Oregon Army National Guard sees largest mobilization since WWII

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

An additional 700 troops will see duty in Iraq in early ‘04

On October 29, 2003, more than 2,500 family members and friends turned out for the mobilization ceremony for the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene, Ore.

After being mobilized on Oct. 12, 2003, soldiers were eventually deployed to Ft. Hood, Texas on October 30, 2003 to begin their training and integration into the 1st Calvary in preparation for their rotation into Iraq. They are anticipated to replace the 4th Infantry Division sometime in early March of 2004.

Oregon governor, Ted Kulongoski, who attended the ceremony emphasized that the National Guard is no longer comprised of weekend warriors.

“I have to admit that when I got out of the Marines many years ago, even I thought of the National Guard this way,” Kulongoski said. “But not any more. I learned long ago what most of the country is now starting to understand: you are soldiers who also happen to have civilian jobs. You go into harms way, and are critical to the war on terror.

You are no longer a stepchild to the military, if you ever were.”

Maj. Dan Hendrickson of Corvallis, commander of the 2-162 thanked the 41st Brigade, State Command.

Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne named as acting Adjutant General

By Capt. Eric Walstrom, State Public Affairs Office

Pritt assumes command of 41st Brigade

The 41st Separate Infantry Brigade (Enhanced) held a Change of Command Ceremony in Salem, Ore. on October 19, 2003.

Col. (P) Douglas A. Pritt took the helm from Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne Jr., who is now Oregon’s acting Adjutant General. Pritt comes from the Joint Forces Headquarters in Salem where he was formerly the Adjutant General’s Chief of Staff.

He (Pritt) brings to the 41st a wealth of talent and leadership experience that will undoubtedly build on the momentum present in this outstanding Brigade, I commented Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson, 7th Infantry Division Commanding General.

Pritt said he was grateful and excited to fill the position, adding that his vision for the 41st was for it to be the best Infantry Brigade in the Army National Guard. Pritt says that people are the most important asset of the National Guard. His goal is to encourage an environment where people enjoy coming to work, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, and individual successes are celebrated.

The 41st Brigade consists of the 1-162 IN, 2-162 IN, 1-186 IN, 2-218 FA, and the 41st Provisional Battalion. About 60 percent of the unit is either currently serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, or is preparing to deploy in support of that mission.

By Kay F. Fristad, State Public Affairs Office

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From the Editor

As we move into the Holiday season, the staff of The Oregon Sentinel would like to draw your attention to those of us away from home and their families that remain in Oregon. We now have almost 2,500 members of our organization deployed away from Oregon. We are doing our best to relay their stories but need your help. As you read through this issue, think of all of the stories that are not being told and send those ideas our way. We want to publish your story, whether it is about veterans affairs, family support, relevant legislative events, or the brave exploits of our members deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our readers often hesitate to send an article for fear that it is not well written. Please do not resist the desire to get your story told. With a readership of over 12,000 across the globe, from Oregon to New York to the halls of Salem to the Halls of Congress, The Oregon Sentinel is a publication with broad impact and reach. In addition to the printed version, we soon plan to publish the paper directly to the web, in an effort to better reach our audience in a timely and concise manner. For those that have the time and the desire, we contribute to a heartfelt thank you. Look for our special holiday issue during the next two weeks. See you in the news.

Major Arnold V. Strong, State Public Affairs Officer, Editor-in-Chief, Oregon Sentinel

Tell us what you think!
Your feedback is very important to us. It lets us know how we're doing, what stories you'd like to see, and what makes you want us to cover in the future. Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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The Oregon Sentinel

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Your Letters

A Letter of Thanks

I write to you to give praise and thanks to a team of men under your command who saved my life.

On Monday October 6th, I was rescued from a 13,000-foot mountain ledge in a litter hoisted up to a CH-47 helicopter from your base. The Inyo County Sheriff told me that Dave Long was the pilot and Doc van Dusen was the copilot. There were four other crewmembers.

The spot that Search and Rescue chose to put my litter for pick up was on a steep mountainside, surrounded by rocky crags. The cable on the hoist of the CH-47 was 150-feet long. The mountain sloped upward at about 45-degrees. The pilot had to keep inching lower and closer to the mountains because the rotor wash against the mountain was blowing the cable away from the rescuer trying to grab it!

On their third approach he grabbed the cable and secured it to my litter. Soon I was on my way up and out of the Chinoos.

Tears of gratitude filled my goggles as I lay inside the noisy helicopter. Once we landed in Bishop, Calif., I was merely able to say a brief thank you and shake a few hands. This is woefully inadequate as thanks for men who put it all on the line for me that day. The rotor clearance looked to be less than 50 feet!

That the Army National Guard would send so much equipment and man power so far to the aid of one person fills me with pride for our nation and our military.

I want to express my thanks to each of those six flight crew members especially Doc van Dusen for his bravery and dedication. I consider their efforts heroic! I believe I owe them my life!

Sincerely and thankfully yours,
John D. Millane, MD

Yes, these are our true heroes. For more on this rescue, see “Oregon Sentinel members in extraordinary rescue in California” on page 7, and the incredible picture from that rescue on the back cover of the Sentinel.

Good advice from soldiers on the ground in Iraq

Greetings from Iraq.
A year is a long time. We are moving in on our first full year. I found it difficult to take you all through our path that put us here at Logistics Support Group Anaconda.

When the unit was called together during our exercise in Japan, we all knew that we were about to be activated for Iraq. The unit was now going to war, with another Corps. The activation date was a week later. As we unplugged from the exercise, that is how our deployment started.

I jumped into working on pre-deployment planning the day after we returned. The situation was as well as it could, many questions were still left unanswered as we left for our Mobilization Site at Fort Lewis Washington. The main one for me was why we were leaving for war without the best equipment the state had given to us, like the new body armor like other units have at our disposal.

On our second approach we were able to get a better understanding of the plan. The first concern was improving security, and we have helped to give this base some direction for the future – and maybe improved more than it might sound. We are developing a master plan for this base, and it really has become a moving target. It seems that every plan the plans are changed by the ‘powers that be’, and a new unit moves in, creating new functions for the base. We will continue on our original plan, and perhaps be required to keep this set up for the rest of the time we are in theater.

The overall moral and feelings of the unit is good. We have our ups and downs like every unit does. This is why a master plan is so important, because the unit needs to have a plan or systems in place to deal with all situations. Just as important is to be able to adapt to the ever changing situations.

I assist our unit in receiving supplies and resources. Some issues that we have faced are less than 50 feet!

During our time at Ft. Lewis, our unit was one of the lucky ones. We had a “Daddy Corps” looking out for us, unlike those who are told no other from other sources. We are their Rear Operations Center (ROC). They gave us everything we needed, except the new body armor. We thought we were on a short time line to get here, and were told every week for the first four weeks that we could be leaving at any time, but we ended up being here much longer. This situation never came to be since the US forces never entered Turkey. Our time at Ft. Lewis was well spent. The unit is prepared and ready to go wherever they are sent. On my original time line to get here, and were told every week for the first four weeks that we could be leaving at any time, but we ended up being here much longer. This situation never came to be since the US forces never entered Turkey. Our time at Ft. Lewis was well spent. The unit is prepared and ready to go wherever they are sent. On my original time line to get here, and were told every week for the first four weeks that we could be leaving at any time, but we ended up being here much longer. This situation never came to be since the US forces never entered Turkey. Our time at Ft. Lewis was well spent. The unit is prepared and ready to go wherever they are sent.

We then moved to Iraq. We moved to Kuwait. It was another week after we arrived there. This situation was less than 50 feet!

There was never the mention of body armor like other units have at our disposal. This is why a master plan is so important, because the unit needs to have a plan or systems in place to deal with all situations. Just as important is to be able to adapt to the ever changing situations.

Our unit is good. We have our ups and downs like every unit does. This is why a master plan is so important, because the unit needs to have a plan or systems in place to deal with all situations. Just as important is to be able to adapt to the ever changing situations.

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This is something that leaders and battle buddies need to remember. Soldiers are people too, and they have issues both inside and outside the military. Friends of mine have asked me if there is something they can do to get ready to deploy. The advice I would give is why not get your military and personal records ready to go and keep them up to date. This is so you don’t have to spend time dealing with issues before you leave and spend your time with family, which is really the most important thing.

Like everyone else, I am waiting for the day when I can go home and be with my family.

Maj. Scott Farish, Military Police, 82 ROC, Logistics Support Group, Anaconda, Iraq

We here in Oregon definitely haven’t forgotten about you guys.

Oregon Military Department
State Commander in-Chief, Territorial Gov. Ted Kulongoski
Acting Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Jr.
Asst. Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham
State Command Sergeant Major
Command and Support Group Anaconda.
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Command Focus

The Honorable
Ted Kulongoski, Governor, State of Oregon

Dear Citizen-Soldiers,

I am writing you from Oregon to thank you for your service to State and Nation on Veterans Day and to remind you that you are in the thoughts and prayers of all of us here at home.

As a former Marine and Commander in Chief of the Oregon National Guard, I understand the sacrifice you are making and the patriotic duty you are fulfilling. I take great pride in telling you that, through your shining example, I see a great future for this state. Our future has never been brighter because the men and women of the Oregon National Guard have never been better.

As you serve in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, know that we here at home are doing our best to serve and support your communities, your friends and your community in your absence. The people of Oregon will not rest completely until you are back in the arms of your loved ones - and have returned to your traditional jobs and professions that are so vital to our economy. Remain vigilant in executing your mission and in supporting your fellow service members.

Along with your families, I will await your safe return knowing that you are standing up for your country while your country, your state, and your communities are standing up and praying for you.

Thank you for your service.

Most Sincerely,
Your Fellow Veteran,
Ted Kulongoski

General Raymond C. Byrne, Acting Adjutant General, State of Oregon

Since becoming the Acting Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard, I have come to understand the role you across the state to meet with our soldiers and airmen, their families and communities. After meeting with all of these people, it became apparent that we need to do more to reach out to our collective National Guard family. The Oregon National Guard has approximately 2,500 members deployed on Active Federal Service as part of the Global War on Terrorism. If you multiply that number by four (the number of spouses, dependents, or parents) you get 10,000 people who are dependent on us for some form of care, assistance, or information. Our number one priority in the Oregon National Guard is to support our deployed members and their families. I ask all of you as leaders and members of this community to prioritize your daily work load in order to ensure that family and guard member issues are taken care of. Please follow through on your work and see to it that it is completed to the best of your ability.

Share information with family program members and the chain of command so that they are aware of important developments and have the information they need to complete their jobs effectively and on time. Our goal as an organization is to make sure that we retain our members and their families’ loyalty and trust.

We can only accomplish this by ensuring that we are meeting their needs while maintaining the best trained and resourced soldiers and airmen. Let’s do our best to help those in need before those needs become issues. It would be a shame for any soldier or airman to leave our organization because we failed to take care of them or their family.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

Be a Change Agent

There is a lot of talk these days about being an agent for change and in the Oregon National Guard that term has a lot of relevance.

Things have changed at the State Headquarters tremendously in the past few months but change is good. We are now a Joint Force Headquarters, integrating both Army and Air components into one ready, reliable and relevant command group for the organization. We have also had a change in senior leadership. Brig. Gen. Byrne was appointed as the acting Adjutant General last month while the Governor conducts his interviews for a new Adjutant General.

General Byrne has focused the entire organization in the right direction as his words above attest to. We know that we must better serve the family members and communities of deployed citizen soldiers and airmen and are doing our best to do just that. The focus here at the top has been to continue resource the training, recruiting, retaining and maintaining the force for State and Federal contingencies, but for those units currently mobilized (and thus not under our direct control) we have turned our heads toward the support of families and friends of those of us away from Oregon.

I challenge all of you in the Oregon National Guard to be an agent for change. In order to take the best care of the organizations within the guard, we need to hear from you how to best serve your organization’s needs. But we also need your action. In raising concerns about your deployed citizen soldiers, offer us your solution as well. This is not a pep talk or shirking of responsibility but a direct and serious challenge. We need to know the issues that you face and I urge you to contact your chain of command and to use the NCO chain of support to address the challenges you face. Without knowing the issues you are facing, we cannot be of any help.

It will be Thanksgiving as this month’s edition reaches you and while there is much to look forward to (the return of loved ones on the top of everyone’s list), I hope all of us can be thankful for the blessings and good we each receive every day. We are making a difference abroad and we are making a difference at home. The quality of that difference will be determined by the changes each of us is ready to implement in our own lives. So be a change agent, propose a solution and help us to strengthen this great organization even more.

Give thanks for change.
Letters From The Front

52nd Engineer Battalion rebuilds communities

The 52nd Engineer Battalion is making solid progress with its projects in Mosul and the greater Ninewa province. As week 18 draws to a close, the battalion finds itself thoroughly engaged in several key construction missions. While some of these missions are still intended for the use of the local Iraqis, the focus is on the very monumental expansion of Hawler airfield. Also has been tasked with some road repairs/improvement around camp and improving dirt berms for a field artillery unit that is used as protection from the multiple attacks they have received.

Maintenance has been continuing their edge on preventive maintenance and services, and Headquarters continues to do a superb job in managing all the missions that come our way.

Some of you may not be aware of how integrated we have become with the active duty. We have ten active duty soldiers that have been added to our numbers; Lt. Hop, Lt. Perdue, Sgt. Valadez, Sgt. Gordon, Sgt. Schultz, Sgt. Watson, Spec. Jones, Spec. Snow, Spec. Threet, Private 1st Class Merced, and Pvt. Elsner. During our change of command, Maj. Gen. Petraeus said he could not tell which part of the Tri-Component was Active, Reserve or National Guard, we all looked like soldiers to him.

Capt. Marcus Allen Williams, 52nd Engineer Battalion

Attacks by Sadam loyalists don't deter spirit, focus

We moved to the REMF area of Kuwait, the BN has moved to Camp Arifjan. The resources here are leaps and bounds above KNB and Iraq. I actually saw and used my first flush toilet in six months, no more porta potties or wooden shacks (with the burn barrels) in the middle of camp where everyone can see your boots. Hot water too! This is like the Ritz of Kuwait.

I can honestly say I will never drink bottled water again. The temperature has been around 100 to 110 until this week. At night it's getting down to 65 and it seems like it's 40 degrees.

Our battalion was operating 25 miles south of Baghdad 5 km east of Haswah. Some of our adjacent units were a battalion from the 10th MTN, the Polish Division, and one from 3/22nd ABN.

We had an excellent relationship with the 10th MTN Battalion. It was like it should be; great cross talk on FM; keeping each unit informed. The company up north did a great job at the area we moved into was the hottest area on the main supply route (MSR) from Kuwait to Iraq. Once we occupied the area there were no enemy-initiated attacks on coalition convoys moving on the MSR. They would attack north or south of our area but the attacks were greatly reduced from prior to our being here. The pucker factor does go up when you get stuck in traffic and can't move if needed. One of the techniques they are using is throwing hand grenades at vehicles, this happened to the MPs living with us.

The area up there is still hot, the 10th MTN lost two soldiers and an interpreter yesterday. The biggest threat is improvised explosive devices, or IEDs. Both the MPs in our area of interest as well as the 10th MTN had casualties and deaths due to IEDs. The camp where we were living was mortared around the beginning of September. I rode out of the rack put on my body armor and tried to make sense of the chaos. Only one MP was hurt, shrapnel down one side of his body.

I got to see the ruins at Babylon, so this turned into the religious tour with the ruins at Ur. Running log packs through the Baghdad area, we saw the palaces and the airport, went up to the Corps support area north of the city. It is interesting to be driving along and run right into two M-1 tanks in an intersection conducting a check point. The local population is waving at us, which they did not do right after we arrived. They also gave us some human intelligence which led us finding some large weapon and UXO (unexploded ordinance) caches.

And yes, we have been extended to 365 days boots on the ground, so it makes our entire deployment 16-17 months on active duty. I am trying to get R&R leave but it is not as sure as it seems in the news. Not everyone will get it, but the battalion will be close. Hope everything is going well for everyone back home. Talk to you soon.

Maj. William Prendergast 1-162nd Infantry

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82nd ROC helps build Iraq’s ‘House of Hope’

The 82 ROC is now performing a non-doxiliary Garrison Unit Support (GSU) mission for a large Logistic Support Base (LSA) called LSA Anaconda soon to be called Balad SE. The 82 ROC is responsible for all life support operations, base security operations, horizontal and vertical construction and reconstruction projects coordination and prioritization, tasking authority for major tenant units on post, signing, Law and Order oversight, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities, Base Camp Master Planning over sight, coordination with civilian contractors (KBR) in concert with Army Materiel Command (AMC), badging and escorting of Local Nationals (LNIs) and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) working on post, security coordination with 4 Infantry Division operations outside the base, contract administration, and in coordination with Civil Affairs (CA) working with local village leaders and farmers surrounding the base.

Performing this mission required the ROC to task organize from its current S2/G3 sections into a S1, S2, S3, S4 and Special Projects organization. In addition, we have Operational Control (OPCON) of a National Guard Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC), National Guard MP Law and Order Detachment, National Guard Infantry Company and a United States Army Reserve (USAR) Facilities Engineering Team (FET).

I hope this helps describe what we are doing.

Col. Charlie Yriarte Commander, 82 RTOC
A strange and compelling flow of military drumbeats filled the ears of nearly 150 listeners in a ballroom at the Multnomah Athletic Club in downtown Portland on Sept. 19. The ceremony's effects on the crowd were apparent, stirring patriotic and administrative sentiments. They formed a sea of civilians and airmen, in their mess dress uniforms.

On this day, Brig. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum (retired) was inducted into the honorary Order of the Minuteman society by the enlisted personnel of the Oregon Air Guard for his outstanding leadership, citizenship and philanthropic contributions to military members and their families, as well as to the people of communities throughout Oregon.

Throughout his over 40 years of military service, Rosenbaum carried out and expanded Oregon Air Guard missions, while invoking positive changes in the organizational culture, and finding new opportunities for Oregon Air Guard members and their families.

Rosenbaum's accomplishments were listed in his nomination letter in four categories; the development of a highly successful year-long program called Camp Rosenbaum, the acquisition of the 137th Fighter Wing, involvement in the Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve program (ESGR) at the state and national levels, and numerous humanitarian-based programs for the Oregon Air Guard, as well as created hundreds of jobs for underprivileged youths by utilizing military resources at Camp Riley as a one-week summer camp for kids.

In 1985, the National Guard Bureau established the Oregon Air Guard Drill Status Council to improve the system, he created a framework that was laid, the 244th CBCS director of air operations, many involving black-out conditions at night, commenced once the communications system, weather equipment and tactical air traffic control tower were in place. Equipped with night vision goggles, controllers from the 270th ATCS directed aircraft operations (i.e., take-offs, landings and flight paths) for C-130s.

One of Rosenbaum's program receiving a lot of attention at the legislative level during this time was the Employer Support of the Guard/Reserve (ESGR) program. Following Operation Desert Shield/Storm in the early 1990s and the activation of thousands of reservists, the importance and need for ESGR became more apparent to legislators, and in particular, to Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum became the chairman of the Oregon ESGR program in 1991, serving in this capacity for eight years. Rosenbaum built relationships with employers through meetings, briefings and other gatherings designed to educate civilians on the mission of the National Guard and the important role Guard members play as part-time military members.

Rosenbaum, also focused on personnel issues related to promotions, specifically promotions for drill status Guard members. Through an equitable change in the system, he created a promotion program that afforded both drill status members and full time members equal opportunities at the top three NCO ranks, which helped to retain and/or attract part-time Guard members with civilian jobs.

These changes had far-reaching, positive effects on the enlisted force overall, according to his nomination letter. In 1993, the Order of the Minuteman was started in 1985 when enlisted members of Oregon's Air National Guard sought a way to pay tribute to Maj. Gen. Charles C. T. A. Sams, retiring commander of Oregon's National Guard at the time, as well as a way to pay tribute to Maj. Gen. Charles C. T. A. Sams, retiring commander of Oregon's National Guard at the time.

(Editors' note: Information in this article was taken from the nomination letter for Brigadier General Fred M. Rosenbaum entitled: "National Guard of the Minuteman").
Oregon Guardsman injured in Iraq returns home to warm welcome

By Spec. Jessica J. Conner
Public Affairs Office, Ft. Bragg HQ
78th Airborne Corps

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641st Medical Battalion (Evacuation) provides valuable ‘back-fill’ for deployed units

By Spec. Jessica J. Conner
Public Affairs Representative, 1249th Engineer Battalion

Some of the soldiers feel more prepared because they do this job every day.

I can provide a higher level of care than many military medics, because of our civilian credentials, Harmon said.

Greenwood feels his unit is now an essential part of the active Army.

In theory, according to the Army of One slogan, once you get to an installation there should be few differences, Greenwood said. That is what we are trying to demonstrate; come in here and maintain the standard.

Oregon Guardsman injured in Iraq returns home to warm welcome

By Staff Sgt. John C. Driscoll
Public Affairs Representative, 1249th Engineer Battalion


Photo by Staff Sgt. John C. Driscoll, 1249th Engineer Battalion
Sgt. Brian Dooley shows at a Saddam Bank № 1 while operating in the hospital. Dooley was injured September 11 when an RPG hit his convoy.

At the time of the attack, Dooley had been in Iraq for five months, serving with Bravo Co. 52nd Engineers, a unit he transferred into for Operation Enduring Freedom from Company A, 1249th Engineer Battalion. He was escorting a convoy near the city of Mosul in Northern Iraq when the convoy came under enemy fire.

Dooley and his counterpart received gunshot wounds in the ambush, which took place as the unit was bringing portable water to local Iraqis. He was hit by two rounds, suffering injuries to the knee and thigh.

Dooley recounted a succession of adventures that began last February after he transferred into B-52 then reported to Fort Carson, along with the rest of the company, prior to deploying to Iraq by way of Kuwait. While in Kuwait, Dooley and the other soldiers of B-52 unloaded their equipment and were in-process. After arriving in Iraq, Dooley’s unit was stationed at the Mosul Air Base. While conditions at the airbase steadily improved, the temperatures soared.

When I left (Mosul) the chow hall had been air conditioned. There was a MWK place where we could send email. Every day it was still hitting above 110-degrees F said Dooley.

According to Dooley, the company was immediately tasked with numerous missions as soon as it arrived in Mosul, Iraq. He and other members of B-52 helped with road improvements and repairs. Dooley described how he worked alongside fire fighters for five days in July. Dooley and other Oregon Guardmembers worked four-hour shifts battling a large sulfur fire, in 130-degree heat, all the while wearing protective masks. According to investigators, the fire was started by Saddam loyalists.

Dooley said the region surrounding Mosul is surrounded by small villages, sheep herders and wheat farms. The people in the villages gave us water, watermelons, and tea. Our Officers were friendly. I Dooley said. He felt that in spite of the wounds he sustained, serving in Iraq with B-52 was a worthwhile experience.

According to Lt. Col. William J. Schutz, commander of the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Dooley and the other members of the battalion who were transferred to B-52 when it was mobilized are ready to face any challenge in Iraq.

We are proud of all the soldiers we transferred over, I said Schutz. We are sure that the skills they have learned and performed at the 1249th Engineer Battalion have prepared them well for the missions they are accomplishing in Iraq.

Dooley, a resident of Bend, Ore., has begun physical therapy since returning to the United States. He is looking forward to a quick recovery and a return to the Mt. Bachelor Ski Resort where he is a member of its receiving department.

My boss, John Petrich, has been very supportive of the very start of the mobilization, I Dooley said.

For his combat wounds, Dooley was awarded the Purple Heart.

Photo by Staff Sgt. John C. Driscoll, 1241st MEDEVAC Battalion
Members of the 641st Medical Evacuation Battalion conduct a practice rescue exercise, airlifting an injured victim to a UH-1 Huey.
Oregon Army NG participates in extraordinary rescue in California

By Chief Warrant Officer Doug Walker, Special to the Oregon Sentinel

It began with a late night phone call on October 5, 2003. How long would it take to fly a Chinook Helicopter from Pendleton, Ore., to Bishop, Calif. – a distance of 575 Statute Miles? Do you have the power to rescue a lone hiker in the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the 13,000 foot level? CW2 David Long, the Operations Officer and Standardization Instructor Pilot of Det 1, Co. D, 113th Aviation Unit fielded the call. After some quick figuring, Long confirmed it could be done. He made several phone calls to alert crewmembers, and began to plan the mission and set about putting together the extended range fuel system.

Aside from Long, the crew consisted of Instructor Pilot, CW3 Doug Walker, First Sergeant and Flight Engineer, Spec. 1st Class Scott McCoy, Standardization Flight Engineer Instructor Sgt. Todd Albertson, Flight Engineer Instructor Sgt. Andy Rhoden, and Spec. Adrian Stump as the Crew Chief.

The helicopter and crew arrived in Bishop, California after a 3.5-hour, 575-mile, non-stop flight. They were met by Sgt. Randy Nixon of the Inyo County Sheriff’s Department, and a Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator for a briefing of the situation.

According to the SAR Coordinator, a hiker had fallen about 100 feet while climbing on Split Mountain in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The injured man, a doctor from Long Beach, California, had suffered a broken ankle, broken fibula, broken wrist, and a laceration to the right forearm. He was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

The Chinook departed Bishop for the 22.5-mile flight to Split Mountain. This rescue wasn’t going to be an easy one. The hoist cable on the CH-47D helicopter wasn’t long enough to drop straight down to the injured climber, and the ledge on which the patient and his rescuers were perched was so narrow the helicopter couldn’t get very close to the cliff. One of the rescuers had to climb out on the ledge while the helicopter maneuvered as close as possible. The Flight Engineer then swung the hoist cable back and forth so the rescuer on the ledge could grab onto it, and attach it to the basket. Then the basket had to be pulled toward the helicopter at an angle, as the rescuers on the ledge helped to stabilize the basket and keep it from swinging while being winched upward. After the injured doctor was secured in the helicopter, it descended from the mountain and returned to Bishop where the patient was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

After refueling, the helicopter returned to Split Mountain to recover the SAR team and their gear. Since there was no place for the Chinook to land, the helicopter crew had to hoist each of the seven-man SAR team and their two loads of gear individually. Even while the crew was wrapping up their mission, Nixon learned of another overdue climber.

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After some quick investigation by the SAR team, the second climber was found to be safe.

The second climber was a 21-year-old male from Indian Wells, Calif. A native of Redlands, Calif., the patient was part of a mountain climbing group. The group had been informed by the California Sheriff’s Department that they had accomplished something out of the ordinary.

The crewmen were overwhelmed by the patients’ ability to get themselves to civilization after the fall. Yet, it was a rescue they never expected nor wanted, but their training and expertise made it possible.

During the debriefing by the California Sheriff’s Department, the team determined that it would have taken a ground rescue seven days, and nearly 100 people to accomplish what the Chinook did in a few hours. After a good night’s rest the Chinook Helicopter crew returned to Pendleton, Ore., knowing they had accomplished something out of the ordinary.

See related letter from Dr. John D. Millane in the “Letters” section on page 2.

116th ACS member first enlisted weapons controller in Air Guard

By Maj. Donna Pignone. Public Affairs Officer HQ. ORANG

Tech Sgt. Homer Walden, a weapons controller in the Oregon Air Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, made history this past summer when he became the first Air National Guard enlisted weapons director to graduate from Advanced Weapons Director School.

The six-month long school held at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada was established in 2000 for enlisted weapons directors with at least three years of experience and an in-depth knowledge of air control operations. The intent of the curriculum is to give seasoned active duty and Guard airmen and women an opportunity to train (at an advanced level) in a high stress, simulated wartime environment with multiple airframes flying actual combat-style missions.

Weapons directors, whether conducting real-world missions or training, communicate closely with fighter pilots in the sky to help them identify enemies and determine when and where to launch missile strikes. The directors (also referred to as controllers) use tactical radar units, scopes, and communication modules to scan large airspace for immediate threats to security and take action to eliminate them.

Walden, a ground-based weapons controller with more than eight years of air control experience, served as the class leader for AWDS Class 03-1. He graduated, along with a handful of active duty students, on June 13, 2003 to become the first weapons director in the ANG to attend the course.

Due to the complexity of the mission, each class is made up of only six students, with a 50/50 split between ground and air-based controllers. Across the U.S., there are approximately 500 controllers, 300 of which scan the skies using ground-based equipment. The other 200 operate as controllers in the sky while flying on board Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft.

According to Walden, the AWDS curriculum was developed, in part, from programs and syllabi already in place at the Fighter Weapons School (FWS), which is also conducted at Nellis AFB. The FWS operates a rigorous training program for aeronautically-rated officers who pass a difficult screening process and are selected to become weapons officers.

The officer-based FWS and the enlisted-based AWDS are held concurrently in order to maximize training among and between pilots and weapons controllers. iThe staff at the (AWDS) schoolhouse use a building block approach by starting with small (combat) missions before introducing larger and larger ones,î explained Walden. îIt’s a very challenging course that requires a lot of experience.î

Before the enlisted students are exposed to combat missions however, they are instructed on operational details of each aircraft in the Air Force inventory, including all bombers, fighters, refuelers, and NATO aircraft. According to Walden, knowing the different types of aircraft and their capabilities is important because of the partnership they have with fighter pilots in the air.

We control combat aircraft when they are performing their combat mission, whether it be air-to-air combat, combat air patrols, close-air support, or air-to-air refueling. It’s a tough part of the curriculum but it’s definitely needed.î

According to Tech. Sgt. James Peters, NCOIC of standards and evaluations at AWDS, enlisted personnel were barred from serving as weapons directors up until 1993, when the results of a General Accounting Office study spawned personnel changes. Since then, hundreds of enlisted weapons directors have entered the career field and attended the required nine-month basic technical school in Arizona. The school includes six months of training at the Tucson Air National Guard Base and three months of training on modular equipment at Luke AFB.

The Guard and active duty (enlisted) weapons directors are just about par with each other,î said Peters, when asked if any differences exist between the two military organizations. îThey (the Air Guard) are getting tasked as much as we are these days and really stepping up to the challenges.î
Oregon Army National Guard units receive deployment excellence award

The Oregon Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry and the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Ashland and Salem respectively, were recognized for deployment excellence at a ceremony held on August 27, 2003 in Arlington, Virginia. The awards were presented by the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, Maj. Gen. Claude V. Christianson, on behalf of the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter J. Schoomaker.

The 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment mobilized and deployed in April 2002, from Ashland, Ore. as part of a Multinational Force and observer mission in Sinai, Egypt. The Oregon National Guard won both the small and large-size unit categories. Accepting the award were Lt. Col. Dan Cameron and Lt. Col. Todd Pimphont, past and current commanders of 1st Battalion, 186th Inf., respectively.

The Deployment Excellence Awards (DEA) recognizes excellence in deployment operations and is co-sponsored by the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 (Logistics) and the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3 (Operations) and administered by the Commander, U.S. Army Transportation Center. The objectives of the DEAs recognize units and installations for outstanding deployment accomplishments which meet or exceed established deployment standards, and to capture and share innovative deployment initiatives which have improved the deployment process.

The program promotes competition at the unit and major command level and provides an award recognition at the Department of the Army level. The DEA recognizes active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard organizations that have achieved the highest levels of readiness in executing their deployments.

Oregon Army Guard builds House of Hope for Iraqis in Mosul

By 1st Lt. Emil Bazaid
Public Affairs Rep., 52nd Engineer Battalion

Mosul, Iraq  There is a house in the city of Mosul, Iraq that represents great possibilities for the future of this war-torn country. It is a tiny house by American standards, but the House of Hope is only the beginning of a much more ambitious project. This house is unique in that it is the first one built with the combined efforts of US soldiers and Iraqi workers.

The primary intent of this project is to train former members of the Iraqi military in basic block masonry construction. A secondary benefit of the project is that it will eventually provide places to live for displaced families in the city of Mosul. In Phase one of a three-phase operation, which was completed in mid-August, a platoon of US Army engineers moved in and began construction of a single prototype house. In an environment such as exists in Mosul, sometimes just getting around in the city can be difficult and dangerous, so building this one house presented a significant challenge to the soldiers who got the task.

First platoon, B/52 Engineers is used to dealing with challenges. As part of a tri-component engineer battalion, the soldiers in the platoon have become accustomed to adapting to the differences between the active duty, guard, and reserve elements of the unit. Most of the soldiers in first platoon are members of the Oregon National Guard, who got the call in February and less than a week later found themselves at Fort Carson, Co. There they not only had to deal with the icy cold Colorado winter and the high altitude, but also the adjustment from their normal lives to the all-out Army. On top of that, the platoon took on five soldiers from the active component of the battalion, including a brand-new platoon leader just three months out of the officer’s basic course. Having met all of these challenges and more on the way to Mosul, the troops were ready for just about anything.

As work on the phase one house got underway, the soldiers quickly discovered that American methods are not always effective when working with Iraqi materials. So, they took on some local workers to help make building the house somewhat easier. These local workers taught the soldiers new ways of working with concrete blocks and mortar, while also providing them the unique opportunity to work hand-in-hand with Iraqis on a daily basis. There were many more challenges to face as work continued on the first house, but the soldiers and their new Iraqi friends overcame all of them.

At the end of two months of work, the first house is complete. This house is now being used to develop a training model for the former Iraqi soldiers that the platoon plans to train as well as to refine and design the future houses. This second phase consists of hiring a select group of former Iraqi soldiers to build another set of houses. In phase two, the troops from the platoon that built the first house can apply what they learned there to teach the new hires, and it is already underway.

Phase three will begin in the near future, as the soldiers will step back from their responsibilities as trainers and turn primarily to inspection and quality control of the project. Eventually, the intent of the House of Hope project is to provide many more jobs to Iraqi former soldiers so that they can earn money for their families by taking up shovels, picks, and trowels rather than rifles and RPGs.

See related story in the “Letters from the Front” section on page 4.

**Mobilization: Oregon’s Finest head to Mid-East**

Continued from Page 1

Headquarters, and the family support program.

1. Without your continued love and support, these men would not have been able to accomplish what they have been, or what they’re about to do. I Hendrickson said.

He also added that he was privileged to work with the fine men and women of the Volunteer Battalion. And proud to represent Oregon.

1. You have demonstrated outstanding dedication, commitment, and professionalism as you prepared both yourselves and your unit to mobilize and deploy. I Hendrickson continued.

Soldiers from the 2-162 come from more than 140 communities in Oregon, southwest Washington and northern California. The mobilization involves more than 700 troops, making this the largest mobilization of Oregon soldiers from Oregon since World War II. Many of the soldiers in the latest deployment volunteered for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Volunteers received 11B (Infantry) and 11C (Mortar) training at Camp Rilea on the Oregon Coast to qualify and receive a secondary MOS (military occupational specialty).

In Ft. Hood, Texas, personnel are currently undergoing training to improve their soldier skills, as well as receiving specialized training specific to the theater of operations, information on cultural differences and urban warfare training.

Hendrickson looked forward to the training, saying that the unit was ready to train hard, and, if necessary, fight. 1. Together, we’re going to do great things, I Hendrickson said. 1Things that’ll make our families, our state, and our nation proud.

1Brig. Gen. Raymond C. Byrne, Acting Adjutant General of the state of Oregon, called the deployment a team effort, calling for individuals to look out for each other.

1Use this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help transition the people of Iraq to a more democratic way of life. I said Byrne.

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

Governor Kulongoski presents Major Dan Heierman with the Oregon State Flag, which is to be flown over the 162nd Infantry Transport Operations Center (TOC) in Iraq.

Kulongoski praised members of the unit, noting the large number of Oregon Guardmembers now serving in deployments overseas.

I don’t think it is a mere coincidence that per capita, Oregon has the highest percentage of guardsmen deployed in any state in the country. I said Kulongoski.

Governor Kulongoski also presented the Oregon State Flag to Hendrickson, requesting that it be flown over the unit’s command center, once they arrive in Iraq.

You are the best 6 and our senior military commanders know it. I couldn’t possibly be more proud that I am at this moment. I he said.
Retired USMC Lt. Gen. Mutter speaks in Portland on women in the military

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
State Public Affairs Office

The Women Marines Association (WMA) celebrated its 60th anniversary of women in the military, specifically the Marines, by hosting a dinner meeting with Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter at Shennanigan’s Restaurant in Portland. Approximately 150 people were in attendance, including Mr. Craig Campbell, Policy Advisor to Gov. Ted Kulongoski; Mr. David Robinson, Program Manager, Battle Management Systems, National Guard Bureau; Maj. Gen. Alexander H. Burgin, former Adjutant General of Oregon; and Warrenton Mayor Jeff Hazen.

Mutter referred to young people entering the armed services as “superbly motivated individuals,” who felt as if they were doing something worthwhile. They were members of the “Greatest Generation,” her family remarked. The Women Marines Association is chartered with documenting the stories, but especially women. The WMA is also involved in the Junior ROTC program, Toys for Tots, and the Marine For Life program to maintain temporary radar sites in Neha Bay, Washington, and Mt. Hebo, Oregon; 14 members.

Watching the teamwork of our members and how they continually rose to each and every challenge was very rewarding for me,” said Olson. “Our unit became more cohesive than ever. The unit, considered one of the busiest air control squadrons in the nation, also deployed to Mt. Hebo, Ore., Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and provided early warning data to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); four weapons controllers (officers). On 15 Apr 02-31 Aug 02: Salt Lake ARTCC, Utah: provided air control services to the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (USAF); served as a vital link between the continental North American Air Defense (NORAD) region and the European Union. The unit members were very supportive of each other at work and outside of work. We are the eyes of the sky, I explained Maj. Jim Gregory, director of operations. If or when an enemy force invades our protected airspace, they show up on our radar scopes. We then communicate with friendly-force fighter aircraft and direct pilots where and when to launch their missiles.

Gregory also added that the 116th ACS members were very supportive of each other at work and outside of work. “We’re more like a family than anything else.” Gregory summarized the unit’s accomplishments.

“I answered the call and did it immediately, without question and with a lot of expertise,” he remarked. “Protecting America requires an everlasting vigilance. Those who serve know that the flag represents the soul of our nation.”
Retiree Corner

Space-A Travel: military’s little-known secret to inexpensive vacations


In the next few months, families will be planning gatherings and visits, or college children will take a break from school and head home for the holiday season. Throughout the year, and especially during these peak travel times, Space-A air travel provides a cost-effective alternative to packages offered by the commercial airlines.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, there are three locations from which Space-A flights arrive and depart. These include McChord and Fairchild AFB, and Whidbey Island NAS.

Interested parties can obtain flight information and schedules through the following contact numbers: McChord AFB, WA - (253) 982-7268; Fairchild AFB, WA - (509) 247-5435; Whidbey Island NAS, WA - (360) 257-2604; Oregon Army National Guard Flight Operations, Salem, OR - (503) 584-3385; Oregon Air National Guard Flight Operations, Portland, OR - (503) 335-4390.

Because of the high level of security and ongoing military operations, admits to bases and air terminals is stricter, but there are more flights than usual to catch. On-base quarters can be difficult to obtain especially during the holiday season.

Recent changes in the MEDIVAC flights have occurred with the C-17 being taken out of service. AMC is now using KC-130s, C-141s, and C-17s for this duty. Special pallets/seating is installed in the aircraft and Space-A is still permitted if space and flight personnel permit.

With the increased operations tempo for the C-17 fleet, this is an excellent time to fly to the East Coast or to/Rhenland, Germany, from McChord AFB. Reserve retired, non-paid reservists, can fly only in CONUS, AK, HI, and US possessions. Active Duty, AGR, and Retired drawing retired pay can fly anywhere allowed by AMC or the military services.

For more information on Space-A travel, visit: http://www.spacea.info/. Another good reference for Space-A travel can be found at: http://publicspacecct.mil/bqa/).

Another military couple, my wife, and I will utilize Space-A flights on a European adventure that will encompass Sicily or Crete in the sunny Mediterranean. Ill have a travel report in a future newsletter.

There is some truth to the saying, ‘You can travel a lot further for less the military way.”

Online travel information from R&R Travel News

Subscribe to your FREE online newsletter. We hope you like this taste of our free newsletter. We hope you like this taste of our free newsletter.

DEERS is key to TRICARE benefits

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is your key to obtaining TRICARE benefits. DEERS is the government database used to verify your eligibility for TRICARE benefits. By making sure information is current and correct in DEERS, you should never hear, “I’m sorry, DEERS doesn’t show you as eligible.”

Changes, both big and small, can affect your TRICARE coverage. Have you moved recently? Does your family have a new baby or adopt a child in the house? By letting DEERS know about any changes, your eligibility for TRICARE is secure and any claims you may have will flow smoothly through the system. (Note: If applicable, DEERS must also be updated to reflect your having Medicare Parts A & B. Without you, you may lose coverage.)

You can update your DEERS information in several ways:

- Visit the DEERS website at http://www.TRICARE.osd.mil/DEERS/Address.
- Visit a local personnel office that has a Uniformed Services ID card facility.
- Call the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at (800) 538-9552 or visit http://www.dmd.osd.mil/dso/
- Fax address changes to (831) 655-8337.
- Mail the change information to the DEERS Support Office, Attn: COA, 400 Government Road, Beaufort, SC 29955-6771.

Your changes to DEERS coverage, make sure you also let the following know:
- Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Contact the outpatient Medical Records department and tell your doctor when checking in at your MTF appointment.
- TRICARE Service Center (TSC). Update changes that affect your enrollment information. Visit or call your TSC, or complete and return a Change Request form. Change Request forms are available on-line at http://www.hns.mil/ or by calling or visiting your local TRICARE Service Center.
- Civilian doctor’s office. Contact your Primary Care Manager (PCM) and any specialists you may need.
- If updating your other health insurance, you must fill out a new Other Health Insurance form. Call or visit your local TSC for a form. Complete the form and return it to the address listed on the form. Inform your doctor’s office about the new health insurance.
- DEERS provides extended in-school deferment for student loans and employment rights. The borrower.
- The next Retiree Luncheon meeting will be on Apr. 16, 2004, at the Keizer Elks Lodge located at 1885 River Road, Keizer, OR, at 11:30 a.m., with a buffet luncheon served at Noon.
- Change out of your education and employment rights.
- The large number of guard members deploying around the world, many questions have arisen about their student loans and employment rights.
- The US Department of Education has a website located at http://egain.ed.gov/degateway/033347.html, that addresses most questions regarding the repayment of student loans. One of the documents listed on this site is DCL ID G-03-347, which addresses deferments and forbearances for activated military members. The document covers extended in-school deferment, or a grace period of up to 3 years while the borrower is on active duty. It also requires the lender to grant a forbearance of 1 year upon request. Finally, it requires the lender to cease collection efforts on loans in default during the borrowers military service. However, the letter does not have any provisions for forgiveness of the loan. They are still the responsibility of the borrower.
- Under the Uniformed Services Employee Assistance and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), deployed guard members are to be promptly reinstated to their civilian jobs upon their return. Soldiers and Airmen are entitled to the same position and level of seniority they had at the time of their military activation. The Oregon National Guard is taking a proactive role in working with military members and employers so everyone understands their respective rights and obligations under the law. To find out more information on the law, visit the US Department of Labor’s website at http://www.dol.gov/whd/usar0.htm.
Congress will make changes to TRICARE benefits for guardmembers, reservists

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Senior Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., flanked by a bi-partisan group of senators, announced plans on Sept. 10th to add a TRICARE amendment to the president's $87 billion supplemental bill to cover deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. The amendment would offer TRICARE coverage to Guardmen and Reservists on a cost-share basis, regardless of their activation status.

There is no differentiation between active duty personnel on the front lines in Iraq or National Guard personnel on the front lines, Daschle said. They both serve in harm's way, both ought to be supported as they are considered for the (military) needs we have.

Daschle was joined by Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., and Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., who agreed with Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and the Defense Department in July to wait for another study on TRICARE and put off such a plan, changed his mind after a recent visit to Iraq.

If don't need to study this anymore, Graham said. I'm hoping that the administration would go with us.

Leahy added that the two questions he receives about Guard and Reserve personnel always concern when the deployments will end and health care issues. This amendment, he said, would improve readiness and is the right thing to do.

Wednesday's announcement marks the third attempt this year to extend health care coverage for Guardmen, an effort the NGAUS has supported from the beginning.

The NGAUS has been working strongly to gain health care coverage for members of the National Guard for over three years now, I said Bill Goss, legislative director of the NGAUS. It always concern when the deployments will end and health care issues. This amendment, he said, would improve readiness and is the right thing to do.

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Recruiting and Retention Command Honors its Top Performers

By Sgt. 1st Class Guy Britnell, Recruiting Marketing NCOIC

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command held its annual awards banquet on October 24, 2003 in Lincoln City, Ore. The event is held to honor the Recruiting and Retention Non-Commissioned Officers in the state that have excelled during the year, with the top honor of the “Chief’s 54 Award” going to the top recruiter in the state.

In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a recruiter must demonstrate excellence in all three tenants of Strength Maintenance — recruiting, retention and attrition management. This year’s Chief’s 54 recipient, Sgt. 1st Class Greg Bogard, was also honored on the national level recently in Washington DC.

The Master 7 Award goes to the top Recruiting Area Supervisor in the state. Again, this award is based on the supervisor’s team demonstrating excellence in all three tenants of Strength Maintenance. This year’s recipient is Master Sgt. Bob Droke of eastern Oregon. Droke was also selected as the Recruiting and Retention Advisory Committee Six (RRAC 6) Master 7. RRAC 6 covers the northwestern states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, and also includes Alaska.

“For me to travel to Washington D.C. and receive the Master 7 Award for RRAC 6 was truly a great way to end my military career. I am totally aware and grateful that it was made possible by the dedication and hard work ethics of the seven soldiers that I supervise”, said Droke.

Lt. Col. Beverly Herard, Recruiting and Retention Commander, said, “The annual conference has become somewhat a conference of traditions. For instance, we involve family members in all activities and the formal dinner in dress blues, honoring the soldiers and families has become a tradition. Next year, we are planning the first ‘retiree social’ during the conference. We’ll invite all retired members of the Recruiting Force.”

Because of the transformation from HQ STARC to Joint Force Headquarters Oregon, the Air National Guard recruiting force was also invited to the conference.

“This year we took a major step toward joint integration with the participation of the Air National Guard recruiting force. The bonding of both forces was tremendous. We realized how compatible and mutually-sustainable we can be.” Herard concluded.

Senator encourages donation of frequent flier miles

Washington, DC  Senator Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) recently launched a new page on his website to provide information on how Americans can donate their frequent flyer miles to help troops stationed in Iraq fly home on leave. The web page can be accessed from Smith’s Senate website at http://gsmith.senate.gov.

“I want to encourage Oregonians to donate their frequent flyer miles to help these courageous men and women get home to spend quality time with their loved ones.”

In September 2003, the Pentagon started giving two week leaves to military personnel stationed in Iraq. Troops on R&R or emergency leave are flown by the military to Germany or three airports in the United States: Baltimore/Washington, (BWI); Dallas/Fort Worth, (DFW); or Atlanta, (ATL) at no cost. Until funding becomes available, however, they are responsible for flights to their eventual destinations which are often high-priced, last minute tickets. To ease this burden, some airlines are accepting donations of frequent flyer miles to be used by soldiers on leave. Up to 500 troops per day have been coming home on leave.

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