By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry gathered to bid farewell to four of his fellow soldiers, pg. 5

Friends and family members continued to flow in as the ceremony began and the crowd of wellwishers continued to grow throughout the entire ceremony.

A mounted-cavalry colors as members of Oregon National Guard’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry stand in formation at a mobilization ceremony held at the Eastern Oregon State University’s Tiger Community Stadium in La Grande, Ore. on June 30. Family and friends of the soldiers, as well as Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrme, Acting Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Gayhart, Commander of the 116th Brigade (Idaho Army National Guard) attended the ceremony.

It was standing room only at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds on July 29, 2004, as families and friends of G-Troop, 82nd Cavalry gathered to bid farewell to approximately 150 soldiers who have been activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Not only were there many family members and friends, but representatives of the local community were out in force. Businesses donated refreshments, decorations, and snacks, and the Outback Steakhouse provided a BBQ lunch for all soldiers and their families and friends. The show of community support was overwhelming.

For a ceremony that was to begin at 11 a.m., families and friends had filled the facility to overflowing several hours prior to the arrival of the troops, who had previously formed up just outside the building.

Soldiers from La Grande, Baker City, Hermiston, Pendleton, Ontario, and The Dalles will deploy to Iraq

ORARNG’s 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry mobilized

G-Troop, 82nd CAV heading for Ft. Bliss, Texas, then Iraq

Capt. Tenue Chinen, Jr. is presented with the Oregon State flag by Gov. Ted Kulongoski’s Chief of Staff, Mr. Craig Campbell. The unit will fly the flag over their compound in Iraq. G-Troop, 82nd CAV was mobilized for duty on June 29 in Redmond, Ore.
Letters
From The Front

Soldier’s wife provides great list of needed items

Hello again everyone.
The boys are still doing well. Spirits are high and the boys seem really happy. They have long hours and it’s really hot! Matt laughs every time I complain about the 96-de-
gree weather.

Slowly but surely they are rebuilding their camp. After the pulling of their roommate unit they were left without mail, a gym or computer access. Some of the guys have gone in groups and bought Haji cell phones. They work but not very well. Matt hopes that he will be able to send more pictures soon but for now these are wonderful, don’t you agree?

They are now running missions pretty regularly, mostly working with the Iraqi Security forces, doing things like traffic control. And everything has been really quiet for them. Thank God. They want to send their love but with the limited access to things it has been really hard. They have worked out a system with the mail; sending letters with missions that travel to other camps. That way takes longer but seems to be working. Incoming mail has been a more difficult task and they don’t have that one worked out yet.

I’ll keep you posted. Matt recently sent me a wish list:

- Envelopes
- Stamps
- 2-ply toilet paper
- Huggies Baby Wipes
- Pads of paper
- Payday candy bar
- Blank CD-R’s and the padded envelopes to send them home
- Pictures, lots and lots of pictures
- Crew Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Magazines and Newspapers (Clean ones only. They’ll take the dirt ones away)
- Tuna in pouches

I hope that makes it easier for those of you who chompin’ at the bit trying to shop for these boys. I don’t have Cline’s list but he’s working on it. Not much else to report.

1st Cavalry Division
Bravo Co., 2-162 IN BN

Erica Eyerly

The Oregon Sentinel — Special Commemorative Edition

Letters

Dear readers, comments and feedback are welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime telephone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed. Letters to the editor are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the Oregon Sentinel staff members listed below.

The Oregon Sentinel utilizes Times New Roman and Arial fonts, and is designed using Adobe InDesign CS. Graphics are produced using Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop. All design and layout are accomplished on a Macintosh G5 computer. Text files are edited using Microsoft Word.
A recent article by a Portland newspaper covered the activation of members of the 41st Brigade who were mobilized for duty in Afghanistan. The unit would act as an infantry training team with the 76th Infantry Brigade, of the Indiana Army National Guard. The mobilization and deployment was used as a point and counterpoint on the war in Iraq as well as providing a venue to discuss patriotism.

As service members we take an oath to support and defend the constitution of the United States. That support extends to the constitution as a whole, not just those parts we agree with. Patriots do come in all stripes.

There are many parallels that can be made between the war in Viet Nam and Iraq. The newspaper article points out several, but a major difference is the impact felt by local communities, families, and friends by virtue of the National Guard and other reserve forces being mobilized and deployed. America, for better or worse, is committed to following through on its commitment to Iraq.

Another major difference between the conflicts in Viet Nam and Iraq is how the public has separated the soldier their service to our nation out of the national controversy. Military service is still consistently seen as the most respected vocation in the nation.

As an organization, ours is truly unique. Since its inception nearly 370 years ago, the National Guard has been made up of men and women from local neighborhoods and communities. Your local dentist may be a Squadron Commander at PANG Base, the local grocery store may be an infantry soldier in the 116th Military Police Co., or the woman who cuts your hair once a month might be a Blackhawk pilot with the 1042nd Med. Co. in Salinas. When these men and women finish their training year. Some 750 people attended the ball and as they say; “a good time was had by all”. Again this year it was held at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville. The venue provides us plenty of room and nice surroundings. This is an excellent place to hold this function and we thank Evergreen for being able to host our group.

From July 12 – 18, I had the opportunity – along with Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Brig. Gen. James Cunningham and Maj. Alaine Encabo – to visit our deployed officers and airmen at Keflavik Iceland and Spangdemark, Germany. The 142nd Fighter Wing at the Portland Air Base deployed 5 jets and approximately two-hundred personnel travelled from Iceland through Europe during three rotations between June 2nd and July 20th for the purpose of deterring aggression in the North Atlantic, protecting Iceland’s air space, and supporting contingency operations with air superiority. Along with visiting the troops we had the pleasure of meeting with Rear Admiral Noel G. Preston, the Chief of Staff, Regional Headquarters South Atlantic, and Col. Steven F. Dreyer, Deputy Commander for the 85th Group at Keflavik Naval Air Station.

The 142nd Fighter Wing/Civil Engineer Squadron also deployed 43 personnel to Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, over the period of July 11 – 27. These airmen were in direct support of the 52nd Fighter Wing. While deployed, they built a garrison, repaired runways, generators and numerous electrical equipment, and completed various plumbing projects. We visited with, and were briefed by (General select) Stephen P. Mueller, 52nd FW/C.

After talking with leadership from Keflavik and Spangdahlem, it was not surprising to me to hear their accolades about our personnel. Time and time again, I heard them say Oregon Guard personnel did outstanding work and presented a very professional attitude. From one of you in the Oregon Air National Guard are all ambassadors of Oregon and your professionalism and ‘can do’ attitude puts you above any other guard unit in the United States.

I am very proud of each and every one of you and couldn’t think of a better group of men and women to represent. You are the best.

FROM THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to the troops of the Oregon National Guard:

Over the past several months, the daily hazards of the environment you are in have resonated across the globe. As we have communicated publicly the courageous actions of you and your peers, we have tried to do so in a way that acknowledges the sacrifice of your brothers in arms while honoring your service and recognizing the extraordinary work you have accomplished. We have built this special issue of The Oregon Sentinel as a salute to the “Volunteers.”

An Open Letter to the troops of the Oregon National Guard:

Finally the old Major stepped in and with a gesture silenced the babble. “Gentlemen” said he, “allow me to demonstrate how a good officer would do this job.” He turned to the Sergeant and said, “Sergeant, please have the men put up the flagpole.” Nothing more was said and in a few minutes the pole was up.

From this month’s coverage of your efforts has helped to keep your friends and families here at home aware of the successes and challenges you each face.

While you have been deployed, the Oregon National Guard has been focusing on mobilizing other units as well. By the time this issue reaches you, your Cavalry brothers from 3-116, and G-Troop, 82nd Cav, will have completed their training at Fort Bliss, Texas. We have already mobilized the 1186th Military Police Battalion, which began its deployment to Keflavik Naval Air Station.

As an organization, ours is truly unique. Since its inception nearly 370 years ago, the National Guard has been made up of men and women from local neighborhoods and communities. Your local dentist may be a Squadron Commander at PANG Base, the local grocery store may be an infantry soldier in the 116th Military Police Co., or the woman who cuts your hair once a month might be a Blackhawk pilot with the 1042nd Med. Co. in Salinas. When these men and women finish their training at Fort Bliss, Texas. We have already mobilized the 1186th Military Police Battalion, which began its deployment to Keflavik Naval Air Station.

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ORANG’s 101st Combat Operations Group holds exercise in California

By Maj. Donna Prigmore, Director of Personnel, 101st COG

HERLONG, Calif. – In mid-May, forty members from the 101st Combat Operations Group deployed to Amedee Airfield in Harlong, Calif. for nine days of field and combat training. This was the second exercise of its kind since November 2003 and involved members from the 244th Combat Communications Squadron, the 272nd Combat Communications Squadron, the 123rd Weather Flight, and the 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron. One combat controller from the emerging Oregon Air Guard’s 125th Special Tactics Squadron also participated in the exercise.

According to Capt. Leon McGuire, chief of air traffic control operations and officer-in-charge of the deployment, the purpose of the exercise was to train Guard members — under enemy fire, and in austere conditions — on the takeover of an existing airfield and the establishment of air operations through the set-up of an air traffic control tower, TACAN, radio/satellite communications equipment, and weather equipment.

“Many of our members were tasked to perform their functions in unfamiliar and challenging environments [such as controlling aircraft with night vision devices] which they had never done in the field before.”

The change was beneficial for members of the 272nd and 244th Combat Communications Squadrions. Prior to the establishment of the 101st COG, the combat communications members trained to set-up their radio, satellite, and computer equipment at an established military base overseas or in a forward operating location. With the requirement now being one of securing and operating from a location sometimes deep in enemy territory, a different approach to the way they do business and train has quickly surfaced.

All 101st COG members who participated in the exercise not only had to set-up defensive fighting positions and their own tactical equipment, but also had to erect tents with CCD (camouflage, concealment and deception) netting, protect the compound, and respond to enemy fire in a sometimes chaotic, frustrating “fog of war” environment.

Once the compound was set-up and all equipment established, air traffic controllers (later in the deployment phase) began conducting air operations at night with C-130s from the Nevada and California Air National Guard units.

“Our ultimate goal, as a team, is to wield the airfield as a weapons system in real world situations,” explained McGuire, “and get aircraft flying into and out of the combat zone as soon as we can.”

A California Air National Guard C-130 lands at Amedee Airfield near Herlong, Calif. during a joint training exercise with the 101st Combat Operations Group in May 2004.

According to Lt. Col. Michael Labounty, vice commander of the 101st COG, Oregon’s new combat operations group represents a conglomeration of tactical C4ISR (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) – all of which are capabilities that represent one of the fastest growing warfare trends in the Air Force today.

“We are designing the C4ISR package to train like we fight,” said Labounty. “Going into harm’s way is the ultimate test.”

“Just like in sports,” he added, “it’s a game we want to win 100-0.”

Continued from PAGE 1

Because we have a superb team of soldiers and heroes, like the warriors of this brigade dedicated to winning this war,” stated Gen. Gayhart.

“I am honored and humbled to be among the great warriors and families of this battalion, who like other patriots of this nation, are the next greatest generation.” Gayhart continued.

Gayhart concluded his address with this message. “I look forward to another great celebration when we return. Rest assured, this brigade will do what our nation has asked of us and return in keeping with the motto of our heritage ‘Sine Mora’ – without delay.”

The many communities of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry, Idaho’s 116th Brigade and the 3rd ACR from Ft. Bliss, for training in preparation for their rotation into Iraq later this year.

Deployments will put almost 1,000 troops in Iraq by year’s end
Oregon mourns the loss of four of her sons

By Capt. Michael S. Braibish, 
State Public Affairs Officer

In solemn ceremonies performed with deeply held tradition, honor, and the unique respect the military bestows upon fallen heroes, the citizen-soldiers of Oregon bid their final farewells to four brothers whose lives were taken in combat in Baghdad, Iraq.

The deaths of these soldiers, who were killed in two separate attacks, sent shock waves through the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry family, their communities and the state.

In the first attack on June 4, according to accounts from Delta Company, 1st Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. Justin Eyerly, and Spec. Justin Linden were on patrol when an explosion in the distance caught their attention. Taking immediate action in their “Humvee” (High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle), the soldiers responded to the scene of the explosion and found that a patrol from the New Jersey National Guard had come under attack by insurgents using an improvised explosive device, or IED.

Instinct and training took over as McCrae and his soldiers rushed to establish security and deliver lifesaving care to the injured soldiers. As they did so, insurgents detonated a second IED killing Eyerly and Linden. McCrae later died as doctors at a combat support hospital desperately tried to save his life.

Hundreds of family, friends and co-workers memorialized Eyerly June 13 at the Rose Garden Arena. He was remembered for his love of music, his passion for duty.

See ORARNG soldiers page 6

Fellow soldier in Iraq remember fallen comrades

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah Mae-Bruns,
39th Brigade Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD, IRAQ – Recently in Baghdad, a platoon of infantrymen from the 2nd battalion, 162nd Infantry, Company D, were on a routine patrol when they heard an explosion and saw smoke billowing into the air. The platoon leader decided to investigate thinking someone might need help.

Upon arrival, the young platoon leader learned an improvised explosive device (IED) hit a small convoy of military police.

A military vehicle was on fire and there were injured on the ground. While the gunner remained in the turret to maintain security, the lieutenant and two of his men quickly jumped from the vehicle to render aid to soldiers from New Jersey.

As they hurried off, with combat lifesaver bag in hand, a second IED was hand detonated killing a total of five soldiers, including Oregon National Guard members Sgt. Justin Eyerly, 23, and Spec. Justin Linden, 24, of Portland, Ore., instantly.

The following is a eulogy and account of events written by the gunner, Spec. Nathan Melton, who also spoke at Lt. McCrae’s memorial service.

I had been with Lt. Erik McCrae ever since he first joined the military. I remember when he was a brand new Lieutenant in E Troop, and I was his driver. Even then I was impressed with his knowledge and professionalism. Over the years on his truck I saw him develop and grow into a platoon leader anyone would be proud to have.

When we heard the first explosion he immediately had us investigate, and after seeing the MPs (Military Police) in trouble he knew they needed help and didn’t hesitate to get over there. Shortly after we arrived, there was a second explosion. I was the first to try and help him, and despite being very badly wounded and in extreme pain he wasn’t concerned about himself.

He asked me, “How’s Linden? How’s Eyerly? Is everybody O.K.”? I told him they were fine though I didn’t know at the time that the two had died. Throughout the time I was with Erik he kept wanting to make sure everyone was safe and okay, and never complained about his wounds.

His worrying about his men and not about himself speaks more about his character than I ever could.

I met Spec. Justin Linden after he enlisted into the Oregon National Guard. He was one of the many young men who joined the National Guard for the simple reason that he felt the obligation to serve his country. He was a good, decent, and kind soul.

Thank you for your service, Spec. Justin Linden. Rest in peace.

See National Guard page 8

Oregon Sentinel
Vol. 2... Issue No. 4
July/August 2004

Fellow soldier in Iraq remember fallen comrades

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Thank you for your service, Spec. Justin Linden. Rest in peace.

See National Guard page 8
A Message From The Governor

Dear Members of the 2-162:

I want to say a few words to the brave men of the 2nd Battalion, 162nd infantry. I know that you are in perhaps the most dangerous place in the world. Since the very day you arrived you have been in harm’s way. Why you are there is not a mystery to me; in you, the soldiers of the 2-162, Oregon has produced some of the best soldiers in the world. You have been well trained, you know what you are doing, and you can be counted upon to take on any challenge and to face any danger. I am so very proud of you.

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you so that you would know that we here in Oregon are thinking of you. We are grateful to you for the courageous sacrifice you are making and you are never far from our thoughts and our prayers.

Since arriving in Iraq, you have paid a very dear price as you have fought for the freedom of others. Four of your own have come home before their time - four valiant men who will never be forgotten. But neither shall you. Every day I look upon your guidon, proudly hanging in my private office at the capitol, and every morning I say a prayer for your swift and safe return.

Oregon will be home for you when you return. With your return you will replace hot sun with temperate winds and cool rains; parched sand with lush green, and the faces of strangers and enemies with the smiles of your loving friends and family. You will be able to rest in the freedom and peace of your actions in Iraq have provided. It is a rest you richly deserve.

To us - to you - it may seem an eternity, but the day of your return comes closer with each day. You left as soldiers; you will return as heroes.

Governor Ted Kulongoski
Governor, State of Oregon

ORARNG soldiers ambushed while on patrol in Baghdad

continued from PAGE 5

and expertise in information technologies, and for his compassion for the people around him.

“He was everything I love about this state and its people,” said Gov. Ted Kulongoski, who attended ceremonies for each Oregon guardsmen killed in Iraq. “He was a great hero, and while he certainly died too young, he did not die in vain.”

Eyerly was buried at a private cemetery in Portland on June 14, and is survived by his parents, a brother, and a sister.

Linden was buried at Willamette National Cemetery on June 14. His widow, Sarah, had just married Justin in February prior to the unit deployment to Iraq. “I am so grateful that I can say that Specialist Justin Wayne Linden was my husband, my hero, and my everything,” said Sara. “Nothing will ever compare to the love that I shared with him and the joy that he brought to my life ... you will be greatly missed, and we all love you.”

Linden is survived by his wife and parents.

McCrae, the son of Oregon Army National Guard Col. Scott McCrae, was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery after a memorial ceremony at Beaverton Christian Church on June 18.

“What we have is an incomparable sense of loss,” said Pastor Steve McCracken. “The United States lost her son, and Oregon lost her son. There is an almost suffocating sense of loss. He was uncommonly humble and wore lots of hats — husband, son, brother, grandpa, proud Scotsman and proud soldier.”

McCrae was also married in February prior to the unit’s deployment. He is survived by his parents, his wife, and his brother who is a Captain in the Oregon Army National Guard.

In the second attack on June 13, Spec. Eric S. McKinley of Bravo Company was on a patrol when his vehicle came under attack from insurgents that detonated an IED.

Governor Ted Kulongoski, the Commander-in-Chief of the Oregon National Guard has provided comfort and support to all families who have lost a loved one. Additionally, support from the local communities for both memorials and funerals to honor these fallen heroes has been overwhelming and moving for all those who attended.

I would ask each of you to keep Spec. Nathan Nakis, 1st Lt. Erik McCrae, Sgt. Justin Eyerly, Spec. Justin Linden, and Spec. Eric S. McKinley, and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Let not their passing be in vain, and let not the memory of their exemplary lives and service be forgotten.

These brave soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice defending the Iraqi people – who are now on the outset of their journey toward democracy, freedom, and self-governance – ideals we in America hold dear.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr.
Acting Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard

Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard carry Spec. Justin W. Linden out to a waiting hurse shortly following memorial ceremonies at New Hope Community Church in Clackamas on June 14.

McKinley was memorialized at Starker Park in Corvallis on June 26. Family and friends remembered him fondly and with admiration. McKinley had planned to open a juice bar to provide a safe and drug free environment for youngsters in his community.

“Being a soldier gave meaning and purpose to Eric’s life,” said Governor Kulongoski. “It gave him home and opportunity for the future.”

McKinley is survived by his mother and father.

There are more than 700 soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry on duty in Baghdad and 15 soldiers with Detachment 2, L Company of the 115th Aviation Battalion.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Acting Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard salutes 1st Lt. Erik McCrae as the ORARNG Color Guard begins to fold the American flag.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, State Public Affairs Office
A Soldier’s Life: A tribute to fallen heros

1. A lone bagpiper plays Amazing Grace.
5. Dogtags and medals adorn a shrine erected to honor McKinley.
7. ORARNG Honor Guard fire a 21-gun salute at Spec. McKinley’s memorial service.
8. ORARNG’s UH-60 Blackhawks fly in a “missing-man” formation over Linden’s memorial service.
10. Family and friends join to honor 1st Lt. McCrae at his memorial service.
Fellow soldier celebrates the lives of his brothers-in-arms

Continued from PAGE 5

listed in the National Guard, but before we went to basic training. He wanted to know everything to expect, and was excited to go and become a soldier. After he got back from basic training we became fast friends. Before any of us knew this deployment would happen for sure, he volunteered to go. When I later talked with him about it he said he couldn’t let his friends go to war without him.

One night here, as we were eating dinner together, he told me he was in a hurry to get back and try and go on a mission that our truck wasn’t assigned to go on. I asked him why he goes out of the way to volunteer? We had plenty of missions and there were plenty more to come. He told me that he wanted to be there in case this mission was ‘the one’ where somebody needed him, one where he could make a difference.

That was the type of person he was. He was always willing to be there for someone who I think it’s important to support no. If anyone wanted or needed anything – to hum a cigarette, a couple of bucks, or just help with something – he was always there to love to make people laugh. He had a secret desire to be a stand up comedian, though I don’t think he was any good. Whenever I was in a bad mood, he would always start cracking jokes and feeling around until he made me laugh. Now I wish I had told him he was the funniest guy I’ve ever met. He often talked with me about how when he got back he wanted to get a tattoo of the Combat Infantryman’s Badge with his dad, who was a Vietnam Veteran. He told me he didn’t think he had earned it yet though. My feeling is that he’s definitely earned it now.

When we pulled up to help the MPs, I remember Lt. McCrae asking if he was going to stay with the vehicle. He replied “I’m CLS (combat life saver) Sir.” The last time I saw Linden alive he was running towards the burning Humvee and the wounded soldiers with his CLS bag around his shoulders. He was the most caring and generous friend I ever had and he will be missed.

“He was always willing to be there for someone who needed help.”

Sgt. Justin Eyerly

“[I just said, “you know what, I’m going to adopt you.”],” said Kathy Elliott, General Manager of PGE’s Technology Support Division.

PGE employees responded with overwhelming support, offering cash donations, necessary toiletries and snacks, and items specifically requested by the deployed Oregon troops.

“This is a true grassroots effort,” Elliot said. “I talked about it in my organization, and as people learned about it, there was a groundswell of support for it.”

“I think it’s important to support the men and women overseas,” said Mike McClain, PGE TS Project Manager. “It’s important for them to know that there’s people here supporting them and are behind them, and who have an understanding of what they need. It brightens up their spirits.”

The boxes, weighing approximately 2,400 lbs., were packed and shipped at the PGE headquarters in downtown Portland on June 11. This most recent shipment included snacks, sunglasses, baby wipes, and four laptop computers with multimedia capability and DVD-ROMs. According to Elliot, the shipment’s value was approximately $10,000, and it should arrive in Iraq by June 18. This most recent shipment of donations is the result of a corporate donation of care packages by PGE employees (l. to r.), Micah Taylor, Sgt. Shane Carpenter, Mike McClain, Kathy Elliott, Paul Kane, and Sgt. Barry Beddor who helped pack some 50 care packages sent from PGE headquarters.

“Several Oregon National Guard members were there for the event. Sgt. 1st Class Gower D. Talley passed out ORARNG ‘Boonie’ hats to PGE employees helping with the effort.

“This was over and beyond what casual supporters have been doing,” said Oregon ESGR Director Col. (ret.) Bob Elliot, who was also on hand for the event.

“I already have employees coming up to me and asking ‘Are you going to do this again?’ and I said absolutely yes,” Kathy Elliott said. “We’ll post lists of items that the soldiers need the most and people can bring them in. We’ll ship it over there sometime before Thanksgiving.”

“Now I’m being teased, they’re saying these are ‘Kathy’s Boys,’” Elliot continued.

“I guess I do have more sons than I thought I would have,” Elliot said. “If you would like your donation to Oregon National Guard troops to be included in the next PGE shipment, please contact Kathy Elliott at (503) 464-8662, or via e-mail at kathy_elliott@pge.com.

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
State Public Affairs Office

PORTLAND, ORE. — Portland General Electric (PGE) employees realized the benefits of their labor, when the Oregon National Guard and several members of the local media descended upon the downtown offices of PGE on June 18.

Employees spent several months organizing a corporate donation of care packages destined for Iraq, and the Oregon National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, currently deployed there.

The idea for the donation effort came out of individual employees asking how they could send much-needed items to their fellow Oregon troopers. "I think it’s important to support the men and women overseas," said Mike McClain, PGE TS Project Manager. "It’s important for them to know that there’s people here supporting them and are behind them, and who have an understanding of what they need. It brightens up their spirits.”

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“When you’re in harms way, I can imagine what these items mean to them,” said Sgt. Shane Carpenter, of PGE’s Communications/Operations Group, and member of ORARNG’s-E Troop, 82nd Cavalry. “Some of these things are as good as gold to these guys, and we try to get them as much of these items as we can.”

Col. Cameron Crawford, Deputy Brigade Commander, agreed that the effort of PGE’s employees and other individual contributors has a huge impact on troop morale. Crawford was ‘adopted’ by his niece’s grade-school class while he was deployed to Kuwait in the early-90s during Operation Desert Storm, and the youngsters sent him letters and care packages on a regular basis.

“IT did a lot to boost my morale,” Crawford said. “But at the same time, it helped the local community understand what it means to be deployed overseas. It makes duty more bearable in what is otherwise a pretty miserable situation.”

Crawford noted that these kinds of donations are made possible by individuals who care about the well-being of Oregon’s soldiers and airmen, but who credited the company for providing the financial backing and resources to make it happen.

“The effect this has on the local community is that it heightens the awareness that we have Oregon troops deployed overseas and that they’re being supported,” Crawford continued.

This particular effort is just an incredible example of what employees can do on their own,” said Elliott. “We received letters and cards from family members of deployed soldiers saying how much they appreciate what we’re doing,” she continued.

Several Oregon National Guard members
ORARNG prepares for training missions with big move

NEWBERG, Ore. – It’s a sight that brings feelings of pride and honor to the American public, and impending doom to America’s foes — convoys of military vehicles rolling down the highway, destined for transport to a foreign land — and eventual use in a military campaign.

During the week of July 12, personnel from the HAC 141 Support Battalion coordinated the loading and inventory of various Oregon National Guard vehicles that will be transported via railroad to several large-scale training missions throughout the state, and eventually the Pinion Canyon Training Site in Southern Colorado.

A large parcel of land on the north end of Newberg was designated the staging area where 50 ORARNG soldiers helped load the vehicles onto rail cars. The vehicles, which include two-and-a-half-ton trucks, HMMWV “Humvees”, conex boxes (large shipping containers), prime movers and trailers will make a stop in Portland, where they will then be arranged for their final destination at the Pinion Canyon site. Once there, the vehicles will be cataloged and assigned to Oregon National Guard units already training at the site.

Each rail car had a flagger who helped guide the vehicles into position. Another person acts as a “spotter”, whose job it is to watch for potential hazards. Each vehicle is loaded separately to ensure safety and proper loading procedures. After each vehicle is loaded onto the rail car, the railroad contractor secures the vehicle to the platform of the rail car and does a final inspection to make sure the vehicle is properly secured for the long journey ahead. At this rate, the crew can load about 40 vehicles a day.

During the week, there were almost 160 vehicles loaded and ready for the trip to Colorado. In addition to vehicles, equipment was also loaded onto the rail cars. A total of 400 individual pieces of equipment and vehicles were loaded prior to the July 16 operation deadline.

Every soldier who is on duty at the site has specifically trained in rail car loading procedures, and safety issues regarding rail yard operations. A crew in Pinion Canyon has undergone similar training. All personnel involved in the move is highly motivated and well-trained, according to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bob Morton of the 41st Brigade.

“You couldn’t find a better bunch of guys,” said Morton. “We have an excellent group working here. All of them are hard workers. They have made sure that all the vehicles have been through preventative maintenance checks, and that everything is fully operational.”

According to Morton, there is a 24-hour security detail to prevent tampering, but also to make sure that the load crew forgets nothing.

“The operation went well,” Morton added. “We’ve had no safety incidents.”

As for the load crew, morale is positive and attitudes are upbeat, according to Sgt. John Browning of the HAC 141 Support Battalion, who was pleased at the load crew’s progress.

“Everything has been running pretty smoothly for the most part,” Browning said. “We’re getting all of the vehicles and equipment loaded at a good rate.”

Fisher House Foundation helps ‘Hero Miles’, provides free tickets

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample.
Special to The Oregon Sentinel from American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Although the Defense Department provides a travel entitlement for service members and their families in serious medical emergencies, the Fisher House Foundation is hoping to help those service members and families not covered under the rule.

Through a program the foundation joined in December called Operation Hero Miles, the Fisher House hopes to give away hundreds of free airline tickets to help military and VA medical patients receiving care at military major medical centers and Veterans Affairs medical centers. The comfort homes are located throughout the country and overseas.

Foundation spokesman Jim Weiskopf said the tickets, donated by American Eagle-Busch, are available to service members undergoing treatment, as either an in- or outpatient at military and VA medical facilities as a result of their service in Iraq, Afghanistan and the surrounding area.

There are two categories of eligible recipients for the free airline tickets:
- Qualifying service men and women may be given a free round-trip airline ticket for a trip from the medical center to their home and return if they are not eligible for government-funded airline.
- Qualifying service men and women may be given a free round-trip ticket to enable their family or close friends to visit them while they are being treated at the medical center.

Currently, all donated tickets are for flights marketed or operated by American Airlines, American Eagle and American Connection. The flights do carry some restrictions, including 14-day advance purchase, a Saturday night stay, a maximum stay of 30 days, and blackout dates.

Tickets are for travel in economy class, and seats may be limited. No changes can be made after the ticketing departure date, and changes made before the departure date are subject to a $100 service charge. The foundation cannot assist with local travel, overnight accommodations, meals or other expenses. Weiskopf emphasized that requests for tickets must originate with the service member, and must be made at the medical center. He said the requests should be sent by fax to the Fisher House Foundation (301) 294-8562. A copy of the request form can be obtained at the foundation’s Web site.

The Hero Miles program began in September out of concern that hundreds of service members returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan on rest and recuperation leave faced huge travel costs to get to their home destinations.

Federal law prohibited the military from paying for domestic personal travel for service members or their families upon arrival in the United States or their home military installation. However, news of war veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan on R&R leave and not having enough money to pay for follow-on flights home, along with public response to the issue, helped persuade Congress to change the law. Beginning Jan. 1, the Pentagon began paying for domestic flights to their home destination for service members on R&R leave from overseas.

Meanwhile, in an effort to continue the program, Weiskopf said the Fisher House Foundation is accepting airline tickets or vouchers from donors if the ticket can be transferred to another passenger.

At present, the foundation cannot accept frequent-flier miles. Individuals and organization wanting to donate miles should do so through the Operation Hero Miles Web site.

For more information please visit Operation Hero Miles at http://www.hero-miles.org/

Airline passengers give up first-class seats to soldiers
By Michael E. Young, Special to The Oregon Sentinel from The Dallas Morning News

CHICAGO, Ill., July 14 – It all began with a chance encounter at an airport, a glance, an offer, a quiet chat.

“What’s your seat number, soldier?”

“It’s 23-B, sir,” the soldier answered, whose name was unknown.

“No, son, that’s my seat. Yours is in first class.” The man replied.

As more soldiers boarded, similar offers quickly came from the other first-class passengers.

And eight soldiers heading home from Iraq for two weeks of R&R found themselves with their officers in the big seats up front instead of the center seats in coach.

That spontaneous act of good will transformed American Airlines Flight 866, from Atlanta to Chicago, on June 29.

The soldiers were very, very happy, and the whole aircraft had a different feeling,” said Lorrie Gammon, one of the Dallas-based flight attendants working the trip.

“There were 14 seats in first class, and there were 12 soldiers there. The other two first-class passengers wanted to give up their seats, too, but they couldn’t find any more soldiers.”

Flight attendant Candi Spradlin of Conway, Ark., said she was impressed with how passengers treated the soldiers.

“They were very, very happy, and the whole aircraft had a different feeling,” said Lorrie Gammon, one of the Dallas-based flight attendants working the trip.

115th MPAD

Row of “Humvees”, 2.5-Ton trucks, and other military vehicles wait in a staging area in North Newberg prior to being loaded onto rail cars. The shipment will be moved to the Pinion Canyon Training Site in Colorado where ORARNG soldiers are training.

“The operation went well,” Morton added. “We’ve had no safety incidents.”

As for the load crew, morale is positive and attitudes are upbeat, according to Sgt. John Browning of the HAC 141 Support Battalion, who was pleased at the load crew’s progress.

“Everything has been running pretty smoothly for the most part,” Browning said. “We’re getting all of the vehicles and equipment loaded at a good rate.”

Burger King signs ESGR agreement

Col. (Ret.) Bob Elliot, Executive Director for the Oregon ESGR (Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve) Committee, attended the Northwest Burger King Owners Association conference in Sun River Idaho, July 17-19.

Elliot met with franchisees, educating them about the rights of employees who may also be members of the Oregon National Guard. Burger King is a company that provides entry-level positions for many high school graduates. As a result of the meeting, several of the owners signed statements of support for the ESGR.

The association is made up of owners of Burger King restaurants in Alaska, Wash., Ore., and Northern Calif.

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“They were very, very happy, and the whole aircraft had a different feeling,” said Lorrie Gammon, one of the Dallas-based flight attendants working the trip.

“Nothing else, those soldiers got a great homecoming,” she said.

The soldiers were so surprised they barely knew what to do, said Gammon, who lives in Frisco. “They were so humble and thankful — they spent the whole flight saying thank you,” she said.

“But we should have been saying thank you to them for what they’re doing for us.” Gammon added.


WASHINGTON (July 2, 2004) – The mental health of Marines and soldiers fighting in Iraq and in Afghanistan is the topic of a report published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study, conducted by Charles W. Hoge, M.D., showed a post-deployment increase in the percentage of infantry troops suffering from a mental disorder. It also showed a higher percentage of troops unwilling to seek treatment for their mental disorders than in the general population. In response to the survey, American Legion National Commander John Brienizen issued the following statement:

"It comes as no surprise that mortal combat induces post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental disorders. What might be a surprise to most Americans is that fighting for the proper government investments in those who 'have borne the battle’ is an uphill battle. Voters should insist that candidates for the presidency and Congress do everything in their power, if elected, to correct five fundamental inadequacies.

"First, the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system should be funded on a mandatory, rather than a discretionary basis, just like Social Security and Medicare, because a 44 percent increase in funding is overwhelmed by a 134 percent increase in VA's patient population from 1993 to 2003, the year the war in Iraq began. America's newest veterans will swell the demand. Thus, the VA budget increase must be commensurately rather than subsist on increased co-payments and outright denial of treatment to veterans who make as little as $25,000 a year.

"Second, Congress should pass provisions in the defense authorization that would improve health tracking for Guard and Reserve troops and authorize pre-separation counseling in which veterans service organizations may be involved. The American Legion supports complete pre- and post-deployment physicals instead of the current self-reported health-assessment questionnaires.

"Third, increase the active-duty force from 1.37 million to at least 1.6 million, and particularly raise the number of Army divisions from 10 to 12, which would raise Army end strength by 40,000 soldiers. These moves would reduce the deployment strain on our troops and make post-deployment treatment less of a challenge.

"Fourth, based on these findings and those of 'Risk Factor Study II: Course of PTSD Among Vietnam Veterans,’ a joint study co-authored by VA, Columbia University and American Legion researchers, the U.S. government should fund an even larger study - one that relies on clinical evaluations in addition to questionnaires - that will lead to improvements in PTSD early-diagnosis, prevention and treatment.

"Finally, the Defense Department must initiate policies and procedures to eliminate the stigma that discourages most sufferers of psychiatric disorders from seeking treatment. These policies are the least we can do for the men and women who sacrifice the most in the global war on terror."

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Pritt breaks ground on new memorial

In partnership with the Family Program Office, Public Affairs established the Family Support Battalion (Med) was promoted to Sergeant in a pinning ceremony at the Military Brigg. Gen. (then Col.) Douglas A. Pritt (center), along with Korea War Veterans and representatives from veterans agencies and state government help break ground at the site of the 11th Medal of Honor Memorial at the State Capitol, May 16. The memorial is scheduled to be completed by 2004. "It is very fitting we acknowledg...
News You Need to Know

Army overwhelmed by retiree volunteers

Due to an incredible response to the Army’s recent Voluntary Re- call of Retirees, the Army’s Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center (CMOAC) is no longer seeking the assistance of qualified retired Soldiers. The CMOAC has been overwhelmed by the response of thousands of qualified Soldiers who were willing to return to service. This is a tribute to the retired men and women who are already serving their nation and are now willing to step up and serve the Army once more. On behalf of the Army’s CMOAC, Military.com would like to thank each and every one of the Men and Women who volunteered.

For more information, please visit: http://www.military.com/NewsContent/7736773.cfm

Senate bill effecting retirees needs scrutiny

A proposed bill affecting veterans is sitting in the Senate Veterans Benefits Subcommittee. H.R. 3492 would allow Disabled Veterans to pursue needed disability benefits by allowing veterans to file their claims in their states while filing claims for disability benefits. The Veterans’ Right to an Attorney Act would prohibit a fee from being charged, allowed veterans to file a “representative service” with respect to veterans’ claims at any time before the date on which the Board of Veterans’ Appeals first makes a final decision in the case. Individuals are encouraged to express how they feel about this bill by contacting their respective senators or representatives.

For more information, please visit: http://www.military.com/NewsContent/10101413.compass

DoD eligible for health care reimbursement

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Department of Defense employees called to active duty can now claim retroactive reimbursement of health insurance premiums that were paid on active-duty supporting a contingency operation on or after Dec. 8, 1995.

To be eligible for reimbursement of Federal Employees Health Benefits premiums, the employee or former employee must meet the following requirements:

- Must have been a civilian employee of DoD and called to active duty
- Must have been enrolled in FEHB and paid the employee share of the premiums, either by payroll deduction after returning from active duty or by direct payments to the payroll office during the period of active duty
- Must have been a reserve component member
- Must have been called or ordered to active duty to support a contingency operation as defined in section 101(a)(13) of Title 10, United States Code
- Must have been placed on leave without pay from federal civilian service to perform active duty
- Must have served on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days for each period of active-duty supporting a contingency operation

For more information and procedures for filing a claim for retroactive reimbursement, visit the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team site at www.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/res-emp-info.htm. Current employees may call (800) 616-3775, press 2 for civilian, then 2 for benefits and entitlements. People overseas can dial the commercial direct access number for that country and then (800) 997-2578. For hearing-impaired employees, call TDD at (800) 382-0893. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service).

Non-profit to help with childcare for deployed Guard, Reserve

WASHINGTON, July 1, 2004 -- A non-profit organization dedicated to helping families find high-quality child care is now providing free care from Day One for up to 5,000 Guard and Reserve members on rest-and-recovery leave from Iraq. The non-profit organization of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies launched Operation Child Care in May. To date, more than 5,000 child-care providers have signed on to provide free childcare to reservists and guardsmen.

“Child-care providers who meet state and local child-care regulations will provide four or more hours of free child care so that service members can attend to family business or take their spouses out for a date,” according to a news release from the program. Three major commercial chains that specialize in child care: KinderCare Learning Centers, Bright Horizons Family Solutions and LaPetite Academy centers, also have signed on to provide free care. KinderCare and LaPetite are each providing one full day of childcare free of charge to eligible service members, Bright Horizons is providing two days of free childcare.

Linda Smith, executive director of NAC, CRRA, said the Child Care for Operation Iraqi Freedom came out of a discussion she had in October with an official who oversees child-care centers for the Army. The two women discussed the difficulties facing troops in today’s high-paced military.

The following week, Smith pitched the idea to a group of state child-care referral specialists meeting in Chicago and got an overwhelming response.

“They all wanted to support it,” Smith said in a telephone interview with American Forces Press Service.

Titles of different sections on the site include:

- * 10 Ways to Stay Involved With Your Children During Deployment*
- * Supporting Young Children During War and Deployment*
- * Talking to Children about a War in Iraq and Terror*
- * Healthy Parenting Tool Kit*
- * Getting Children Children Again, and*
- * The Help Guide to Guard and Reserve Family Readiness*

The site also includes tips on how to choose the best home-based program and a list of things to consider before calling to request care.

Smith said officials decided to target the program to Guard and Reserve members because they don’t generally have the strong support system available to active-duty service members called to active duty.

“They really don’t have access to military bases to begin with; they don’t get the same level of support in other ways; and they generally are the Friends and neighbors and relatives of the people who are providing child care across this country,” Smith said.

Family childcare provider Chris Milton, who has volunteered to provide free hours of childcare through the program, knows first-hand the challenges facing military families and families. Her young children were deployed to the Middle East during 1991’s Operation Desert Storm. He missed Milton’s wedding and the birth of his own daughter during that deployment.

“Our family lost a lot (of family time) when my brother served,” Milton said. She cares for children in her four bedroom home and said that she thinks it’s important to be able to help these other families at this time.

“It’s so hard,” she added. Milton said her brother endorsed the idea of providing childcare free of charge to military members, thinking back to his deployment experiences.

“He told me, ‘Chris, that would have been the best thing. We would have loved that,’” she said.

Active duty time puts VA loans within reach

Active duty service during wartime reduces eligibility requirements for National Guard members to receive home loans benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Normally, guardsmen must serve six years before becoming eligible for a VA home loan said Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service, but active duty wartime gives them the same eligibility requirements as active duty service members.

“During wartime, you only have to serve for 90 days to become eligible for a VA home loan,” he said.

He noted the best way for guardsmen to find out if they qualify for a home loan is to apply for a certificate of eligibility to one of the VA Eligibility Centers. The los Angeles center handles applications for Oregon.

For more information, visit the VA website at http://www.va.gov and click the home loans link.

Soldiers encouraged to apply for 4th Qtr tuition reimbursement

Soldiers are eligible to receive Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) by attending courses at an accredited educational institution. The institution must be recognized by the U.S. Education Department. Programs include; high school degree (or GED), vocational, technical, or Licensing Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Masters Degree (or first professional degree including Doctorate of Jurisprudence or J.D.). For all other non-degree programs, secondary school accreditation or specialized accreditation is required.

The FTA program is typically an “up front” program in which Army National Guard and Reserve servicemembers pay tuition prior to or shortly after courses have begun. In instances where payments are delayed, the applicant may have to pay the school and be reimbursed later.

Students are encouraged to submit their requests as early as possible to avoid pay- ment delays.

For more information, or to apply, visit the VA web site at http://www.vamissions.com, and click on the Education link. Those who do not have Internet access are encouraged to complete a form at http://www.military.com and turn it into their education office immediately.

Warrant Officers to see insignia changes

Effective July 9, 2004, there were two significant changes to the look of the War- rant Officer’s uniform.

The first change is the design of the Senior Chief Warrant Officer Five grade insignia. The insignia that has been worn for so many years was originally designed for selected Chief Warrant Officer Fours that were designated “Master Warrant Officers”. When the grade of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CWO-5) was approved by law in 1991, the grade of Master Warrant Officer was approved by law in 1991, the grade of Master Warrant Officer insignia was designated for use with the new grade. As part of the overall Warrant Officer transformation, the CW5 insignia is now changing to the original design that was approved, but never used, for the CW5 grade’s existed briefly in the early 1970’s. This design is a Silver Bar with a single Black stripe centered along the length of the bar. This change will align the W-5 insignia with the approved W-5 insignia of the other branches of the military.

The second, and more significant change, will affect all Warrant Officers. Also effective on July 9, 2004, Warrant Officers exchanged the venerable “Eagle Rising” collar insignia for the insignia of their individual Service Branches. The old insignia was emblematic of a time when Warrant Officer’s technical skills and duties could be transferred between service arms easily and with little formal training. The contemporaneous Warrant Officer, however, has been focused, complex and specific technical skills and abilities honed through extensive technical training and applied to the mission of a single branch or functional area.

By order of the Army Chief of Staff, in recognition of the branch-focused roles as seasoned specialized technicians, Warrant Officers will wear the insignia of their individual branch upon completion of their specific branch technical qualification. In other words, Aviation Warrant Officers will wear the Aviation collar insignia, and Maintenance Warrant Officers will wear Quartersmaster insignia, and so on. Warrant Officer Candidates (WOC) and junior Warrant Officers will continue to wear the “Eagle Rising” insignia until they complete their branch basic technical qualification courses.
Virtual Armory.com: The world’s largest armory at your fingertips

By Sgt. 1st Class Gay Britnell, Marketing NCO, State of Oregon

Are you ready and willing to show your Guard pride? Think you could give a boost to recruiting but aren’t sure how? Tell people your story – why you joined the Army National Guard and why you still serve.

If you are not familiar with the web site, www.virtualarmory.com, you need to get to a computer and visit this site. The site, managed by the Advertising Branch of the Strength Maintenance Division of the Army National Guard, is packed full of information useful to all members of the Army National Guard.

Soldiers can log on and request a copy of the 2004 National Guard Almanac, the Citizen-Soldier’s Guide to Mobilization Finance as well as the YOU CAN Guide to Paying for your College Education. All of these publications are available at no cost to the soldier.

You can also put in a request for a presentation at your school, workplace or civic group, and your Recruiting and Retention office will handle all the details. Simply, contact your local Recruiting and Retention NCO and give him or her the details.

There are also sections on Leadership, Training, Retention, Physical Fitness and many others.

New to the Virtual Armory are two programs, Home Front Heroes and Recruiting Team Gear. As a soldier you may have received ribbons, medals and awards in recognition of your service to your country. The friends, family and employers who have supported you receive no such recognition. The only personal acknowledgement that they are given comes from you. The Home Front Heroes Program has been established so people can show your appreciation, and that of your commanders and your country, to those individuals who have been key in supporting your decision to serve. This web site will allow you to submit the names of these Home Front Heroes so they will receive some small portion of the thanks and respect they so richly deserve.

Each Hero package includes a custom-designed presentation envelope, a personalized letter from Army National Guard leadership, a Home Front Hero bumper sticker and a Home Front Hero lapel pin.

The Recruiting Team Gear section on Virtual Armory will equip you with the items to help get you started. You can order, at no cost, bumper stickers, display banners, Army National Guard posters, yard signs and t-shirts.

Other programs are planned in the coming months. Virtual Armory is constantly being updated, so visit often.

Free concert honors military

There will be a free event honoring all military members on Saturday, July 31 at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Ore.

The opening ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m., with a free concert held shortly thereafter. Oregon’s Governor, Ted Kulongoski, has proclaimed the day to be Troop & Veterans Appreciation Day in Oregon, and encourages all citizens to join in the observance.

Here is an opportunity to say “Thank You” to members of the military for their selfless service and sacrifice.

Honored speakers include Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, and Lars Larson, XXL radio host. Various organizations will be present with information showing the many ways you can support troops & their families.

The Coalition of Troop Support will be handing out free Evergreen Aviation Museum tickets for all Active-duty servicemen and women with a valid ID card.

For more information, contact Jan Mullaney at (503) 662-3399 or Lisa Fenchel at (503) 434-5981.

ORNG, Bulgaria break ground in friendship, memoriam

Neycho Lilev Nedelchev, Mayor of Suhozem, Bulgaria, breaks ground on the Lt. Da-vid R. Kingsley memorial in Suhozem. Kingsley guided a heavily-damaged B-17 into a field on June 23, 1944 after his plane was attacked by German fighters. His efforts saved the crew and the nearby village, but Kingsley was killed in the crash, actions which earned him the Medal of Honor.

Standing to the right are Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., Acting Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, and Col. John Adkisson, Commander of the 173rd FW in Klamath Falls, Ore.