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Oregon Guard assists with hurricane cleanup efforts

More than 1900 Oregon Soldiers and Airmen deploy to Louisiana to help storm, flood victims



Photo by Pfc. Timothy Brownlow, 115th MPAD

An Oregon National Guard Light Armored Vehicle, from the Counterdrug Support Program, based in Salem, Ore., charges through flood waters while searching for survivors in a neighborhood near Canal Street in New Orleans, La. on Sept. 11, 2005.

Story by Capt. Michael Braibish, Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

NEW ORLEANS — The Oregon National Guard was one of the first-responders to recent cleanup and recovery efforts following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's landfall Aug. 29.

More than 1,900 Soldiers and Airmen, 325 ambulances, HMMWV's, five-ton trucks, generators, and other pieces of equipment were sent into the city, with the first wave leaving Portland on Sept. 2.

As Task Force Pontchartrain, Oregon's citizen Soldiers and Airmen helped civilian authorities establish security, rescue survivors, and begin the recovery effort.

Among the first to deploy were military police from Salem and Milton-Freewater and security forces from both Portland and Klamath Falls air bases.

"We actually went out the second day we were there," said Capt. Trent Klug, commander of the 1186th Military Police Co. "We went out just to take a look. We saw three civilians, homeless folks living on (Interstate 10), and I-10 was just a trash heap. On the superdome side of things everything was flooded out."

With nearly two-thirds of their area of operations flooded, the Oregon National Guard needed special assets to get around. The Counterdrug Support Program sent two Light Armored Vehicles.

"They're very specialized vehicles and nothing else out there can do what they do," said Col. Rick Williams, the ORNG Counterdrug Program coordinator. "The problem was flooding, downed power lines and downed trees. There were very few vehicles that could get around and ours could."

As the flood waters receded, Oregon troops expanded foot patrols and were able to reach more survivors. Some were eager to leave while others opted to remain behind. Through it all, Oregonians in New Orleans rescued 2300 people in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In spite of the effort put forth by Guardsmen, nature hurled another hurricane into their path. As Hurricane Rita bore down on the Gulf Coast, The ORNG took the lead for the anticipated disaster response.

On Sept. 23, JTF Pontchartrain was designated as Joint Task Force Rita and 1,400 citizen Soldiers and Airmen from Oregon linked up with aviation, engineering and Stryker assets.

The mission of JTF Rita was to conduct support operations to local civilian authorities within designated areas of operations and provide humanitarian assistance and

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BRAC Commission votes to keep 142nd FW jets at PANG



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Todd Enlund, 142nd Communications Flight

Oregon leaders Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Sen. Gordon Smith, and 142nd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Brad Applegate celebrate the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's vote to keep the F-15 jets at Portland Air National Guard Base.

Story by Capt. Michael Braibish, Deputy State Public Affairs Officer

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Base Realignment and Closure Commission on Aug. 26 rejected a recommendation by the Department of Defense to realign fighter aircraft and maintenance functions from the 142nd Fighter Wing at Portland Air National Guard Base. However, the commission decided to realign the Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing and its KC-135s.

The nine member commission cited homeland defense and security as the driving forces behind the unanimous decision to retain the only fighters filling those security needs in the Northwestern U.S. and parts of Canada.

"Had the commission accepted the proposal to relocate this premier air-defense unit, Oregon and our nation's homeland security would have been compromised," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

In June, the commission heard official testimony from Oregon National Guard and experts on security and vulnerability in the region. The officials detailed the importance of the 142nd FW's mission. Private citizens and elected officials in federal, state and municipal offices also provided the commission their concerns and assessment of the BRAC proposal.

The commission presented their final recommendations to President George W. Bush on Sept. 8.

"I'm proud of the recommendations the commission submitted to the President. We reached our decisions through an open, fair and non-partisan process. While we listened carefully

to the input from local communities, military value was our top priority," said Chairman Anthony J. Principi.

Oregon National Guard leadership lauded the decision to retain the fighters in Portland.

"We're pleased with the decision made by the commission to keep the 142nd Fighter Wing in Portland," said Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees. "It's a clear sign that security in the Pacific Northwest is a vital concern."

President Bush accepted the Commission's recommendations on Sept. 15. The report becomes law unless Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval within 45 days of receiving the report from the President.

The commission did vote to realign the KC-135 cargo tankers from the 939th Air Refueling Wing, which shares the base with the 142nd FW.

According to Maj. Jim Wilson, spokesman for the 939th ARW, the news comes with mixed emotions.

"These are not easy decisions," Wilson said. "But these realignments will result in other KC-135 units being more robust and that's a good thing for our country."

The 939th ARW is set to lose a total of eight KC-135-R aircraft. Four will go to the 507th ARW at Tinker AFB, Okla., three to the 190th ARW at Forbes Field, Kan., and the final aircraft will go into backup inventory.

41st Infantry Division celebrates 65th anniversary



"I believe that we as an organization have to revisit our history and take those experiences with us as we move forward." — Maj. Michael Wegner

Story by Kim L. Lippert,
State Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. — Sept. 16, 1940, 65 years ago, more than 6,300 Oregon soldiers of the 41st Infantry Division were called to Federal Active Duty for World War II. The anniversary brought many local veterans of the division, their families, and members of the Oregon National Guard together for a celebration at Heritage Park in Salem, Ore. on Sept. 15, 2005.

"Your history permeates everything we do today," said Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard Maj. General Raymond F. Rees.

More than 20,000 National Guardsmen comprised the 41st Infantry Division, which was the first American division to be trained in jungle warfare earning them their nickname, the "Jungleers".

The 41st Inf. Div. was the first National Guard division to deploy overseas in WWII. They played a significant role in the war as the first American division deployed after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, the first American division deployed to the South Pacific, and the first American division to meet Imperial Japanese Forces in an offensive operation.

"That sense of shared purpose, shared camaraderie, that moment in history only you can know or understand because of your common bond," Rees said.

Many veterans from the division, now in their 80's, still live in the Pacific Northwest and keep in touch through the 41st Infantry Division Association. One of its members, Leland "Bud" Lewis, spoke at the ceremony.

"I'm extremely proud to have the 41st Bri-



Above: Members of the 41st Infantry Division Association and Oregon National Guard Soldiers render honors to the U.S. flag during the division's 65th anniversary ceremony. Below: During his speech at Heritage Park, Leland "Bud" Lewis of the 41st Inf. Div. Assoc. passed down the history of the "Sunset Division" to a new generation of infantry Soldiers.

Photos by Spc. April L. Dustin, State Public Affairs Office

gade as our military descendants," said Lewis, now 85.

The 41st Inf. Div. reformed in Oregon in 1946 and was reorganized in 1965 as the 41st Infantry Brigade. It is now referred to as the 41st Brigade Combat Team.

"We are grateful to have been beneficiaries of victories of the 41st Infantry Division six and one-half decades ago — and equally as important we are grateful to your service to the United States in the years following," Rees said.

Maj. Michael Wegner, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 41st BCT, recognized the past efforts of the 41st Inf. Div.

"We take our opportunities to reflect and celebrate your successes and sacrifices. I believe that we as an organization have to revisit our history and take those experiences with us as we move forward," Wegner said.

Many units in the 41st BCT have seen many overseas deployments in recent years to Bosnia, Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most recently, the 41st BCT assisted relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes on the Gulf Coast. The 41st BCT is also preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in 2006.



Thousands join veterans at Ft. Vancouver to observe 60th anniversary of WWII



Photo by Maj. Dan Herrigstad, U.S. Army Reserve

First Sgt. Art Collins shows WWII anniversary attendees his 1944 map of the Battle of the Bulge.

Story by Maj. Mike Allegre, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

FT. VANCOUVER, Wash. — Walking among more than 25,000 visitors at Fort Vancouver were the survivors from Pearl Harbor and the Batan Death March, the soldiers who landed at Anzio and Normandy, the paratroopers, pilots, air and ground crews, Marines who took Iwo Jima and Merchant Mariners who manned the vital supply ships.

They were there to celebrate their victories of staying alive and recalling those who didn't make it.

Dressed in his uniform shirt that had the original chevrons on it, former Army 1st Sgt. Arthur Collins, 85, shared many memories from the Battle of the Bulge.

"It was always scary, but you had to put that out of your mind and just do your job," Collins said. "It was cold, but we worked together. It was war."

Former Naval Reserve Ensign Larry Lydon, 84, of Southwest Washington, is a retired high school teacher. He still

fit nicely into his woolen naval officer's dress uniform he once wore aboard the USS San Francisco anchored at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He recalls how his ship had no ammunition that morning, so the crew ran and boarded the New Orleans docked nearby.

"A lieutenant ordered us not to fire unless fired upon, but moments later another officer ran by on deck yelling 'belay that order and fire at will,'" Lydon chuckled. He was among those who captured the first pair of Japanese submariners who ran aground in their mini-sub.

"They were shaking so bad they thought we were going to kill them."

Dale Bowlin, 85, of Vancouver, fought on the outskirts of the Bulge and was severely wounded above his left knee.

"If it wasn't for the concern of a German soldier who drug me into a building and later got me a doctor, I wouldn't be here today. They

removed part of my leg to save my life, and later I spent time in a POW camp, but I survived," he said smiling.

"Our jobs and duty were misunderstood," said Nelson Cauble, 78, Sutherlin. "We took the same oath as anyone who joined and trained for war. We were in every campaign, but didn't get any respect for a long time, but that's changed in the last few years. Generals Eisenhower and McArthur once said they wouldn't have had the men and supplies needed to win the war if it hadn't been for the Merchant Mariners."

Their distinct identification badges and an occasional old uniform item worn with pride identified the honored guests. People of all ages would stop and shake the older veteran's hands and thank them for their service so many years before. Those who fought in Korea and Vietnam were some of the first to salute their older counterparts.

"You are a group of Americans who literally saved the world from tyranny and oppression," said Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, during his remarks to over 2,500 people. "You all deserve every honor and tribute this nation can bestow."

Presentations were made to one WWII representative of all the military services, including the Women's Army Corps, the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volun-

teer Emergency Services), and WASPs (Women's Airforce Service Pilots). A USO show featured the Liberty Belles, a trio who sang songs from the 1940s, causing many older couples to sing along while smiling and holding hands.

Joining in the singing of "God Bless America" was Lt. Col. Mike Bieniewicz, 123rd Fighter Squadron commander, and other unit members. Bieniewicz and nine other volunteers manned a booth to honor 64 years of proud history of the 123rd Fightin' Redhawks. An original Redhawk, Lt. Col. (ret.) Clarence Allesina also spent time in the booth and shared stories with the Redhawks.

"What an incredible and humbling experience to meet so many of America's finest," Bieniewicz said. "Each and everyone of them are my heroes. Everyday we enjoy freedom because of their willingness to sacrifice so many years ago."

Army Lt. Col. Bob Hagen, the Department of Defense's Northwest coordinator, proclaimed the mission accomplished.

"Our goal was to bring the 'Greatest Generation' together to honor their service and to say thank you," Hagen said. "More than 1,200 volunteers were able to host a great weekend of celebration and meeting this group of men and women who, perhaps more than any one else, united our nation in war time like no other time in our history."

THE SENTINEL WANTS YOU!

**We want your stories
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The Oregon Sentinel

c/o: Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy: nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us

Stories must be submitted in Microsoft Word files, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPG files, and must have an accompanying caption (also in MS Word) explaining what is happening in the picture, as well as the rank, full name, and unit of the person(s) depicted. Submissions for *Letters to the Editor* and *Letters From The Front* are preferred.

Command Message



Command Sgt. Major Thomas R. Moe, State Command Sergeant Major

I asked Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns to write an article about women in combat, because women Soldiers are a vital part of our organization. I believe that if anyone in our organization is qualified to speak on the topic it is Bruns, having deployed to the Sinai with the 1st Bn. 186th Inf. Reg. and to Iraq with the 2nd Bn. 162nd Inf. Reg.

A Soldier provides her perspective on the role of women in combat



Story by Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae N. Bruns

I was asked by Command Sgt. Maj. Moe to write an article about what it takes to be a woman in combat. His straight-forward statement of “What it takes to be a woman in combat” caught me off guard. I hadn’t really thought about it. Really the only thought that seemed to come to mind was the idea that others always seemed to place more emphasis on gender than I did.

So I mulled his statement over like a rock tumbler trying to polish the jagged edge of a rough question. After hours of contemplation and countless conversations with fellow Iraqi veterans and peers, I was unable to come up with any answers that might differ from what it takes to be man in combat.

It all boils down to this — soldiering is soldiering. A trigger pulled knows no gender just as an enemy’s bullet traveling to its destination does not discriminate between male and female. It’s merely moving to its target — a soldier.

Many will argue females on the battlefield jeopardize a man’s ability to think clearly and accomplish the mission, that they will instead spend their time trying to protect the women around them. And likewise, some women in uniform might expect male soldiers to look after and protect them. I will tell you both of these stereotypes or ideas are wrong.

When I first arrived in Iraq, Muqtada Al Sadr and his militia put out a \$200,000 reward for the capture of any American female (men were worth \$50,000). News spread of the reward and one of the guys from the scout platoon handed me two grenades and said, “Here Bruns. Take these. We’ll try to look out for you just as we would anyone else in the platoon, but if s--- hits the fan it’s every man for himself.”

He was right. I cannot count how many times I found myself running through Baghdad’s ominously cramped and littered alleys in the middle of the night chasing a “bad guy” or looking for a blood trail. Inevitably, I always seemed to find myself at the back of the pack (since I was just the photographer) and I can guarantee you, when the heat was on, no one was looking to making sure “the girl” was protected. Everyone had a job to do whether it was driver, commo, medic,

infantry, or photographer. We knew what those roles were, knew what we had to do to make the mission happen, and we did it.

The common thread in the Army’s fabric of these missions was soldiering — basic infantryman’s skills no matter what your job, race, or gender.

Everyone has to pull the trigger and that means knowing how to jump in the turret if someone else goes down. It means being able to fire the 240B Machine gun, the Mark19, the .50 cal. and even picking up a Barrett .50 cal. sniper rifle if need be.

For example, as we prepared to convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad, I sat in a tent with a headquarters element from Arkansas (the convoy-up was mixed with Arkansas and Oregon Soldiers) as they laid out the plan for who was driving what. It was said Oregon would be providing the turret gunners since they were infantry. But they still needed assistant gunners for those vehicles.

The headquarters commander sighed heavily and then asked, “Okay...who in here is qualified on a 240B machine gun?”

I was the only person in a tent of 60 to 80 people to raise my hand. So, I ended up being the back-up gunner in a 5-ton vehicle with one of our Oregon guys.

As fate would have it, we were ambushed on a bridge entering Baghdad. We were trapped in the kill zone, taking fire at a heavy rate from Rocket Propelled Grenades and small arms.

One RPG exploded 5 to 10 feet from our vehicle and sent us rocking. All the while, bullets were zipping past my gunner’s head as he took careful aim and fired at targets. His shells pinged off my helmet below — some fell in my desert combat uniform shirt burning my skin — as I fired with my M16. Our driver screamed his head off - at what I don’t really remember. A few vehicles up, a fellow Soldier lost his leg from an RPG. Thankfully, nothing hit my gunner. But the point is, it could have. Getting up in the turret to continue the fight is pertinent to the survival of everyone involved. If you can’t help take up the slack then you’re dead weight and dead weight affects everyone. I can promise you, sitting in the back seat scared witless and immobilized when others need you serves no one — not your comrades and not yourself. It puts everyone in danger.

As Soldiers, we must demand the training we need for combat — that means weapon’s systems, room clearing techniques and convoy ambush procedures. These are now the standard basics. Never should the idea that you don’t need these things enter your mind because you are a girl, or because you are not in a combat MOS. The fact is, you are a Soldier and gender has no role on the battlefield.

Of course, you will come across those who will point out the obvious — that you have breasts — but don’t expect anything less than professionalism from your male counterparts. While I was in Fallujah there was nowhere to “clean up” but the open desert. It was two weeks since I had a shower, so I did what anyone would do. I went behind one of the humvee’s, took off my shirt, washed my underarms, and put a clean shirt back on. The guy in the turret looked down and said, “Hey, I saw you in your sports bra.” My reply: “So.” This ended the conversation.

There will be other times when you prepare to go on a mission and you get a look of hesitation from a fellow male Soldier or maybe even a female Soldier but you can’t let this deter you. You must believe in yourself, even when others don’t. Moreover, you must believe you are capable of doing what needs to be done despite what others might tell you. Courage is all-inclusive and is not limited to a gender, race or religion. Playing small rather than using your full capacity will not serve this Army.

So what does it take to be a woman in combat? It takes being a Soldier and nothing less.



Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith, State Command Chief Master Sergeant

Chief Master Sgt. Joan Loftis and Sgt. Teresa Whalen submitted this article to me this month. In it, they help explain our core values and your part in keeping with the traits that go with those values. Relying on our core values makes the Oregon Air Guard who we are today. The culture of the Air Force and the National Guard has changed dramatically and it is important that we stay focused on our day-to-day mission.

We are currently facing a time of transition and change. In June, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission held a hearing to discuss the air defense of the Northwest. I was impressed with the attendance of those representing Oregon. I would like to personally thank all of you for taking an interest in the future of the Oregon Air National Guard. The hearing made important points, resulting in the commission taking a deeper look at Northwest air defense.

Core values make National Guard a strong, reliable force

Story by Chief Master Sgt. Joan Loftis and Sgt. Teresa Whalen

What makes the National Guard Ready, Reliable, and Relevant? PEOPLE. According to a truism passed down through generations, “America is great because America is good. When America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.” We have good people, people of character. Situations, missions, and locations change. But the character of our people stays the same. Today the National Guard is facing extraordinary changes. In order to survive and thrive we must depend on our good qualities. These qualities determine our response regardless of circumstances. During these times of transition, the true test of our character will be how we respond to pressure in difficult situations. Our success will be determined by our attitudes, words and actions.

Success does not lie in what we have or what we can do, but in who we are. Our history has been built with people of character, people like Booker T. Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Thomas Edison. Each achieved a level of success admired and pursued by all who dare to believe they too can change their world. These heroes’ success lay not in what they achieved, but in what propelled them to their achievements. Their worth and impact, like the National Guard, were determined by who they were

as individuals. Character regulated the majority of their life decisions.

The character of the National Guard is found in our core values. Each value is supported by strong character traits. Our core values radiate integrity by requiring all individuals to make good choices in every situation. As a member of the National Guard our standard is to develop and apply these values.

How do we develop and apply our core values to the job? Each challenge requires our response that contributes to the culture of the National Guard. Our greatest contributions will not only center on the work we accomplish but on the excellence we inspire in others, one by one, day by day. Our core values are developed by constant application. They depend more on consistent action than on words.

Stand firm. Realize that freedom is not the right to do what you want, but the ability to do what you ought. Exercising self-discipline to demonstrate our core values is the essence of freedom. Do not allow familiarity or opposing opinion to distract you from what is right.

Lead the way. Examine habits. Does your conduct set an example others want to follow? Do not encourage others to violate their consciences. Maintain consistency. Recognize shortcomings. Define “doing things right,” and discipline yourself and others to apply this in all situations. Without practical points of action, the best of intentions often remain unrealized.

Take responsibility for your mistakes. Help develop relationships within your section that encourage daily moral excellence. Examine the moral implications of the ideas you hear or share. The way you react on the job will affect you and your section’s commitment to the core values. It is vital to make sure you and your co-workers uphold our core values. Invest in others. Care for others personally instead of viewing them as ‘projects.’ Require of others only what you have committed to yourself. Uphold this standard through example and instruction. Identify individuals who have influenced your life. Consider how their examples motivate you to benefit others.

Why is it important to uphold our core values? When the time comes to speak out on the issues in the workplace, your credibility will come from the consistency of your actions more than from the strength of your rhetoric. When others know you consistently do what is right, they will have greater confidence in you. Core values allow us to experience the internal freedom of doing what is right regardless of the circumstances.

During times of transition the atmosphere may hold uncertainty, fear, anxiety, and confusion, but remember situations change, missions change, and locations change, but the character of our people stays the same.

Anthony Harrigan, former President of the U.S. Business and Industrial Council once said, “The role of character always has been the key factor in the rise and fall of nations. We won’t survive because we are smarter or more sophisticated but because we are — we hope — stronger inwardly. In short, character is the only effective bulwark against internal and external forces that lead to a country’s disintegration or collapse. Thus the struggle to strengthen our national character is the most important struggle in which we can engage.”

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Camp Rosenbaum celebrates almost four decades of helping Oregon's at-risk youth

Held every summer at the Rilea Training Site in Warrenton, Ore., the event — named for its founder, Retired Oregon Air National Guard Brigadier General Fred Rosenbaum — is celebrating 35 years of helping Oregon youth. What began in 1970 with one man, a handful of kids, and a vision to help Oregon's youth, has grown into an annual event involving scores of volunteers helping hundreds of children from Southwest Washington and the Portland Metro areas.

Volunteers from the Greater Portland Metro area public housing agencies, the military and various law enforcement and public safety organizations throughout Oregon converge on the Rilea Training Site on the Oregon coast every year to host at-risk youth for a week of fun and learning. Although the effort the volunteers and workers put into the camp goes on all year, the culmination of their work is witnessed as the week unfolds. According to those who manage Camp Rosenbaum, the event leaves a lasting impression on the kids who attend every year, and the adults who organize it.

In this, the final installment of a two-part series on Camp Rosenbaum, we look at the venue where the camp is held every year, The Rilea Training Site, in Warrenton, Ore., as well as the costs associated with the camp, its far-reaching effects on the children of Oregon and other states throughout the country, and more importantly, the future of Camp Rosenbaum.

Looking into the Future

Camp Rosenbaum has been hosted at the Rilea Training Site for 35 years. With the increase in the operations tempo of agencies such as the Oregon State Police, and increased training of Oregon Guard members during the post-9-11 era, things can get pretty busy on the post.

During daily activities, above the squeals of children sliding down "cardboard hill," the distant sound of gunfire can be heard coming from the two firing ranges at Rilea, where a Marine Reserve unit trains. In the parking lots throughout the base, civilian cars park near OSP patrol cars and camouflaged military vehicles.

"I think we get more out of camp than we give back."

— Cliff "Hammer" Madison

However, according to camp director and Oregon Air National Guard Col. Bruce "Big Dog" Prunk, having a relationship with the staff at Rilea over the past 35 years has made a difference in anticipating issues that do arise from time to time. Moreover, the Rilea Training Site is considered to be a partner in helping with the success of each camp.

"The Oregon Army National Guard and the staff at Rilea have been extremely helpful in helping us with camp," Prunk says. "We always try to aim for the last week of July, and schedule our camp one year in advance to avoid scheduling issues, with the other agencies, at Rilea."

"Rilea is a wonderful facility, and it is a good cornerstone of our partnership with the National Guard," added Prunk.

In 1999, Camp Rosenbaum applied for and received, a 501(c)(3) tax-exemption permit, which exempts the camp from having to pay taxes to the Internal Revenue Service for donations received. Furthermore, the tax-exempt status allows contributors to deduct donations to Camp Rosenbaum from their tax returns, applying to both corporate and individual donors.

The Camp Rosenbaum Fund, which is registered with the Oregon Corporation Division, is managed by an elected board of directors, and oversees daily operations of the business aspects of the camp.

According to Assistant Camp Director Lt. Col. Keith "Smiley" Crawford, these efforts have opened up several new possibilities for Camp Rosenbaum by raising more funds for operating expenses.

Aside from the direct per-child cost of camp — which was estimated in 2004 to be just over \$200 per child for the week — most of the counselors and staff members purchase toys, games, and decorations for the dormitory-like buildings in which the children sleep, using their own money. Non-monetary donations include clothing items for the camp's thrift store known as "Fred's Threads," where children can visit throughout the week to supplement their wardrobe at home.



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

The largest contributor to the camp continues to come from corporate donations. For instance, every year, sports apparel giant Nike, Inc. donates brand new athletic shoes, camp T-shirts and sweatshirts, and other sports gear to Camp Rosenbaum. According to Rosenbaum Board President and Nike Global Community Affairs employee Lisa Edgington, the relationship between Nike and Camp Rosenbaum stretches back at least a decade.

"Nike's involvement in camp has definitely evolved over the years," Edgington says. "I know for sure we have had a relationship with camp over the past ten years, though it goes back farther than that."

Aside from sports apparel and gear, Nike also donates a \$10,000 cash grant to the Rosenbaum foundation each year. The corporation also has a matching fund where Nike will match employee's hourly salary in a donation to the organization for which they donate their time. But Nike's influence on camp goes beyond donations and grants to encompass teaching valuable leadership skills which, according to Edgington, is something her company is perfectly suited.

"One of the important components of camp is leadership skills, which we try to teach to the kids," Edgington says. "Leadership skills are closely associated with sports, and you must have these skills in order to succeed in sports and in life."

In addition to contributions, the U.S. Jamie Ellis, 11, of Vancouver, Wash., angles for fish at Slusher Lake. Ellis and 168 of her fellow campers took advantage of activities such as arts and crafts, campout, and fishing at the lake during their week at Camp Rosenbaum, July 25-29.

Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Program reimburses the camp for serving meals that conform to their nutritional standards. One of Camp Rosenbaum's newest partners is the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Talks between the two agencies began when camp planners wanted to offer the children a different activity for the 2005 camp. Rosenbaum organizers stocked nearby Slusher Lake — many using their own personal funds — with 10,000 excess Coho Salmon fingerlings from Big Creek Hatchery, and 500 rainbow trout from a private hatchery.

Tracy Holton of the Tillamook office of the ODFW arranged for the fish purchase for the 2005 camp, and added Slusher Lake to the department's list of regularly-stocked inland lakes.

"I'm really surprised we have not been involved in camp before this year," Holton said. "When I got back to my office, I told my coworkers we need to get more involved."

After Holton visited the camp on the annual visitor's day, where individual and corporate contributors, military and police leaders, and Oregon's Governor visit Rilea, she started brainstorming on other ideas.

"As part of the arts and crafts activities, I suggested that we can do fish printing," Holton said enthusiastically. "They can either print them on paper or on T-shirts."

Holton's ideas align perfectly with one of Camp Rosenbaum's basic tenants of environmental awareness and stewardship. Part of her motivation to come up with new ideas for camp sprung from the infectious enthusiasm she felt while visiting with the children and staff.

"I was really impressed with the level of energy coming out of camp," Holton

Above: Camp Rosenbaum counselors and volunteers welcome campers to the clubhouse for the first day's activities.

said. "It was absolutely phenomenal."

Apparently Holton wasn't the only one impressed by the impact Camp Rosenbaum has on the children. Officials at ODFW have agreed to make sure Slusher Lake is well-stocked for the 2006 camp, and are currently working on a plan to donate some of the fishing poles, gear and bait. They have also agreed to work on installing a new dock to replace the one at the lake, which has fallen into disrepair.

And while agencies such as the ODFW and companies like Nike make sure the children are well taken care of while they are at camp for the week, the long range vision for Camp Rosenbaum continues to be crafted and revised by the founder himself.

According to retired Oregon Air National Guard Brigadier General Fred Rosenbaum, although most of the efforts of the Rosenbaum Foundation board have been geared toward making the camp self-sufficient, he would like to see an endowment that will keep the foundation viable for another 35 years, and beyond. He also envisions the camp expanding into related local community youth programs scheduled throughout the year, and some kind of follow-up with the children who attend camp.

"I would like to set up a mentoring program, where counselors take special responsibility for these children," Rosenbaum says. "It would be much like a big brother or big sister program. I think the follow-up would help get these young people on the right track and keep them there."

Keeping the dream of hope alive

Over the years, Camp Rosenbaum has received recognition on the local and national level. Some of the camp's awards include the Freedom

Model Program

Foundation's Valley Forge Minute Man Award, the National Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment, The Assistant Secretary of Defense Outstanding Achievement Award, and special recognition from the National Guard Association of the United States.

over several weeks shortly after each camp concludes, and the information is then incorporated into the planning of camp the following year.

"We take these critiques seriously," Prunk says. "We're not resting on our laurels here... we're constantly improving and modifying Camp Rosenbaum to make it better each year."

Camp Rosenbaum veteran and former Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sergeant Bud "Uncle Bud" Snavely agrees.

"The camp continues to get better every year," Snavely says. "We get new people every year, along with new ideas. We take the critiques everyone does every year very seriously."

This continual revising and feedback system not only improves camp, but according to Prunk, it creates a unique model for others to follow.

"Other states and organizations have modeled us to develop their own youth camps," explains Prunk. "There's an awful lot of work that goes into camp



Above: Camp Rosenbaum attendees cheer as two F-15 "Eagles" from the 142nd Fighter Wing treat onlookers to a flyover.

Below: Miguel Santoyo, 9, of McMinnville, Ore., waits his turn at the NikeGO activity at Camp Rosenbaum.

Commander, Cliff "Hammer" Madison. "It helps makes our job on the street easier, and it helps us become better people. And that's why people come back year after year."

"I don't look at coming to camp as a sacrifice on my part," says Portland Police Officer, Bob "Bulldog" Gorgone. "I'm a policeman by profession, but Camp Rosenbaum is one of my passions. I consider coming out to camp a privilege."

Oregon Air National Guard 1st Lieu-

"If we can help just one person, then our life here on Earth is worth it."

— Aaron "Iceman" Mahoney



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has also awarded its Specific Activity Award to Camp Rosenbaum.

In addition to receiving national recognition and awards, Camp Rosenbaum is modeled by other states' youth programs. According to Prunk, every year there are officials from other states throughout the country who inquire about Camp Rosenbaum. Occasionally people from outside Oregon will visit the camp to see just what makes it so special.

"Two things make Camp Rosenbaum unique," Prunk says. "First, the mix of different agencies that make camp happen. It's the only one I'm aware of that combines the National Guard, eight different housing authorities, and the police and fire districts."

"The second thing," continues Prunk, "is the continual refining we do." Prunk explains that each year, all staff members and counselors are given critique forms on the last day of camp. The feedback from all participants is reviewed during several board meetings

Rosenbaum, and its success is a great reflection on the folks who put in their time to make camp what it is."

The camp's founder, retired Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Fred Rosenbaum agrees. According to Rosenbaum, a major part of the camp's success is directly attributable to the men and women who devote one week of their time to the kids.

"There are some great people who make this camp what it is," Rosenbaum says. "Without them, the camp wouldn't be what it is today."

Indeed, every summer, scores of volunteers set aside their duties as fire-fighters, police officers, Oregon National Guard soldiers and airmen, and Housing Authority employees in the Portland Metro area to come out to the Oregon coast for one week to work with the children. Many feel that if they can reach just one child, all their efforts are worth it.

"I think we get more out of camp than we give back," explains Portland Police

tenant Aaron Mahoney, who recently returned from duty in Iraq, echoes Gorgone's sentiments. "Our role at camp is to not just be their friend, but to be their mentor," Mahoney says. "We show them that they can make other choices in life." Mahoney's thoughts drift for a moment, as he gazes out the window at a few of the children walking by. "The way I see it, if we can help just one person, then our life here on earth is worth it," he added.

If you are interested in helping out with future camps, please contact Lt. Col. Keith Crawford at contactKC@msn.com or Jan Prunk at janicep30@comcast.net. If you would like to make a monetary donation to Camp Rosenbaum, contact the Camp Rosenbaum Fund, P.O. Box 915, Wilsonville, Ore., 97070. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

by the numbers...
Camp Rosenbaum

12
Number of children at camp in 2005

169
Number of children at camp in 1972

215
Approximate per-child cost to run camp for a week (not including 'hidden' costs) in 2005

10
Average age of a child attending camp

3
Number of children for every counselor at camp

130
Average cost of a Nike athletic shoe

5000
Approx. number of meals served at camp in 2005

0
Cost to each child for his/her pair of Nike shoes

Operation Backpack helps hurricane evacuees get back to school



In support of Operation Backpack, Staff Sgt. Rachel DeRose (center), C Co. 141 Spt. Bn., and Judy Berck (left), volunteer from Portland, delivered 100 backpacks full of school supplies to the Red Cross Crisis Center at Washington High School to be donated to evacuees from the Gulf Coast who have been re-located to Portland. Accepting the backpacks are Jim Martin, Red Cross volunteer, and Kerry Tintera (right) of Portland Public Schools.

Story and photos by Spc. April L. Dustin, State Public Affairs Office

SALEM, Ore. — During the month of September the Oregon National Guard joined forces with the Oregon Department of Education and launched a donation drive, known as Operation Backpack, to collect school supplies for children and teachers affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“The Department of Education contacted the Oregon Military Department to identify a way to help students and teachers from the Gulf Coast get back to school as soon as possible,” said Kay Fristad, Deputy of Public Affairs for the Oregon Military Department. “Operation Backpack was developed as an off-shoot to Operation Shoebox, a similar effort in the early 1990’s to support humanitarian efforts in El Salvador.”

The Department of Education asked schools and communities throughout Oregon to donate “Resource Kits” which included backpacks filled with school supplies. The ORNG assisted the donation drive by providing drop-off locations for the donations and coordinating transportation of the items.

“All armories across the state were designated as collection points for Operation Backpack donations,” said Capt. Michael Braibish, deputy of Public Affairs for Oregon Military Department. “Once armories received donations, they shipped them to Camp Withycombe (Clackamas, Ore.), to be staged for transportation to the Gulf Coast.”

Since flights to the Gulf Coast are no longer being routed through Portland Air National Guard Base,

Operation Backpack donations are being transported to Texas and Louisiana by Brattain International, a Portland-based, family operated commercial trucking company.

Fristad said Brattain International was eager to help out because one of their family members is in the ORNG. Chief Warrant Officer Robert Brattain is the Aviation Safety Officer for the 1042nd Medical Company and his wife, Rhonda, is the unit Family Support Coordinator.

Some ORNG units across the state took extra steps to make Operation Backpack a success by getting their local communities involved.

In Warrenton, Ore., Staff Sgt. Kathryn Pritchard, recruiter at Rilea Training Site, said Operation Backpack presented an opportunity for her to network with school administrators, teachers, students and parents. Pritchard visited many schools in the Warrenton, Astoria and Knappa school districts to collect donations.

“It’s a great way to get kids involved in something where they can feel like they are making a difference,” said Pritchard.

In Eastern Oregon, the rear detachment personnel from 3rd Bn. 116th Cavalry Brigade collected more than 150 backpacks.

In Portland, Ore., Staff Sgt. Racheal DeRose, admin. NCO for C Co. 141st Spt. Bn., gathered 100 backpacks to donate to hurricane evacuees who have been re-located to Oregon. DeRose recruited the help of a community

volunteer, Judy Berck, who contacted the armory to assist with Operation Backpack.

“My husband and I wanted to do something tangible with our tax refund, and we thought Operation Backpack was a great idea,” said Berck.

Together DeRose and Berck packaged the backpacks with school supplies and toiletries and delivered them to the Red Cross Crisis Center at Washington High School, where evacuees from Louisiana are receiving assistance.

“We packed each backpack ourselves to make sure each kid would have what they needed, plus a little something extra,” said DeRose.

Kerry Tintera, volunteer from Portland Public Schools working at the Crisis Center, said case managers have been helping evacuated families find schools for their children to attend while they are in Oregon.

“Most of these families have decided to put their kids into school right away, so I know every backpack will be used,” said Tintera. “This is just incredible, I’m really impressed with their efforts.”

In Salem, Ore., the 206th Quarter Master Battalion, based out of the Anderson Readiness Center, took time during a drill weekend on September 11 to collect school supplies at local Shopko, K-Mart, and Wal-Mart storefronts.

“Everyone was very helpful and eager to assist, we were very impressed with the community’s response,” said 2nd Lt. Sarah Thompson, detachment commander for 206th Quarter Master Bn. “A lot of people really want to help, but they don’t know how, so this provided them with an outlet.”

Thirteen soldiers from the 206th Quarter Master Bn. were divided into teams and spent two hours collecting school supplies from Salem area shoppers. Their efforts resulted in about ten shopping carts full of donations, some of which included new shoes for children.

“We are grateful to the organizations and people that so generously opened their hearts to help out,” said Lt. Col. Rosmarie McCabe, battalion commander for 206th Quarter Master Bn. “This is really going to make a big impact on a lot of kids.”

Operation Backpack is no longer collecting donations however, for more information on how to help hurricane survivors visit www.redcross.org or <http://katrina.salvationarmy.org>.



Lt. Col. Rosmarie McCabe (left) and Spc. Nancy Matteo-Gardner, both of 206th Quarter Master Bn., sort school supplies to be donated to children in the Gulf Coast as part of Operation Backpack.

Oregon Soldiers and Airmen rescue 2,500 victims of disaster in Louisiana

Continued from FRONT PAGE

security to residents of the ravaged areas.

“We are the front line,” said Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt, commander of Oregon’s 41st Brigade Combat Team which led JTF Rita. “We are the first responders for Task Force Rita.”

Pritt said Oregon went from covering 75 percent of New Orleans to covering 40 percent of Louisiana. Joined by Guardsmen from Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Missouri, the Oregonians in JTF Rita positioned themselves in strategic locations across the southern portion of Louisiana.

After the hurricane swept through, the ORNG re-deployed its forces from New Orleans to rescue storm victims, assess damage, and assist civilian authorities with the immediate recovery efforts. The Oregon Guard rescued another 200 people in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, bringing the total number of rescues performed by the ORNG to 2500.

Many units deployed with the 41st BCT including, 1st Bn., 162nd Inf. Reg.; 2nd Bn., 162nd Inf. Reg.; 1st Bn., 186th Inf. Reg.; 2nd Bat., 218th Field Artillery Bn.; 141st Spt. Bn.; 162nd Eng. Bn.; 41st Bde. Troop Bn.; 41st Bde. Headquarters and Headquarters Co.; E Troop, 82nd Cav.; 115th Mobile Public Affairs Det.; 1186th Military Police Co.; Counter Drug Support Program; and 272nd Combat Comm. Squadron (Oregon Air National Guard); as well as volunteers from many other Oregon units.

From the outset of the recent disasters, the National Guard nationwide has provided more than 50,000 troops to support the relief effort.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roger M. Dey, Montana Air National Guard

During door-to-door search operations, Spc. Greg Parris and Spc. Scott Allen, both of C Co. 2 Bn. 162nd Inf. Reg., mark a house near Paris Avenue in the northern sector of New Orleans indicating that no people remain there in need of help or evacuation. The soldiers deployed to Louisiana with the 41st Bde. Combat Team in support of rescue and recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

News Briefs

Operation Katrina participants receive Title 32 pay

The Department of Defense approved federal funding for all states participating in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. This ensured that all service members, regardless of component or branch of service, are compensated under one uniform system. State Active Duty (SAD) orders were rescinded and Tile 32 orders were published retroactive to August 29, 2005 or the date their duty began. State Active Duty orders were authorized to support the Oregon National Guard’s immediate response to Operation Katrina relief efforts. Previous guidance to command dictated SAD for all soldiers for a minimum of 15 days. Soldiers have expectations to receive the SAD pay scale, therefore each soldier from pay grade E-1 to E-6 will receive a pay differential from the State of Oregon for the difference between SAD and Title 32 pay for a maximum of 15 days of service. Members serving on Title 32 earn retirement points. While on Title 32, income earned outside Oregon is not subject to state income taxes. Members on Title 32 orders for thirty days or more, and their families, are also entitled to health care coverage under Tricare. For more information regarding active duty pay status while serving in Operation Katrina, contact personnel at 503-584-3669.

USERRA protects employment rights for deployed military

Oregon National Guard troops deploying overseas for tours in Iraq and Afghanistan return home to find several concerns — families, communities, and jobs to name a few. Knowing employment rights can help prevent employee discrimination, and offers security while soldiers and airmen are deployed overseas. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA) provides protection from discrimination against service members and is defined as; “A person who is in any manner connected to the armed forces shall not be denied initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of that membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation.” Service members have the right to be reemployed in their civilian job if they leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and: They ensure that their employer receives advance written or verbal notice of the member’s service; They have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer; They return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and They have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions. If national guard members are eligible to be reemployed, they must be restored to the job and benefits they would have attained if they had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job. Employers are not allowed to discriminate against military members in any way for serving in the military. It is against the law to deny military members any of the following due to federal activation: Initial employment. reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment. As a service member on active duty, employee-sponsored health coverage is also protected. Service members have the right to elect to continue existing employer-based health plan coverage for themselves and dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.

If service members chose to discontinue coverage during their military service, they have the right to be reinstated in their employer’s health plan when they are re-employed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries. If you believe you are a victim of employment discrimination you have the option of filing a complaint. For more information on how to file a claim or for general information on your rights under USERRA law contact VETS at 1-866-4-USA-DOL or visit its website at www.dol.gov/vets.

Oregon Guardsman wins truck driving competition

A veteran Oregon Army National Guardsman recently took home the prize of State Champion at the Oregon State Truck Driving Championships. In June, 1st Sgt. Ted Carlson of the 162nd Engineer Co., edged out 13 competitors to win the competition. “I was ecstatic to win, especially after taking two years off,” said Carlson, who was recently promoted to first sergeant in his unit, based at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Ore. Carlson, a Federal Express Freight driver, won the contest in 2002 but wasn’t able to compete for the next two years because he was deployed with the 82nd Rear Operations Center. While in Iraq, Carlson served as the area damage control sergeant, which didn’t allow him much time to drive trucks. Yet he said his recent deployment and 13 years in the Guard have given him a competitive edge, which helped in the race. “The competitiveness I’ve gotten from the Guard has given me a strong desire to win,” Carlson said. “And I think that helped me in the competition.” Each competitor was judged in a several areas: a pre-interview portion, pre-trip checks and services test, how well they maneuvered through the obstacle course, and overall time. “The pre-trip portion is very similar to any pre-combat check performed by soldiers. It is sort of like an Easter egg hunt, where you must find defects on your equipment in the given time,” Carlson explained. “The personal interview portion is very similar to an Army promotion board. You are asked several questions by law enforcement or management personnel,” he said. But the obstacle course proved to be the toughest part – and this is where Carlson excelled. Carlson’s win means he will compete at the National Truck Driving Championships in Florida during August. He’s looking forward to competing against other drivers from across the nation. “I like to meet all of the other drivers. It’s like being in the Army and meeting people from all over the country,” Carlson said.

Your Letters

New Orleans resident thanks Oregon troops

Your guys in New Orleans are fabulous. I had the pleasure of meeting the Oregon military men and women at the lake-front in New Orleans. They couldn’t be a more polite, efficient and professional group. I am thrilled they are there. I was also thrilled to find that my house was not flooded, was relatively undamaged, and not looted. I didn’t realize until the second day I visited that they are living on MRE’s, if so I hope its okay if I bring them real food next time I go check on my house, it’s a 300 mile round trip for me. We would like to show our appreciation in some form. If all the good “po-boy” places and other restaurants I would normally advise people to go are sadly closed, I hope its

okay if we bring them something good from outside the area. Thank you so much for helping us. Your people are of uniformly high quality. I felt so much better when I saw your people there and met some of them.

Thank you,
Katie and Joel Derby

Citizen compliments Oregon Guard soldiers

I flew from Dallas, Texas to Portland today with about six members of the Oregon National Guard returning from Afghanistan for a two-week leave. I just wanted to say how humble, respectful and courteous they all were. Please accept this compliment and pass it on to them.

Thanks,
Holly Wittenberg

Corrections

173rd FW F-15 incorrectly identified in Aug issue of Sentinel

To the Editor, As the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing I wanted to pass on my thanks to the Sentinel staff for putting one of our jets on the back cover of your August issue. We feel very much a part of the Oregon National Guard and truly appreciate it when we make it into the paper, allowing us the opportunity to tell a small part of our story. Unfortunately a small mistake was made and we were labeled the 114th Fighter Wing out of South Dakota, I don’t know how it happened but it did. The jet on the rear cover of the Sentinel is tail number 80021 from Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon. We are the 173rd Fighter Wing and our fighter squadron is the 114th Fighter Squadron. We appreciate the publicity and hope that in the future you will continue to tell our story. This picture was taken during our bi-annual Sentry Eagle exercise that brings over 50 aircraft to the 173 FW for a five day exercise and one day open house that draws over 10,000 spectators from all over Oregon and Northern California. I had the opportunity to visit with people who were from as far south as Los Angeles and as far north as Portland who made the trip to view the activities of Sentry Eagle open house. Additionally, we had the pleasure of entertaining the Governor of Oregon and our Adjutant General during the open house and exercise. Thanks again for letting us tell our story.

CSM Moe’s column for Aug. Sentinel issue incorrectly attributed

In the August issue of the Oregon Sentinel, Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Moe’s column was incorrectly attributed to CSM Moe. Moe wrote the introduction, and the body of the column was written by Staff Sgt. Cindy LeFore from the 1186 MP Co., of Milton-Freewater, Ore.

Did you know?

Most people know that George Washington is the father of the United States, but most people don’t know he’s also the father of roses in this country. U.S. President George Washington, was the first person to breed roses in the United States. Washington laid out his own garden at Mt. Vernon and filled it with his own selections of roses. He named one of his varieties after his mother and it is still being grown today.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

The Oregon Sentinel
Attn: Editor
c/o State Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

The Oregon Sentinel

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to insure better coverage.

Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit any articles meant to inform, educate or entertain readers of the ***Oregon Sentinel***, including stories about interesting Guard personalities and unique unit training. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All letters must include the author’s name, address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request, but all letters must be signed, and are subject to editing prior to publication. For publication schedules, or for any other questions, please see your unit Public Affairs Representative, or contact the State Public Affairs Office or any of the ***Oregon Sentinel*** staff members listed below.

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Oregon Military Department	
State Commander-in-Chief	Governor Ted Kulongoski
Adjutant General	Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
Asst. Adjutant General, Air	Brig. Gen. James E. Cunningham
State Command Sergeant Major	Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Moe
State Command Chief	Chief Master Sgt. Rodney R. Smith
Oregon Sentinel Publication Staff	
Associate Editor/Copy Editor	Kay F. Fristad kay.f.fristad@mil.state.or.us
Managing Editor/Contributing Writer	Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy nick.choy@mil.state.or.us
Contributing Editor/Contributing Writer	Capt. Michael S. Braibish michael.s.braibish@mil.state.or.us
Senior Copy Editor/Contributing Writer	Spec. April L. Dustin april.dustin@or.ngb.army.mil
Contributing Writer	Kimberly L. Lippert kimberly.l.lippert@mil.state.or.us
Audio/Visual/Contributing Photographer	Sgt. 1st Class Tom Hovie tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil
Contributors	115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Oregon Sentinel

OF THE
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD



Pvt. Michael Brown (l.) and Sgt. Nathan Bodle (r.) of 2nd Bat. 218th Field Artillery Bn., Oregon Army National Guard use oars to continue their door-to-door search for survivors in north New Orleans. Bodle and Brown broke their propellor shortly after beginning their mission on Sept 15th, 2005.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Roger M. Dey, Montana Air National Guard

Parish Mayor presents Oregon National Guard commander with Key to the City



Calling them “our heroes,” Lafayette Parish Mayor Joey Durel presents Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt with the key to the city on Sept. 27, for clean up, recovery and rescue assistance provided by the Oregon National Guard. He praised the men and women of the Oregon Guard, “with the gratitude of our community, our state and our country.”

Story and photos contributed by Lt. Micahel R. Odle,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LAFAYETTE, La. – Lafayette Parish Mayor Joey Durel presented Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, commander of Joint Task Force Rita, and commander of the 41st Brigade Combat Team from Portland, Ore., with the Key to the City on Sept. 27.

“We’re not quite sure what this key opens in this city,” said Lafayette Parish Mayor Joey Durel, “But I can tell you, you have opened our hearts to the National Guard.”

In front of the parish council and more than 40 local citizens standing and applauding, Gen. Pritt accepted the key on behalf of those National Guard members that responded in the wake of Hurricane Rita.

“We are very appreciative of your hospitality,” said Brig. Gen. Pritt. “The men and women of the National Guard are proud to be assisting in the safety and security of southwest Louisiana.”

Brig Gen. Pritt commanded and coordinated the 4,000 National Guard members that responded to Hurricane Rita across eight parishes in southwest Louisiana to include 300 members of an engineering group, 700 members of an infantry unit and 300 members of a medical unit.

National Guard members evacuated hundreds of people from their flooded homes in southwest Louisiana, provided security for key facilities such as hospitals, shelters, food distribution points and pharmacies; escorted convoys carrying military equipment, food, water and ice; cleared roads and schools of debris; clipped limbs off trees that blocked vehicle access to roads, and began restoring power to hospitals and provide medical aid and comfort to thousands of Louisianans.

Hunting, fishing licenses for service members



House Bill 3504, Section 11, was passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed by Governor Kulongoski. The bill will allow a person to apply to the Oregon Military Department for reimbursement

for the cost of a resident annual hunting license and a resident annual angling license if the person:

- (a) Is an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- (b) Has retired from the Armed Forces of the United States within 12 months of the date of making the application for a license.

The Oregon Military Department shall reimburse a person for the cost of a resident annual hunting and fishing license upon receipt of the person’s application. The Oregon Military Department is writing regulations to implement this Bill, which will not take effect until November 15, 2005 as it requires 91 days for the Bill to go into effect after passage.

Current Oregon National Guard members will make a photocopy of their Hunting/Fishing license and military ID card, obtain signature of their command and then forward the application to the Oregon Military Department, AGC at PO Box 14350, Salem, OR 97309-5047.

Active duty or members of the Reserve components, i.e. Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Coast Guard, Marine Reserve etc, must take their Hunting/Fishing license and current military identification card to a local Army or Air National Guard Recruiting Station for verification, validation and signature prior to requesting reimbursement from the Oregon Military Department.

A complete copy of the regulation governing this will be published when it is completed.

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

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1-800-452-7500, ext. 3804

E-mail:
RSO@or.ngb.army.mil

US Mail:
Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

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