Wherever Duty Calls

By Norm Maves Jr.

Reprinted courtesy of the Oregonian

The war on terrorism may be a new kind of combat, but for the Oregon National Guard’s 1042nd Medical Company, chasing a shadowy enemy around Afghanistan looks like past wars.


And the uncertainty that if the war spreads, this time to Iraq, the unit might be among the first ones called.

“Our hope is to go home as soon as we’re done—not out of fear of Iraq, but simply because we’re homesick,” Capt. Tom Lingle, a helicopter pilot and one of the 40 Oregon Guard troops assigned to Tom Lingle, a helicopter pilot and one of the 40 Oregon Guard troops assigned to this is war and anything could happen.”

“It’s easy to become complacent and pretend like every day is Groundhog Day—the same day over and over again.” said Maj. Mathew Brady, the commander of the expedition, in a phone interview from Bagram. “But you can’t do it. Every day you get rocket fire and mortar fire, so you have to stay on your toes at all times.”

The 1042nd has 28 other troops split between bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

One other Oregon National Guard battalion, the 1st Battalion, 166th Infantry of southern Oregon is on the Sinai Peninsula on a separate United Nations peacekeeping mission until January.

The 1042nd's 68 troops are too anxious. They're preparing mentally and physically for change. They realize they could be in the next Iraq. How likely is it? If the shooting starts in Iraq, the 1042nd’s 68 troops are too critical to the mobility of any plan to be left out, said Ron Tammem of Portland State University.

“The regular units don’t want to slow down an operation to take care of the wounded, so you want somebody to pick up the wounded.”

“Did I mention green?” Brady says morale is high, but that’s a relative term at the front, where happiness might mean a day without seeing a wounded Afghan kid. The soldiers lean on one another.

“One people need more help than others,” he said. “Kids’ birthdays and anniversaries are difficult, so we all have to help each other now and then.”

The unit of citizen soldiers was officially activated on May 27 for as long as two years. Back home in Salem, the soldiers’ boss says his troops are realistic about what could happen after Sunday—the deadline for Iraq to present a tally of its weapons of mass destruction.

“Things could change for them instantly,” says Maj. Gen. Alexander Burgin, Oregon Adjutant General and the commander of the Oregon Military Department. “They’re on a fixed and focused mission now, but sure, they’re anxious. They’re preparing mentally and physically for change. They realize they could be in the next Iraq.”

Oregon remembers the 1042nd much differently. Late last spring, its pilots and paramedics launched the spectacular rescue of stranded hikers on windy Mt. Hood.

Now, when the 1042nd’s medical crews fly out they are accompanied by two armed helicopters.

They face daily mortar and rocket fire as they retrieve and treat wounded Afghans, often children, who have stepped on mines or unexploded mortar rounds. They stabilize them and get them to a field hospital, from which they go to the bigger military hospital at Bagram Air Base.

The 40 troops assigned to Afghanistan—mostly medics, pilots and flight crew—operate out of Bagram and make-shift forward operations bases. The 1042nd has 28 other troops split between bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

From the Willamette Valley, is a professional magician. He’s played Las Vegas. Now, when he’s done helping out in the hospital, he plays Bagram, entertaining the children brought in for treatment.

Common to all the soldiers is how much they miss home—not just their families.

“I (miss) green, green, green, green!” Lingle writes. “Also, rain, fresh air, lack of dust, great food, great beer, great coffee…”

“Did I mention green?”

Brady says morale is high, but that’s a relative term at the front, where happiness might mean a day without seeing a wounded Afghan kid. The soldiers lean on one another.

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“You have to have (helicopter medevac units like the 1042nd),” said Tammem, the director of the Hatfield School of Government and a former instructor at the National War College.

“The regular units don’t want to slow down an operation to take care of the wounded, so you want somebody to pick up the wounded.”

“You want them to get the best treatment possible, and in order to do that you have to have the mobility of helicopters.”

The 1042nd’s mission is to be among the first to deploy. They face daily mortar and rocket fire, so you have to stay on your toes at all times.”

The toughest part of the operation, Brady says, is dealing with the children wounded by mines. Crew members estimate 10 million mines are left over from the 1979-88 war with the Soviets. “It’s hard,” Brady said, “because all of us have kids back home.”

The duty has a bitter-sweet benefit, unique training opportunities the medics don’t get at home. “For example, they have all seen amputations now,” Lingle writes.

Personal time comes whenever the soldiers can grab it. “We’re al-
During this holiday season, I am reminded of the incredible sacrifices and professional excellence of our soldiers and airmen, but also of the personal sacrifices and emotional tolls their families must endure. As the holidays bring a time for reflection and appreciation, it is important to remember the support and sacrifices of our families, who provide the strength and resiliency that allows our Guard to serve with a level of devotion and selflessness.

This year, each of us will take the time to count our blessings and give thanks for all we have. I hope the first on our list is the family. Families have long provided strength and values to oursoldiers, our military and our nation. The pride in the service of our deployed soldiers in Egypt, I was impressed by the impact family support has on these men and women, but more importantly, how each of them reflected their membership in a much larger family, the Oregon National Guard, citizen-soldiers of the United States.

As our soldiers and airmen marched in the Albany, Veterans Day parade, we honored a former soldier, Levi Hubert, several awards he earned 57 years ago. This gentleman was in inspiration. He sought no reward for his service and lived with memories of extreme challenges as a Prisoner of War in a Nazi prison camp for almost six decades. Yet once awarded, he recalled, with pride, his service to his nation. We hold even more dear, the benefits of living in a free nation. I had the privilege to visit hundreds of prisoners at their request. Circulation Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309, (503) 584-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the Azuwur are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Oregon Army and Air Forces. The Azuwur is distributed free to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation 10,500.

A lot has gone on in the past year. As we commemorate the first anniversary of Sept. 11, this past fall, the Air National Guard was involved in almost every theater operation in the world. We have answered the call to the war on terrorism and have activated airmen in almost every air force skill code (AFSC) to get this job done. We mobilized some and sent them in many different directions. Some stayed at their duty stations, and some went to airports. No matter where our Airmen deployed, the reports back were always “Outstanding Guardsmen and women from Oregon.” Of course, we already knew that, but it is very comforting to hear it from commanders and NCOs in the field.

This November we celebrated Veteran’s Day in the military history gives us the opportunity to resolve to defeat those who wish to this challenging time in our nation’s history gives us the opportunity to enhance our appreciation of the first responders to any man-made or natural disaster within our cities and counties. The challenge as a Prisoner of War in a Nazi prison camp for almost six decades. Yet once awarded, he recalled, with pride, his service to his nation. We hold even more dear, the benefits of living in a free nation. I had the privilege to visit hundreds of prisoners at their request. Circulation Office, PO Box 14350, Salem, Oregon, 97309, (503) 584-3917. The views and opinions expressed in the Azuwur are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Oregon Army and Air Forces. The Azuwur is distributed free to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. Circulation 10,500.

As we celebrate the holidays this season and remind ourselves of the freedoms and liberties we have, remember that those benefits are guaranteed by you and your peers, some of whom are far from home. Keep tabs on each other throughout this season, remember those who came before you and remind yourselves that each day your thoughts and deeds are inspiring the generation that will follow you. GOD BLESS THE USA

Frankfort, Germany. The reports of our service abroad are superior. As we celebrate the holidays this season and remind ourselves of the freedoms and liberties we have, remember that those benefits are guaranteed by you and your peers, some of whom are far from home. Keep tabs on each other throughout this season, remember those who came before you and remind yourselves that each day your thoughts and deeds are inspiring the generation that will follow you. GOD BLESS THE USA
UN battle tank makes its debut in Oregon

The first of its kind to be used in the United States, it was used against the Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon. Right: Tom McCoun and Darren Daniels drive the Jumbo tank around the Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon. Above: The Jumbo Tank, a modified Leopard 1 MBT from Germany, is the first of its kind to be used in the US.

By Pvt. Nick Wood

The Leopard Mark 1 main battle tank is a staple in over a dozen United Nations countries including Canada and Germany. Around since 1963, the Leopard MBT has been proved both on and off the battlefield.

Rig: The Tank, a modified Leopard 1 MBT from Germany, is the first of its kind to be used in the US.

By Pvt. Nick Wood

The Leopard Mark 1 main battle tank is a staple in over a dozen United Nations countries including Canada and Germany. Around since 1963, the Leopard MBT has been proven both on and off the battlefield.

Refitted and adopting a new name, the Jumbo is now being used to fight fires instead of enemy combatants.

The first of its kind to be used in the United States, it was used against the Biscuit Fire in southwestern Oregon. Getting off to a rough start due to a faulty gasket in the cooling system, the Jumbo soon found itself to be the fires.

Often, water tankers cannot reach deep into the needed areas. The tracked vehicle can get to many of the places lighter vehicles cannot.

“The object is to go wherever a CAT will go to supply water where other vehicles will not go,” said Tom McCoun, a Northfire fire captain for the day-shift operator for the Jumbo.

The tanks integrated nuclear, biological and chemical warfare crew protection system allows the Jumbo to fight chemical fires without risking harm to the crew.

The tank chassis’ armor also allows the Jumbo to withstand large amounts of heat radiated from the fire.

Combined with the 5,200-gallon tank, the Jumbo can sustain itself in the field for long periods without support.

“You can be at 12 hours at least,” Darren Daniels, McCoun’s co-pilot, said. Before arriving in Oregon, the crew spent one week at the Nevada Automobile Testing Ground near Carson City familiarizing themselves with the Jumbo.

McCoun, who has previous experience driving CATs said the controls of the Jumbo are very much the same.

“It is a tracked vehicle, so a lot of the techniques are similar,” he said.

With an 850-horsepower engine, the Jumbo can do more than just fight the fires.

“With the blade on, you can cut safety zones if you need to, or cut a fireline if need be,” McCoun said.

1042nd Med Co assists NC citizens

While leaving Ft. Bragg, N.C., on July 17, 1042nd Med Co, 1042nd Flight Platoon, was called to a motor vehicle collision involving four vehicles.

Upon arrival, crew chiefs Staff Sgt. James Turner, Sgt. Tony Trentz, Sgt. 1st Class John Esch, and Spc. Justin Thomas; and pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Greg Lund provided traffic control and ensured the patient’s vehicle was stabilized and the vehicle battery was disconnected to prevent inadvertent air bag deployment.

Medics Spc. Tony Quesada, Sgt. Jason Johnson, and Sgt. Cody Baldwin started patient care, while medic Sgt. Scott Anderson made the initial call to EMS and provided a patient report.

The members of the 1042nd continued to provide traffic control, and patient care until Cumberland County EMS arrived on scene.

Upon arrival of the fire department and EMS, the Guard medics assisted with patient extrication and loading.

Patient care was then released to the fire department.

For their actions, Brig. Gen. Fox, commander of the 44th MEDCOM, presented these soldiers with the MEDCOM coin for excellence.

Stay alert, follow rules of the road, and expect the unexpected while driving

By Lt. Col. Martin Woodward

December brings more traffic to the highways, and not all drivers stay alert or drive defensively.

The holidays brings more traffic to the highways, and not all drivers stay alert or drive defensively.

Oregon National Guard personnel were involved in two motor vehicle accidents in June which related to unexpected actions on the part of other drivers.

An Army National Guard GSA Bluebird bus was involved in an accident on I-84 near Boise, Idaho.

Our bus was following a tractor-trailer rig, when it veered suddenly to avoid a slow moving maintenance vehicle at the last minute.

Our bus was unable to stop before impacting the rear of the slow-moving truck.

Several soldiers were injured.

Only one was hospitalized with a compound fracture requiring surgery.

He will recover in a few months.

A civilian pick-up truck turned left across the lane of the oncoming Guardsman’s motorcycle.

The Guardsman and his wife sustained several injuries, and were hospitalized.

He will be recovering for several months, and his wife is expected to recover soon.

“Drive Smart – Drive Safe”

Securing the fire line

Sgt. Jean-Pierre Deplois of Troop E, 82nd Cavalry, confirms the authorization of Jimmy Scott of the North Carolina Forestry Service and Gary Simpson of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
Military travelers guaranteed rooms through new program

Beginning about Nov. 1, military travelers will be required to consider government-contracted hotels before other options when traveling inside the continental United States.

The new requirement is part of the Federal Premier Lodging Program (FPLP), said McConnell.

The FPLP is contracting with hotels in key cities where federal employees do business to guarantee a specific number of available rooms at a specific price.

“For the first time since 1990, some U.S. service members will be vaccinated against smallpox, a contagious disease related to their military jobs for the civilian world before they leave the service.”

For more information on the FPLP, visit http://policyworks.org/omain/ml1/homepage/ml1/per/diem/plp/plphp.html

DANTES offers job assistance to separating service members

American Forces Press Service

For separating service members, DANTES can now help get them back into the civilian labor market faster. DANTES offers counseling and placement services as they transition into the civilian world.

Bush Orders smallpox vaccinations

For the first time since 1990, some U.S. service members will be vaccinated against smallpox, a contagious disease that government officials fear could be used as a biological weapon.

After “first-responders,” the vaccine will be given to troops in areas where the threat of smallpox is considered highest. Other troops who could be vaccinated are those who would be responsible for the most forward and difficult to reach for inoculation during a war or troop deployment.

Transitional health benefits

Transitional health care is not an entitlement for service members. It is an option that is available to those service members meeting specified eligibility requirements. Service members may book reservations elsewhere, stay may book reservations elsewhere, but they still need to indicate that the FPLP hotel is full, or find a less expensive place to stay by making reservations elsewhere, according to McConnell.

“Under the per diem process, you can ask others to accept this risk unless you are the commander in chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am the commander in chief,” McConnell said.

The per diem process is expected to cover some 75 cities.

For more information on the FPLP, visit http://policyworks.org/omain/ml1/homepage/ml1/per/diem/plp/plphp.html

Messecar becomes new 142 MDS commander

Lt. Col. Deborah Messecar replaced Col. Dan O’Hearn as the commander of the 142nd Medical Squadron (MDS). A Traditional Guardian, Messecar has been an instructor at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSHU) school of nursing since 1997.

She has a PhD in nursing, as well as an advanced degree in biostatistics and epidemiology.

Her special interests include health-related research, and she has an Air Guard members as survey participants in health promotion studies.

Messecar sees her new position as involving “lots of responsibility—and lots of change—with many of our people approaching retirement.”

O’Hearn will remain as the director of support for Headquarters, Oregon Air National Guard in Salem.

Additional information on Tricare medical and dental benefits is available on the Tricare web site at http://www.tricare.osd.mil or by visiting the Tricare service center or BCAC at the local military treatment facility.
Air Guard barrier crews get down and dirty in the pits at Portland International Airport

They check the rubber stanchions for condition and proper spacing and survey the area for debris and obstructions around the cable.

They inspect fluid levels in the accumulator and reservoir and check the rewind engine oil level.

Then they operate the rewind engine for 15 minutes and check the instruments.

They also test the extinguisher, light, fire extinguishing agents, and the hydraulic telltale gages.

Not only does the crew do daily inspections, they also accomplish in-depth 30-day or 10 arrests; 30-day or 50 arrests; 90-day or 50 arrests; 180-day or 25 arrests; three-month/six-month/24-month/36-month inspections.

If at any time the system does not meet specifications or damaged items are found the items are replaced.

The safety of our pilots depends on it.

Why do they have to check the ex-haust fan and the lights?

The four individual units are setup in concrete "pits" below ground level, so exhaust fans are needed to expel the diesel fumes and lights are needed to see at any time.

The pit roofs are 3,000-pound concrete slabs, which must be removed before the system engine or tapes can be replaced.

The cable costs about $2,300; the tapes, replaced in sets are approximately $16,000; and an engine is about $8,000.

The most recent overall and parts replacement was accomplished in February 2002.

Once the system is replaced and reset, the barrier is tested to make sure it can stop an injured F-15. The runway is referenced to all traffic.

Sometimes the test is done with a military truck rigged with a tail hook that engages the barrier at 55-plus miles per hour.

Ideally, however, the test is done with an F-15, which gives more accurate results.

The jet begins at the runway and engages the barrier at about 100 knots (about 115 mph).

Fire and rescue vehicles and personnel are involved with the test, responding just as they would to an actual engagement.

This gives them practice and training for when they are needed to be involved to rescue a pilot from a burning aircraft.

How does one become a member of the barrier crew?

Interested persons must have an electrical background and attend both power production and barrier engagement tech school.

Then they must be certified to operate, inspect and reset the system.

Power production personnel are a critical ASFC and are needed in the US Air Force, Air Guard and Reserve.

With the world situation and the Air Force operating out of overseas locations, the aircraft arresting systems are in great demand.

By Master Sgt. GARY HOLTZ

142nd Civil Engineering Squadron

Barrier crew: Work Control. We have an IFE with an ETA of 15 minutes possibly taking the East barrier. Do you copy?

Barrier crew copies. We're on our way!" NASA CS 500 is not! These are the real "pits." At the conversation's end, all fire and rescue vehicles and personnel are heading towards the staging area on the east end of Portland's Runway 28.

It's an F-15 Eagle included with an flight emergency (IFE).

Perhaps the jet has a hydraulic failure, a landing gear malfunction or an engine fire.

Whatever the emergency, the pilot is looking towards the 142nd Civil Engi- neer Squadron's barrier crew and fire department emergency response person- nel to catch him safely on the ground.

The barrier crew will only be needed if the aircraft actually "takes the cable"—a decision made by the pilot. Once snagged, however, a lot of things start happening.

The aircraft is brought to a controlled stop in the middle of the runway after engaging the barrier.

Fire and rescue personnel move in to put out any fires and to extract the pilot from the plane as quickly as possible, and to shut down the engines if necessary.

After the emergency is assessed and under control the plane is unhooked from the barrier cable and toved away. Now the barrier crew can get to work.

With assistance from the fire and rescue personnel the crew inspects the barrier cable and the belt for damage.

The cable and belt is then rewind and the system reset for the next emergency.

Piece of cake... for everyone but the barrier crew.

What is "the barrier" anyway?

The barrier is actually called the "BAK-12 Aircraft Arresting System." It is a rotary friction type energy ab- sorber consisting of two identical units using standard B-52 aircraft wheel brakes.

It is a split system designed for energy absorber units on each side of the runway and near the ends of the runway or touchdown area.

There are two installed on the south runway of the Portland International Airport—one each at the east and west ends.

BAK-12 units are air transportable and can be rapidly installed at a forward operating base or permanently installed as they are at Portland.

How does a B-52 aircraft brake stop an F-15?

When the aircraft engages the barrier at 100-plus knots, the lowered tail hook snags the 1.25-inch-diameter cable stretched across the runway, dragging it and the barrier belt (tape) behind it.

As the 1,300-foot belt unwinds over each of the sprockets the system hydrau- lies engage to quickly bring the aircraft to a halt.

It's kind of like a giant rubber band or slingshot without the flying back.

The system is designed so that the right amount of braking force is applied evenly and quickly to any fighter aircraft at an equivalent landing speeds.

The belt, or "tape" as the crew calls it, resembles conveyor belt material and is ¼ inch thick, 8-1/2 inches wide and 1,300 feet long.

When not in use the cable is lowered into a trough below the runway surface.

When a pilot declares an IFE and requests the barrier, the civilian air traffic controllers at the Portland tower acti- vate a switch and the cable pops up, held three inches above the runway by rubber cushions.

After an aircraft takes the arresting barrier, the system must be inspected for damage, rewound, reset and sub- merged for the next engagement.

The 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron's power production section maintains the arresting barrier system.

Because we use a civilian airport, the barrier crew must work around civilian flight schedules.

We can't shut down the runway anytime we want.

So, at 4:30 a.m. each scheduled flying day, when most of us are still sleeping, the barrier crew is out inspecting sys- tem for the day's possible use.

Master Sgt. Robert Murphy, power production supervisor, and his crew check the cable for proper tension, kinks, broken wires and wear.

The 142nd Civil Engineering Squadron's pit crew checks the runway barrier prior to an inbound F-15 Eagle landing with an in-flight emergency.

Contributed photo

Fitzpatrick, director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office. Fitzpatrick said the main need is for Operation Enduring Freedom.

“We're shipping 500 units of blood per week to Afghanistan. We have a continued need,” he said. “Operation Enduring Freedom continues, our units are still deployed, so the high level of donation we’re seeing needs to continue. We can't afford any decrease.”

The Enduring Freedom area in Central Asia has 17 medical units, and the blood program must keep an inventory available in case of casualties.

Blood only has a 42-day shelf life.

The holidays are generally a slow time for blood donations.

The civilian community is hurting, especially in large urban areas.

This summer, Defense Department medical facilities have helped civilian facilities in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, Fitzpatrick said.

“Our main need is to provide blood for Operation Enduring Freedom and our own sites first, and then provide it to the civilians when possible.”

Service members who wish to donate blood can go either to one of the 21 Army, Air Force or Navy blood donor centers or a local civilian donor center.

Fitzpatrick said that service members are more apt to donate blood than the civilian community.

In the civilian sector, about three to five percent of the population donates blood,” he said. “At our sites where we have donor centers, it has reached 10 percent. Our donors are well- motivated. I want to thank them for that motivation, and I want to ask them to continue to donate in the future.”

There are restrictions to donating blood related to various disease conditions. Fitzpatrick is taking a cautious approach to that situation, Fitzpatrick said.

• Service members, their family members, retirees and their families cannot donate blood if they:
  • Traveled/resided in the UK from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of three months or more.
  • Traveled or resided in Europe from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of six months or more.
  • Traveled or resided in Europe from 1980 to the present for a cumulative period of five years or more.
  • Received blood transfusion in the United Kingdom since 1980.
  • Received a bovine insulin product produced in Europe through 1980.

The Food and Drug Administration is constantly evaluating the situation. If the FDA changes the blood donation policy, so will the Armed Services Blood Program.

For more information, a directory of donor facilities, rules, tips and news, visit the Armed Services Blood Program web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/asbp.

Blood donations needed for Operation Enduring Freedom

Service members have been donating blood in record numbers—and they need to keep it up, said Army Col. Mike Fitzpatrick, Director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office.

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Meet the Challenge

DIVERSITY is one of the challenges the Oregon National Guard faces in transforming into a fighting team that will remain superior for decades to come. To achieve success in equal opportunity strategic objectives, the Oregon National Guard is:

Expanding specialized cross-cultural training to equip recruits as ambassadors of education and industry groups.

Establishing and maintaining strong coalition partnerships with community, education and industry groups.

Analyzing studies and data on the scope and effectiveness of mentoring activities.

Improving educational programs, tools and guidelines for mentoring.

Ensuring it has robust and flexible equal opportunity training programs.

Eliminating barriers to a level playing field for accessors early in individual careers.

Refining its message of inclusiveness while capitalizing on successes and communicating Oregon National Guard contributions to society.

Senior leaders are saying . . . "these critical actions are part of the National Guard's commitment to building true diversity and developing a culture that understands equal opportunity is crucial to mission readiness and enables us as guardians of our nation's defense."
God Bless the USA

The following is an anonymous letter given to the Chaplain Assistant for the 1st Battalion, 186 Infantry. It was read at the 9-11 ceremony at South Camp.

To all of those who fight for freedom

One year ago today, a tragedy struck our lives while we slept, got ready for work or got our kids off to school. Many lives were lost, some we knew an some we did not. Most of us cried in anger, disbelief, shock and terror. Today is a day to remember those lost to us and remember why we all stand in the silence and reflect on the joys we have left behind families, and all others. They are battalions that have left behind families, and all that resonates the comfort of home.

The power and will of America

South Camp, Egypt - On Sept. 11th, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Battalion, and the 1st Support Battalion, sat silently in the darkness overlooking the Red Sea awaiting the service honoring the victims of 9-11. The ceremony has perhaps greater significance to them than others. They are battalions that have left behind families, and all that resonates the comfort of home.

The Star Spangled Banner began the event with a rendition of God Bless America, and the entire assembly joined in, many with tears in their eyes. Several thousand Oregonians were on hand and the “Spirit of America” was apparent everywhere. Veterans of every age were there in a solid show of support for the basic freedoms provided by our Constitution. Children comforted parents, friends comforted friends, strangers comforted strangers. The losses of the past year weighed heavily in the hearts and minds of those assembled.

The colors were presented by a special honor guard made up of military and police personnel. Bagpipers from several police agencies came together to play for this event and a group of children from the Tualatin Valley played the bells as the event concluded as two F-15 Falcons from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard provided a two ship flyover to the cheers and applause of Oregonians.

Capt. Daniel Cameron steps on stage before his troops. He takes a deep breath and for a moment there is a slight quiver in his voice. "Surely, it is not coincidence – we are here for a reason. We're here for the Multinational Peacekeeping and Observer mission, but it's obvious to me, we were sent here for something more," said Cameron. "We're here to see 9/11 never happens again – in whatever way we can, whatever is our part." The colors were presented by a special honor guard made up of military and police personnel. Bagpipers from several police agencies came together to play for this event and a group of children from the Tualatin Valley played the bells as the event concluded as two F-15 Falcons from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard provided a two ship flyover to the cheers and applause of Oregonians.

The firefighters bell rang out a solemn remembrance to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2002. Not unlike the rest of the nation, Oregon saw ceremonies in almost every city throughout the state; remembering and honoring the emergency providers who respond so quickly in times of need.

At the state capital, a procession of emergency responders from throughout the state included firefighters; 911 dispatchers, wildland firefighters, emergency medical technicians; police; Army and Air National Guard; Sea Cadets; public works personnel and the American Red Cross, took center stage.

Capt. _______ began the event with a rendition of God Bless America, and the entire assembly joined in, many with tears in their eyes. Several thousand Oregonians were on hand and the “Spirit of America” was apparent everywhere. Veterans of every age were there in a solid show of support for the basic freedoms provided by our Constitution. Children comforted parents, friends comforted friends, strangers comforted strangers. The losses of the past year weighed heavily in the hearts and minds of those assembled.

The colors were presented by a special honor guard made up of military and police personnel. Bagpipers from several police agencies came together to play for this event and a group of children from the Tualatin Valley played the bells as the The event concluded as two F-15 Falcons from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard provided a two ship flyover to the cheers and applause of Oregonians.

The power and will of America

CHAPLAIN ASST., 1ST BN, 186 INFANTRY

"It's my turn," said Smith. "It's my responsibility as Chaplain to remember those lost to us and to honor them, to fight for freedom and security so others may someday have their parents will of the American soldier," said Covacs. "I hope all you Americans can keep it." Covacs poses the same difficult question so many others have before him. The question he says, everybody knows the answer to. "Who gave the international responsibility to the U.S.A, to do it all on there own, to fight terrorism and keep the peace?"

The United States has power he says and with power comes responsibility. He pauses for a moment "It is a great responsibility."
Three soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry, Oregon National Guard stand waiting anxiously next to a make shift landing pad. They are preparing to leave for a temporary observation post like they have so many other times — but this one is different. It lies deep in the rugged mountainous terrain of the Sinai Peninsula. It is the most remote observation post on the peninsula and can only reached by helicopter. Here, the soldiers will look for possible treaty violations between Israel and Egypt.

Dust kicks up as the UH-1 Huey helicopter touches down. After a quick briefing by crew chief Sgt. Marcus Fitzjarrell, the hand signal to board is given.

Cpl. Jim Hubbard, 27, of Medford, Ore., still can’t believe he's here. This is his second tour in the Middle East in two years. His military contract was supposed to terminate in April but he extended to come on this mission.

"This is why I joined the military — to do stuff like this, be a part of my country," said Hubbard.

Even so, it isn't easy for him. In fact it's far more difficult than his last deployment in Saudi Arabia. His children were too young to understand back then. His son was barely two years old and his daughter had yet to begin talking.

"This one is harder (deployment)," said Hubbard. "The kids are older and they have more of an idea." "My son gets on the phone and asks me when I'm coming home — sometimes he'll even try to bribe me saying 'Dad, I bought you a toy truck but you have to come home to get it.'"

Fitzjarrell checks the aircraft and makes sure everything is secure then lets the pilots know they're ready. Flying a 1,000 feet up, Staff Sgt. Ben Pardee, 26, of Ashland, Ore., looks out from the helicopter. This is his second tour in the Middle East also. His first was in Saudi Arabia guarding a Patriot missile site. Like Hubbard, he was due to leave the military but extended in the Oregon National Guard to go on the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) mission that had been handed down in November. It seemed like perfect timing. His girlfriend had just entered the Army and was on her way to Korea.

"She was having a hard time paying for school," said Pardee. "She wasn't really making it and her family didn't have enough money to help her out."

He explains that sometime in the future, after they're both back in the states, they plan to marry.

The helicopter continues its flight over the rugged terrain on the Sinai Peninsula. The air is cooler 1,000 ft up from the mountains than the 100 plus weather on the ground. To the soldiers, it's a welcome reprieve.

Spc. Aaron Orendorf, 20, and the youngest of the three is from Gold Hill, Ore. This is his first deployment. He left behind his wife and a puppy, he said, neither will know him when he returns home.

Reaching its destination, the helicopter lands on a mountaintop overlooking a valley and a long winding road. The soldiers get the O.K. and they disembark understanding the only way on or off the mountain is by the bird they are leaving.

They assemble to the front right and the helicopter prepares to leave.

First things first — they establish communications with the rear and let their command know they have reached their destination. Pardee then pulls out a pair of binoculars and examines the area.

"36 goats and three water buffalo.", said Pardee.

They’re a wealthy family," responds Hubbard squinting down at the small, moving mass on the road below. Pardee continues to scan the area for possible military vehicles and aircraft that would violate the MFO treaty between Israel and Egypt. He examines the police vehicle but quickly explains they're allowed.

The three agree things can sometimes be somewhat uneventful on the peninsula but they also feel their presence makes a difference and helps to keep the peace between the once tumultuous and now strained relationships of Israel and Egypt.

"These people see that we’re here," said Pardee.

"I think they realize war isn’t in their best interest anymore," added Hubbard.

A light breeze moves over the mountain and conversation turns to all the packages their families promised they'd send but never did.

"I’ve seen one package in four months and I received that in Fort Carson," said Pardee. "All these people said we’ll send you cookies, magazines — all sorts of stuff, but we haven’t seen anything."

They all laugh a little uneasily like, as if to symbolize agreement and then begin contemplating what they hope to get in the mail for Christmas.

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"Henry & David’s — that’s what I want my family to send me for Christmas," says Hubbard with a smile on his face.

"Cheese Logs — four, five, or six of them and some pepperoni," adds Pardee.

The excitement of the moment wears off and the three soldiers once again turn their attention to the job at hand.

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They’re living in cardboard boxes with their kids," said Hubbard. "Look at all the stuff we have — TVs, VCR’s, cars, toys."

"The reference to home soon reminds him of his brother who’s serving on the Red Sea in a Marine expeditionary force and a father, who fear for the lives of his sons, asked him not extend for the Middle East mission."

"My dad said I ‘don’t need both of my sons over there,’ but I told him nothings going to happen."

The conversation drifts back to the luxuries of home and the lush, green forests of Oregon. Both Pardee and Hubbard agree there’s nothing better than walking through woods and that hunting is more often than not, an excuse to be able to that.

"At home you can walk all over the woods and you don’t have to worry about land mines," said Hubbard. "Here they only have a tree every 1,000 meters."

He quickly redoes the math aloud and verifies his answer with Hubbard. Hubbard’s in agreement.

"We’re lucky we were brought up they way we were — you realize how lucky we are?" Pardee looks out over the horizon.

"I don’t know if has to do with luck," he says, spotting out a sunflower seed shell. "It’s hard work."

"Cheese Logs — four, five, or six of them and some pepperoni," adds Pardee.

The excitement of the moment wears off and the three soldiers once again turn their attention to the job at hand.

Pardee and Hubbard begin calculating distance between the twisting road in the steep gorge and their location on the top of the mountain as Orendorf looks on.

"2700 meters." Says Pardee.

He quickly redraws the math aloud and verifies his answer with Hubbard. Hubbard’s in agreement.

Looking out over the ravine Hubbard begins to appreciate his life style in the states. He remembers the times he didn’t have money and how he had struggled just to get by. None of that seems so bad now.

"You’re thinking you got it bad, but then you come out here and see how
After arriving in Cairo, the two set out on their journey for a marriage that would be legal in both Egypt and the United States.

They first went to the U.S embassy and were shuffled a number of times between the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. Finally, after many hours, several ministers and translators, Tobin and Fisher received a marriage certificate - translated, authenticated, and approved in Arabic.

"It was a nightmare," said Fisher, "but we were committed to doing it." Having an "official" marriage completed by the Egyptian government Marriage Corps in Cairo, the two then returned to South Camp.

It was now time for the wedding they had always hoped for, a wedding that included a dress, flowers and friends. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 186th Infantry provided just that - surprising Tobin and Fisher both.

"I'm very humbled--very appreciative, because we had no resources here," said Fisher looking up at Tobin.

Their wedding, in stark contrast to their difficulties in Cairo, looked more like a fairy tale.

At the rehearsal ceremony, Chaplain, Maj. Ron McKay, began the reading.

"Dearly beloved we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the face of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony."

As the Chaplain continued, Fisher, nervously rocked back and forth holding the hand of her groom to be.

Stepping up on her red painted toes, Fisher gave a wink of confirmation. He does so and looking down at her with a boyish smile, he slides a ring on her finger.

Fisher was not surprised when her fiancée got the call for activation with the Oregon National Guard. "It wasn't that big of a shock - we knew.

Tobin's activation took him to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt where he is part of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). His job is to observe and report possible treaty violations, set at the 1979 Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt.

Several months passed and Fisher, 26, a full time college student at Southern Oregon University, was having a hard time with school, the house and the absence of Tobin. It was then that Tobin's mother gave Fisher a call.

"She said she'd been thinking and she wanted to do something to make my life easier," said Fisher. "She offered to buy me a ticket to Egypt to see Mark."

With elation, Fisher accepted. Tobin and Fisher then made the commitment to marry in Egypt.

"It was a built in honeymoon," said Fisher. "It was a long road to get to this point - a military activation, postponement, airline tickets, embassys, ministries and Sinai desert that simply could not separate them from their destiny.
Space A travel is alive and well in the post-9/11 world

Yes, things have gotten tougher since the 9/11 debacle, but the Air Mobility Command still has flights for you. The missions are operating under tighter operating restrictions and you'll need two forms of ID when checking in.

Sign-up as usual, up to 60 days prior, and then pack lighter as you can't have any sharp-edged objects in your carry-on, which is subject to 100 percent inspection.

Last week at McChord, I was told to have any sharp item out to be listed, as they allow you to have your checked baggage with you in the terminal until your flight call. Then the sharp items are inserted into your checked baggage at check-in.

Allow plenty of time for all phases of processing and call frequently to be certain when the plane will lift off. A friend left for a quarter in 1945, and ran from the terminal and missed her flight.

I also call the base where the plane was flown by me to Minot, ND, and never knew when the plane will lift off. A certain security restriction is how the publisher describes the 13th edition of the Worldwide Space-A Travel Handbook and RV Camping Guide now available for purchase by direct order and at many Army and Air Force Exchange Services militarily.

Readers will find detailed information categorized by service, state and country, and everything is alphabetized.

You'll find installations, flights, destinations, lodging availability, the best times to travel, telephone and fax numbers, and prices. As well as information about worldwide military recreation sites (where possible, lodging prices are shown to be transportational available to nearby cities.

Some backyard or recreational vehicle possibilities and prices, as well as information about worldwide military recreation sites are included for the land-based traveler.

Also included are supplemental Space A Travel updates.

These, as well as e-mail links for remote sign-up, are available on the publisher's website: spacetravel.com. Updates are also made available in printed form for non-computer users.

The bonus updates offer subscribers up-to-date travel information, including changes in schedules and telephone numbers.

Of particular interest are recent, detailed traveler trip accounts, the publisher emphasized.

This edition sells for $25 plus $3 S&H (TX residents add $2.06 tax). Copies can be ordered online at the publisher's secure spacetravel.com website, by mail using check or credit card, by mail from SpaceTravel.com, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309, or by toll free telephone at (888) 277-2232. To save additional money, check your base exchange.

This title is an AAFES standard stock item.

Civil Air Patrol seeking retirees for homeland security program

As the country steps up it's homeland security program, the Civil Air Patrol is doing the same thing and is looking for cadets and senior members to join.

Reflecting back to when the CAP was created a week before Pearl Harbor, Chief of CAP's member development at CAP headquarters, said the organization has come full-circle as it is preparing to play a role once again in homeland security through the new initiatives being established.

In the early days the CAP was assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, and the Civil Air Patrol founder and CAP’s first president, William D. ‘Billy’ Mitchell, said the Civil Air Patrol would be assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, and the Civil Air Patrol founder and CAP’s first president, William D. ‘Billy’ Mitchell, said the Civil Air Patrol would be trained to provide aerial reconnaissance, photography and transportational, disaster and damage assessment, radiological, and radiological support.

Best known for performing emergency services including: disaster relief, search and rescue and counter drug missions, CAP has averaged more than 3,000 flying hours per year of reconnaissance and support to counter drug missions for the fight against narcoterrorism.

All CAP members participating in counterdrug activities must pass Department of Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs Service background screen, and must complete a drug awareness program, traveldeals and clicking on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo. MWR receives $22 for each reservation.

TRICARE Handbook Available For Beneficiaries, Service Members

The new TRICARE Handbook is now available for distribution to beneficiaries and service members alike.

The new handbook highlights all three TRICARE options – Prime, Standard and the Federal Employees Health Benefits program and benefits added since the 1997 edition.

New topics and benefits covered include TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members, TRICARE Plus, Travel Reimbursement, Chiropractic Care, TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, TRICARE Dental Program, Debt Counseling Assisitant Program Officer, Program, Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator Program and more.

TRICARE officials said the handbook has a fresh new design and color. The cover is designed with a vivid representation of the prisons, uniformed services families, ranks and memorabilia on the front and helpful telephone numbers on the back. It includes improved charts and graphs for cost comparisons, tips and reminders to beneficiaries to consider before seeking care from authorized civilian providers.

The new handbook is being shipped to TRICARE service centers and military treatment facilities across the agency TRICARE region and is available to sponsors and their family members upon request. An electronic version of the handbook is available for viewing or downloading at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tm/.

Retiree Focus

Retiree looking for new orientation course instructor

The retiree office is attempting to identify a full-time program director who would be interested in serving as instructors for new employee orientation programs.

Work is part-time, and a wide variety of subjects are taught during the course. If you are interested, contact: R50@org.bng.army.mil or call (800) 584-2338 or 1-800- 542-7500 ext. 3804.

Free “Early Brief” available for military via email

Servicemembers who would like to receive a daily email update of current military news can sign up for the Early Brief at Military.com.

The Early Brief is emailed out each weekday morning and contains the latest military news and benefits information.

A free subscription is available to all who are interested.

To subscribe, go to the Early Brief subscription form at www.military.com and type esrc3804 or esrc2338 or esrc2338 in the space provided. The Early Brief is emailed out each weekday morning and contains the latest military news and benefits information.

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Resort rentals available for service members and retirees

Servicemembers and Defense Department civilians are eligible to rent condominiums in certain resorts worldwide as part of a vacation club arrangement with the Army and a civilian corporation.

Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the American Veterans Vacation Club and Resort Condominiums International, to offer the condos at reduced rates to active and reserve service members, dependents, retirees, and DoD civilians.

The deal offers condominium rentals for $234 per week at selected resorts.

Normal rates are $600 to $1,500 per week in season.

Information is available at www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/traveldeals and clicking on the Armed Forces Vacation Club logo.

TRICARE

Adding Safeguards to Protect Patients’ Medical Privacy

Stars and Stripes reports that health care records for servicemembers now are becoming privileged information.

On April 13, TRICARE, the U.S. military’s health insurance program, will implement a new set of safeguards that ensures patients’ right to medical privacy. Confidentiality release forms are to arrive soon in TRICARE beneficiaries’ mailboxes.

The new safeguards are part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, legislation passed in 1996. The privacy initiative establishes patients’ rights to obtain copies of their medical records, file a grievance when about unauthorized disclosure might have been released and seek changes to their health care documentation. Insurers and lawyers also will be barred from reviewing patients’ records unless that patient grants permission. If a patient’s doctor brings in another doctor to consult, however, that other doctor will not be able to share information.

For more information on TRICARE, see http://www.military.com/Resources/ Resource.aspx?ResourceID=TRICARE.Overview
Guardsman receives Bronze Star for service in Afghanistan

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several months ago we reported a story about an Oregon Army National Guardsman, Sgt. Maj. Rucklynn Shiffer, who had almost been killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan and the life a civilian drowning victim. Shiffer then took a Title 10 tour, as an Army National Guard Enlisted Advisor to the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, for Army National Guard operations and training. He soon became the C3 Operations Sgt. Maj. for Task Force MTN in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Task Force Mountain, Afghanistan.

When a request for aviation assets got to the Gárdez Sathalhouse to pick up one wounded in action (WIA) and one killed in action (KIA) Uzbekistan Nationals, Master Sgt. Shiffer was there. He immediately volunteered to assist with the operation. His role was to tend to the wounded and assist with getting them off the UH-60.

At some point during the flight out, Shiffer recalled the crew chief reporting "Sir, he just crashed". He continued to watch as the pilot immediately bailed out of the aircraft and then added that he was in trouble.

Shiffer heard the crew chief report, "Sir, he just crashed". He turned around and saw the AH-64 crash and Shiffer for the instant it observed it became impossible thought the pilot was attempting to land it. Feeling from when it first turned right and headed down until it was three that it was on fire. "

As the pilot started to taxi, Shiffer asked the pilot about any sensitive equipment and the pilot said "Yes, there was something behind something I. He then saw the barrel of a device, he then saw the barrel of a weapon that was behind something."

Seeing close to 200 more villagers, the UH-60 crew decided to get Shiffer and the Door Gunner back on board and circle the site from the air to protect the crash site. They flew in circles, slowly gaining altitude. After about five minutes. an English accent saying, "Spartan" came across the radio. The pilot advised that the AH-64 crashed and he gave coordinates to the site. The UH-60 pilot asked for instructions and he was told to remain in site of the crash. As they waited for the backup aircraft to arrive they became concerned about getting back during light since the high winds and operations pilots in many various insertions that seemed very dangerous, but were standard for them. I felt this maneuver was planned, controlled and heroic given the high altitude, high wind, potential enemy threat on the ground and the knowledge that our escort assault ship had just crashed under similar conditions.

It was almost dark when we got back and Shiffer stayed with the KIA on the tarmac after helping get the WIA in ambulance and the two pilots on the second ambulance. Master Sgt. Shiffer was awarded the Bronze Star for his participation in the extraction and subsequent rescue of the downed AH-64 pilots.

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Oregon Guard License Plates Available

As the primary ad-

Oregon Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers special license plates to members of the Oregon National Guard (Army and Air). To qualify for these plates, you must have one vehicle to another. If a vehicle with National Guard plates is sold to an individual who does not qualify for the plates, they must be surrendered to DMV.

If you are planning on purchasing a new or used vehicle and wish to obtain National Guard plates for it, you may wish to pick up an AGO Form 4309 from your unit Ordery Room. Your unit commander or designee must sign it. This form must be submitted to DMV along with an Application for Registration (available from any DMV office, or your unit Ordery Room may have this form as well.) You may apply for a license plate without a vehicle if you are out of state or through the mail. All National Guard plates are mailed from the DMV Headquarters office in Salem.

The fee to replace your current plates with National Guard plates is $15.00, if done in between your registration renewal. You may replace the plates at the same time you are renewing the registration, the fee is $8.00 plus the registration fee.

Oregon Guard men in Sarajevo

The battallion provided customer-valued logistics and personnel support to all cri-
The 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry from Forest Grove, Ore. conducted a true battalion level combined arms live fire exercise at Yakima Training Center in Wash. during drill weekend in Sept. 2002. It was a windy weekend, but the sun was out and the soldiers were excited to be a part of the finale they had been training for. The live fire was conducted on the multi-purpose range complex (MPRC) which is a sophisticated range that allows multiple events and multiple weapon systems with pop-up and moving targets. This live fire was the successful culmination of seventeen months of preparation for the soldiers and leadership of 1-162 Infantry, all over the period of a MUTA five (Friday night through Sunday) drill weekend. Approximately 260 soldiers from the battalion were involved with just over 200 of those participating on the ranges. According to Lt. Col. Joseph Cramer, the 1-162 IN Battalion Commander, “This is the most complex training I’ve ever seen on an IDT weekend.”

The Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, as known as a CALFX, exercised all of the battalion’s weapons systems at the same time. What made this unique from past live fire events was these battalion elements were integrated together into a synchronized multi-echelon battalion live fire command and control and a tactical script which tied the actions of one element to the actions of the other elements. The elements involved were the Infantry platoons, battalion 81mm mortars, battalion scouts and the antiarmor Delta company. As the Infantry platoons maneuvered in success pushing the enemy out, the scouts reacted to the simulated actions of the enemy moving into their sector called for fire from the battalion mortars. In the script, some of the enemy escaped the mortar rounds and were engaged by the Delta Company elements. As a result, the Delta Company soldiers identified the enemy and fired TOW anti-tank missiles and mark-19 grenade launchers. The events on one range affected events on the other ranges creating a tactical scenario that the enemy fought on more than one range. In all only 86 soldiers and officers were available to attend this years annual training. Out of that total, only 38 soldiers belonged to the three firing batteries. Instead of three batteries each doing separate training, they combined into one consolidated battery. The command team for the battery consisted of, Capt. Matt Lawson (A Battery) as Commander, 1st Lt. Brian Grossnicklaus (A Btry) as Executive Officer (XO), 2nd Lt. Mike Lee (B Btry) as Fire Direction Officer (FDO), 1st Sgt. Terry Miller (C Btry) Fire Support Officer, Staff Sgt. Ryan Evans (A Btry) as Chief of Firing Battery, and Staff Sgt. Steve Day (B Btry) as Gunnery Sergeant.

Every section in the consolidated battery had a mix of soldiers from the different batteries. Headquarters Battery and Detachment A added to the mix by having their Medic, Fire Support Teams, and Target Acquisition teams train with the Firing battery. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Ben Henry, defined clear goals for a successful annual training period for the unit. He intended for all soldiers in attendance to familiarize with their assigned individual weapon, familiarize with the M9 pistol, M240B machine gun and the M249 SAW and perform all required Common Task Training (CTT) for the training year.

During the first week the units were trained up on CTT tasks and ran the weapons ranges. On Tuesday of the second week, the soldiers competed in the “Camp Rilea Challenge”. When they were required to perform all of the tasks they were trained on the previous week to include the Level One CTT tasks, a six mile land navigation course, the confidence course and culminating with a marksmanship competition. 1st Lt. Milhe, 2nd Lt. Mike Lee and 2nd Lt. Patrick. Thies planned, resource and ran the “Camp Rilea Challenge” event. This event required the soldiers to perform as teams through many of the points that tested their skills in, land navigation, nuclear biological chemical, first aid, the confidence course, weapon maintenance, salute reports and finally to engage the enemy with individual and crew serve weapons. Each squad had their own point system that scored the individual soldiers and also gave each team a score. Interestingly, no team won more than one competition. It was a very close competition.

This AT was a classic case of why we train to a set standard and follow unit Stand. Operational Procedures. Standards allowed soldiers from five different units to merge into one and accomplish all of the commander’s intents in a successful Annual Training. It is a credit to the professionalism of the unit members that they performed the annual training without any serious injuries or accidents.
Air Guard team leaves Kuwait base better than they found it

By Maj. Donna Prienauer

Onslow Air National Guard

During the months following September 11th, many Americans felt helpless and frustrated because they wanted to join in the fight against terrorism but didn’t know what to do or how to contribute. For one drill status member of the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG), the idea of what to do was an easy one.

TSgt. James H. Merhaut, a record communications maintenance technician in the Oregon Air Guard’s 244th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), took military leave from his engineering job at the Intel Corporation in Hillsboro, Ore., to volunteer for a 105-day active duty tour in Kuwait.

“Knowing the Predator’s video would be useful,” Merhaut explained, “I knew I could help to bring the video monitoring system to Kuwait. It was beautiful,” recalled Merhaut. “I can still remember the first day we had the video monitoring system up and running. It was amazing, the solar panels were up and running, the satellite receiver was up and running, and we were able to see the Predator’s video on the monitor. It was a huge milestone for us.”

Merhaut, who was assigned to checking the video monitoring system in Kuwait, quickly rose to the challenge and began formulating ideas on how to make it happen. Taking advantage of the different time zones during his midnight watch, Merhaut placed scores of phone calls to military officials at MacDill AFB, Fla. (home of Central Command (CENTCOM) headquarters) and to system design engineers at Hanscom AFB, Mass. He quickly identified key decision makers and approval authorities within the command structure, learned the necessary step-by-step administrative processes to follow, and started gathering technical data.

“ paarol” acquisition approval of the system was finally arrived. Approval from the Predator’s output had been achieved and streams of video filled the monitor screen.

“Knowing the monitoring system was now operational at the output to the satellite receiver (also referred to as the ‘breakout box’), 244 CBCS SAT-COM team members volunteered for this assignment in Kuwait, they had no idea they’d be making such a world-wide contribution to the global fight against terrorism.”

“When we first arrived here, Col. Nichols told us to make sure we left this base a better place than we found it,” smiled Merhaut, “I think we accomplished that.”
Guardsmen link planes, operation centers in Afghanistan

By Maj. Ken Barker

Guardsmen link planes, operation centers in Afghanistan

cially communications support, Anders-

their departing base couldn’t support

of conditions there.

10’s at Bagram buy had no real picture

picked to set up communications for A-

Thunderbolt II’s were sent to Bagram

Anderson and Schmuhl were responsible for

provide close air support.  Anders-

sion.  Additional requests for radios,

networking and tactical phone equip-

“We had to beg, borrow and steal the

networking, and tactical phone equip-

ment from other locations,” said Schmuhl, the ground radion technician.

“We had to take one radion from an-

other locations, scrounge the antennas, and repair another.” They expected

the original set-up would take just three to five days, but the mission lasted a

month when delays and requests piled up.

Their first week included non-commu-

cations work, such as leveling ground, building wooded platforms for
tents and setting up tents.  Communic-

equipments arrival then arrived six days

late since pallets onboard a transport

plane were unloaded at a stopover point

to make room for higher-priority equip-

ment.  Alexander and Schmuhl mapped out

a detailed communications plan for the

compound and used every bit of the

equipment they brought with them.  Other

communications personnel from the

74th now maintain the equipment

for a two-week rotational basis.  Two-

thirds of the communications unit in-

cludes Air Guardsmen from Calif., Ill.,

Neb., New Mex., Ore., Penn., S. Caro-

lina, Utah and Wash.

Although difficult to talk these guys into taking a

photo with Miss Harman they stepped up and did their

part...and yes that’s “Claw” smiling.

Miss America visits the 142nd

Katie Harman and her chaperon

Joanne Silver came out to the base to
tour and visit personnel on May 17. She

spoke to military members in

Operations where she was presented with a signed lithograph. She then

went out to the flight line to visit with

Security Forces and watch the F-15’s in

afterburner takeoff.

First Lt. Jason Baldy, who for a short

time was entrusted with the famous

crown, said, "I do a lot of reading; especially

engineering. When asked what she

plans to attend college in the fall

she answered "I am also a bit of an

science fiction.  I am also a bit of an

amateur astronomer and I enjoy

flying.”

Extreme Machines visits PANG

“Extreme Machines” director Toby MacDonald, cameraman Patrick
Langan, and soundman Lawrie Rose interview Lt. Col. Mike Bieniewicz about
the mission of the 142nd FW and the F-15 Eagle jet fighter.

The film crew from Pioneer Productions, based in London, England, spent
three days in Portland last month filming Redhawk pilots and ground crews
for an episode featuring jet fighters from around the world.

Portland’s F-15s will be shown along with the MiG-29, SU-30, F-117, F-22,
and the Eurofighter.

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The program will be aired on the Learning Channel later this year.

The potential worldwide exposure enables Oregon to tell the Guard story
and show how the mission is performed in Oregon’s own “extreme machine.”

Airman propels herself to the top

Rebecca Boyd

She has only been in the Air

Guard for two short years and yet

she is already soaring above her

peers.  Airman 1st Class Rebecca

Boyd was selected as distinguished

graduate for her outstanding

achievement at Propulsion 3-Level

School at Sheppard Air Force Base,

Texas, from Jan. to May 3.

In order to be selected as top

graduate, one must have a minimum

of a 95 percent average and be

recommended by an instructor for

the award.  Not only did Boyd meet

the minimum qualifications, she also

exceeded them by receiving a 100

percent average!  When asked about

receiving the honor, Boyd said, “I

would like to point out that I had a

very good instructor at tech school.

His name is Tech. Sgt. Robert Oakes,

and I have to thank him for my

success. He motivated me to do as

well as I did and he cared about all

of the students in his class. He went

far above and beyond the call.”

Boyd, who has worked as a jet

engine mechanic for the 142nd

Maintenance Squadron since joining

the Air Guard, said she finds her job

very rewarding.

The most rewarding thing (about

my job) is seeing all of the work that is

put into the engine come together

in the end,” Boyd said. “I really enjoy

my work and the people there, and

want to stay with them as long as

possible.

“I am working with very

experienced people and I learn a lot

working with them,” she continued.

“I am also very excited about

traveling on our deployments.”

Of course Boyd’s unit is very

pleased as well to have someone as

hard working and dedicated as she.

Boyd just recently completed a 30-

day active duty assignment with her

unit and is currently working

completing her annual training.

Outside of the military, Boyd is

currently unemployed.  However,

she plans to attend college in the fall

and major in some form of

engineering. When asked what she

likes to do outside of the military, she

said, “I do a lot of reading; especially

science fiction. I am also a bit of an

amateur astronomer and I enjoy

flying.”

Airman propels herself to the top

By 1st Lt. Misti Oyler

Airman propels herself to the top

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By Maj. Ken Barker

By Maj. Ken Barker

By Maj. Ken Barker

Most rewarding thing (about my job) is seeing all of the work that is put into the engine come together in the end,” Boyd said. "I really enjoy my work and the people there, and want to stay with them as long as possible. "I am working with very experienced people and I learn a lot working with them," she continued. "I am also very excited about traveling on our deployments." Of course Boyd’s unit is very pleased as well to have someone as hard working and dedicated as she. Boyd just recently completed a 30-day active duty assignment with her unit and is currently working completing her annual training. Outside of the military, Boyd is currently unemployed. However, she plans to attend college in the fall and major in some form of engineering. When asked what she likes to do outside of the military, she said, “I do a lot of reading; especially science fiction. I am also a bit of an amateur astronomer and I enjoy flying.”
OYCP Prepares for January 2003 Class

The Oregon National Guard will continue to operate the Youth Challenge Program in Bend, Ore. The next class will begin on January 14, 2003. Continuance of the highly successful alternative high school for “at-risk” Oregon teenagers is the result of 60 percent continued funding by the federal government through the National Guard Bureau. The balance of state required funding will be from legislative approved school funds known as ADM. The funding model will require the elimination of 13 full student positions and a reduced number of student cadets to absorb nearly 30 percent in funding cuts.

Col. Mike Caldwell, Program Administrator emphasized the quality of service, structural and national guard values will continue although with fewer students. The program is seeking National Guard personnel to assist with the first two weeks of the January 2003 class to help “drive cadets” during the mandatory “pre-challenge” phase. Interested guard personnel should contact Rick DeMars at 541-317-9622 ext. 221 if they would like to participate and assist during this intensive pre-military indoctrination period.

Oregon State Defense Force Reorganized

Due to the recent reorganization of the Oregon State Defense Force, we are looking for retired Oregon National Guard enlisted personnel and a few officers. If you are interested in serving in this fine organization, please send a one page resume to:

CSM (Ret.) Lynn Knauss at:
Oregon State Defense Force
10101 SE Clackamas Road
Clackamas, Oregon 97015

E-mail: Lynn.Knauss@orng.army.mil
Telephone: (503) 557-5485

AZUWUR?

We are looking to rename this publication to more accurately reflect the current times. Any ideas or suggestions should be sent to Maj. Arnold Strong, the State Public Affairs Officer at: Arnold.V.Strong@milstate.or.us or telephone 503-584-3885.