a decrease in premiums thanks to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

The act eliminates the Medicare Part B Surcharge for people who were subject to a higher premium, or those people who were paying more than $66.60 a month for enrolling from 2001 to 2004.

Under the MMA, Medicare Part B premiums will be reduced to the regular monthly premium amount at the same time that the Medicare Part B surcharge is reimbursed for any surcharges paid in 2004. Refunds will be provided in Social Security retirement checks.

The legislation also provides the opportunity for uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B to enroll in Part B without a premium surcharge. These beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to enroll in Part B during a Special Enrollment Period.

The Social Security Administration began mailing these Special Enrollment Period notices to over 75,000 members and to uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A but are not enrolled in Medicare Part B. For more information, visit www.medicare.gov/medicarereform/default.asp.

Republican bill enhances educational benefits for Guard, Reserve

On Aug. 19, 2004, President Bush announced he wanted to enhance the educational benefits for Reserve component members who have been called to service in support of the Global War on Terrorism in recognition of their sacrifices.

In a statement in support of the Reserve Component Education Assistance Act of 2004, Bush said, “We want to ensure that military personnel called to serve in support of the Global War on Terrorism will be able to make the most of the educational benefits they receive from our country.”

Bush said the legislation will expand the current Department of Defense tuition assistance program for National Guard service members and Reservecomponent service members who have been called to duty in support of a contingency operation after Sept. 11, 2001. Members who served on active duty for 30 days in support of a contingency operation after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, or were released from active duty during a period of transition that ends shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible for the program.

Bush said the legislation is the first of two bills he plans to sign that will improve the benefits available to members of the National Guard and Reserve forces in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The legislation also provides the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard coverage under this program for up to 180 days after transition.

Congress requires implementation of the new TRICARE standard enrollment program by April 25, 2006. “We have already begun working on this, and will implement them on time,” Winkenwerder added.

For more information, visit www.TRICARE.osd.mil.

AFBA announces new Family Survivor Education Benefit

The Armed Forces Benefit Association introduced a new program that provides tuition and automatic coverage provided to National Guard Members that currently have State Service Life Insurance Supplemental policies of $100,000 or higher with AFBA.

Called the Family Survivor College Benefit, the program provides an undergraduate college benefits for AFBA insured members who are killed in a military combat zone in which the United States is engaged, or as a result of an act of US government recognized terrorism.

The benefit provides for a maximum of $10,000 per family, per year, for up to four years max of $40,000 (for tuition and fees only, for either surviving spouse or based upon the spouse’s decision, may decide to send the benefit to an eligible child to an accredited college or university).

The Family Survivor College Benefit replaces participation in the Family Educational Assistance Program under Head Start.

The legislation also provides the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard coverage under this transitional TRICARE Family Demonstration Project through Oct. 31, 2005. The demonstration, which began on Sept. 14, 2004, was due to end Nov. 1, 2004.

Members of the reserve component called after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, are now given the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard health care coverage for themselves and their family members after they demobilize.

The legislation also provides the opportunity to continue serving for a period of one year or more in the selected reserve after their active duty ends. For every 90 days of consecutive active duty service, the member and family member may see a decrease in premiums which are lower than SGLI, up to age 50, with $100,000 coverage for non-smokers at $5,000 for spouses and children with no war, suicide, or aviation exclusion.

All members of the reserve component called after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, who served or will continuously serve for 90 or more days, are now given the opportunity to purchase TRICARE standard coverage under a self-only or self and family benefit. The TRICARE standard coverage under this program will begin once the member’s eligibility for 180 days of transitional TRICARE coverage under the TAMP program expires.

Members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation after Sept. 11, 2001, to serve for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to serve in the selected reserve within one year of the activation date for eligible members and their families. Members must continue to serve in the selected reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in this program at that time. These members must enter into an agreement to serve in the selected reserve within one year of the activation date for eligible members and their families. Members must continue to serve in the selected reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in this program at that time.

Congress requires implementation of the new TRICARE standard enrollment program by April 25, 2006. “We have already begun working on this, and will implement them on time,” Winkenwerder added.

For more information, visit www.TRICARE.osd.mil.
News You Need to Know

Military leave accrual revised for reserve, national guard

Prior to December 21, 2000, civilian employees who had a reservist commitment were required to take military leave for non-workdays during a period of military service. On that date, the law was changed, and employees were no longer required to take leave for the day. The change was not made retroactive.

On July 24, 2003, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in the case of Butlerbaugh v. Department of Justice, (336 F.3d 1332), that agencies should not have charged leave on non-workdays prior to Dec. 21, 2000, i.e., agencies must provide for 15 workdays of military leave, not 15 non-workdays.

In response to this ruling, the Office of Personnel Management issued guidance to agencies regarding filing and processing employees’ administrative claims for crediting annual leave as a replacement for military leave that was charged on non-workdays. However, because leave claims against the government must be received within six (6) years after the claim accrues, the period covered is limited. Accordingly, agencies may only accept claims between the date six years prior to the claim filing date and Dec. 21, 2000 (the date the law changed). For example, if a claim is made on Dec. 31, 2004, leave may only be restored if it was charged between Dec. 1, 1998 (six years prior to the claim filing date) and Dec. 21, 2000.

If you believe you have a claim based on this new guidance, or have questions about how it applies, please visit www.opm.gov/indopf at mill.

Military gets 3.5% pay increase for 2005

Effective January 1, 2005, new pay scales for both enlisted and officer ranks go into effect. This reflects the 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise signed into law with the effect.

The 3.5% increase for 2005 applies to both enlisted and officer ranks. It is effective for both enlisted and officer ranks go into effect.

New Long Term Care program offered

The Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, through the coordinated efforts of Oregon National Guard Beneficary Inc., are offering a new Group Long Term Care program.

All members of the Oregon National Guard, currently on active duty, are eligible. Members, spouses, and immediate family members to include the member’s legal dependent parents, and grandparents can be covered under the program. The program is effective immediately with full product portfolios and products not previously offered, some with cash benefits that can be used for anything.

The program is offered through the Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations, with a special discount provided for guard members, retirees and their families.

“This program will add an exceptional benefit to the State Sponsored Life Insurance Program already provided by the Associations.” Said Board Treasurer Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Fielding.

“Many people don’t think about the potential of needing long-term care, and Medicare and Medicaid don’t provide the medical plans necessary to cover long-term expenses.” He continued.

According to Fielding, with current annual assisted living facility costs at about $25,000 and nursing home care annual costs around $40,000, some people could possibly deplete savings or investments to cover these needs. Furthermore, he recommended that people shouldn’t utilize their savings, 401k or other retirement assets to cover these expenses.

“With premium costs for long-term care insurance relatively low, the investment is worth it.” Fielding concluded.

For more information, contact the benefit coordinator, Art Liss, at 1-888-256-5824, or via email at aeliss1@comcast.net. He can also be reached via mail at: P.O. Box 12988, Salem, OR 97309-0831.

MSNBC.com incorrect about 39th Brigade extension in Iraq

The Arkansas Army National Guard’s 39th Brigade Combat Team is not currently scheduled for an extended deployment as stated in a recent internationally published news article.

The 39th was mistakenly said to be one of three brigades under the control of the 1st Cavalry Division which would “stay behind in Iraq” to fulfill the need for experienced troops. The need for experience on the ground comes with the potential for increased hostilities as a result of the approaching Iraqi elections in late January.

“The original time line to redeploy after one year in country has not changed for the 39th,” said Brig. Gen. Ron Chastain, Commander of the 39th Brigade. “Although the mission can change at any point, we are currently on track to begin the redeployment process in March 2005, as originally planned.”

Chastain confirmed the current time line for redeployment as stated in a recent internationally published news article.

Oregon Guard soldier becomes US citizen

Phyllis Rolison and her husband, Joe, however, skipped the refreshments and made a second trip over the hills to trace the path her father had taken over 50 years ago and retrieve several small pieces of twisted metal, which she turned over and over again in her hands.

With the help of a pair of Bulgarian villagers, Ivan Raychynov and George George, Rolison staked an arrangement of flowers in the middle of the big crash site.

Rolison said she came way with pages of notes.

“All my bad dreams about what happened can end,” she said. “Now I know what happened.”

This article was published in the Herald and News of Klamath Falls, Ore. and was reprinted in The Oregon Sentinel by permission. Reporter/Editor Todd Kappel, accompanied the official party — made up of key figures of the Oregon National Guard, 142nd Fighter Wing, 173rd Fighter Wing, retired National Guard officials, and the sister of Lt. Kingsley, Phyllis Kingsley Rolison. Kappel’s article has been edited for space constraints, but otherwise appears as it did in the Herald and News between Wednesday, Oct. 20 and Sunday, Oct. 24. The introduction was written by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, who served as the official photographer and JFHQ Public Affairs Representative on the trip.

Sixty years of memories culminates in one day of honor

Continued from PAGE 7

“Now I know what happened”

On Oct. 23, Americans and Bulgarians gathered to honor the lives of those lost, and to celebrate the finding of new friends.

The occasion was the dedication of a memorial to 2nd Lt. David Kingsley and the seven members of the Douraliiska family who died June 23, 1944. American and Bulgarian military officials cooperated in building the memorial and organizing Saturday’s dedication ceremony.

The audience was an intriguing mix.

The guest of honor was Phyllis Kingsley Rolison, one of Kingsley’s two sisters still living.

There were also many relatives of the Douraliiska’s including, 92 year old Rada Denova. She was the sister of Chowna Douraliiska, the 19 year old girl who died.

Ivan Petrov Apostolov, a Bulgarian pilot in one of the German fighters who pursued the American bomber, attended the ceremony.

James Pardew, the American ambassador to Bulgaria, was the keynote speaker.

“War is a time of heroes, and a time of tragedy,” Pardew told the crowd of 200 people about half military personnel and visitors, and half local villagers.

“Every war has its heroes, and Lt. David Kingsley is one of ours,” Pardew said. “We Americans owe our freedom to men and women of simple devotion and courage such as David Kingsley.”

Pardew also honored the Douraliiska family.

“They were caught inadvertently in a storm of international events beyond their control.”

Pardew said the ceremony signaled the warming of relations between American and Bulgaria, which joined NATO earlier this year, and is part of the allied force in Iraq.

Every aspect of the dedication ceremony involved a mix of American and Bulgarian elements. It opened with the traditional Bulgarian custom of presenting bread and salt to guests. A color guard of American and Bulgarian military personnel placed flags in their stands. Both Bulgarian and American military chaplains delivered invocations. A Bulgarian military band played the national anthems of both countries. Bulgarian soldiers placed floral wreaths in front of the memorial.

Following speeches by Pardew and local Bulgarian officials, a folded American flag was presented to Rolison, and a bouquet of flowers was presented to Suzohom Mayor Neitchiedeleches.

After the memorial was unveiled, the crowd gathered at the village’s city hall for refreshments.

Phyllis Rolison and her husband, Joe, however, skipped the refreshments and made a second trip over the hills to trace the path her father had taken over 50 years ago and retrieve several small pieces of twisted metal, which she turned over and over again in her hands.

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Oregon’s Acting Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Raymond Byrne, presents the U.S. flag to Phyllis Kingsley Rolison at her brother’s memorial dedication ceremony Oct. 23 in Sunhozo, Bulgaria.

“War is a time of heroes, and a time of tragedy,” Pardew told the crowd of 200 people about half military personnel and visitors, and half local villagers.

“Every war has its heroes, and Lt. David Kingsley is one of ours,” Pardew said. “We Americans owe our freedom to men and women of simple devotion and courage such as David Kingsley.”
Deployed soldier’s daughter wins patriotic essay contest

Story by Winston Ross
Photos courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Gene Martin,
Register Guard, Special to the Oregon Sentinel

FLORENCE, Ore. — Megan Connor knows a thing or two about Americanism. With her father, Sean, now on the ground in Iraq, being a patriot has a special meaning for the sixth-grader. So when she entered the American Legion Auxiliary’s annual essay contest — titled “Americanism” — Megan chose the U.S. flag for a topic. She researched its origin and retraced its journey, from the moon to Iwo Jima to the North Pole. And for that, Megan landed a national award.

“My dad will soon be going overseas to Iraq, and I’m so proud of him. He believes that the most American thing to do is to risk your life to protect your country. I believe that I’m very fortunate to live in such a land with a beautiful flag.”

Megan took the top prize among essayists from 49 other states in her age group, along with a $600 check, after emerging from a field of more than 600 entrants to win the state-wide competition. The volunteer auxiliary awards the prizes each year in five age-related categories, based on an essay of a different theme. Megan was required to keep her essay between 250 and 300 words. Megan’s essay explained that the flag was designed after the United States won its independence from Britain.

“The flag is the symbol of our country,” she wrote. “We should treat it with respect.”

Megan says she worries about her dad, especially when she hears things on the news. Sgt. Connor is serving with a Newport-based unit of the Oregon National Guard.

“But my mom told me he’s too stubborn to get shot,” she said. “I think he has a lot of guts to go over there.”

Troutdale couple make large donation to Emergency Relief Fund

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon National Guard received a donation from Kelly and Karla Broomall on behalf of the Emergency Relief Fund on Nov. 15. The Broomalls met with Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Oregon’s Acting Adjutant General, at the Joint Forces Headquarters Building to present the fund with a check for $17,000.

“This donation will be very helpful to Oregon Guard families during the Christmas season, and while spouses are deployed overseas,” Byrne said.

The Broomalls also organize the annual “Healing Fields”, a tribute to the 9-11 attacks. The event is held at Microchip Park in Gresham, Ore., with a field of American flags — one representing each person killed in the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. This year was the third year the Broomalls have sponsored and organized the tribute.

“We are very grateful to people who make a special effort to help the families of our soldiers and airmen, and this is a clear indication that the Oregon National Guard indeed has the support of our community.” Byrne added.