Oregon National Guard Gears up for a “Hot” Fire Season

Throughout history, fire has both served mankind as a resource, and plagued him with destruction. In Oregon, the wildfire season starts in earnest as the days grow long and temperatures rise. Fighting on the front lines of the battle to protect both lives and property are the men and women of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard.

The two Army National Guard Aviation units; the 1042nd, based in Salem, and Detachment 1-Delta 113th based in Pendleton; work alongside other National Guard units, the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Oregon Department of Forestry, as well as other state and federal agencies in order to protect lives and property from wild fires.

The Det. 1-113th utilizes CH-47 "Chinooks" while the 1042nd uses UH-60 "Blackhawk helicopters, and one UH-60 "Firehawk", a specially-modified Blackhawk designed specifically to help fight fires. According to aircrews, the work is challenging, and sometimes dangerous.

1) You have an 18,000-pound bucket of water under a 30,000-pound helicopter. I say 113th helicopter instructor pilot Chief Warrant Officer Michael Bennett. I'm doing all this and you're fighting crosswinds... it's risky business.

Typically, after a forest fire has been detected, the Emergency Operations Center in Salem contacts the State Aviation Officer, who in turn calls the National Guard units on rotation. Aircrews, who are on call throughout the fire season, always have their gear packed for field duty, and can report to the fire base within 24 hours after receiving the call.

1) We are normally the second call after the civilian agencies, I says Bennett.
1) We provide quick response and fill-in. They call us because they need the support immediately, and since we are a local asset, a lot of the time we're the first ones there.

Once on scene, Aircrews are met by support personnel, aviation mechanics, and refueling personnel from their unit. Pre-flight briefings inform crews what part they will play in the mission, and to whom they will report. All ground operations are overseen by an Aviation.

See "Firefighting: A Real-World Mission" on Pg. 15

Letters From the Desert; Bravo Co. 52 Engineers and 82 ROC in Iraq

Citizen Soldiers Write of Challenges and Accomplishments

Members of the Oregon National Guard were mobilized in early 2002 — along with their full-time counterparts — and forward deployed to theaters of operations through Iraq.

While accounts of the campaign reported back to an eager population in the states were facilitated by "embedded journalists" working for Associated Press, United Press International, CNN, and other news agencies, some information came through less-formal, and indeed more basic avenues — letters and e-mail to family and friends sent from military troops on the ground in Iraq.

The Oregon Sentinel would like to share with you some of these poignant and touching letters from our citizen soldiers. Please see page 14 for the photo montage and text.
Command Focus

As we go to press with the first edition of the Oregon Sentinel, the major combat operations have officially ended in both Iraq and Afghanistan, but both theaters of operations are very dangerous environments for our military members and the civilians who are serving our nation’s interests. Currently, the Oregon National Guard is represented in Southwest Asia by the soldiers in the 82nd Rear Operations Center; B Company, 52d Engineers; and 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry. They are doing outstanding work while performing very demanding missions. Please keep these soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers until they can return home safely. If you hear of any special concerns from the families or emergency of our deployed soldiers, do not hesitate to let the Military Department know.

Since the commencement of hostilities with Iraq, we have been heavily involved in the somewhat different missions that have been directed by our National Command Authority. We have Air Guard personnel from the 173rd and 142d Fighter Wings all over the world. In addition, the 73d Medical Detachment, assigned to Ft. Bragg, and the 124th Engineer Battalion is preparing to perform force protection missions at various locations in the Northwest. May they all come home safely when their missions are complete.

We are proud of each and every one of them.

On another note, the training requirements for the remainder of our units must still be accomplished. The annual training cycle is upon us, and we urge each of you to get as much completed to standard as you can. Our future depends on maintaining a well-trained force. But always remember safety must be foremost in your minds at all times. I look forward to visiting as many training sites as possible.

In the next few years, you will see and hear about the many events designed to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As the bicentennial of their Oregon explorations approach, we will be directly involved in educating the public on the accomplishments of their journey.

The future holds many challenges for our Armed Forces as a whole. The concept of Homeland Security will dictate a somewhat different focus to defending our nation than we have witnessed in the past. We may see a few new organizations formed, but the basic missions of the National Guard should not change. We will train to Air Force and Army standards in order to effectively respond to any contingency.

At the state level, we are on a course to develop a true joint headquarters. The long-term vision includes a headquarters that will include members from the Army Reserve, Coast Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, as well as other elements from the Department of Homeland Security. The end result will make us a better organization to serve the needs of our citizens.

Regardless of the unique deployments we have experienced or the future mission requirements and expectations, our strength lies not in our equipment, but in the professionals and women and men who fill our ranks. The service they provide to our state and nation, and the sacrifices made by their families, could never be praised enough. I am proud to serve with all of you. Thank you for your dedication and patriotism.

Transformation is an overused word in our daily lexicon as members of the 21st century fighting force that is today’s Air National Guard, but in Oregon, we are seeing a transformation in our daily lives. At the recent Adjutant General Conference, Oregon, like all other states and U.S. territories, received initial guidance from our new Director of the National Guard Bureau, Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, to begin transforming into a joint posture no later than the first day of fiscal year 2004 (Oct. 1st). In order to streamline operational excess while preserving our focus and maintaining unity of command, the plan is to create joint forces headquarters out of the Air, Army and Adjutant General Staffs that exist in most National Guard organizations. Oregon is once again ahead of the curve as we were already deep into this transition, with many Air and Army roles already mutually supporting. At the command level, Maj. Gen. William T. Salems, the Air Guard has received a new voice of leadership with the promotion of Brigadier General Wayne Green to the position of Joint Chief of Staff, Oregon Joint Forces Command. Green is a troop-focused leader with experience and competence that is well known throughout the Pacific Northwest. His addition to the senior staff will provide a strong voice to citizen-soldiers and solid footing of the Oregon National Guard.

On another note, the 142nd Wing was just recognized for its excellence in flying over 60,000 hours incident-free. This extraordinary accomplishment is the first time that Oregon Air National Guard has reached this milestone. Not only was Oregon Air National Guard the first wing to be 100% stand up on September 11th, 2001, we continue to set the example in our unmatched safety record.

Way to go, Redhawks!

Iris Summer, and already we’ve received tragic news of citizen-soldiers allowing their standards of safety to slacken. Two soldiers were killed recently in a single-vehicle traffic accident just outside an armory in North Portland. Meanwhile in the Persian Gulf, a member of Bravo Company, 52nd Engineers was seriously injured in a traffic incident while the convoy tried to avoid a roadside sniper fire. Regardless of the location or circumstances, safety must be our number one concern. It is not a matter of adding a lifestyle paragraph to our orders process, nor is it an issue that can be summarized in a column of this paper. It is a process that must be integrated into the way we view our roles as citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oregon National Guard and as the fighting arm of the National Command Authority. Think and plan before you get behind the wheel so that we all might avoid making a terrible mistake.

Not since the Second World War have we seen this kind of military operations tempo. Oregon National Guard members are securing the ports of Kuwait, escorting convoys in and out of Baghdad, maintaining the flow of logistical support into the Iraqi theater, rebuilding infrastructure in a war-torn land, and managing and executing medical evacuation tasks at Fort Bragg.

Closer to home, we are keeping the skies and bases of the Pacific Northwest secure by supporting the Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management operations tempo. Oregon National Guard members are preparing for and receiving training for our helicopters and fire fighter training for our soldiers on the ground.

Command Sgt. Maj. Donald F. Newman, State Command Sergeant Major

© 2003 Oregon Military Department 
All Rights Reserved

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309- (503) 854-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the Sentinel are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army and Air Force. The Sentinel is distributed free to members of the Oregon National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation 11,500.

Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage. Oregon Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 1st of each month.

Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Kay Fristad
Managing Editor

Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief


Way to go, Redhawks!

Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief

The Oregon Sentinel

The Sentinel is the official publication authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309-503-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the Sentinel are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army and Air Force. The Sentinel is distributed free to members of the Oregon National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation 11,500.

Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage. Oregon Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 1st of each month.

© 2003 Oregon Military Department
All Rights Reserved

Oregon Military Department
State Commander-in-Chief
Governor Ted Kulongoski


Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Terry F. Barker

Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham

Command Sergeant Major
Senior Enlisted Adviser, Air
Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief

Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff
Public Affairs Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Maj. Arnold Strong

Associate Editor
Kay Fristad

Creative Brand Manager
Managing Editor
Staff Sgt. Nick Chey
nchey@mil.state.or.us

Contributors
115 MPAD Personnel
ANG Visual Information Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Tom Hovde, Oregon Sentinel

Way to go, Redhawks!

Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin,
The Adjutant General

Way to go, Redhawks!

Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief

The Oregon Sentinel

The Sentinel is the official publication authorized under the provisions of AR-360-1. It is designed and published monthly by the Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309-503-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the Sentinel are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army and Air Force. The Sentinel is distributed free to members of the Oregon National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation 11,500.

Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage. Oregon Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the Oregon Sentinel, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters may also be edited prior to use. Submission deadlines are the 1st of each month.

© 2003 Oregon Military Department
All Rights Reserved

Oregon Military Department
State Commander-in-Chief
Governor Ted Kulongoski


Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Terry F. Barker

Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham

Command Sergeant Major
Senior Enlisted Adviser, Air
Chief Master Sgt. J. Wayne Stuart

Maj. Arnold Strong, Editor in Chief

Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff
Public Affairs Officer/Editor-in-Chief
Maj. Arnold Strong

Associate Editor
Kay Fristad

Creative Brand Manager
Managing Editor
Staff Sgt. Nick Chey
nchey@mil.state.or.us

Contributors
115 MPAD Personnel
ANG Visual Information Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Tom Hovde, Oregon Sentinel

Way to go, Redhawks!
Overdue Kayakers Thankful for National Guard Lifesavers

Prepared by Oregon Sentinel Staff
Photos contributed by Aida Parkinson

Members of the Oregon National Guard spend countless hours training for “the call”, but secretly hope that it never comes. Most of the time, rescue crews arrive on scene to find injured or missing persons, and at times, worse.

So it’s no surprise that when a distress call or missing persons report ends on a happy note, there comes a feeling of celebration and gratitude. But like many rescuers, Oregon’s Search And Rescue teams remain unsung heroes, knowing that a job well-done is thanks enough.

Recently, a 1042nd search and rescue crew were dispatched to locate an overdue boating party on the Illinois River in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area of the Siskiyou Mountains located in Southwest Oregon. What follows is a letter of appreciation from a member of that group.

A 1042nd Air Ambulance flight medic is winched back onboard after checking on the boaters.

“We were safe and well when the Blackhawk crew found us. Approximately 1300 hours just downstream of the mouth of the Collier Creek on the Curry County side of the Illinois River. We were scheduled to reach the Oak Flat take-out on Friday, April 25, but several days of rain had raised the river levels. Because of high water combined with cold weather, we elected to remain camped at Deadman Bay about four miles above the Green Wall section of the Illinois River until the weather improved or the river level dropped. The Del Norte County (California) Search and Rescue was notified that we were overdue on Saturday, and initiated the search that eventually brought the Oregon Guard helicopter.”

The Green Wall is the largest rapid on the Illinois River and has the potential to flip a raft. Below the Green Wall are several other rapids that are also difficult to negotiate when the river is flowing heavily. Although we had six kayakers in the party in addition to the single raft, the success of the trip depends on the ability to get all members in the party safely through all the rapids. Even though the water level on Monday was as high or slightly higher than on Friday, the weather was considerably better, which improved our ability to get the raft down the Green Wall.

“We were fairly sure someone would be dispatched to look for us after we were several days late. We were essentially out of food, and would have been in real need of supplies had we not been able to travel out on Monday. We would not have the name of the National Guard for their efforts. It was truly a wonderful sight to watch the skilled pilot and crew perform their jobs. When we asked the sergeant who dropped down to us where they had come from, he said Salem, but that they had been in Afghanistan on Friday. We were astounded and honored to be able to talk to someone who had been in harm’s way so recently and who had come home safely. He assured us there was no place in Afghanistan as beautiful as an Oregon river in springtime.

“We would not get the name of the sergeant with whom we spoke, nor the names of the rest of the crew but we hope you will express our deepest gratitude to them and our pride in the Oregon National Guard.”

Sincerely,
Aida Parkinson
McKinleyville, California

Sgt. Daniel I. Johnson sings the Star Spangled Banner at 82nd ROC Activation Ceremony.

“Singing Patriot” Answers Important Call to Society and Country

By Spc. Luke Elliot
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Lake Oswego, Ore.—Serving the community is not a new concept for Sgt. Daniel I. Johnson, of the 82nd Rear Operation Cell (ROC). During the normal workweek, Johnson serves as a state trooper for the Oregon State Police. Each evening he goes home and devotes time to his wife and eight children. On Sundays, he is active in his church, and also attends drills as a soldier in the Oregon National Guard. Nearly every aspect of Johnson’s life involves service to others, but in February, Johnson began a new era of service; marked by his voice, and the singing of the national anthem at the 82nd ROC.

Like many others in the National Guard, Johnson has been called to serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Singing the Star Spangled Banner was just the beginning of what could be up to a one year tour for Johnson and the rest of his peers from the ROC. He doesn’t take his duty lightly and he knows the freedoms echoed in Francis Scott Key’s words don’t come without sacrifice.

It’s not a light thing when you’re asked to render the Star Spangled Banner to your peers,” said Johnson. “So, I took it seriously, like raising the flag or saluting a senior officer. It was a service for the families and the troops to encourage and motivate them to do their jobs to the best of their ability while reminding us all, including myself, that we have a great nation and should never abuse our freedoms, because they didn’t come without sacrifice.”

Johnson, an advocate of homeland defense, views Operation Enduring Freedom as a civic responsibility he wants to live up to.

“I’ve been attacked at home, and I believe that our families, friends and coworkers deserve protection,” said Johnson. “They deserve to be represented well in the effort to deal with an aggressive force of terrorism.”

Johnson and the 82nd ROC, left Oregon in February for Ft. Lewis, Washington. Despite future uncertainties, Johnson maintains a positive attitude and finds comfort in the knowledge that he’ll be good company.

“I’ve been called and activated,” said Johnson. “Ill honored to go wherever I’m needed especially with the troops I will with.”

Johnson, like many other soldiers, was transferred from a different unit to join the 82nd ROC for the deployment. The adjustment wasn’t as difficult as he first envisioned; many of the soldiers in the 82nd ROC, already knew him.

Capt. Scott D. Farish, a planning officer for the 82nd ROC, felt Johnson and his ican-do attitude was a positive addition to the unit.

It’s his nature to serve ó he is the type of person who is always trying to help people,” Farish said.

Though service and caring for people are at the forefront of Johnson’s core values, he doesn’t feel they conflict with the idea of defense or his involvement with the National Guard. Instead, he believes they are analogous to each other.

“Just because you’re a peaceful and caring person, doesn’t mean you can’t defend against forces that would or could disrupt that peace,” Johnson said.

Johnson likens the desire for peace and his warrior spirit to the definition of meekness.

“Some people think the word meekness means weakness, but meekness means something different ó meekness is to have your mind and physical ability ready and waiting for a lawful order,” said Johnson. “That’s what being in the National Guard is all about – being well-trained, prepared and willing to act when the lawful order comes.”

The lawful order came for Johnson just as it has for many other citizen-soldiers throughout Oregon. With the United States involved in conflict in the Middle East, soldiers continue to step up to the plate, putting on a uniform that represents social responsibility ó a responsibility Johnson and his peers take seriously.

“This is our Country. This is our backyard,” said Johnson. “Somebody comes in my backyard that’s not welcome, I’m gonna have to ask them to leave,” said Johnson. “That’s essentially what we’re doing here.”
Oregonians Support Troops During Iraqi Campaign

Community Joins Forces to Rally Support for Troops and Families

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns
41st Brigade Public Affairs

Salem, Ore. – Masses swarmed the streets of the Capitol last March with jutting placards as shouts and poignant cries filled the cool Oregon air. No, it was not an anti-war protest. Instead, people from around the state gathered for a growing movement known as “Support Our Troops.”

In a rally that assembled nearly 2,000 citizens, shouts of “Support our Troops” and “Liberate Iraq,” were heard throughout an infectious and colossal crowd of people on the steps of the State’s capitol in Salem, Ore. just following the start of the Iraq campaign in March. The movement, intended to avert a possible backlash similar to the ones experienced during the Vietnam era, was created to show troops that American citizens stand behind them during their campaign in Iraq. The movement swept across the country just before the onset of the war, as committed supporters showed servicemen and women they were anxious to offer their assistance in any way they can.

Despite the overall success and popular support of the rally, there were other citizens who showed up to voice their dissent of war and U.S. policy. Gathering outside the robust crowd of supporters, anti-war protesters brought signs with proclamations such as, “Not in my name,” and “Peace is patriotic.”

Confrontations arose between the two crowds but ended in small groups of general discussions with both sides giving argument for their choices.

“They have a right to their opinion, but they need to realize they are putting soldiers at risk,” said Phillip Ramsdell, an organizer of the Salem event. “Anti-war protests make Saddam feel that if he holds out, they will change policy instead of complying with disarmament.”

When Ramsdell discovered the 1249th Engineer Battalion, an Oregon Army National Guard battalion approximately 450 strong headquartered in Salem, Ore., was being activated and deployed to an undisclosed location in support of the Global War on Terror, he made it his mission to ensure the unit’s well-being. He plans to help the community support the deployment in a meaningful way.

“A lot of people say they support our troops but supporting our troops does not mean just waving the flag,” said Ramsdell. “It means supporting them financially, supporting them with our hearts and supporting them with our prayers.”

Realizing there can sometimes be a large disparity between a service member’s income from the civilian sector and their military pay, citizens donated over $2,800 in an effort to help soldiers and their families with possible looming financial problems. The money, which is intended to ease financial burdens for deployed service members so they can focus their attention on the war effort without distraction, will become part of an emergency relief fund and will be administered by the 1249th Engineer Battalion Family Program.

When Ramsdell discovered the 1249th
Talk to Your Boss About Being a Unit Public Affairs Representative

By Spec. Luke Elliot
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Imagine going up for your weekend drill. You grab a copy of the Oregon Sentinel, and you see a story, complete with photos and lines, on something you recently took part in, or better yet, something your unit recently completed.

As public affairs personnel, we strive to tell thesoldiers stories, but the fact of the matter is there are too many events and guardmembers for us to cover. With just a handful of public affairs personnel and nearly 9,000 soldiers and airmen living across the state, we are in need of assistance from the units.

The adjutant general is endorsing a program to encourage each unit to pick a responsible, dedicated guardmember to represent each unit.

Some mistakenly believe the roles and responsibilities of a public affairs representative in their unit, or UPAR, would be too much work on top of an already full list of duties.

A fully operating UPAR position can be very demanding, but the plan is to start training and encouraging UPARs to write internal stories about their units and the soldiers and airmen within them. As the program develops across the state, UPARs can seek additional training to enhance other missions.

The UPARs primary responsibility is to feed content and issues up to the public affairs office at the state headquarters. I said Maj. Arnold Strong, state public affairs officer. The key is that we in the state public affairs office receive so little input from the units that our publication often comes across looking like a “Flagpole” edition, focusing too much on issues affecting the command and headquarters while not accurately reflecting the hard work of soldiers in the field.

Other skills UPAR personnel will learn about in the future are crafting press releases for the units, communicating the successes of commands and interacting with the media, according to the National Guard UPAR Handbook. Enlisted soldiers are exactly what the command needs for the UPAR program, according to an Oregon training video, “Unit PA Training: Setting up a PA Program.” Other suggestions for picking a UPAR are to choose someone willing to dedicate two to three years to the program and pick someone who is mature and responsible.

Perhaps some feel that having a public affairs representative would not benefit their unit.

Over time the benefits will become clear as you realize you can’t avoid public affairs. Whether dealing with members of your unit or the community, public affairs is all around you. It’s an all-encompassing effort with a principle goal of ensuring your unit is well accepted and supported in the community, according to the handbook.

Having an effective UPAR program will help establish and maintain good will and public acceptance essential for your unit to be combat ready and successful.

Having a UPAR in a unit also provides the unit some internal benefits, “Unit Public Affairs representatives make a vital difference to the units they serve by enabling their commanders to highlight the success of their organizations while remaining operationally focused,” said Strong. The UPAR also serves as a link between the command and the community.

Every guardmember should understand the importance of handling internal and external information and the importance of getting this information out to our audiences. This is the reason public affairs is organizing the UPAR program and is requesting at least one person per unit to attend training to become their unit’s public affairs representative. This representative could be you.

It has been said that the pen is mightier than sword. However, as long as you’re uniform, you will never permanently turn in this proverbial sword for pen, but if you join the UPAR program, you might experience the power of wielding both.

If you are interested in helping to tell your unit’s story, bring it up with your chain of command and let them know you would like to be a part of the Unit Public Affairs Representative Program.
Messecar First Female Col. in ORANG
Sets Milestone, Example for Other Female Members

By Maj. Mike Allegre
Public Affairs Office, HQ, ORANG

PORTLAND, Ore.óIt was the first promotion of its kind in the Oregon Air National Guard. On March 6, 2003, Deborah C. Messecar became the first female promoted to the rank of colonel in the history of the Oregon Air National Guard.

Messecar, commander of the 142nd Medical Group, has been an ORANG member and assigned to the unit since October 1982 when she joined as a nurse. She later became the unit's chief nurse. She accepted command in June 2002, overseeing more than 70 members including four full-time personnel.

Accepting the command of the 142 Medical Group has been the biggest challenge I have ever accepted in my professional life, said Col. Messecar.

A professor at Oregon Health Sciences University in the Department of Nursing, Messecar looks forward to being the first ORANG female officer to attain the rank of O-6.

The support I have received from the 142 Wing and ORANG command leadership has been phenomenal, she said. I look forward to the work ahead and hope to live up to the trust placed in me.

Major Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, Oregon Adjutant General, took part in the ceremony. ORANG Commander, Brig. Gen. James C. Cunningham and Col. Garry Dean, 142nd FW commander, also attended. Burgin and Dean did the honor of promoting Messecar by placing the eagle rank insignia on her uniform. Burgin hailed the promotion calling it an historical event for the Oregon Air National Guard.

We can all be very proud of Col. Messecarís career and accomplishments, Burgin said. Being the first female to reach the rank of colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard is certainly a milestone.

I commend her for paving the way and setting a standard for other female officers.

Korean War Remembered
Pilots Reminisce War, 
Catch up on History

By Capt. Misti Mazzia
142nd Fighter Wing
Public Affairs Office

PORTLAND, Ore.óThe Portland Air National Guard honored Korean War Veterans on May 24th, commemorating the 50th anniversary and dedication ceremony at the Memorial Garden.

The ceremony opened with an invocation by Father Alfred Williams and was hosted by Col. Garry Dean, 142nd Fighter Wing commander. Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin spoke about the history of the Korean War and the lessons learned. He then introduced Ernie Wakehouse, a former Redhawk and one of only nine pilots from the Portland Air Base deployed to Korea. Wakehouse spoke about his combat missions, and related how he narrowly cheated death several times. Wakehouse flew 100 sorties in the P-51 Mustang providing close air support for ground forces from September to December 1951, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and six Air Medals for his courage and skill.

Chief Master Sgt. Jack Klein, formerly with the 142nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron deployed to Alaska during the Korean Conflict, referenced some of the conditions and challenges of being deployed there. Approximately 230 people from the 142nd A&G&W Squadron served in Alaska remote outposts in the western Arctic region for up to two years, many helping construct critically needed radar surveillance sites.

Dignitaries and veterans helped unveil and dedicate a memorial stone weighing almost 3 tons. The Camas gray basalt stands 4 feet tall, and is 4 feet wide at its base. Dignitaries and veterans helped unveil and dedicate a memorial stone weighing almost 3 tons. The Camas gray basalt stands 4 feet tall, and is 4 feet wide at its base. The memorial stone resembles the contour of Mt. Hood and was shaped and polished by local artist Mark McLean. A four-shop F-15 flyover salute was a fitting conclusion to the service. A reunion and lunch followed the ceremony, held at the Columbia Pointe Club, where Korean War veterans and their families had an opportunity to reminisce and catch up with each other.

Total Force Found Effective
Airmen Work Together to Complete Mission

By Airman 1st Class David Jackson
40th Air Expeditionary Wing, Public Affairs Office

The six-person 40th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadronís (CES) Explosive Ordnance Disposal team proves every day that the Air Force's Total Force Concept does work. Comprised of two Air Force Reservists, two active-duty members and two Air National Guardsmen, the team has been working since May 28 at an operating location in support of the U.S. Central Command execution of Operation Enduring Freedom. However, having worked together at Holloman AFB, N.M. before the deployment, they weren't strangers to each other.

Staff Sgts. Tod Peterson and Ralph Godfrey, both members of the Oregon Air National Guardís 142nd Fighter Wing, arrived at Holloman to help the understaffed 49th Civil Engineer Squadronís EOD flight. And with an upcoming unit compliance inspection, the two staff sergeants had to do it quick.

When Staff Sgt. Peterson and I arrived at Holloman, they were down to a skeleton crew of people, said Godfrey. I know the right way to work right away, fitting ourselves into their operations. There was very little time to figure out what was different about them and us. We had a job to do and we did it.

Staff Sgts. Guy Heard and Luana Krueger, 944th Civil Engineer Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz., arrived later to provide even more help.

The reservists had even less time and were huge assets at inspection time, Godfrey continued. We did great, especially considering we had a crew that had worked together for less than three weeks.

After assisting at Holloman, the reservists, guardsmen, and Master Sgts. Kenney Wessells and Staff Sgt. Ronald Wilson, both members of the 49th CES, deployed overseas. Since their arrival, the EOD team has responded to several munitions calls, demonstrating how the Total Force concept works. This proves that guardsmen, reservists and active duty people can come together and support the mission, said Peterson.

The Air Force built this concept a long time ago and we are proof it can work, Godfrey said. We are doing the same job, to the same standards that every EOD unit around the world is doing.
The Oregon Sentinel

PORTLAND, Ore. – The 142nd Fighter Wing, also known as Oregonís Red Hawks, recently attained an impressive safety milestone of 60,000 mishap-free flying hours. The unit has been flying F-15s for 14 years and has the oldest fleet in the Air Forces inventory.

This (safety) milestone is a testament to the amount of flying we do, said Col. Gary Dean, 142 FW commander. It is also a tribute to the professionalism and passion our people have for their military mission, here and abroad.

Each year, fighter pilots from the 142 FW fly 3000+ training sorties and log more than 4200 flight hours. Many of these same pilots and jets have also flown patrol missions in support of Operations Northern and Southern Watch, both of which are NATO-based military campaigns used to provide aerial surveillance and defense of the no-fly zones in Iraq.

According to 142 FW Safety Officer Lt. Col. Kyle Hook, an impeccable safety record like the one set by the 142 FW cannot happen. It takes a strong work ethic and many people working toward the same goal to achieve this degree of success.

Every individual here, since day one, has been doing the right thing everyday, the right way, I said Hook. This achievement is a team effort.

This team, he added, consists not only of first-rate fighter pilots, but also of aircraft maintainers and a host of support personnel throughout the organization.

Given the age of the F-15 fleet at the Portland Air Base (the oldest aircraft is 30 years old), this no doubt aircraft maintenance personnel have their daily work cut out for them. But, according to Lt. Col. Gary Eckert (142 FW logistics group commander), it challenge the maintainers have lived up to with overwhelming success.

Our logistics group is home to over 525 talented professionals achieving monumental results in maintenance. I commented Eckert. Our ifful mission capable rate is over 80% while the ANG standard is 66%.

Without a doubt, itís a record the 142 FW can be proud of. I said.

By Maj. Donna Prigmore
Public Affairs Office, HQ, ORANG

The largest crowd to ever attend the annual Oregon Air National Guard Awards and Recognition Banquet on March 29, 2003, watched as three 2002 Airmen of The Year recipients and the Maj. Gen. Chester E. McCarty Award winner for superior performance were announced.

This yearís turnout was significant, considering many of the award nominees and recipients are currently deployed throughout the world in support of one of several military operations.

The ORANGís 2002 Outstanding Airmen of the Year awards are divided into three categories: Category I (E-7 to E9), and Category III (E-7 to E9). Thirty-nine ORANG airmen who retired in 2002 were recognized. Airmen of the year from all unit levels were also presented awards.

Senior Airman Melody Hanna, a member of the 124th Fighter Wingís Financial Management Office was the recipient of this yearís Category I award, but was unable to attend due to her deployment overseas. Melodyís hard working, detail oriented, dedicated, professional who jumped in and learned her duties quickly, I said Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Phillips, FM Office Superintendent.

Staff Sgt. Scott Lueck, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, received the Category II award. A member of one of the most deployed units in the ORANG, Lueck has been assigned to the 270th for more than two years. He deployed in Feb. 2002 for more than six months to Afghanistan.

Iím proud to have been chosen, I Lueck said. But I donít think I did my job any better than anyone else. We accomplished the mission as a team.

Another Kingsley Field NCO, Master Sgt. Richard Vieira, 173rd FW, received the Category III award for Air Traffic Control. Vieira is a fulltime AGR employee at Kingsley Field in the unitís Logistics Readiness Squadron. He spent 40 days in Kuwait last year on a TDY assignment. He volunteers as a youth basketball coach in Klamath Falls, is a member of the Klamath Youth Development Council, and has been a member of the Honor Guard for five years. I was shocked to receive something that prestigious, Vieira said.

The most significant award ó the Major General Chester E. McCarty Superior Performer Award ó was presented to Staff Sgt. Scott Ferre, of the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron.

Ferre is a crew chief in the satellite wideband shop. He has served lengthy TDYs during four of the past five years in the Middle East and spent six months in Qatar in 2002. A graduating senior at Oregon State University, Ferre will soon enter graduate school to study civil engineering. As a student in Corvallis, Ferre volunteers his time, speaking to middle school students about life in the Middle East, while encouraging them to continue their education.

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Greene, 142nd Communications Flight, was honored as the Unit Career Advisor of the Year. Iím the first time ever being awarded a military awards banquet and I was impressed at how well it was presented, I said. Iím the time I have spent in the Oregon Air National Guard has been a great experience, and I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful people, Greene added.

The 116th Air Control Squadron was selected as the ORANGís Outstanding Unit of the Year. The commander, Lt. Col. Tim Olson, accepted the award on behalf of the unit.

The Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year award was given to Master Sgt. Gary Stroh, 142nd Maintenance Squadron. Stroh began his military service in the Navy. In 1967 he was deployed to Vietnam, and in 1969 he served on the Attack Aircraft Carrier USS Ticonderoga, where he participated in a nine-month tour of duty in the Gulf of Tonkin. After being discharged from the Navy in 1974, he worked as a Civil Service employee with the Air Force in North Dakota and joined the Air Guard in 1985. He transferred to the Oregon Guard in 1989, where he was assigned to the propulsion section, and was selected as the 1st Sgt. in 2000.

It humbles me to be selected as First Sergeant of the Year when there are so many other first shirts that are doing a fantastic job, I Stroh said. Iím sure weíve had the finest people in the Air National Guard. I care so much about the people in our unit.


Cunningham said, The professionalism of the NCOs and airmen in the Oregon Air National Guard continues to make me proud. We are aware that our optempo continues to increase. Your abilities to meet and exceed the challenges of those mission requirements have been outstanding. Due to your sacrifices and mission readiness, we continue to be an active and relevant component of our nationís defense. You are the strength and backbone of that mission and Iím proud to be your commander.

Since 1973, the McCarty award has been presented to ORANG enlisted members who have performed their military duties and support functions in the most consistently superior manner throughout the previous year.
The 1042nd Medical Company Support

Kandahar, Afghanistan and Salem, Ore. - They came from almost the exact opposite side of the planet and represented all walks of American life: students, paramedics, civil servants, postal workers, but when the citizen soldiers of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) received the order to deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom in April of 2002, the unit deployed at 100% strength and immediately into harm’s way in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

April 25th, 2003, the first elements of the 1042d to return from the combatant theater touched down at their home base of Salem, Ore., to the cheers, hugs and jubilation of an ecstatic audience of family members, friends, and community leaders. They were finally home.

Their journey was hardly a swift one. After serving in Bosnia for almost a year of continuous operation involving routine medical evacuation and search and rescue missions, the unit was again activated less than 18 months later to reinforce the efforts of the 44th Medical Command from Fort Bragg, NC. The 1042nd, within three weeks of performing a valiant rescue of several stranded climbers and the crew of a downed Air Force Reserve Pavehawk helicopter. Once certified for combatant operations, the crews of the 1042nd took up their positions in Kandahar Air Field, and Bagram Air Base, Afghani stan. Additional crews flew to Camp Doha, Kuwait, and Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. The Headquarters Detachment, responsible to track all logistical support for the deployed elements while supporting Fort Bragg air ambulance requirements, remained there throughout the deployment.

So I think the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do was in Afghanistan, the they served in numerous locations but were based out of Bagram and Kandahar. Between the two major cities of the country, the unit forward deployed two UH-60L Black Hawks to Forward Operating Base Salerno (FOB). During the time the unit was stationed at Salerno, the 18th Airborne Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. McNeil, deployed a Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne to the area. At the time of deployment, there was little left of the former academic center than rubble with guns ruling the streets, according to McNeil.

Within a month of their deployment, the 82nd had confiscated all weapons in the Kowst Bowl Region and helped to reopen two elementary schools. Within two months, commerce had returned to the streets and women and children were allowed free passage without harassment. By the third month, the unit had helped to initiate the re-opening of two centers of higher learning, trade was allowed and there was an almost drop cessation of crime in the streets. During this same period the 1042nd performed more than 90 missions saving in excess of 130 patients to include civilians.

The unit maintained an Operational Readiness rate of 97% during the entire deployment. The missions were centered on the mission of medical evacuation and search and rescue. Both teams worked closely with CISOFT (Combat Support Operations Task Force) in providing fast and qualified medical evacuation. The effort in Afghanistan had lasting affects on American soldiers. Scott Anderson, a paramedic, from Salem, Ore., described his experience as very challenging and very somber. I’m 25 year old, non-commissioned officer explained. When you have to do out here was read Sgt. Steven Cheung, Catholic, also. That was pretty hard. We did our best and once we arrived that there was little we could do. Bagram, was shot and killed by an Afghan fighter.

The units exceptional performance was not limited to airborne operations providing the unit with namesake support to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Forces Operations Task Force in providing fast and qualified medical evacuation. The effort in Afghanistan had lasting affects on American soldiers. Scott Anderson, a paramedic, from Salem, Ore., described his experience as very challenging and very somber. I’m 25 year old, non-commissioned officer explained. When you have to do out here was read Sgt. Steven Cheung, Catholic, also. That was pretty hard. We did our best and once we arrived that there was little we could do. Bagram, was shot and killed by an Afghan fighter.

The units exceptional performance was not limited to airborne operations providing the unit with namesake support to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Forces Operations Task Force in providing fast and qualified medical evacuation. The effort in Afghanistan had lasting affects on American soldiers. Scott Anderson, a paramedic, from Salem, Ore., described his experience as very challenging and very somber. I’m 25 year old, non-commissioned officer explained. When you have to do out here was read Sgt. Steven Cheung, Catholic, also. That was pretty hard. We did our best and once we arrived that there was little we could do. Bagram, was shot and killed by an Afghan fighter.

The units exceptional performance was not limited to airborne operations providing the unit with namesake support to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Forces Operations Task Force in providing fast and qualified medical evacuation. The effort in Afghanistan had lasting affects on American soldiers. Scott Anderson, a paramedic, from Salem, Ore., described his experience as very challenging and very somber. I’m 25 year old, non-commissioned officer explained. When you have to do out here was read Sgt. Steven Cheung, Catholic, also. That was pretty hard. We did our best and once we arrived that there was little we could do. Bagram, was shot and killed by an Afghan fighter.

In Afghanistan, the 1042nd Medical Company Support (BTLS) and Advanced Cardio Life Support (ACLS) classes. Three of the unit’s members were qualified and were certified in ACLS. They also volunteered in the hospital whenever possible to help the civilians.

Surviving in austere aviation environments came as routine to some members of the unit. Staff Sgt. John C. Keo, a thirty year veteran of the Army and Oregon National Guard, who served in the Cambodian Army Air Corps in the late sixties before emigrating to the United States. I was shot down three times, but they never caught me, he said, explaining that the Communist rebels that had shot his aircraft from the sky on three occasions never discovered the pilot of the craft.
because he was right amongst them. I always wore my black pajamas under my flight suit, I happily explained in quieted Lao accent. I’d put a straw hat on my head and walk right back across the border. No Problem.

Fortunately, many of the Afghani people learned from first hand experience that the Americans flying above their heads in Black Hawk helicopters were among the most committed, experienced and caring people they would ever meet. Sgt. Anderson, in addition to volunteering like many of his peers for additional duty in the operating room once the air ambulances had delivered the injured, often volunteered to perform magic for the children in the mobile hospital. A long-time student of slight of hand, Anderson would entertain the hospital patients for hours, confusing some, occasionally astonishing others, but delighting all who would witness his tricks and queries.

It was clear from each member of this unit that they are committed to excellence. Maj. Mathew Brady, commander of the 1042nd, also a helicopter pilot based in Bagram, but responsible for the units performance at all of its locations in four countries stated, ‘We may not take ourselves seriously, but we take our jobs very seriously.’ I can’t think of any better way that the men and women of my unit can demonstrate their excellence, than by the deeds they have performed continuously for the past year,’ I he said.

Brady’s comments proved truer than he would realize on the barren tarmac of Kandahar Air Base. In April, 2003, the 1042nd was named the ‘National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year’ by the Army Aviation Association of America. The prestigious award was presented by Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Acting Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Ellis D. Parker and Col. (Ret.) John Stanko, considered by many to be the father of Army Aviation in the National Guard.

I’ll say, the 1042nd was presented with the AAAING Unit of the year for 2002. The unit has maintained the aircraft at 96.8% for the entire year, flown more than 2,500 hours of accident/incident free flight hours in all modes of flight (day, night, and NVG) and maintained its ground vehicles and equipment at 98%. Brady said. ‘The unit thus far has been presented with 9 Bronze Star Medals, 32 Air Medals, 14 Army Commendation Medals, and 8 Army Achievement Medals. This does not include those awards pending from Operation Iraqi Freedom nor those awards submitted for in Ft. Bragg,’ Brady continued.

On May 9, 2003, the main body of the unit returned to Salem, Ore. After a delay in their final approach and a temporary grounding due to typical Oregon weather, four helicopters and their crews returned to a proud assembly of families, friends, veterans, local dignitaries and fellow citizen soldiers.

Special thanks to the various members of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) who helped make this article possible.
**Retire Corner**

**TRICARE Enhances Dental Benefits**

Dental benefits for uniformed services retirees and family members enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) have been enhanced. Effective May 1, 2003, the mandatory enrollment period is reduced from 24 to 1 to 2 months. The annual maximum benefit per enrollee and lifetime maximum benefit for orthodontic care has been increased from $1000 to $100.

After the mandatory enrollment period ends, eligible enrollees which include uniformed services retirees and their family members, Medal of Honor recipients and their family members; survivors and family members of deceased retirees or active duty sponsors who served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, may continue their enrollment in the TRDP on a month-to-month basis. During the mandatory 12 month enrollment period, TRDP enrollees are covered for basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery and dental emergencies. After 12 months of continuous enrollment, TRDP enrollees are covered for cast crowns, cast restorations, full and partial dentures and orthodontics for adults and children. A directory of participating Delta Dental providers is available online at http://www.ddpdelta.org.

Retirees and family members may also request a provider directory by calling the Delta Dental Customer Service number at (888) 838-8737. Log onto http://military.com/ for additional information.

**Retirees Ask for Better Health Care**

According to the Army News Service, the Army Chief of Staff is Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide. The council also urged the chief of staff to support:

(a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation;

(b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan;

(c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and

(d) continued full-funding of TRICARE for life.

For more details on the council and its report, visit http://www.military.com/

**TRICARE Complies With Stricter Rules on Health Care Information**

American Foces Press Service reports that TRICARE, like all other health care providers nationwide, is working under stricter rules when it comes to protecting patients rights and the privacy of their health information. Like its civilian counterparts, the TRICARE Management Activity implemented the privacy portion of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) by April 14 compliance deadline. The act, which Congress passed in 1996 and became public law 04-131m was designed to “combat waste, fraud and abuse, improve medical information, but HIPAA informs individuals of what their rights are and TRICAREs responsibilities to protect health information, which hasn’t been done in the past. TRICARE mailed more than five million notices to beneficiaries informing them of theirs rights.

Who Qualifies as a Veteran?

A veteran must have served on active duty for a minimum of 180 consecutive days (active + duty for training in National Guard or Reserves does not count), and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

A veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.

Others who qualify for veteran status are members of a Reserve or National Guard component who served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

Government Grave Marker Requests Easier

The Department of Veterans Affairs has revised its application form to make requesting a VA grave marker easier. The new form, Application For Standard Government Headstone or Marker (VA Form 40-1330), includes updated information about changes that expand eligibility for a government marker. The VA has also introduced a toll-free fax service for submitting applications, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more, see http://www.cec.va.gov.

The application form on the website can be filled in and printed for submitting by mail or fax. Questions about a headstone or marker application can be directed to VAs Memorial Programs Service assistant unit at 1-800-697-6947.

Who Qualifies as a Veteran?

A veteran must have served on active duty for a minimum of 180 consecutive days (active + duty for training in National Guard or Reserves does not count), and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

A veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability. Others who qualify for veteran status are members of a Reserve or National Guard component who served on active duty during a period of war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge was authorized and was discharged or released with other than a dishonorable discharge.

**Legislation to Assist Military Retirees**

Air Force Retiree News has presented brief overviews of legislation currently under consideration in both houses of government, as being of possible interest to members of the military community. Legislation includes a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, a Retired Pay Retention Act, and a Reservists Retirement and Retention Act. For the full list, see http://www.gpc.randolph.af.mil/afreere/legislat_key.htm.

**Resident Service Office**

Open Tuesdays, 10am to 2pm
(503) 584-3804
1-800-452-7500, ext. 3804
E-mail: RSO@or.rnb.army.mil
US Mail: Reserve Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

**Change of Address**

Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309

New Retiree □ Change □ Stop □ Deceased □
Name _______ _______
Address _______ _______
City _______ _______
State _______ _______
Zip _______ _______
Army NG □ Air NG □
Federal □ State □

**DID YOU KNOW you can purchase life insurance through payroll deduction THAT YOU CAN take with you if/when you leave the National Guard?**

State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) is provided to enhance Servicemans Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Specific program benefits include:

- Benefit payment within 24 hours up to $10,000, with remaining benefits within ten days.
- Spouse and dependent coverage
- No WAR, suicide, or aviation exclusions
- No cost 20% automatic increase after one year off of base plan
- Accelerated death benefit (50% of coverage) in event of terminal illness
- As part of this program, all ONG members have $1,000 free coverage automatically.
- SSLI can be taken with you upon departure from the National Guard and premiums remain the same to age 60.

A Supplemental SSLI coverage can be added to the basic program to provide:

- $50,000 to $250,000 coverage
- Premiums better than SGLI to age 50
- Member and/or spouse additional coverage of $100,000 for $7.50
- Requires basic SSLI coverage
- Some limitations may apply

In 1998, The Oregon National Guard Officer and Enlisted Associations created an umbrella organization, Oregon National Guard Benefits INC., to help to identify and provide benefits for all ONG Soldiers/Airmen and association members. The following describes the program available to you.

Payroll Dducted Group Benefits for Members of the National Guard

STATE SPONSORED LIFE INSURANCE

Unit SSLI Benefit Briefings are being provided throughout the year. Check to find out when the briefings are being made to your unit. Questions and/or interest in the program should be directed to the benefits coordinator.

LTC (Ret) Mike Fielding, SSLI Benefits Coordinator
PO Box 4262, Salem, OR 97302
1-800-819-2774 (SSLI), Cell 503-518-473
Oregon Guard Team Wins Lincoln Marathon 2nd Consecutive Year

Spec. Mike Dudley of the 1249th Engineering Battalion crosses the finish line.

By Col. Larry Studer
Deputy Brigade Commander
82nd Brigade (Troop Command)

Spec. Mike Dudley takes first place at the Lincoln Marathon. Dudley from Alpha Company, 1249 Engineer Battalion, finished with a time of 2:29:36. He led the Oregon Running Team to a second straight first place finish at the 26th Lincoln Marathon.

The normal 7 a.m. start time for the May 4, 2003 event experienced a severe weather delay. Lincoln, Nebr. was on the northern edge of the weather system that reeked havoc on the Midwest. Baseball sized hail, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms pummeled southeastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas, and western Missouri while race officials decided whether to officially start the race.

As officials studied the weather, runners huddled in and around the University of Nebraska Football Stadium and Coliseum. At 7:15 a.m. race officials started over 2600 runners on the wet cold run through the streets of Lincoln. The runners battled periods of heavy downpours, 15 mile per hour winds, 50 degree temperatures, and soaking wet feet through the 26.2-mile course.

Due to the weather, finish times were slower than normal for the elite runners. Even though Dudley won the race with a very respectable time he was well off his personal record of 2:14:37. The weather coupled with the fact he missed eight weeks of training during January and February due to a stress fracture to his foot, prevented this elite runner from performing at peak level.

Dudley, who has been a member of the Guard since 1999 trained and ran with the Army’s World Class Athlete Program. He commented that if for the first couple of miles I was cold because they delayed the start, but at about mile five I got into a rhythm and felt more comfortable. I was just as good as the heat the second place finisher by more than five minutes.


Also running on the Oregon team was Senior Master Sgt. Max White (Oregon Air National Guard) running in his 15th Lincoln Marathon with a time of 3:16:43 and Col. Larry Studer 4:26:26. Spec. Bill Raitter, last year’s top guard finisher, pulled out of the race at about the eight mile mark due to injury.

The Oregon runners staved off the other states’ teams that have been running for Oregon through friendly rivalry over the years. A second-place Indiana team runner said Oregon got some big dogs, so I figured second was the best we could do. We worked hard and performed well, maybe next year we can beat Oregon.

Other states have been fielding faster teams and each year the competition gets stronger. Oregon’s Max White stated four performance was great today. We defended our team title and I think we can do it again next year.

Oregon runners earned individual honors as well as the National Guard team championship. As the overall race winner Dudley was also the National Guard Champion and named to the 2003 National Guard Marathon Team. Also named to the 2003 National Guard Marathon Team were Nixon, third in his age group among the guard runners, and Pritchett. White finished third in his age group and was named to the 2003 National Guard Masters Marathon Team. Studer finished second in his age group, but did not qualify for the Masters Team.

Members of the all Guard Team represent the National Guard at running events throughout the United States and overseas during the coming year. Several of these events include the Air Force Marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon, and the Navy’s Blue Angels Marathon. The four runners are proud of being selected to represent both the National Guard and Oregon in these prestigious events.

When the team presented the First Place Trophy to The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin thanked and congratulated the team members on their great performance. Burgin stated, “The dedication and professionalism these runners display truly sets the standard for others to emulate, not only in physical activities but in day-to-day business. Running a marathon requires a focus, good work ethic, training, physical and mental strength, preparation and dedication to a long-term goal. These are all attributes we look for in our soldiers, airmen, and civilian employees. The effort paid off for these runners and brings great pride to the Oregon National Guard.”

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) recognizes the importance both physical conditioning and a good physical appearance play in recruiting young men and women into the Guard. Therefore, NGB along with the Nebraska National Guard conducted their 20th Annual NGB Marathon Trials and Recruiting Workshop in conjunction with the Lincoln Marathon. This event is an excellent venue for enhancing the visibility of the National Guard and for sharing recruiting information. It also allows guard athletes to compete against excellent athletes and for friendly bragging rights among the states. Bringing guard athletes together shows the communities the quality of soldiers and airmen we are looking for in our ranks.

The marathon is a fun and a great recruiting tool for young people. The Guard offers many opportunities not everyone knows about. This is one of the activities more soldiers would participate in, if they just knew about it. There is a great sense of camaraderie among all of the runners. This is important, because over 26.2 miles everyone needs some encouragement along the route.

World Class Athlete Program (WCAP)
Bring up this regulation and check out the many opportunities.

AR 215-1 addresses the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP). This program offers world class caliber athletes the opportunity to train for national and international sports competitions leading to selection to United States national teams. The WCAP participation is limited to athletes who have attained a high national ranking in a sport or are otherwise recognized to have world class potential.

The following are minimum standards for consideration in running events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,000 meter run</td>
<td>14:46 (men) 17:52 (women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 meter run</td>
<td>31:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathon</td>
<td>2:30:00 3:00:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested athletes must complete an application and submit with supporting documents verifying dates and times through their chain of command.
Oregon Air Guard Teams With Evergreen Aviation to Transport SR-71

By Maj. Donna Prigmore
HQ, ORANG Public Affairs Officer

Almost 30 years ago, Lockheedís SR-71 Blackbird set the world air speed record, flying from New York to London in a distance of almost 3,300 miles in just under two hours. Recently, an SR-71 made a 950 mile trip from Southern California to McMinnville, Oregon in 96 hours. But this time, it wasnít flying, and it wasnít all in one piece.

In late May, seven members from the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) headed to Edwards Air Force Base to load and haul the final segments (mainly the fuselage) of an SR-71 that is now officially on loan to Del Smithís Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.

The fuselage, which arrived at the museum on May 4 after a four-night driving excursion led by ORANG volunteers, California Highway Patrol, and Oregon Incident Response personnel, met up with its original wings and engines, both of which were transported via the I-5 corridor last fall.

According to CMSgt. John Rasmussen, a member of the ORANGís 142nd Logistics Group (LG), the SR-71 logistical feat was an all-volunteer project involving members from the 142 LG and 142nd Communications Flight and heavy equipment donations from local businesses.

The trucks were donated by the Diesel Service Unit and the trailers were donated by Extra Lease, both Portland-based companies. Rasmussen said the coordination was the hardest part since we were considered a superload tractor-trailer load that was 124 feet long (from the front of the truck to the end of the trailer), 23 feet wide, and weighing 22,000 pounds.

According to Rasmussen, this aviation-related logistics project was the fourth of its kind to be undertaken by volunteers of the 142 LG. He quickly admits, however, that this one was the longest load theyíve ever transported and the most complex to plan.

The coordination was the hardest part since we were considered a superload. I explained, We had to get permits in two states detailing when we would travel, where we would fuel, when and where we would pull over to sleep, etc.

Due to the size of the load, travel was only permitted along the I-5 corridor overnight, from 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. To expedite the journey, the haul was transported at an average speed of 60 mph. This was indeed a team project, Rasmussen said. Everyone who participated brought something to it.

No one could have been happier with the ORANGís involvement than the people at Evergreen Aviation and their supporters, all of whom were on-hand to witness the tractor-trailer load as it participated in a special parade the day the SR-71 fuselage arrived in McMinnville.

Governor Signs ESGR Proclamation

Governor Ted Kulongoski signs a proclamation encouraging employer support for the members of the Guard and Reserves at his ceremonial office in May. Representatives from the branches of the military as well as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve volunteers were on hand for this event.
Oregon Guardmembers Help Festival Attendees Envision New Heights

As an estimated two million people gathered over an 11-day period at Portland’s Tom McCall Waterfront Park for the 2003 Portland Rose Festival, members of the Oregon National Guard spent that time helping people reach new heights on a Guard-sponsored rock climbing wall.

The mobile 25-foot wall in Downtown Portland, where climbers are protected by an automatic air-pressure relay, may not seem as exhilarating as free climbing the granite-faced playgrounds of Yosemite National Park, but for some this may be the first step to a new career and lifestyle with the Oregon National Guard.

It’s important for today’s young adults to learn about the many benefits the Guard has to offer, said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory N. Perez, recruiter and career counselor from the Oregon City Recruiting Office. It’s not just about tanks and combat experience. For his deeds at Brecourt Manor, Compton was awarded a Silver Star.

When Martin met Compton and Malarkey two generations of airborne combat experience came together. Martin parachuted into Grenada with the 82nd Airborne, served in Panama, and in Desert Storm with the 82nd Airborne.

The deeds done by Compton and Malarkey when they parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944 and during the months that followed are described in Stephen Ambrose’s “Band Of Brothers” and are portrayed in an HBO miniseries of the same name. Compton and Malarkey were keynote speakers at the ceremony the 1249th Engineer Battalion conducted three days prior to Memorial Day to commemorate the completion of its validation for combat and deployment. The ceremony was organized by Lt. Col. William Schutz, commander of the 1249th engineer battalion.

It is a very special day for our soldiers to be able to complete validation for combat and to meet with two American heroes of the Second World War, I said Schutz. The soldiers of the 1249th sat transfixed while transfixed while Compton and Malarkey described their experiences. They spoke of the formation and training of Easy Company as well as its preparations in England prior to D-Day. After parachuting into Normandy, Easy Company fought across France, participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and then advanced into Germany where they took Hitler’s Eagles Nest Lair. By the war’s end 72% of Easy Company had been severely wounded. All but four percent of the company’s members were awarded purple hearts.

Malarkey has ties to Fort Lewis and the Pacific Northwest. He grew up in, and is still a resident of Astoria, Oregon. He reported to Fort Lewis after being inducted into the Army and prior to reporting for parachute training. Compton described Malarkey as the quintessential noncommissioned officer. He said that he fought the war by proxy through Malarkey and his other NCOs.

They did what NCOs are supposed to do; they took charge. They never let me down. Otley never let me down. Otley was tough, I said Compton. When the war ended, Malarkey held Easy Company’s record for the most consecutive days in combat. Malarkey was awarded a Bronze Star for his service alongside Compton on June 6, 1944 at Brecourt Manor.

Compton also has ties to the West Coast. Prior to World War II he was attending UCLA, where he competed in a Rose Bowl game and was also a member of the university’s baseball team. Marley described Compton as an outstanding officer. The assault lead by Compton on the guns at Brecourt Manor is still studied by military historians and professors. Compton led 13 soldiers who took out a four-gun battery of 105mm howitzers. The guns Compton destroyed were significantly interfering with the landing forces moving off Utah Beach on Causeway Number Two. Comptons 13-member team defeated 80 soldiers who were well dug in. His actions at Brecourt Manor were the subject of a recently delivered series of seven lectures at West Point on the assault. Compton said he had no recollections of his combat experience. For his deeds at Brecourt Manor, Compton was awarded a Silver Star.

When Martin met Compton and Malarkey two generations of airborne combat experience came together. Martin parachuted into Grenada with the 82nd Airborne, served in Panama, and in Desert Storm with the 82nd Airborne.
Oregon Air Guard Salutes Salem-Based Employer
By Maj. Donna Prigmore, Public Affairs Officer, HQ, ORANG

UPS Aviation Technologies (UPSAT), a subsidiary of United Parcel Service (UPS), received the Oregon Air National Guard’s 2002 Employer of the Year Award on March 29 in Portland. The award was presented to John Macnabb, UPSAT’s general manager, and Steve VanArsdale, director of manufacturing, during the ORANG’s annual awards banquet.

Each year, drill status Guard or Reserve members in each state nominate civilian employers for this prestigious award for extra support they provide to citizen-soldier employees.

Master Sgt. Steve Fetters, a service technician for UPSAT and a member of the ORANG’s 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, Ore., nominated his employer due to the tremendous support provided to him since being called to active duty in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

According to Fetters, his entire chain of supervisors and many employees at UPSAT have gone to great lengths to demonstrate their support and have shown an overwhelmingly positive and understanding attitude toward his military commitment.

UPS Aviation Technologies has maintained his health insurance at no charge, offered financial assistance and extended offers of support and help to his family as circumstances have arisen, explained Fetters. He has received care packages during the holidays and Christmas cards signed by all the employees.

Fetters, who is UPSAT’s only employee in the ORANG, admits having his employer’s full support is extremely important to him as it helps ease the usual factors. According to Fetters, he has been assured time and time again that he is missed and his job will be waiting for him when he returns from active duty.

“I am very anxious to get him (Fetters) back but we are also very patient,” admitted Steve VanArsdale of UPSAT.

“We all have things to do that we don’t have control over, so we try to be as supportive as we can of him and his family,”

The mail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

L또의 very hot here and the temperatures will continue to climb for the next two months. The camp we are at in Iraq is not a safe place with gunfire outside the wire nightly. Fortunately, many of the rounds are fired in the air. We are always getting information that we will be attacked, so must be prepared. Convoy's are frequently engaged by sniper fire so this is not a safe place and probably won't be for sometime yet. So far all 82 ROC personnel are doing fine and have a great attitude.

Tell all hello for me and know I’m looking forward to the day we come home (hopefully by December). Believe me, the USA is the greatest country on earth!

Col. Charlie Yriarte
Commander, 82 ROC

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

It is very hot here and the temperatures will continue to climb for the next two months. The camp we are at in Iraq is not a safe place with gunfire outside the wire nightly. Fortunately, many of the rounds are fired in the air. We are always getting information that we will be attacked, so must be prepared. Convoy’s are frequently engaged by sniper fire so this is not a safe place and probably won’t be for sometime yet. So far all 82 ROC personnel are doing fine and have a great attitude.

Tell all hello for me and know I’m looking forward to the day we come home (hopefully by December). Believe me, the USA is the greatest country on earth!

Col. Charlie Yriarte
Commander, 82 ROC

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

It is very hot here and the temperatures will continue to climb for the next two months. The camp we are at in Iraq is not a safe place with gunfire outside the wire nightly. Fortunately, many of the rounds are fired in the air. We are always getting information that we will be attacked, so must be prepared. Convoy’s are frequently engaged by sniper fire so this is not a safe place and probably won’t be for sometime yet. So far all 82 ROC personnel are doing fine and have a great attitude.

Tell all hello for me and know I’m looking forward to the day we come home (hopefully by December). Believe me, the USA is the greatest country on earth!

Col. Charlie Yriarte
Commander, 82 ROC

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.

TheMail seems to be the biggest concern to the soldiers. They know the families are sending lots of letters and packages but they are very slow getting to the soldiers. This is a theater-wide issue, not just Bravo Company.

Capt. Marcus Williams
Commander, B-52 Engineers

Lots and lots of flat tires and leaks caused by the extreme heat. It is a lot cooler in the northern part of the country.

Last week the ASP holding the recovered enemy ammunition caught fire and exploded over a time frame of six hours. It was close enough that objects started falling out of the sky near us. We took cover in an Iraqi Air Force hangar until it was all over. All are safe.
Tactical Communications Prove Difficult

ORANG Members Overcome Numerous Challenges in a Foreign Land

Squadron Public Affairs Office
244th Combat Communications

Setting up secure tactical communications is normally a walk in the park for Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgts. Bruce Anderson and John Schmuhl. That is except when the air base is in desolate Afghanistan, where even simple tasks can be fraught with unwanted adventure.

Take laying cable in the ground, for example. Both said that they found bones from the Soviet-Afghan war every time they dug a hole or a trench. Such was life at Bagram Air Base in March, where a one-week mission can take a month. But if not for the skills and ingenuity of Anderson and Schmuhl, communications might have taken even longer to establish.

The two are from the 224th Combat Communications Squadron. They were with the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at another deployed location in March when the 74th and its A-10 Thunderbolt IIs were sent to Bagram to provide close air support. Anderson and Schmuhl were responsible for networking, phones and ground radio at the departing base. They were hand picked to set up communications for A-10s at Bagram but had no real picture of conditions there.

Since their departing base couldn’t support further forward deployment, especially communications support, Anderson and Schmuhl were forced to quickly improvise. They had to beg, borrow and steal the networking and tactical phone equipment from other locations, said Schmuhl, a ground radio technician. They had to take one radio from another location, scrounge the antennas, and repair another.

Their first week included non-communications work, such as leveling ground, building wooden platforms for tents and setting up tents. Communications equipment then arrived six days late because pallets on board a transport plane were unloaded at a stopover point to make room for priority equipment. Additional requests for radios, computer drops and phone lines for several other locations then added to the workload. Once communications equipment arrived, however, they filled initial requests within 48 hours.

Anderson and Schmuhl mapped out a detailed communications plan for the compound and used every bit of the equipment they brought with them. Other communications personnel from the 74th now maintain the equipment on a two-week rotational basis. Two-thirds of the communications unit includes Air Guardsmen from California, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Washington.

Firefighting: A Real-World Mission

By Chief Warrant Officer Pete Davis
HQ STARC, ORANG

December 23, 2002 will always be a special day for Chief Warrant Officer Michael C. Cataldo.

Accompanying him on the milestone flight were crewmembers Chief Warrant Officer Jacob Weber, and Sgt. Raymond Paterson. Passengers on board the helicopter were: Capt. Leo Manahl, Staff Sgt. Chris Bill, Tech. Sgt. Mike Serricchio, 2nd Lt. Dave Johnson, Saud Al-huraish (RSAF) and Lt. Col. Tom Walker (ER Doc).

It was a great late afternoon flight with light winds and visibility of fifteen miles. As the aircraft landed the sun was setting in the west 6 the perfect time of the day to fly.

A ceremony at the operations trailer that marked the occasion included a card and a coin, lots of hand shakes and congratulations, a Budweiser (non-alcoholic) beer, and a lots of laughs.

Cataldo was among the last element of the 1042nd Medical Company to return from their deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Desert Spring and Iraqi Freedom.

Personnel Profile

Sgt. Rayna Quinn contemplates the beauty of the John Day Forest during a forest firefighting training mission.
Win a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle

The Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund will raffle off a customized 2002 FLHTC Electra Glide Classic motorcycle. Some stock parts for the motorcycle, as well as some leather accessories will also be given to the winner along with the bike. Only 5000 tickets will be sold at $5 each. Tickets can be purchased through KTVL-TV in Medford, D & S Cycles in Phoenix, Ore., or Sgt. Martha Garcia at Joint Headquarters (503-584-3939). Checks should be made payable to the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (ONGERF). The drawing will be held Aug. 30, 2003 at 4 p.m. at D & S Cycles where the bike is currently on display. KTVL-TV, Channel 10 (CBS affiliate in Medford) will broadcast the promotion.

The bike was donated by a Roseburg couple who wish to remain anonymous.

Businesses Offer Military Discounts

The following are just a few area businesses and merchants that offer discounts to military members and their families. Valid military or dependent’s ID is required to receive discounts.

- Schuckís Auto Supply, Sears (10%, check your local store),
- Baxterís Auto, Thrifty Auto Supply,
- Kinkoís (Free internet access),
- The RingSide Restaurant (Glendoveer),
- Dress Barn (15% at Woodburn & Mall 205),
- Eddie Bauer Apparel, Home or Outlet Stores; 20%, and BorderBooks (July 11-13; 20% off book purchases only).

If you know of other businesses offering discounts, or changes or corrections to the list, please contact Patti Helzer at the Family Center at (503) 557-5339, or via e-mail at: Patti.Helzer@or.ngb.army.mil.

Oregon National Guard Invades Capitol

Outlookers flock to view the 1042nd UH-60 ìFirehawkî, which was on display for the First Annual National Guard Appreciation Day, held at the state capitol in Salem, Ore., on June 27, 2003. Members of Oregonís Army and Air National Guard were on hand, displaying hardware, equipment, and answering questions. Legislators and officials were treated to a Bar-B-Que salmon luncheon on the capitol steps. Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, Brig. Gen. James Cunningham and other military dignitaries were in attendance.

Staff Sgt. Sean Wilson placed first in the Rogue Beer Chili Cook-Off with his entry, ìSeanís Beer-Blazing Elk Chiliî, made with none other than... elk-meat. The contest was held on May 17, 2003 in downtown Portlandís Pearl District, where Wilson competed against other contestants from throughout the state. Proceeds from the event went to the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund, which provides financial aid to families of deployed soldiers. ìIt was such a blast,î said Wilson, ìI had a blast.î said Wilson. ìItís not your ordinary thing you do for your country, but it was definitely fun.î Wilsonís involvement with the competition stems from an ongoing relationship with area businesses who promote the National Guardís involvement in community events such as the cook-off.

Guardmember ëHotí in Chili Cook-Off

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nick Choy

Photo by Staff Maj. Arnold Strong

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tom Hovie