Stand Down 2001 provides hope and helping hand to lost veterans

By Sgt. Amy Elker
115th Public Affairs Detachment

V
eteran service organizations, civic organizations, businesses, individual volunteers; and the National Guard, the Navy, and the Marine Corps Reserves participated in Stand Down 2001.

The drug- and alcohol-free event, hosted by the Department of Veteran Affairs in Eugene and Salem on May 5, offered a bevy of free services and assistance to veterans.

Traditionally, service members have always welcomed the term “stand down” as a time to rest and recuperate in an area well away from the action of the front lines. Applied to the outreach initiative, it is an effort to impact and positively change the lives of homeless veterans and veterans in need of a helping hand.

The brutality of war reaches beyond the battlefield. It has affected the lives of many veterans who lived through it, and left many of them on the fringe of society living in the streets without food, shelter, or hope. Stand Downs across the country are important, because they entice some of those lost veterans to be found. It provides an opportunity to see what is available to them. This can be the first step in changing a veteran’s situation. The program became a nationwide initiative beginning in 1998 with its inception in San Diego, and has since been a success at drawing in more and more veterans in need of assistance.

Veterans are entitled to certain benefits as a result of their time in service. Entitlements are among one of the ways appreciation and recognition is shown to those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Some of the services provided to the veterans are registration and assessment, medical services, legal services, veteran benefits counseling, mental health and social services, employment services, and education benefits. Donated food, clothing, and other valuable living commodities were also free to veterans. The National Guard showed its commitment to the community and the state by donating materials and manpower to the operation.

“It’s good to see that there is community interest here,” Bill Bennett, a Vietnam veteran, noted. “It’s a lot different than when I came home in 1969 from Vietnam.”

Stand Down 2001 was more than just services and benefits. This year, fun was a prerequisite to participate in the event. “I love competition like this,” first-time rifle competitor, Pvt. Tyler Lucas, Co. A, 2-162 Infantry, said. “I’ve met a lot of guys from all over the state; even some from the Air Guard. You just come out to have a good time. Besides, I love doing anything I can for the Army.” Lucas enlisted in the Army Guard in August 2000.

The team machine gun match involves the assembly, disassembly and function check of the M-60 machine gun. This must be done within the 15-minute time limit—while blindfolded. In addition, competitors must complete a grueling two-mile run while wearing Kevlar helmets, web gear and 45 pounds of additional gear including the gun, tripod, spare barrel, tools and 160 rounds of ammunition. Each team had 32 minutes to complete the run, set up the gun, and fire at the target with as much precision as possible.

Despite all that is involved, Sgt. Lee Larson, Co. D, 2-162 Infantry, and winner of the individual and team machine gun competition, explained that in addition to not needing experience in order to compete in the match, a competitor also does not need experience in order to compete in the match.

By Spc. Barbara Isaacs
115th Public Affairs Detachment

225 soldiers and airmen compete in TAG Marksmanship Competition

A

approximately 225 representatives from Air and Army Guard units across the state of Oregon demonstrated their marksmanship skills at the 18th annual Adjutant General’s Marksmanship Competition, held March 25-26 at Camp Rilea.

The shooters competed in team and individual pistol, rifle, and machine gun matches. Even cold, blustery days filled with torrential coastal rain could not dampen the flame of competition amongst these experienced and novice shooters.

“Any time I get a chance to do competitive shooting, I go for it. It’s fun and I get to be with a lot of guys who have been in my former platoons or companies. It’s a great time to get together for camaraderie,” Capt. Levi Lee, HQSTARK, said. “I also really like the competitive aspect and discipline that comes with shooting. You have to control your body, your mind and the rifle you are holding in order to get a decent score. Some people may even consider it to be a martial art.”

Lee competed in the rifle competition and has shot competitively most of his life; however, prior experience is not a similar air combat training (DACT) with the Polish Air Force against the Mig-29 Fulcrum. It was also an opportunity to expose Kingsley personnel to actual deployment and to train the Polish Air Force on NATO and US air-to-air tactics.

By Lt. Col. Misti Oyler
115th Public Affairs Detachment

Kingsley Field personnel returned from Warsaw, Poland, in early June, having completed an historic training deployment with the Polish Air Force.

The primary purpose for the deployment was to expose Kingsley’s instructor pilots to real-world adversary dissimilar air combat training (DACT) with the Polish Air Force against the Mig-29 Fulcrum. It was also an opportunity to expose Kingsley personnel to actual deployment and to train the Polish Air Force on NATO and US air-to-air tactics.

By Spc. Barbara Isaacs
115th Public Affairs Detachment

225 soldiers and airmen compete in TAG Marksmanship Competition
The annual training period for all of our units is rapidly coming to a close. I have had the opportunity to visit many of you in the field, and I have been very impressed with what you have been able to accomplish.

Every time you get together and train collectively as a unit, the results are exceptional. Not only are you training to standard under harsh and realistic conditions, you are maintaining a high level of individual morale as displayed by the soldiers and airmen with whom I have had direct contact.

I commend all Guard members for that accomplishment. We want to keep everyone interested in the continued support of your assigned team.

We need your expertise if we are to provide our state and nation the professional service that they expect from the Oregon Guard. I urge all of you to stay involved.

If you have concerns or recommendations for improvement, please let us know.

As I write this, the Emergency Operations Center at the Military Department in Salem has been activated in response to the serious wild fire threat throughout Oregon.

I know you have spent numerous hours training to perfect your federal mission requirements this summer, but now it’s our time to shine for the citizens of our great state.

Our success depends on your involvement in the front lines. As we train and deploy teams to the various hot spots, I ask you to stay focused on the valuable service that you are providing.

If necessary, we will work with employers and school officials in order to facilitate your service on state active duty. This is truly an emergency, and the Guard will make a positive contribution.

As we train and deploy teams to the various hot spots, I ask you to stay focused on the valuable service that you are providing. If necessary, we will work with employers and school officials in order to facilitate your service on state active duty. This is truly an emergency, and the Guard will make a positive contribution.

In a different note, the Army Guard is preparing to deploy the 214th Military Intelligence Company to Bosnia. They will serve with the 29th Division (a National Guard division) as part of SORP (10). They have trained hard, and they are ready. They will be six months in theater serving to preserve the peace in the Balkan region.

I know your thoughts and prayers will be with them.

Soon, the Army Guard will be donning the black beret as a symbol of transformation to service in the 21st century. Command Sgt. Maj. Newman has been working on an appropriate ceremony to signify the change. Take pride in your new headgear. Take pride in your appearance at all times. Each of you, Army and Air, is a walking advertisement for service in Oregon’s greatest organization.

As we train, we are prepared to train.

Strength figures are on the rise currently. This is a trend that I would like to see continue. Personnel readiness is our priority and will continue to be so.

We need everyone’s help if we are to reach our goals. As we improve our readiness posture, exciting opportunities will come our way.

I will end this by thanking each of you for your service. It is truly important, and there are numerous public officials that value your contribution to peace, prosperity, and security.

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Quartz fire contained with help from 41st Brigade soldiers

By Spec. BARBARA ISAACS
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon National Guard troops joined the Quartz fire fighting teams in Southwest Oregon this August.

Two days after Governor John Kitzhaber declared a state of emergency, Guard units were activated from Ashland, Roseburg, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Medford, Eugene, Cottage Grove, McMinnville, and Sparta.

All together, 303 soldiers deployed to help defeat the fire that burned 6,178 acres of private land, BLM acreage, and national forest five miles from the California border, outside the little town of Ruch.

The Quartz fire ignited during the night of August 8 by a lightning strike. Due to poor visibility, fire fighters were unable to safely get into the area before rapid fire spread occurred.

The fire spread east, threatening the Ashland Watershed, bringing with it the threat of potentially disastrous pollution to the drinking water. Nine long days later, National Guard troops arrived to relieve weary fire fighters at the northernmost section of the fire.

“We put a lot of people together on some very short notice,” said Lt. Col. Dan Cameron. “Because of the short notice, all the troops had been previously trained and about half of them actually fought fires last year as well.”

Troops received between six and 48 hours notification of activation.

From that point, they packed their bags, attended a one-day refresher course on fire suppression, and traveled to the fire camp at Cantrell Buckley State Park.

On August 18, soldiers began working rolling 12-hour shifts, concentrating their efforts on mop-up. Soldiers extinguished the remaining hot spots in the burnt-over area to continue containment, freeing type I fire fighters for batting the front edge of the fire, located to the south.

To date this year, there have been 12 fires in Oregon. Drought and lack of available water presents an increased problem to limited fire fighting personnel.

“We were happy to see the National Guard show up, with as thinly spread right now as the forestry department is,” said Lance Arctander. He and his wife were evacuated from their campsite near the vicinity of the fire.

Four days after the Guard’s arrival, fire containment was 100 percent. Total cost is estimated to be nearly $9,000,000.

Spec. Brady Fox, HHC, 1249th Engineer Battalion, practices deploying the emergency fire shelter.

Quartz fire fighting teams in Oregon.

 Fictional website

By COLLEEN BALEDEN
AUGUSTA STATE

“It’s not a cakewalk,” George Jamieson, a Northwest fire training coordinator from Pendleton, Ore., said. “It’s the difference between being able to do it properly and saying hello to your maker.”

With over 255,000 acres on fire in Oregon, over 300 Oregon National Guard soldiers and airmen have answered Gov. John A. Kitzhaber’s call. Over 300 Guardsmen and women received an eight-hour fire fighter II refresher course, and then prepared for deployment to fire lines.

The Oregon Department of Forestry sponsored five refresher classes throughout the state for the Guard soldiers.

The atmosphere in the Oregon Military Academy training room was charged with excitement, as the soldiers worked towards recertification as fire fighter IIs.


With the recent deaths at the Thirty-mile fire in Washington State, emphasis in the training class was on safety.

“Fight the fire aggressively, but put safety first,” Jamieson said. “Tools are replaceable; you’re not.”

At the end of the classroom session, the soldiers went outside to practice deploying portable fire shelters.

Thirty “baked potatoes” littered the lawn outside of the OMA as the soldiers deployed to work with the Quartz Fire.

“Some heat of the fire, but the temperature did not remain too high,” said Lt. Col. John Kintz, Army Reserve, Technical Advisor, 41st Brigade, 218th Field Artillery, B Co., 1249th Engineer Battalion. “That’s why the fire was able to burn over and move quickly.”

With the recent deaths at the Thirty-mile fire in Washington State, emphasis in the training class was on safety. The need for personal safety equipment, such as the aluminum shelters, was a direct factor in many of the 39 fatalities.

“Drought and lack of available water presents an increased problem to fire fighting personnel,” said Spc. Brady Fox.

“It’s part of the reason I joined the National Guard. To serve my state.”

Spec. Mike Nasset, B Co., 1249th Engineer Battalion, added. “It’s part of the reason I joined the National Guard. To serve my state.”

Soldiers across the state also trained at the Bend armory, Eugene armory, Medford armory and McMinnville armory. The initial call-up brought soldiers from 1-82 Cavalry, 1249th Engineers, 1-162 Infantry, 2-162 Infantry, 1-186 Infantry, and 2-218 Field Artillery.

The initial call-up brought soldiers from 1-82 Cavalry, 1249th Engineers, 1-162 Infantry, 2-162 Infantry, 1-186 Infantry, and 2-218 Field Artillery to state active duty to provide mop up assistance at the fires, freeing up more experienced firefighters to tackle the fire and work toward containment.

Quartz fire fighting teams in Oregon.
Oregon soldiers place first and second in Nebraska, but Indiana wins their third National Guard marathon team

BY RICK BREITENFELDT

LINCOLN, Neb.—Oregon is a state known for its runners.

This year, members of the Oregon National Guard traveled to Lincoln, Neb., to compete in the 18th annual National Guard Marathon Trials on May 6, weren’t about to let anyone forget it.

Finishing first and second, Sgt. 1st Class Tim Vandervlugt and Spc. Bill Raiter, both members of Company A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, in Bend, Ore., blew away the field, finishing nearly five minutes ahead of the next closest Guard finisher from New York.

“This was a great race because I got to run with Bill,” said Vandervlugt, who finished this year’s 26.2 mile course in 2 hours, 34 minutes, 14 seconds—just 36 seconds ahead of Raiter.

Vandervlugt, a readiness sergeant with the Oregon National Guard, wasn’t disappointed with his time, but added that it wasn’t his best performance.

“You get into the race and you get to a certain point where you realize that it’s not a race for time anymore. It’s a race for position and that’s it,” said Vandervlugt.

Oregon, running legend Alberto Salazar, who set one world and six US records during his running career and qualified for the US Olympic teams in 1980 and 1984, came to Lincoln to present a runner’s clinic to the Guard participants in the days leading up to the race. He offered runners tips for success that they could use on the course.

Vandervlugt and Raiter, who train together nearly every day, took some of his advice, saying they took turns sharing the lead and against a brisk Nebraska wind and the whole time they were running, they kept each other motivated.

“I didn’t know which one of us was going to get it, but I’m just glad it was one of us,” said Vandervlugt, who has run the Lincoln race nine times.

“The whole thing I kept thinking about was the Guard team championship,” said Vandervlugt.

Oregon, which has never won the team championship, was pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual

“I surprised the hoosier team, which claimed the team title in 1998 and 1999, move back into the top spot after being upset last year by Puerto Rico.

According to Master Sgt. Dianne Shottenkirk, marathon coordinator, 55 of the top finishers in this year’s marathon trials will go on to represent the National Guard as members of the All-Guard Marathon team. The team promotes physical fitness in the Guard and supports recruiting events around the country.

They will run in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., the US Navy Blue Angels Marathon in Pensacola, Fla., and the Air Force Marathon in Dayton, Ohio.

The Fremont Power House during restoration by the Innovative Readiness Training Program. Soldiers working to preserve and restore the Historic Structure are part of the 367th Maintenance Company, Clackamas, and the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Salem.

SALEM—The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of the seventh annual National Historic Preservation Week Awards.

The awards recognize success in preserving historical and interpreting Oregon’s architectural and cultural heritage during the preceding year.

This year’s winners include Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Joseph Batty, the Oregon Army National Guard’s Innovative Readiness Training Program, the 367th Maintenance Company, the 1249th Engineer Battalion, and US Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, for the restoration of the Historic Power House and Foreman’s Cottage in the Fremont Power House Historic District, Grant County.

Five communities across the United States, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character.

By preserving historic places we celebrate achievements and remember the contributions made by dedicated individuals.

Kingsley’s 270th ATC deploys for fourth visit to Slovakia

The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron on Kuchyňa Air Force Base in Bratislava, Slovakia, for the fourth time. Six members from the Kingsley Field-based unit deployed to Slovakia, in the heart of central Europe, for 40 days beginning at the end of May.

Central Europe was in turmoil in the early 1990s. The Velvet Revolution resulted in a civil divorce of Slovakia and the Czech Republic in 1993. Since then, Slovakia has been making prepartations and hoping for a NATO invitation, possibly in 2002. Having economic stability and a security infrastructure are the first steps. Next is training with NATO units to learn combined operations and procedures.

The 270th was invited by the Slovakian Air Force because of the professionalism and success at setting up and coordinating air traffic control operations for US Air Force deployment exercises.

“We provide a continuity for a new unit coming in and act as a liaison,” Maj. Mike Labounty, 270th ATC commander, said. For this trip, the 355th Fighter Squadron, “Triple Nickel,” 3,132-ft out of Aviano Air Base, Italy, arrived.

Once the new unit is on station, the 270th takes control of the airport working directly with the Slovaks.

“The weapons training exercises keep you on your toes, with bomb runs only moments away,” Labounty said. “Their mission is very slow and doesn’t show an accurate picture of where aircraft are flying.”

Citizen-soldiers impact lives of many in the community

July 16, 2001

Dear Maj. Gen. Burgin,

I am writing to express my excitement and appreciation for the experience my students were given at the Camp Adair facility.

I have been employed for the past six years working as a therapist with emotionally abused and behaviorally challenged students who are in public school in Lincoln County. This summer I am volunteering with a program through the city of Toledo police department targeting these same at-risk youth.

Through Lt. Col. David Enyeart, who is a police officer on staff with the Toledo police department, we were given the opportunity to take a group of high school boys and girls to the Ropes Challenge Course. In my personal and professional view, this was one of the best experiences these kids have ever experienced.

What I saw on that day was a group of soldiers who really believed in their message and lived it for these kids. The kids were given a realistic structure and list of expectations that they followed to the letter. With an abundance of encouragement and enthusiastic support from the students, and their peers. She would never have tried except for the program you are developing, do not hesitate to contact me. This was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had with students, and has increased my bonds with these particular kids 100-fold. What a positive impact.

Thank you again for this opportunity. I look forward to more such experiences with these kids and others in the future.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Davis, MS
Child Development Specialist
South Beach, Oregon

By LTC. HUST ONYLER

The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, works in the air traffic control tower at Kuchyňa Air Force Base in Bratislava, Slovakia.

The town of Bratislava is quaint with narrow streets. With an abundance of encouragement and enthusiastic support from the students, and their peers. She would never have tried except for the program you are developing, do not hesitate to contact me. This was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had with students, and has increased my bonds with these particular kids 100-fold. What a positive impact.

By LTC. MISTI OYLER

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The whole thing I kept thinking about was the Camp Adair facility. I have been employed for the past six years working as a therapist with emotionally abused and behaviorally challenged students who are in public school in Lincoln County. This summer I am volunteering with a program through the city of Toledo police department targeting these same at-risk youth.

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Child Development Specialist
South Beach, Oregon
Marksman: “I can’t wait to come back next year and do it again.”

any special training to prepare. “I only run twice a year,” Larson said. “Once at the PT test and once at the M-60 competition.”

Larson’s partner in the team M-60 match was Lonnie Harrison, Co. D-2-162 Infantry, didn’t know anything about the M-60 before he signed on as Larson’s partner. “We got paired up by fate,” Larson said. Larson’s original partner cancelled, and at the last minute Harrison joined his team. “It’s the hardest 32 minutes of your life, but after it’s over, it’s the greatest feeling,” Harrison said. “I can’t wait to come back next year and do it again.”

Larson had some words of encouragement for first-time competitors. “Don’t get discouraged if you lose,” he said. “We were first time competitors and to those who had some words of encouragement for first-time competitors and to those who

I was in awe at the first match I ever went to. There were so many people there. I’ve got on the national team, and I’ve been on it for 30 years, since 1969.”

Master Sgt. Nelson Shew served under a military exchange program over the years, a trophy for the contributions to the marksmanship program over the years, a trophy for the first place recipient of the individual novice pistol award now bears his name. “It is a real honor to have a trophy with my name on it. I hadn’t really expected that,” Spiker said. “It’s been kind of difficult this year not participating in the event.”

Browning expressed sadness in losing such a high-caliber soldier to retirement. “Fortunately,” Browning said, “we stole his son to take his place!”

To top off the weekend, Brig. Gen. Terry Barker was on hand to present the awards to the competitors. “It’s an honor for me to be able to recognize all the outstanding Army and Air Guardsman that are here today,” Barker said. “Of all the core values—loyalty, professionalism, and pride—I would like to add one more to that list today—dedication. Every one of you is what I consider a truly dedicated soldier.”

First place in the individual pistol match were: Sgt. 1st Class Loren Sturm (overall winner); Staff Sgt. Curtis Palmerton (open category); Capt. James Samuel Jr. (novice); Co. D, 1-162 Infantry (unit); and 114 Fighter Squadron/173 Fighter Wing (pistol challenge).

Top rifle honors went to: Spc. Daren Pfaender (overall); Sgt. Jeffery S. Deatherage (open); Staff Sgt. Darren Jones (novice); 173 Fighter Wing (unit); and 3670 Maintenance Company (rifle challenge).


Stand Down: Homeless vets not used to positive attention

a major focus and the event was also a “fun” day for veterans and their family members.

“Fun is something that our homeless vets get little of,” Norma Price, the coordinator of Eugene’s Stand Down, said. “They’re not used to having positive attention said to them.”

This positive focus was one of the reasons attending veterans took part in a “roll call” to announce to those present who they are, what branch of military they served in, and any campaigns they participated in.

To help make the event more memorable, veterans and veterans also received live entertainment from top-notch bands.

Price said Stand Down 2001 was a success and the planning for Stand Down 2002 is already in the works.

The event is a great way for her and others to tell troubled vets that there is a way out of their situation; there is helpful and society really does care about them.

Tearing it up in Klamath Falls

Engineers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s Innovative Readiness Training program work on the future Klamath County Youth Sports Complex. By the end of the project, engineers from Salem and Coos Bay will have moved over 70,000 cubic yards of soil.

By 1st Lt. MISTI OYLER

KLAMATH FALLS—The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program was in full swing. Eight members of the Oregon National Guard detachments in Coos Bay and Salem have been doing the initial ground breaking of the Klamath County Youth Sports Complex.

Engineers are able to maintain and hone their skills while at the same time benefiting the local community.

The support of local businesses like Pape Bros, who supplied most of the heavy equipment like graders and water tankers, has been phenomenal.

Major for the 3rd Battalion, and Capt. J. D. C. Campbell-Baldwin, training commander of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 186th Infantry at Camp Roberts this summer.

Representing Great Britain’s Reserve Forces, these men are coming to the United States under a military exchange program designed to ensure closer working relationships between allied military organizations.

Trading places with the Highlanders is Company C, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry from Roseburg, Ore.

Although the A Company Reserve Training Center or Army is located near Glasgow and Edinburgh at Stirling, Scotland, Company C will travel to Cinque Ports, England, where they will be attached to 3rd Battalion, 51st Highlanders for two weeks of annual training.

In April, Maj. J.N. Kennedy, commanding officer of A Company, Maj. J. D. C. Campbell-Baldwin, training major for the 3rd Battalion, and Capt. R.C. Price, battalion quartermaster, visited Oregon and California to confer with 41st Brigade and 186th officials and training personnel at Ford Ord.

Meanwhile, Lt. Jerry Corzine, commanding officer of Company C, 186th Infantry, and 1st Sgt Gary Neville flew to Great Britain to confer with British military officials concerning the training planned for Company C.

This article was first published in the April/May 1983 edition of the Azuwur.
Railhead load up team excels in shipping equipment for AT

FORT CARSON, COLO.—Before you can pack up and go to another summer annual training adventure, someone has to get your equipment and vehicles there. This was the job of Capt. Cary Miller, task force project manager and his crack team of railhead-trained soldiers.

The teams represented several units, including MP/HHC 41 Brigade, Det 1/35 41 Brigade, D/1–162 Infantry, D/2–162 Infantry, E/228 Cavalry, 141 Support Battalion and HQ STARC. Medical support was provided at the rail sites from Co. C, 141 Support Battalion and 2–162 Infantry. Vehicles and equipment from all of these units were loaded on rail cars at two rail sites, Albany and Camp Withycombe.

Most of the soldiers loading the various types of vehicles onto the rail cars have attended the special three-day course on railcar loading, conducted in February this year in Albany, and were glad to be practicing those skills again.

Fort Carson, Colo., was this year’s annual training site for these units.

Code named Task Force Colorado, AT was a great training experience for all soldiers and leaders involved. Miller and his project team sought to provide the very best training available and worked hard to eliminate any training distractors.

He believes thorough planning best takes care of soldiers and success of AT periods will ultimately have a positive impact on the retention of soldiers.

Rail operations concluded successfully after initial delays.

Ninety-seven pieces of equipment were loaded onto 21 rail cars. Equipment was chained down, wired and then inspected by railroad inspectors.

Rail company inspectors had little to say as the equipment was tied down properly.

Advon personnel have been dispatched to down load the vehicles and equipment at Fort Carson.

All vehicles and equipment were staged at the tent city complex (TCC), where troops conducted intermediate staging base (ISB) operations.

Maintenance support for both rail operations was provided by contact teams dispatched to the two sites.

A special note of thanks goes out to Staff Sgt. Seon Snedeker, C/141 Support Battalion, who provided maintenance support to numerous vehicles.

Railhead load up team excels in shipping equipment for AT

Hawaii National Guard visits Portland during Northwest training

By Maj. KEITH TAMASHIRO
Hawaii National Guard

The 41st Separate Infantry Brigade’s railhead team ensured that brigade equipment arrived at Fort Carson, Colo., on time and safely for Task Force Colorado, the brigade’s annual training exercise.

This was the job of Capt. Cary Miller, task force project manager and his crack team of railhead-trained soldiers.

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Fire: Guard helicopters dump 18,860 gallons of water on hot spots

Continued from Page ONE

the firefighting effort by a private helicopter, 27 fire engines, nine ladder trucks, six brush units, and three fire boats.

“This was an intense fire,” Neil Heesacker, a Portland Fire Bureau spokesman, said. “Our main concern was stopping the fire from getting into the homes. There were 100 homes we had to protect, and it just kept coming.”

Oregon’s Firehawk is the first UH-60L Blackhawk variant, made by Sikorsky. It’s belly tank can hold 1,000 gallons of water, and fills to capacity via a snorkel in one minute. The Firehawk can also deliver 15 firefighters to a blaze.

During the firefighting efforts, the Firehawk made 10 trips to the Willamette River for a total of 9,900 gallons of water dumped on hot spots. The Blackhawk, armed with a 780-gallon waterbucket, rained 9,360 gallons of riverwater onto the blaze site in 12 trips.

“The accuracy of the Firehawk is better than the bucket, because the bucket tends to swing a bit,” Staff Sgt. Kevin Hoggard, part of the Firehawk crew, said.

However, both helicopters were able to accomplish their mission successfully.

Crew members for the Firehawk were Capt. Mark Ulvin, CWS Marko Frye and Hoggard. The Blackhawk’s crew was comprised of CWS Peter Davis, CWS Mike Cataldo and CW2 Earl Pose.

Thanks to the valiant efforts of soldiers, firefighters and citizens, the fire was contained the same night, but some crews stayed on the scene to control hot spots.

Christensen receives chief’s chevrons

Denise Christensen has been promoted to the top enlisted rank in the US Air Force and Air Guard: chief master sergeant. Christensen received her new chevrons from Brig Gen. James Cunningham, commander, Oregon Air National Guard, and her daughter, Deborah Schneider, on May 6.

Christensen works full-time in the human resources office in the Oregon Military Department serving as Air AGR manager. She has served in the Air Guard for 23 years and is assigned to the ORANG’s state headquarters.
Engineers complete two missions during annual training

By Staff Sgt. JOHN DRISCOLL
1/A/1249th ENGINEER BATTALION

C ombat readiness and improving the quality of life for Central Oregon were the goals of the 1249th Engineer Battalion during annual training in June.

The engineers began the two weeks with a field exercise, conducted on the high desert at Camp Blak, that honed the battalion’s combat skills.

The success of the field exercise was defense—to prevent an aggressor from advancing. The 1249th soldiers accomplished their mission by placing minefields. Training was provided in counter mobility, mobility and survivability. The mission of combat engineers is to provide and breach defenses, support other combat arms branches, and provide mobility and counter mobility support.

“This was a great exercise that displayed the versatility of combat engineers,” Maj. Alaine Encarnado, 1249th Engineer Battalion executive officer, said. “The second phase of the exercise, host nation support, provided local communities with quality construction projects that will serve them for years to come. This is a vital link between the entire community and the citizen-soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard.”

Following the field exercise, the companies of the 1249th continued their training by accomplishing numerous projects that improved the quality of life for Central Oregon residents, and contributed to the health of the Deschutes National Forest. The projects the engineers completed were ones that might have not been undertaken as soon, if at all, but the soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard not been there.

Headquarters company, Salem, provided support for all of the projects, as well as providing combat engineer demolition services to move hundreds of tons of rock for the Sisters Ranger District. The rock they moved improved a road, which made a forest lookout tower more accessible.

Co. A, Bend, cleared and grabbed a 10-acre site in the Deschutes National Forest that will provide the Forest Service with the aggregate it needs for road improvements. Co. A’s soldiers also constructed a 12-by-20-foot foot vault toilet at the Benham Falls trail head and built a structure to house the Forest Service’s fire fighting equipment.

The soldiers of Co. B, Dallas, cleared and grabbed the Sisters High School ball park and parking lot. They also constructed a sidewalk at Sisters High School and expanded a pond and built cabins for Sisters High School’s retreat. Before returning to their home station, Co. B’s soldiers constructed a four-way fire truck shed for the Sisters Ranger District and a pole barn for the city of Sisters.

The soldiers of Co. C, Warrenton, cleared and grabbed a four-acre site in the Sisters National Forest that will provide the Forest Service with aggregate for road improvements. Co. C’s soldiers also constructed a vault toilet and demolished a stairway of an unsafe fire lookout at the top of Black Butte.

All the projects were completed in less than 10 days.

Capt. Mel Nuestro,1249th Engineer Battalion personnel officer, summarized the battalion’s experiences during annual training.

“This year’s annual training at Camp Blak and in the forests of Central Oregon validated the war-fighting capability of the battalion,” Nuestro said. “It benefited both the local communities and the citizen-soldiers of the 1249th Engineer Battalion.”

Poland: “We went there to become better prepared.”

Kingsley took six F-15 Eagles, flying a total of 54 sorties—primarily basic fighter maneuvers (BFM) and air combat maneuver (ACM)—to Minsk-Mazowiecki Airbase, 30 miles east of Warsaw. Both aircrew and maintenance worked side by side in combined operations. The 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron worked in the air traffic control tower and the 173rd FW shadowed combat at the radar site in Warsaw. As liaisons, they worked an over-the-shoulder arrangement to answer questions and ensure clear communications between Polish controllers and our pilots.

Poland is one the most active NATO members at this time. This is the first time the Polish Air Force and Air National Guard has visited Minsk-Mazowiecki Airbase, which is the lead wing for the Polish integration into NATO. The 183rd Wing, Oregon Air National Guard F-16 unit out of Springfield, Ill., conducted operations in Powidz in 1997.

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, the adjutant general, Brig. Gen. James Cunningham, Oregon Air National Guard commander, visited the training. Both were extremely impressed by the type of training that occurred and the opportunity Oregon Guard members had.

“We went there to become better prepared to deal with the combat air tactics of Eastern Block pilots flying the MiG 29 fighter,” Cunningham said. “The Guard is now being recognized as a vanguard in efforts to liaison with former Soviet Block countries. Our time there generated a tremendous amount of high-level attention from other countries to US Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). These two Oregon units have perhaps done more for international military relations in that region in recent years than any other active duty component could have done.”

Cunningham stressed that remaining relevant to America’s military mission will serve all Oregon Guard and spokesman well, as the Pentagon’s leadership continues to call upon Guard units to serve alongside their active duty counterparts worldwide.

“We will remain relevant and effective with our exposure in these areas of the world,” he said. “We’re truly working outside of our box, and our relevancy in these endeavors is showing.”

Lt. Col. Tom Schiess, 114th Squadron commander and operations officer for the deployment, agreed.

“The exercise was better than anticipated, a terrific success,” Schiess said. “We came out of this deployment with an insight of the capabilities of the MiG-29 aircraft and they came away with increased combat capability. The acceptance and hospitality extended to our members was generous and warm. Their enthusiasm and willingness to learn new things made it all around great experience.”

The average flight hours of Polish pilots was about 800 hours, with less than half of that in the MiG-29. The average flight time of Oregon pilots is about 2,000 hours. Sixteen Oregon pilots and 14 maintenance and support personnel joined 20 Polish pilots and over 100 Polish maintenance personnel for the exercise. All pilots from the 173rd FW received a MiG-29 familiarization flight.

Maj. John Morawiec, the deployment commander, spearheaded the operation, which ended up being a two year project. Morawiec is a Polish-American who was born near Krakow, Poland, and lived there until the age of 11. His family moved to Illinois, where he went on to graduate from the USAF Academy in 1984. He speaks fluent Polish and was invaluable as a liaison.

The Army Song: “The Army Goes Rolling Along”

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free,
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We’re the Army and proud of our name; We’re the Army and proudly proclaim:
First to fight for the right, and to build the nation’s might,
And the Army goes rolling along
Proud of all we have done, Fighting till the battle’s won,
And the Army goes rolling along

CHORUS
Then it’s hi, hi, hey!
The Army’s on the way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong (two, three)
For where-e’er we go,
You will always know that the Army goes rolling along

Valley Forge, Custer’s ranks,
San Juan hill and Patton’s tanks,
And the Army went rolling along
Minute men from the start,
Always fighting from the heart,
And the Army keeps rolling along

CHORUS
Men in rage, men who froze,
still that Army met its foes,
And the Army went rolling along
Faith in God, then we’re right,
And we’ll fight with all our might,
As the Army keeps rolling along

Based on “The Cavalry Song” by Gen. E.L. Gruber
Written and adapted by H.W. Arbery

September 2001
Army MWR offers updated outdoor recreation web site

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Military campers and RVers can now find their way on America’s open highways with their fingers, thanks to a new interactive Army Morale, Welfare, Recreation (MWR) Recreation Outdoor website, www.pathscrossamerica.com.

The web site is the first of several improvements rolling into the Army’s recreational parks and camp sites, including a name change. “We wanted to make our RV park information much more accessible to customers,” said Joe Pettoni, Outdoor Recreation program manager at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center. “This website is just a seed that will grow into much more.”

The outdoor recreation site was launched with information about military RV parks and camp sites at installations throughout the United States.

“When you call up the site, a map of the United States appears,” said Pettoni. “You click on a state, then a map of that state appears. The Army installations are in red and the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard sites are in blue.”

Web visitors to the site will find information on the location of the RV parks and camp sites, directions from the nearest major highway, phone numbers, amenities, the number of pads and camp sites, and fees. It also lists any cabins, cottages or duplexes available for rent.

Future additions to the web site will include a trip computer to determine mileage, local on and off post recreational opportunities, and inter-service Morale, Welfare and Recreation specials for RVers and campers.

“Eventually we plan to add sites in Europe”, Pettoni said. “Our ultimate goal is to have a way to be able to make reservations online.”

As for the name change from “Travel Camp” to RV Park, Pettoni said the Army needs to conform to industry standards and make the name recognizable to customers.

Thrift Savings Plan opens to service members in October

WASHINGTON—Service members can be eligible for the Thrift Savings Plan open to service members in October.

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The USS Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Fifteen Oregon soldiers re-enlist at the USS Arizona memorial during annual training.

Chief Master Sgt. Mike Brown retires after over 30 years of service.

Ballfields to wetlands keep engineers busy in North Bend
Academy of Sciences' prestigious Institutes ranges from $101 to $2,107 a month. Disability compensation that pending upon the severity of their illness. The press release reports that veterans eligible through the media and other outreach efforts.

Publication of the new rules follow a formal publication to the Federal Register. Rules published for VA diabetes-related hearing aid program under the authority of Title 38, United States Code.

Two retired stroke patients are entitled to a VA administered hearing aid program. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its Hearing Aid Program (HAP) for retired service members. The program is open to uniformed services beneficiaries over ages 65 and over. Medicare Part B. Those who turned 65 on or after April 1, 2001, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits.

The Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program is open to beneficiaries over ages 65. The Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program is open to beneficiaries over ages 65. The Tricare Senior Pharmacy Program is open to beneficiaries over ages 65.

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However, you must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), and the new benefits may require you to be enrolled in Medicare Part B.

Beneficiaries who were 65 before April 1, 2011, do not have to enroll in Medicare Part B. Those who turned 65 on or after April 1, 2001, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits.

The Department of Defense encourages everyone to carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B. Those who enrolled in Medicare Part B. Those who turned 65 on or after April 1, 2001, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B in order to use the mail order and retail pharmacy benefits.

For any other questions about this program, you may access the Tricare management activity web site at www.tricare.osd.mil or call the toll-free help line at (877) DOD-MEDS (363-6337).
**Green sees stars at promotion ceremony**

Thanking his family, mentors, and other general officers, Wayne A. Green was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on April 28. Green is the Oregon Air National Guard’s chief of staff.

A ROTC graduate, Green was commissioned in the USAir Force in April 1969. He later became commander of the ORANG upon his release from active duty and assigned as the chief of communications for the 153rd Tactical Control Squadron at Portland Air Base. In March 1979, he was reassigned to the 116th TCS and held several positions: communications operations officer, maintenance control officer, and chief of maintenance.

He later became commander of the 142nd Communications Flight in 1984, a position he held until reassigned in 1988 as the chief of operations for the 244th Combat Communications Squadron in Portland. He later took command of the 244th in June 1990.

Green was then reassigned to headquarters, ORANG, in September 1996, where he has served as the director of personnel. He became the ORANG’s chief of staff in July 2000.

Green said at his promotion ceremony: “We have the same values and want only the best for the Guard members we serve.”

As a civilian, Green is employed as a regional real estate and site development manager for Hallmark Cards. Green’s family includes Kathy, his wife of 32 years, two daughters; Kristy Rasmor and Julie Earl, and two grandchildren.

**Engineer’s sergeant major hands over command**


The ceremony honored the outgoing and retiring Van Natta while welcoming the new command sergeant major, Terry Clinton.

The event marked the ongoing tradition celebrating the NCO as the backbone of the Army. Army regulations do not dictate a change of command sergeant major, but Schutz, the battalion commander, developed the ceremony to honor the NCOs whose performance has made the 1249th a leading unit in Oregon.

Van Natta retired from the Oregon National Guard with 33 years of service.

**Kingsley Field receives volunteer award for service to the community**

Oregon’s Dudley among the top US distance runners

Spc. Michael Dudley, Co. A, 1249th Engineer Battalion, was selected as one of the top distance runners in the country.

He will represent Team USA at the IAAF World Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

The men’s marathon race will kick off the championships on August 3, 2001, with the lead runners crossing the finish line during the opening ceremonies.

Dudley has a marathon personal best of 2:14:37, which he set in 1999 when he placed second in the California International Marathon.

To put this all in perspective, what Dudley is doing is running 26.2 miles at an average of 5:08 per mile. Dudley is a talented runner, but he does not feel as though he is gifted. He was only an average runner in high school; he was lapped by other runners in the district meet. What sets him apart from other runners is his work ethic and dedication.

He averages over 100 miles a week all year long, with some weeks as high as 135 miles. There are a lot of winter days when most people don’t even want to be out driving because the weather is so bad. Dudley does not let inclement weather curb his devotion to running at least once a day.

KLAMATH FALLS—Col. RC Brown, on behalf of the 173rd Fighter Wing, accepts the public service volunteer award from Klamath County Commissioner John Elliott at the eighth annual Klamath County Volunteer of the Year Awards and Recognition Event.

The event recognized individuals and groups that have made significant contributions to the community through volunteering.

Several divisions for volunteers in youth, adult, senior, education, volunteer coordination, business, public service, and Klamath Volunteer of the Year awards were awarded.

Kingsley Field was awarded the public service volunteer award for the countless hours Kingsley members have given to the community.

The services Kingsley personnel provided to the community include Citizens for Safe Schools; a partnership with Klamath County schools to mentor children in the juvenile detention center; the BOOST mentoring program; hosting the Oregon schools conference; and the Klamath Airshow 2000, to name just a few.

Brown thanked the businesses that selflessly let their Guardsmen and women work for him, pointing out that it’s hard to accept an award for doing your job—serving the community.
Watson rewarded for life-saving heroics


On June 14, 2001, while playing softball with the La Grande city league, Watson acted with heroism and exemplified himself as a leader in a time of crisis and emergency as he came to the aid of a fellow Army soldier and subsequently saved his life.

Watson, Capt. David Lund, and civilians were playing softball when Lund collapsed. After Lund was up to bat and ran the bases, he collapsed and began showing signs of having a seizure.

Watson, an unknown civilian, administered CPR to Lund the day before the soldiers were to report for annual training with the 3-116 Cavalry at Gowen Field, Idaho.

Watson rewarded for life-saving heroics

Lund was life flighted to a Boise, Idaho, hospital. He is alive today because of Watson’s actions and demonstration of decisive leadership under pressure.

Air Force Achievement Medal
- SSG Isidro Valenzuela 272 CBCS
- MSG Nesvold Christianson 272 CBCS
- MSG Dorick Beaudoin 272 CBCS
- SRA Christine Longfield 272 CBCS

Air Force Commendation Medal
- Lt Col Gary Takis 272 CBCS
- Maj Vicki Smith 272 CBCS
- MSG Nesvold Christianson 272 CBCS
- MSG Consuelo Christianson 272 CBCS
- MSG Christine Longfield 272 CBCS
- SRA Christine Longfield 272 CBCS

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal
- MSG Bob Neland 272 CBCS
- SMS Randy Walker 272 CBCS

Air Force Achievement Medal
- MSG Rob Glenn 272 CBCS
- SRA Sheryl Newell 272 CBCS
- SRA Christine Longfield 272 CBCS
- SRA Jake Edge 272 CBCS
- SRA Angela Prusse 272 CBCS

Oregon Meritorious Service Medal
- MSG John Shirron 272 CBCS
- Maj Vicki Smith 272 CBCS
- MSG Mark Johanson 272 CBCS
- SMS Randy Walker 272 CBCS

Oregon Commendation Certificate
- SRA John Holly 272 CBCS
- SSG Jack Preston 272 CBCS
- SSG Casey Price 272 CBCS
- MSG Kara Reynolds 272 CBCS
- SSG Tom Kimball 272 CBCS
- MSG Angela Hall 272 CBCS
- MSG Kerby Tysen 272 CBCS
- MSG Mike Brown 272 CBCS
- MSG Bruce Davidson 272 CBCS
- SSG Joe Knight 272 CBCS
- TSG Walter Applewhite 272 CBCS
- TSG Walter Applewhite 272 CBCS
- TSG Tom Esay 272 CBCS

Soldiers from the 1249th Engineer Battalion practice deploying fire shelters during their eight-hour wildfire recertification training. Oregon soldiers from the 82nd and 41st Brigades deployed to help fight the Monument Complex and the Quartz Fire in August.