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Remembering 9-11

The Healing Fields

It happened five years ago.

It's a day most Americans will remember for the rest of their lives. Since then, Americans have tried to heal. Tried to move on.

Americans like Oregon Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Kevin Scott, who visited the flag representing his friend, Sgt. Benjamin Isenberg, a member of B Co., 2-162 In. Bn., who was killed in Iraq on Sept. 13, 2004.

Americans like Joe Dittmar, who was attending a meeting with his company located on the 105th floor of World Trade Center I when the planes hit. Dittmar and only six of his coworkers made it out of the building alive. "I saw things that I never thought I'd see," Dittmar said.

Americans like Maj. Arnold Strong, and Maj. Michael Wegner, both from Oregon, who are serving with the 41st Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan. Read their first-hand stories of how they spent the 5th anniversary of 9-11 on page 3.

For a collection of photos from the tribute at Salem's Riverfront Park, see page 6.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin

Above left: Joe Dittmar takes in the Healing Fields at the Salem Riverfront Park on Sept. 11, 2006. Dittmar spoke to a group of several hundred people attending the ceremony. Above right: Sgt. Kevin Scott visits the memorial flags dedicated to fallen Oregon Soldiers. Below: Almost 4,500 flags wave in the morning breeze at the Healing Fields in west Salem's Riverfront Park as part of a tribute to victims of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

116th members head to Afghanistan *ORANG will send 32 of its members to Kandahar*



Photo Tech. Sgt. Todd Enlund, 142nd Fighter Wing Multimedia

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron pose for a group photo at Camp Rilea following their mobilization ceremony on Sept. 8. The unit will spend 120 days deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terror. Oregon National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, is pictured on the far left. See full story on page 4.

PANG welcomes 125th STS



Photo by Senior Airman John A. Hughel, Jr., 142nd Fighter Wing Multimedia

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. (1st Sgt) Clarence Murray hands the new guidon to Senior Master Sgt. James Hotaling during the Redesignation Ceremony of the 125th STS on September 9th, 2006 at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Oregon. Unit Commander, Capt. Dan Schilling, is pictured on the left. See full story on page 4.

End of training year: ORNG met recruiting, training goals



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees
Adjutant General, State of Oregon

Thank you for a very successful TY06.

From Hurricane Katrina to Operational Readiness Inspection (ORIs), to deployments and from Afghanistan to Iraq, the Oregon National Guard has done a magnificent job. It is mind boggling to attempt to capture every activity and operation that has taken place.

The untold story that is hidden behind the operational success of the Oregon National Guard is the sustainment of our force. We are tasked to raise, train and equip our units. Fundamental to that is filling the ranks of our formations.

Starting last January, I brought to the attention of our leadership the need to move both the Army and Air National Guard into the forefront of personnel readiness from a national perspective. I am proud to say that you have done exactly that.

Our mission this year for the Army was to bring in 1,450 accessions. Let me put this in context. In previous years, our mission was to bring in about 1,100, and we often fell shy of meeting the mark. This year, we not only set a goal to exceed our mission, we increased it by one third. The responsibility fell doubly heavy on recruiters. It was paramount for all of us in uniform to understand our responsibility to support them and help bring in the people whom we want to work with.

I am very proud to say WE MET OUR GOAL. Everyone who supported the recruiting effort deserves a pat on the back. Let me tell you of some who far exceeded our expectations. Sergeant Greg Cortaberia from Pendleton was tasked to bring in 18. He brought in 33 – which is 183 percent of his mission. Sergeant Kristi Bryant of Springfield was tasked to bring in 21 people. She exceeded her mission by bringing in 41 people, or 195 percent of her goal. Sergeant 1st Class Jeff Wilcox was tasked to bring in 20 people this year. He shattered expectations by 215 percent, bringing in 43.

Our goal for the Oregon Air National Guard was to have the fighter wings and GSUs at 100 percent. With one exception, WE MET OUR GOAL. Some sterling examples are Technical Sergeants Wendi Gunderson and Matthew Marshall. Both of these individuals brought 43 recruits into the Air National Guard’s southern units at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls. Also, Master Sergeants James Scott and Richard Trammel were responsible for recruiting over 40 people each for units at the Portland Air National Guard Base and at Camp Rilea.

These Soldiers and Airmen did a superb job. They didn’t do it by themselves. Command supported them. Units supported them. Personnel supported them. This was a great team effort.

The Oregon National Guard – Army and Air – is now positioned for the personnel demands of new missions under Army Transformation, expanded fighter wing organizations directed by Base Realignment & Closure Commission (BRAC) or Air Education & Training Command (AETC) requirements, and any domestic or expeditionary mission tasked at the state or national level.

You have earned the highest praise for your operational capabilities. You have now earned the same for your mastery in the critical area of manning our organizations. Well done!

Raymond J. Rees

National Guard members carry a huge social responsibility



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

For centuries, citizen-soldiers took a stand in protecting their homeland and country, and in doing so ushered in a new era. A nation so committed to peace, hope and liberty — that families sent their son’s and daughter’s into harms way to fight for freedom. Preserving our freedom here at home and throughout the world will continue to require tremendous personal sacrifice on our part.

As Airmen, we raised our right hand and solemnly swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We all have a role to play in our homeland defense mission and the war on terrorism and we must continually evaluate whether we are doing everything we can in supporting this role.

No matter where in the nation we are asked to go, we are ready to shoulder today’s heavy burden. We go because the nation is depending on the greatest fighting force, the world has to offer. The National Guard is here to quickly respond to any conflict or natural disaster that may occur, and restore order and stability. Sometimes, it does not always come across and appear this way, but your community and country is very grateful and proud of the service you perform. By now, many of you are familiar with frequent or extended deployments we have had to endure in the past. Thank you for your continued dedication and personal sacrifice. Many thanks to your families as well, for enduring many sacrifices as they await your return. You are the Airmen this nation called for and depends on.

As the requirements for taskings and deployments continue to rise, more Airmen will be called upon to deploy, and in many cases, perform duties in different organizations and environments than they’ve known before. These are different times; our homeland missions and the war on terrorism is a different kind of war; and it requires Airmen to be adaptive, courageous, and ready for what ever you may face. What has not changed is the fact that we are fighting for fundamental freedoms.

As a member of the National Guard we are always caught up in the changes that face our military force. I think one of the biggest key words we deal with in the military is “flexibility”. There is nothing standard in what we do, we flex to the mission and move forward. The requirement for flexing or transforming is based on the challenges we face now and into the future. We need to focus on our people for readiness and transformation. At the same time we need to train and build Airmen to be our future leaders. It is imperative that we take care of our Airmen and their families as we transform into our future roles in the National Guard. As a member of the National Guard, we must continue to transform and become strategically responsive and dominant in all of our operations. Now and in the future the Air National Guard will play a big part in the transformation of the total Air Force. It is very important that we are all on board and support the process of improving the Air National Guard within our state.

The American public — mothers, fathers, husbands, wives and most importantly, our children — are the beneficiaries of our efforts. I ask you to never forget the people who are counting on us — here at home and abroad. Also never forget those who came before us. They answered our nation’s call and now we must carry that torch. We inherited a huge amount of responsibility, but one we must and can shoulder with courage and honor.

We need your expertise if we are to provide our state and nation the professional service that is expected from our Air National Guard. If you have concerns or recommendations for improvement please let us know. You have some great ideas out there, I urge you to share them with us so we can grow into a better fighting force. Our success depends on your involvement. As we train and deploy, stay focused on what your mission is; live by our Core Values, and be proud of the valuable service that all of you provide to the Oregon National Guard. And remember how blessed we are to live in and serve this great nation.

Military Funeral Honors another way for Guardmembers to serve

The MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS (MFH) Team needs YOU.

We have a mission and an obligation as Soldiers to honor our fellow servicemen and women. Our rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the nation’s deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country in times of war and peace. The ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration that a grateful nation can provide to a veteran’s family. Every eligible veteran has earned and is entitled to military funeral honors.

The Military Funeral Honors program is mandated by congress and the mission was given to the reserves of military, funded by the Department of Defense. The Army National Guard has taken the lead in organizing, and executing the MFH program. Our Oregon MFH teams provide the ceremonial flag fold, presentation, and the playing of TAPS for all who served with Honor.

If you would like to be a part of a great team that looks sharp and renders the Honors that every service member deserves, the Oregon Army National Guard is developing MFH teams in all areas of Oregon. If you can make yourself available, with a day or two notice, during the weekdays and perhaps on some weekends we can make you part of the team.

You earn a minimum of \$50, or your pay grade, whichever is higher, for each funeral day, and each training period. You will also receive 1 retirement point per day or training period. After you join the team and perform 3 military honors you will be issued a set of Dress Blues for future services.

For more information or to join the teams being formed in all areas of Oregon call Randy Teisl, Coordinator, Oregon Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors at: 503-584-2804 or 503-932-4639. You can also visit the website for more information: www.mil.state.or.us/omfh.



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

Army Senior Enlisted promotions announced

PROMOTIONS:	FORWARD PROMOTIONS:
1SG Miller, nominated for CSM, 2-218	SFC(P) Jeffers vice MED DET
1SG Wylle, nominated for CSM, 3-116	SFC(P) Terrel vice C / 1-186 IN
1SG(P) Forrester to OPS SGM 1-186 IN	SFC(P) Herinckx vice Motor OPS HHC
1SG(P) McNatt to OPS SGM 2-162 IN	41 STB
SFC(P) Heller to 1SG, A / 141 BSB	SFC(P) Mattison vice B / 141 BSB
MSG Steinmetz to 1SG HHC /141 BSB	SFC(P) Bagdan vice B(-)/ 1-186 IN
SFC(P) Eagle to 1SG, DET 1- B/ 1-186 IN	

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE OREGON SENTINEL

If you have recently retired from the Oregon Army or Air National Guard, have moved or changed your marital status, and would like to continue receiving our award winning newspaper, The Oregon Sentinel, make sure you update your personnel information!

Current Army National Guard members
See your unit admin. clerk to update your information in SIDPERS

Current Air National Guard members
See your Mission Support Flight office

Retired Air or Army National Guard
Send updates to Randall Witt at: randall.witt@ng.army.mil

Non-military
Contact the State Public Affairs Office at: 503-584-3917 or via e-mail at: sentinel-editor@mil.state.or.us

Deployed Oregon Army Guard officer reflects on 9-11, past five years

Story and photo by Maj. Arnold V. Strong,
Public Affairs Officer,
41st Brigade Combat Team
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

Five years ago today America was attacked. While we all remember what happened that morning, where we were, how we responded, there is one thing I remember with equal clarity. I remember the sound of F-15 Fighter jets flying over Portland and the Willamette Valley. That was the sound of the 142nd Fighter Wing of the Oregon Air National Guard, the first fighter wing in the United States to be 100 percent operational, fully armed, and protecting the skies of America from any potential threat.

One year ago today, I was in a boat floating through a lake that had been a residential street only two weeks before. I realized the date when an emergency crew, also in a boat, cleared a home and marked it with a big red spray-painted “X” with number next to it “9-11.” Oregon’s 41st Brigade Combat Team (BCT) was amongst the first responders to the disastrous consequences of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, an entire brigade mustered, manifested and deployed into operational missions on the opposite side of the nation within 72 hours of their alert, on the Friday morning of Labor Day weekend, no less. In less than a month, we had conducted hundreds of rescues, evacuations, civil relief missions, security patrols and humanitarian assistance missions, a fortuitous preparatory for the future that would await us within months.

Today, I am again deployed as part of a great team led by the 41st BCT of the Oregon National Guard on Sept. 11th. Re-designated Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix, we are the fifth team to serve as the primary trainers and mentors of the Afghan National Army. In five years, this force has built an impressive track record thanks to the contributions of thousands of men and women from a dozen nations and the will power and support of the national leadership

of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Since the fall of the Taliban regime, the Afghan National Army has emerged as the first fully deployed institution of the country. Like its namesake, the mission of Task Force Phoenix is to raise a force of strength from the ashes of over three decades of civil war.

For the first time, CJTF Phoenix is a fully joint and combined enterprise with service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps; men and women from both the Active and Reserve components. Under the leadership of fellow Salem resident Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt and the headquarters of the 41st BCT of the Oregon National Guard, the task force includes thousands of members from 42 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of Guam and Puerto Rico as well as Soldiers from partner nations Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mongolia, The Netherlands, Norway, The United Kingdom, Slovenia and Spain. Each of these service members is fulfilling combat, logistical and administrative roles in addition to the task force main effort, the Embedded Training Teams or ETTs.

In support of the diversity of this effort, we have temporarily changed our official motto from “Jungleers, Warriors, Oregonians” to “Jungleers, Warriors, Patriots.” Our team is spread across the nation of Afghanistan, often in remote and austere locations in rural areas where the trainers eat, sleep, train, fight and live alongside their Afghan counterparts. Truly, “Patriots” is a much more accurate title for these brave Soldiers.

While mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces is the primary mission of Phoenix, the task force is equally involved in the parallel objectives of facilitating development and mentoring stable local governance in the institutions that it touches daily. Whether building schools, helping to open community centers, or distributing much needed medical care, the warriors of CJTF Phoenix continue to set the standard in helping to renew a stable Afghanistan:



Maj. Arnold V. Strong in Afghanistan with some of the local children.

a Phoenix, rising from the ashes. We often rely on donations from organizations and individuals back in the states in order to facilitate this transformation from ash to renewal. To date, we have distributed backpacks full of school supplies, quilted pillows, food stuffs, socks and shoes to needy children, all donations from citizens and organizations back home. All of your contributions are already making a difference to that most impressionable and important audience of reform here in Afghanistan, the children. Every week, we are helping to build and open schools from the elementary through high school levels. But winter is fast approaching and we are hoping to help these children prepare for a cold winter. We need your help to do our work effectively. The men and women that make up this task force are no different from you or your peers. They are simply motivated to

serve their fellow citizens, whether within our borders or across the globe. We are so thankful for your thoughts, prayers and support during this time away from the beautiful Northwest. It is our honor and our privilege to serve. On this Patriot’s Day, we only ask that you will remember those that have fallen and those who serve, whether five years ago, one year ago, and today.

Major Arnold V. Strong, a Salem resident, is deployed with the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan as part of its year-long mission to train the Afghan National Army. The former spokesman for the Oregon National Guard, Strong was mobilized as the Public Affairs Officer for CJTF Phoenix V. He maintains a blog about the CJTF Phoenix mission at <http://majorstrong.blogspot.com>. He can be reached at arnold.strong@gmail.com.

Wegner: ANA mission, Embedded Training Teams demystified



Maj. Michael Wegner in Afghanistan.

Story by Maj. Michael Wegner,
HHC, 41st Brigade
Combat Team Commander,
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

The forward deployed element of 41st Brigade Combat Team, recently redesignated, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V (CJTF Phoenix V), has just recently crossed the 60 day mark. The mission of our task force is, without a doubt, one of the most unique and interesting missions I have ever been a part of. The complexities of the civil-economic, military, and cultural situations in Afghanistan are different from anything I have ever experienced to include my time in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and even Korea. When you add the variables of culture, geography, and the Afghan national organizations, this is a challenging mission in multiple aspects. It takes a lot of great people in this task force to make it success-

ful. Although the task force headquarters, the logistics support battalion and many of the service members are from Oregon, there are service members from all over the U.S. and from all the branches of service in Task Force Phoenix V. We have Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines which we collectively call “Warriors”. By our last count, we have representation from 47 states and the U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and the District of Columbia in the TF.

Our mission here is to mentor the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) to be a self-sufficient, capable military. The Commander’s vision is for the ANA to be an operational tier to a legitimate, effective, and stable government. The country of Afghanistan is essentially divided into five regional commands with one of those being the Central Corps based here in Kabul. CJTF Phoenix is headquartered here in the national capital. The main effort of Phoenix is the Embedded Training Teams (known as ETT’s) deployed in 74 remote locations across all of the regional commands from the company to the corps level of the ANA army. To further complete the building of the ANA army, there are also ETT’s and mentors at almost every functional level of the ANA besides just the combatant forces. This includes the ANA training and schools system, the logistics and army infrastructure systems, the ANA national headquarters, and even with the Afghan National Army Band. That ETT team, downrange throughout the country, living in a mud hut or maybe a tent if they’re lucky, is the focal point of the task force. Those ETT’s down range have a challenging, involved mission in their own right and work in a very complex battlespace. In addition to their habitual relationship with their ANA counterparts, they must often operate in areas shared by other coalition and international assistance groups. One of the newest elements to arrive are the OMLT’s (Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team), an organizational concept from NATO very

similar to the US ETT’s. The OMLT’s fall under the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) which currently has the responsibility for all the regional command areas of Afghanistan with the exception of the US controlled West. Additionally, the Afghan National Police (ANP) often operates in the same provinces and regions as the ANA. Then there are the PRT’s (Provincial Reconstruction Teams) and NGO’s (non-governmental organizations) that are performing humanitarian work throughout the country. In addition to all that, there are sometimes US Special Forces, US combatant forces, and other NATO combatant forces such as Great Britain, Portugal, Canada, among others that also operate in the area depending on what part of the country they are in. These are obviously not all in the same area of operation at the same time, but they are spread throughout the country

and are there to effect a positive change and therefore they are part of the team.

Everything we do here is about these ETT’s that work hand in hand with their ANA counterparts throughout the country. These guys are the tip of the spear effecting change for the future of the ANA. As Brigadier General Douglas Pritt, the Task Force commander likes to put it, it’s about building relationships. The goal of the Phoenix mission is a transition from the US Military doing things FOR the ANA as it has been in the past, to WITH the ANA as it is now, and finally, BY the ANA as is the vision of the future. In other words..... FOR-WITH-BY. This concept sounds simple, but it takes a good amount of work to maintain that focus and is the key to an eventual withdraw. If we do not keep that

Continued on page 10

Afghanistan: A country of struggle

Much of Afghanistan’s early history was a struggle to develop a state at the center of trade crossroads. Its early history includes frequent periods of control from the Persian empire in between invasions by such historical figures as Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan. For most of the 19th century, Afghanistan was caught in the Great Game; an aptly named struggle of approximately 100 years between Imperialist Britain and Czarist Russia over the strategic location of this buffer state.

This is a famous historical time and source of pride for Afghanistan as it repelled three attempts for occupation by Great Britain with every campaign ending in humiliating departure by the British forces. A lesson learned for future governments was the fact that it’s easy to get into Afghanistan but difficult to hold it.

It was not until 1919, after the third Anglo-Afghan, as they were called, that Afghanistan was able to achieve independence. After a short period of weak central governments of different types, a revolt known as the Saur Revolution in 1978, paved the way for the Afghan Communist Party. The weak communist party never took effective control and eventually requested assistance from the USSR. This ultimately resulted in the invasion of the Soviet Union in December, 1979. The US-assisted Mujahadeen fought against the Soviet occupation for nine years before the Soviet pullout in 1988. The remaining weak Afghan communist government fell shortly thereafter and in its place a vacuum.

The Northern Alliance and other anti-communist groups battled over the remains in a civil war that caused significant damage to Kabul with the remaining areas of Afghanistan falling to warlord control. In 1994, the Taliban came into the void and by 1996 controlled much of the country. Eventually came 9-11 and in October 2001, the US began air operations against Afghanistan.

Schilling: ‘We can be out the door in minutes no matter the crisis’

Continued from **FRONT PAGE**

Story and photos by
Sgt. Mary Jane Jacobsen,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard’s 244th Combat Communications Squadron, located at the Portland Air National Guard Base re-designated to the 125th Special Tactics Squadron Sept. 9 as part of a military-wide transformation.

The 125th STS is one of only two special tactics squadrons in the United States. The other is the 123rd STS in Kentucky.

The 125th has many military occupational specialties, including combat controllers. Combat controllers specialize in nontraditional ground combat missions that place them in hard-to-reach combat environments to establish assault zones and provide air traffic control operations.

The 244th CCS had a long lineage that began in July 1956 when it was the 244th Airways and Air Communications Service Engineering and Installation Squadron. The



Staff Sgt. Darren Jones, (right), of the 272nd Power Production Team shows the special features of a customized M4 to Tech. Sgt. Deborah Fisher, also of the 272nd, during the weapons display and showcase.

244th achieved three Air Force Outstanding Unit awards and four times in nine years achieved the Air Force Communications Command Air National Guard Outstanding Unit Achievement Award.

“This unit is a rapid deployment force to be engaged in war as quickly as possible,” 125th Company Commander Capt. Dan Schilling said. “Our people want to be fully engaged in the war on terror. Our line of work puts us directly in line with the enemy to destroy them.

“Combat controllers are arduously tasked with training for any possible scenario and being proficient with any and all tasks,” he continued. “It is the highest demand, low density career field in the United States Air Force Inventory. October 2007 will be the crossroads for the unit to be at full conversion to deploy. Destinations and durations remain unknown until that time.”

Senior Master Sgt. Jim Hotaling, the squadron superintendent, spoke to the attendees at the ceremony.

“Today’s event is the pinnacle of what we have been training and preparing for the last year,” he said. “Our mission to have a relevant, ready and reliable force will be complete in a year, and we will be fully deployable as early as January 2008.”

“We have just passed the one year mark of a two year conversion process,” said Hotaling, who has 18 years experience as a special tactics expert.

“The conversion process has been long and sometimes difficult to clear and stand down the 244th and to train, recruit and stand up the 125th. The redesignation ceremony closed the book on the legacy of the 244th (and) the 125th is ready to rise to the challenge of the Global War on Terror,” he said.

“The unit is actively and aggressively recruiting anyone under the age of 30 that will want to be involved in support of state and federal missions,” Hotaling continued. “We are putting a strong effort forward to recruit the best there is.”



Master Sgt. Garrett Chew (left), combat arms instructor with the 125th STS, shows the special features of MAAWS to an Airman and a civilian at the weapons display and showcase at the 125th Special Tactics Squadron redesignation ceremony Sept. 9 at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

Master Sgt. Garrett W. Chew, 125th combat arms instructor, said the unit’s armorers are proficient with the maintenance of all standard, non-standard and foreign-made weaponry. According to Chew, they can make modifications to most every piece of equipment, tearing them down to add new parts and replace parts.

The combat arms instructors run the firing lines and ranges and perform sub-depot level maintenance on each piece of weaponry.

“We are squadron level armorers, which is unusual. Normally we are at a Wing or Flight level,” said Chew. “Due to the complexities of our weaponry, we have to

be at this level to effectively work with the deployment capabilities of the unit.”

The day was wrapped up with experts standing by their equipment to answer questions. Attendees were allowed to handle and read about the various components and special equipment.

“The citizens of Oregon will benefit from the 125th presence by gaining the most rapidly deployable crisis force in the state,” Schilling said. “We can be out the door with a few hours notice on state contingencies with weapons, secure communications and all terrain capabilities, no matter the crisis.”

Oregon Air Guard sends 116th Air Control Squadron to Afghanistan



Photo by Senior Airman John A. Hughel Jr., 142nd Fighter Wing Multimedia

Tech. Sgt. Misty Gremaud of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing, helps Master Sgt. Gary Gudge (far right) and other Airmen of the 116th Air Control Squadron process for departure for Afghanistan on September 8th, 2006 at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

WARRENTON, Ore. — The Oregon Air National Guard’s 116th Air Control Squadron is deploying 21 of its members to Afghanistan. The unit, headquartered at the Rilea Training Site, near Warrenton, Ore., made final preparations on Sept. 8th. for a 120 day tour of duty at Kandahar Air Base in the southern part of the country.

The airmen left Oregon on Sept. 10. They join three members already in Kandahar. Another eight members from the 116th ACS will join the deployment in early November, bringing the total number of Oregon Air Guardsmen to 32.

The 116th ACS delivers a unique ability to plan and execute air operations in virtually any environment. Since Sept. 11, 2001 the unit has been actively involved in Operation Noble Eagle, deploying nearly a dozen times to assist U.S. Northern Command with Homeland Security operations.

The primary equipment used by the 116th is a three-dimensional radar with a range of about 200 nautical miles that can detect aircraft up to 90,000 feet in altitude. Comple-

menting the radar is an operations module — a control center providing operators with four radar displays and communications equipment to combine the radar pictures with a variety of command and control platforms such as the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

In addition, the highly trained personnel and unit are mobile, capable of relocating quickly with little notice. The 116th ACS gives combatant commanders an essential picture of the battle space.

Most of the personnel deploying with the unit are traditional guard members living in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Among the group is a father and son as well as a husband and wife.

Lt. Col. Tim Olson, commander of the 116th ACS said any time the Guard deploys, it is truly a community effort.

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to the employers and especially the family members of our personnel for the sacrifices and support they give to our guard members,” said Olson.

“These folks are crucial for us to accomplish our mission. Without their support and encouragement, we [would] fail.”

Oregon Guard’s 102nd Civil Support Team receives federal certification

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

An Oregon National Guard unit dedicated to assisting first responders in the early hours of an emerging crisis received certification from the Department of Defense July 24.

With the certification, the 102nd Weapons of Mass Destruction — Civil Support Team, is fully qualified to support first responders throughout Oregon in the immediate aftermath of a WMD incident.

“We bring capabilities most of the first responders don’t have,” said Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell, commander of the 102nd CST.

“We assist them with identifying what type of nuclear, biological, or chemical

agent may have been used; we advise them on whether it’s best to evacuate or shelter in place; and we provide communication through secure and non-secure satellite networks,” Ferrell added.

Certification by the DOD means Oregon has acquired all the equipment, personnel, and training needed for authorization to support local authorities. Ferrell said each of the 22 full-time members of the 102nd CST have more than 750 hours of training, and each is trained to the level of a HAZMAT technician. The equipment the 102nd CST uses includes a mobile laboratory, communication vehicles, and decontamination equipment used to keep the unit functioning in a WMD environment.

Although the 102nd CST has excellent capabilities, it is designed to augment and

support first responders rather than direct the response. The CSTs will be integrated into the National Response Plan to provide support to other states if needed.

A CST is designed to rapidly deploy to an incident, assess the effects of a terrorist attack or crisis, and provide situational understanding to first responders and incident commanders at local, county, state, and federal levels. The goal is to minimize the impact on civilian populations and facilitate requests for follow-on emergency and military support by civil authorities.

“This certification by the Secretary of Defense is an indication to Congress that we have the right equipment, training and personnel to provide assistance to first responders who don’t have the capabilities we offer them,” said Lt. Col. Steve Ferrell,

102nd CST commander.

The 102nd CST has trained with first responders throughout the state, and is now certified to support them directly. Three other states, Connecticut, North Carolina, and Rhode Island also earned certification.

In February 2006, the 102nd CST took part in a joint-agency training exercise in North Portland, along with several public safety and law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, Oregon State Police, Portland Police, HAZMAT teams and Fire Departments throughout the Portland Metro area.

If you would like to read the 102nd CST training article, see pg. 7 of the March/April 2006 issue of the Oregon Sentinel, or visit www.oregon.gov.ond/agpa/publications.shtml.

Military A Star is Born

Story and Photos by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

She's a mother of a five year old boy. She's a Soldier with a full-time job at Joint Force Headquarters. But if you say she's a superstar, she's likely to respond with a raised eyebrow.

"I'm not a superstar," she responds equivocally.

There's one thing Sgt. Amber Mann definitely is – humble.

If Mann is not a superstar, she's at least made a name for herself in the ongoing Military Idol competition held at Fort Lewis, Wash. And as with any rising star, there is a long list of things to consider and worry about. But Mann is a Soldier first, with her first thought being about the Oregon National Guard.

"I think it's awesome to be representing the Oregon Army National Guard," Mann says. "I'm very proud to be in the military, and to be representing Oregon."

Since auditioning for the competition on July 29, Mann has managed to beat out several competitors to make it into the national competition, where she will vie against 13 others for the national title. The overall winner will travel with the MWR's (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) Soldier Show entertaining troops at locations around the world.

"I think it would be cool to travel with the MWR, do the soldier show, maybe even take it outside the military," Mann says.

When she's not at the Military Department, where she works as an administrative clerk for the Regional Training Institute (RTI), Mann spends her time with her son, Dylan. The two live in Albany, Ore.

"He's my biggest fan," Mann says, beaming.

"He's very proud of me." She continues. "He supports me, saying that I did much better than the other singers. He's my number one fan. I'm also his number one fan," Mann says.

And the fan base doesn't stop there.

"I think she's going to take it, there's no question," says Mann's uncle, Michael Mann. "From what I've seen here, there's some great competition, and some people

really putting out some effort, but Amber's got the voice, the stage presence, the whole package," he says. "She looks wonderful."

Michael Mann sat among several family members inside the American Lake Community Center at Fort Lewis, Wash. on Sep.

15. The group watched quietly as the first four contestants worked through their performances. As Mann took the stage, their small group jumped to their feet, cheering her on.

Mann belted out her rendition of Let 'er Rip by the Dixie Chicks. The judges' responses were encouraging and positive. Just one week prior, Mann was admonished by one of the judges for chewing gum while performing Me and My Gang by Rascal Flatts – an act, which according to family members did not effect her singing, but merely created a slight distraction for the panel of three judges.

"She blew everybody away," Michael Mann says.

"I think it's awesome to see Amber fulfilling a dream," says Mann's mother, Barbara Peterson.

According to Peterson, music has always been a part of Mann's life. Starting at the age of four, Mann used to sing in church, with Peterson writing the music and lyrics.

"She loves to sing," Peterson says. "Music has always been a part of her life since she was a child."

Mann confesses that as a child she used to have fantasies about becoming a famous country-western singer. Her list of idols reads like a who's-who of Nashville legends – Reba McEntire, Amy Grant, Faith Hill and Teri Clark, just to name a few.



"But my grandpa would always tell me to come back down to reality," Mann says.

Make no mistake, however. Mann has her eye on winning.

"I want to win," she states.

Mann has purchased a number of music CDs that are produced with this sort of competition in mind. Popular songs have had their vocal tracks stripped, giving performers like Mann an opportunity to practice singing 'ala Karaoke'. Mann practices every chance she gets – with majority of the singing taking place at home or on her way to work.

"I usually sing while I'm doing my housework or in my car," Mann says, chuckling. "People look at me like I'm crazy because I'm just 'going off'."

But the cost of practice material is only the beginning. All contestants are expected to pay for their own transportation, meals, and lodging. With the Military Idol event being held at Fort Lewis every Tuesday evening from August 8 to Sept. 26, Mann's biggest expense to date – aside from her wardrobe – has been gas for her car. Though her family has helped out financially along the way, along with driving up to watch her sing and cheer her on, the costs do add up – a prospect discouraging to even the most hardy contestants. There is prize money to be won, but it doesn't come anywhere near what Mann and her family have to spend to get her through the competition.

Left: Sgt. Amber Mann, of JFHQ, sings 'Let 'Er Rip' by the Dixie Chicks during the Military Idol competition at Fort Lewis, Wash. on Sept. 15, 2006.

Mann is not deterred.

"The cost of the [music] CDs and gas add up," Mann says. "So you have to be dedicated before you go into it, and willing to finish, otherwise it can get discouraging."

The winner of the local competition receives about \$500 in cash and prizes. If Mann wins at the national level, aside from a chance to tour with the MWR, she could take home approximately \$3,000 in cash and prizes.

"If she won, the money is a side thing," Peterson says. "I don't think it's that big of a deal. I think she's humble, and she'll stay grounded no matter what happens, and she'll continue to represent the Oregon National Guard."

Mann, 27, joined the Oregon National Guard in March 1997, after talking at length with her roommate's brother, Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Jacques.

"I joined the army because it looked like a lot of fun," Mann says. "Vinnie talked a lot about it, and so I finally went down to the recruiter's in Corvallis and enlisted."

Mann was initially qualified as a vehicle driver, but was retrained in 2005 as a Human Resources Specialist.

Any idea that this petite twenty-something is all about glamour and fame is quickly put to rest by her military resume. Over the years, Mann has worked as a recruiter in Albany, done military honor guard duty, worked as an assistant to the command group at JFHQ, and as a security augmentee at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore.

She was enrolled at Linn Benton Community College, where she hopes to earn a certification as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). After the furvor over the Military Idol competition dies down, Mann intends to return to her studies.

Like its better-known cousin, American Idol, the Military Idol competition may provide an avenue for greater musical achievements. And like the popular television series, the Military Idol event may thrust contestants into the harsh spotlight of fame. Huge record deals, the celebrity lifestyle, all threaten to change contestants forever. But Mann intends to stick to her roots.

"I'm a small town girl," she says. "I want to stick around here. I'd love to do the Veterans Day parade in Albany – small local events like that. I'd rather stay in my small town and raise my family. I think I'm a very humble person."

Members of her family see it different.

"I think this is great for her," Michael Mann says. "She can go anywhere she wants with this."

If you are interested in following Sgt. Amber Mann's blossoming career as a singer, or would like more information on the MWR's Military Idol competition, visit www.militaryidol.com.

U.S., Singapore Soldiers come together for Tiger Balm 2006

Story by
Spc. Nicholas Wood,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In July, about 30 Oregon Guardsmen traveled to Kansas to team up with around 60 members of the Singapore Armed Forces and soldiers from the Kansas, Illinois, Hawaii and Missouri National Guards to take part in Tiger Balm 06, a two-week warfighter exercise.

The Tiger Balm exercise, now in its 26th year, took place this year at Fort Leavenworth and was hosted by the Kansas National Guard's 35th Infantry Division. The event alternates between Singapore and U.S. locations every year and is scheduled to take place in Oregon in 2008.

Oregon Soldiers played the role of higher headquarters in a battle simulation between a fictional U.S.-Singapore coalition and an insurgent force in the fictional country of Goldland. Working side by side, the U.S. and Singapore soldiers were able to trade tips and experiences in dealing with various battle situations, civil-military operations and the use of technology.

"We don't have any real combat experi-

ence so in this particular exercise we could actually learn a lot of real lessons from an established army like the U.S. Army," said Col. Tan Chong Boon, one of Singapore's 6th Division commanders.

The battle scenario was a continuation from last year's Tiger Balm exercise in Singapore and the players picked up this year where they last left off. Daily scenarios included realistic events, such as improvised explosive devices detonating along the roads, large numbers of displaced civilians wandering the countryside, damage to critical infrastructure - like water and sewer lines - and warring factions among the civilian populations.

Lt. Col. Al Stahl of the 35th Infantry Division said the philosophy behind the exercise was to make the counterinsurgency as fierce and realistic as possible, so that when soldiers encounter these situations in real life, it won't be their "first time at the rodeo".

"We all win when we're learning and that's what this is about," Stahl said.

The exercise also required the soldiers to dress a part and role-play as town mayors, police chiefs, human rights advocates or insurgent sympathizers.

"This training is very interesting if you really let yourself get into everything that's going on rather than focusing on just your own individual area," said Major Ken Safe of the Oregon National Guard.

But while the bulk of the exercise was a computerized warfighter contest, the primary mission was to bring soldiers from two different cultures together, said Colonel Rock Chilton, one of the exercise directors.

American and Singaporean soldiers got plenty of chances to compare and contrast their respective nations.

Among the similarities between the two cultures are the use of English as their national language and they both enjoy the same Hollywood movies and downloadable pop music. Both countries are also made up of diverse ethnic populations.

Singapore is comprised of 4.5 million people of Chinese, Malaysian and Indian descent, with multiple languages and religions represented.

However, Singapore contrasts geographically with the U.S. The entire country is an island of about 690 square kilometers, with the bulk of the population residing in high-rise buildings situated closely together.

In addition to taking part in the battle simulation, the Singapore soldiers got to experience some aspects of American life, which they don't have access to in their homeland, such as skeet shooting on a shotgun range at Fort Leavenworth.

Firearms are illegal in Singapore so the skeet shooting was the first time many of the soldiers have experienced firing a weapon outside of a military qualification range.

The troops also enjoyed going out to dinner in Kansas City, touring the Nascar speedway, shopping at the PX, attending an authentic Old West barbeque, golfing, playing basketball and volleyball with American Soldiers, and testing the Bradley fighting vehicles and M1 rifles.

At the end of the two weeks, commanders from both countries applauded the joint effort and stated that the training objectives and cultural exchanges had been a success.

"This exercise enhanced interoperability and built strengths and bonds between the two armies, forming a conduit for high-level professional exchange," said Singapore's 6th Division commander, Brigadier-General Ravinder Singh.

Remembering 9-11



1. American flags stand in tribute at sunset to Pacific Northwest service members killed in conflicts since Sept. 11, 2001.

2. Two F-15 Eagles flyover ceremonies at the "Healing Fields" at Salem's Riverfront Park on Sept. 11, 2006.

3. Sgt. Maj. Jeffery Waldien posts a tribute flag at 9-11 commemoration ceremonies, dedicated to Staff Sgt. Brad Lindsey, 38, of Troutdale, Ore. Lindsey was the fifteenth Oregon Guardsman to lose his life to the war on terror.



4. Sgt. Kevin Scott, spends a quiet moment in front of Sgt. Ben Isenberg's memorial flag. Scott served in Iraq with Isenberg in Bravo Co., 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in 2004.

5. Memorial flag and plaque dedicated to Sgt. David Johnson, who was killed in Iraq on Sept. 25, 2004. Johnson, 38, of Sandy, Ore., served with HHC, 2-162 Inf. Bn.

6. Memorial flag and plaque dedicated to Sgt. Justin Eyerly, a member of Delta Co., 2-162 Inf. Bn, who was killed in Iraq June 4, 2004. Eyerly, 24, was from Portland, Ore.

7. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Oregon National Guard Adjutant General, planned to speak at the 9-11 commemoration ceremony. Instead he announced the posting of the memorial flag for Staff Sgt. Brad Lindsey, who was killed Sept. 9, 2006 while serving in Afghanistan with the 41st BCT.

8. A United States Marine renders a salute after posting a memorial flag dedicated to a fallen Marine from the Pacific Northwest. Volunteers from each branch of the military posted flags on Sept. 8 dedicated to members of their particular branch.

9. Hundreds of people attended closing ceremonies for the 9-11 commemoration held in Salem's Riverfront Park on Sept. 11, 2006.

Air Assault course tough but worth the effort, graduates say

Story by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett,
Photos by Staff Sgt. John Glover,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon National Guard Sgt. Angel Cortez thought he had the toughest day of Air Assault school behind him.

The B/168th Aviation flight engineer was one of 237 mostly Guard Soldiers - along with a few Reserve, active duty and Air Guardsmen - who showed up at Camp Rilea Aug. 9 and 10 to start the school, known to be one of the Army's most challenging. They came from 31 states, with 67 Soldiers from Oregon, 38 from Pennsylvania and 24 from Washington and Indiana, among others.

Sixty-five of the Air Assault students did not make it past zero day- the course's grueling test of physical strength and stamina - and were sent home, but Cortez was not among them.

"I completed zero day, and I was happy about that," Cortez said. "I thought I was well on my way to completing Air Assault school."

But that's not what came to pass. Cortez, who lives in Milton-Freewater, sprained his ankle during the road march on day two of the 10-day course.

"I tried to get up and wasn't able to," he said, standing on crutches later that day. "I knew I wouldn't finish. I wasn't thinking so much about the pain and the hurt of my ankle. It was more like hurt pride. I had planned on finishing with my buddies, but that's not going to happen. It brings you down pretty good. Like they say, the heart is willing but the body isn't."

Cortez's story is not unique. Many Soldiers, for one reason or another, start Air Assault but do not graduate. Many of those drops could have been prevented, said the school's cadre.

This is the third year in a row that Warrior Training Center (WTC) instructors from Fort Benning, Ga., have taught the Air Assault course in Oregon, and the attrition rate from those classes has been fairly high.

Sixty-nine percent of the 122 Soldiers who started the 2004 course graduated, and



Oregon Army National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Angel Cortez, flight engineer with B/168th Aviation, sprained his ankle during a road march and did not graduate the Air Assault Course held at Camp Rilea Aug. 10-19. Forty-four other Oregon citizen Soldiers did complete the course, which will be held again next summer at Rilea.

only 33 percent of the 355 Soldiers who started the 2005 course earned the right to wear the coveted Air Assault wings, according to Sgt. 1st Class Debby O'Donnell, Administration noncommissioned officer in charge with the 249th Regional Training Institute, the unit responsible for providing support to the Air Assault course.

This year, 140 Soldiers earned their wings at the Aug. 19 graduation - a graduation rate just under 60 percent. The Oregon National Guard graduation rate was slightly higher, with 44 earning their wings - a graduation rate of 66 percent.

The high attrition rate last year was largely

due to the 12-mile road march, a graduation requirement held on the course's final day. One-hundred-and-eight Soldiers failed to complete the march in the required time.

"The wind was blowing every which way, it was raining, and it's difficult to march on the sand of Camp Rilea's beaches," O'Donnell said. "A lot of people failed that road march. I heard that, and I was shaking my head. I was like, 'Oh my God, I feel so sorry for them.'"

Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Conaway, WTC's first sergeant, said lack of physical fitness is the main reason people are dropped from the Air Assault course.

"We can teach them everything they need to know about aircraft and the course, but we can't teach them physical fitness," he said. "More likely than not, if they are not physically fit, they are going home."

"I expected a lot of physical punishment coming in, but once I got here, it was a lot more than I was expecting," Cortez said. "It's a lot of grueling physical training."

Another major cause of attrition is the hands-on sling-load test of day five.

Conaway, who has instructed more than 10 Air Assault courses, said a typical class losses around 20 percent from zero day and another 20 percent from the sling-load inspection.

"The biggest reason for failing sling-load is not studying," he said. "Each night of the course we have study hall for 2 to 4 hours, and the people who are not graduating are the ones not using study hall."

This year 19 people were dropped from the course for failing the phase-two sling-load test, and only one failed the graduation-day ruck march.

Other reasons people fail to complete include not having the proper equipment, lack of motivation and safety violations, among others.

This year, four people were sent home during in-processing because they did not bring the right gear, and last year more than a dozen people were sent home for reasons as avoidable as having an expired ID card or no ID card.

Cadre members say units should help select and prepare prospective students for the course.

"If you're going to come to this course, you've got to come prepared to get your wings," said Staff Sgt. Jarrel Rysavy, an assistant instructor from the ORANG's 102nd Civil Support Team and an original WTC instructor. "If you come and quit, all you did was take a slot from someone who really wanted to be here. The biggest thing is physical fitness. It's no joke. We had a student here who never wore a (ruck) sack or (marched) before. The unit failed to

prepare him."

Rysavy and other members of the 102nd instructed a three-weekend, pre-Air Assault course to help set Oregon's citizen Soldiers up for Air Assault success.

"The best thing a unit can do is have pre-training to choose the best Soldiers for the course," Conaway said, noting that obstacle course practice, physical conditioning and road marches will help a Soldier achieve at Air Assault school.

Conaway also encouraged commanders and squad leaders to ensure Soldiers have all the required equipment listed on the Air Assault pre-execution checklist.

For Cortez, who was able to complete phase one despite needing crutches, it's not just about the wings.

"This is about warrior training," he said.

Cortez can re-enter an Air Assault course taught by the WTC Mobile Training Team in the next six months, starting at phase two.

"It's a hard course," said O'Donnell, who has supported all three Oregon Air Assault courses. "If Soldiers want to come to Air Assault, they have to be well prepared. [The instructors] don't just put your name on the graduation certificate. You have to be physically and mentally trained."

Oregon will once again host the WTC Air Assault MTT at Camp Rilea next summer.

WTC is currently standing-up a National Guard Pathfinder course. Prospective Pathfinder students need an MOS qualifier to get in, according to a cadre member.

Staff Sgt. John Glover with the 115th MPAD contributed to this article.



Left: Sgt. Jardell, an Air Assault instructor with the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga., points out the features of an apex used for sling-load operations to Pvt. Michael J. Hoffman, from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Below: Soldiers taking part in the Air Assault course at Camp Rilea provide security after disembarking from their orientation flight aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Lower Right: Sgt. Timothy D. Carroll of North Carolina's Army National Guard makes his way down the open side of the rappel tower at Camp Rilea during the Air Assault Course in August.



when Nations are United



Story and photos by Spc. April L. Dustin,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

ULAANBATAAR, Mongolia — More than 90 Soldiers from Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry traveled to Five Hills Training Center, west of Ulaanbataar, Mongolia August 11-24 to participate in Khaan Quest 2006. Two platoons from B Co. 2-162 Inf. Bn. and a platoon from the Alaska National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, trained alongside units from Mongolia, Bangladesh, India, Fiji, Thailand, and Tonga.

"It's been a wonderful experience to work with so many different countries, in a nation that I never thought I would ever see," said Staff Sgt. Randall Mitts, of Bravo Co.

Khaan Quest 2006 was sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM). The purpose of the exercise was for all participating nations to gain UN peacekeeping Training Recognition in support of the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), a five-year program managed by the U.S. Department of State to address gaps in international peace operations. The

GPOI program plans to train 75,000 UN peacekeepers around the world over the next five years, each of the five major U.S. commands are charged with assisting that goal.

"Under GPOI, PACOM is responsible for training 15,000 peacekeepers in the Asia-Oceania region," said Master Sgt. Robert Rembert, GPOI trainer from PACOM. "This is the first U.S. command to execute a multi-national GPOI training exercise."

Rembert developed the first phase of Khaan Quest, known as "Train the Trainer", in which Soldiers learned how to become instructors for the United Nations Training Assistance Team (UNTAT). Nearly 40 Soldiers from each of the participating nations — including five from Oregon — became UNTAT instructors.

According to Lt. Col. Edward Tanguy, commander of 2-162 Inf. Bn. and U.S. contingency commander during Khaan Quest, the training these instructors received is beneficial to Oregon.

"We gained some really great trainers from



Cpl. Taylor Haines, of Salem, (left) and Spc. Joel Steinman, of Beaverton, (center) learn how to speak Thai from Sgt. Kumpee, of the Thailand 23rd Infantry Regiment (right), on August 9 at Five Hills Training Center, near Ulanbataar, Mongolia during Khaan Quest 2006.

Oregon Soldiers return from Mongolia

Rioters set fire to a truck outside a home where Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers and police are searching for suspected drugs and weapons. Smoke quickly smothers the small village with a thick, gray fog as the Soldiers try to push the rioters out of their operational area.

About a mile up the road, Thai Soldiers try to fend off protestors outside a United Nations compound. One mile in the opposite direction, Fijian Soldiers struggle to maintain control of a crowd of hungry villagers at a food distribution site.

Meanwhile, Mongolian Soldiers react to sniper-fire during a patrol and Soldiers from India search vehicles at a checkpoint, as dust billows up on the distant horizon from a convoy of Tongan Marines.

This was just one day in the life of multi-national peacekeepers during Khaan Quest 2006, a United Nations field training exercise that took place among the rolling green hills and vast blue skies of Mongolia's open-range grasslands.

Left: Spc. Justin Hernandez, of Albany, from Bravo Co., 2-162 Inf. Bn., trains Mongolian Armed Forces soldiers on basic functions of a 240B machine gun for weapons familiarization training August 17, during Khaan Quest 2006, UN peacekeeping exercise near Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

this," Tanguy said. "It's difficult to maintain proficiency in the training arena if you don't inject your system with new ideas. Now we have five trainers in Oregon that know how to conduct premier lane training. They'll go back to their units and it will filter down, they can populate their peers with the same knowledge."

Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Glesmann, Khaan Quest training NCOIC and operations NCO for 2-162 Inf. Bn., said having UN Recognition will also open some doors for the trainers.

"When they receive UN Recognition, the State Department logs their names into a database, so the trainers could be asked to assist other GPOI exercises in the future," Glesmann said.

The newly-trained UNTAT instructors conducted six tactical training lanes during the second phase of Khaan Quest. The instructors taught UN procedures for 33 peacekeeping tasks and the participating platoons were required to apply those techniques to simulated scenarios on the training lanes. The training lanes included securing a fixed compound and a food distribution site, convoy and patrol training, cordon and search procedures, and checkpoint operations.

As one of Oregon's UNTAT Recognized trainers, Mitts stressed the importance of the lane training.

"Nine out of the 12 platoons that are here, excluding the U.S. platoons, may be going into peacekeeping or combat roles in the next three months," Mitts said. "For them this training is do or die."

For the U.S. platoons who went through the training, Tanguy said the tasks were very common Soldier skills, but the real benefit was the multi-national experience they gained.

Second Lt. Keelan Rogers, First Platoon leader for Bravo Co., agreed.

"When you deploy, you're not going to deploy to your backyard and they're not going to be speaking English," Rogers said. "It's been fun to train in another part of the world because you're dealing with different terrain, different climates, different building structures, and different cultures, which is good because that's what you have to deal with on a deployment."

After having deployed to Iraq in 2004, many Bravo Co. Soldiers could call themselves seasoned combat veterans. The peacekeeping training in Mongolia provided new challenges as they tried to transition from a war-fighting role to a peacekeeping role.

"It's been beneficial to get some out of the ordinary training, because the peacekeeping aspect is so different from what an infantry unit normally does," Rogers said. "This has definitely challenged a lot of people. It's been a big challenge just to think in a different mind frame."

First Lt. Kyle Akers, Second Platoon leader for Bravo Co., said the peacekeeping training created more versatile Soldiers.

"This is teaching them to become everything from that high intensity combat Soldier to that low intensity peacekeeper," he said. "If they know how to go from one extreme to another like that, it makes them a better overall Soldier."

Spc. Jason Becker, of Bravo Co., said he appreciated the opportunity for new training.

"It's given us a chance to shift gears and learn other roles that Soldiers have to fulfill."

According to many of the Oregon Soldiers, the Mongolian Armed Forces' 150th Peacekeeping Operations Battalion presented a formidable adversary as role-players on the training lanes.

As opposing forces (OPFOR), the Mongolian soldiers, dressed in civilian clothes, staged riots and protests, and performed simulated attacks and drive-by shootings on the training lanes. The Soldiers negotiating the training scenarios practiced forming cordon lines to prevent the OPFOR from interfering with their mission. Some of the role-players broke through the lines, forcing the Soldiers to chase them down and detain them. To add to the stress of the training, the OPFOR also pretended to steal equipment from Soldiers — after which both sides had to simulate negotiating food and water in exchange for return of the stolen equipment.

At the end of each simulated scenario, the Soldiers shook hands with the role-players and reviewed what they learned from the experience.

"The OPFOR has made this (training) seem a lot more realistic than any other I've been through," said Spc. Nathan Moore of Bravo Co. "Some of the (scenarios) actually got your heart going."

Sgt. Jason Winslow, of Bravo Co., agreed.

"I'm impressed with the Mongolian Armed Forces," he said. "They've done an outstanding job setting up this training facility and training their opposing forces."

The platoon-level training also included a day on the firing range for weapons familiarization. The platoons fired U.S. weapons including the M-16, M-4, Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), 240B, and Mongolian weapons including the AK-47, as well as other Soviet-made automatic weapons.

"When you have multi-national forces working together in UN missions, Soldiers need to be familiar with their counterparts' weapons," said Glesmann. "If your weapon goes down and you need to defend yourself, you may need to pick up one of your counterparts' weapons and use it."

For many of the Soldiers, both U.S. and foreign, this was their first experience firing



Photo by 2nd Lt. Amy Bombassaro,
Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Mongolian Lt. Col. Enkhbaatar (right), UNTAT instructor, assists Lance Cpl. Pimi Vailea, of Tonga, (left) while he calls for medical evacuation for Cpl. Mo'unga Lisiate, who lies waiting with simulated injuries on August 22.

peacekeeping training mission with UN recognition, international friendships



some of these weapon systems.

“The weapon training was like being a little kid at a carnival, as long as you had enough tokens you could ride all the rides. I was going from range to range to see what weapon I could shoot next,” said Cpl. Adam Alvarez, of Bravo Co., who also trained Soldiers from other countries on U.S. weapons.

“They were very excited to have the opportunity to shoot our weapons,” Alvarez said.

Staff Sgt. Shane Ward of Bravo Co., also enjoyed teaching foreign soldiers how to fire U.S. weapons.

“It was great to see them enjoy themselves

Above: Mongolians put on a cultural display for an inter-national military audience from the United States, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Thailand, and Tonga during the opening ceremony on August 11 for Khaan Quest 2006, United Nations peacekeeping exercise near Ulaanbataar, Mongolia. From left to right: Mongolian Soldiers in their ceremonial uniforms marching, Mongolian flute players, contortionists performing, a masked temple dancer in ceremonial dress.

the training lanes by UNTAT instructors to receive UN Training Recognition. Representatives from GPOI and the State Department evaluated the overall exercise to ensure the training met UN standards. Khaan Quest 2006 is the first multi-national GPOI training event to be successfully ‘recognized’ by the UN.

“I think this training is of the highest level, and that’s saying a lot coming from a guy who has been an OCT (observer-controller-trainer) at the National Training Center for four years,” said Col. (ret.) John Feeley, Asia-Pacific program manager for the Center of Civil-Military Relations. Feeley was one of the observer controller trainers who reported to the Department of Defense, State Department, and UN on the quality of the training conducted during Khaan Quest.

“The lessons learned at Khaan Quest 2006 will be taken back to participating nations and will be carried forward into execution of UN peace support operations around the world,” said Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Tom, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, during closing ceremonies August 24. “These UN missions provide security and hope for people in troubled areas of the world in need of protection and are of vital importance in maintaining civility on the planet.”

According to M. Enkhbold, Prime Minister of Mongolia, multi-national field training exercises, such as Khaan Quest 2006, not only provide a venue to achieve GPOI peacekeeping training, they also offer a chance to improve inter-operability between UN forces and promote positive military-to-military relationships among participating nations.

“The training exercise is of a great importance to enhance military cooperation and confidence between countries in the Asia-Pacific region,” Enkhbold said during his closing ceremony speech. “There is no doubt that this training has greatly contributed to improving cooperation for global security, confidence in peace support operations, and development of the camaraderie among the Soldiers.”

So, what does having UN Training Recognition in peacekeeping operations mean for the Oregon Guard? According to Tanguy, Oregon Soldiers now have a wider variety of skill sets to draw from that parallel many of the state-side missions the Guard is called on to perform.

“Whether it’s responding to fires or floods in Oregon, or traveling to places like Louisiana, like we did last year for Katrina and Rita, the items that we trained on here were pretty consistent for all those types of multi-lateral missions where you are working with different agencies to provide assistance to people in need,” Tanguy said.

Akers also compared peacekeeping training to some of the situations he witnessed in New Orleans, “Since we are National Guard, there is that opportunity for stateside missions like New Orleans, where we have to be like cops, rather than an assault force. So sometimes we have to discipline our Soldiers in a different way of doing things.”

Tanguy said although it is not very likely that the Oregon Guard may be called up to do any peacekeeping missions for the UN, it is still necessary to stay relevant in the peacekeeping process.

“You have to stay involved on an international level, whether it’s an active duty or a National Guard unit going through peacekeeping training, we are all one Army, and it’s all about being globally relevant,” Tanguy said. “When our Soldiers get engaged in the global world, it benefits Oregon communities because they bring those cultural learning experiences back with them.”



Staff Sgt. Kyle Shimasaki, of Corvallis, (left) simulates negotiating with a local villager, as Spc. Kyle James, of Happy Valley, Spc. Jon Bricker, of Salem, and other Soldiers from Bravo Co., 2-162 Inf. Bn., form a perimeter around a home where a simulated search is being conducted August 17 during peacekeeping training at Five Hills Training Center in Mongolia.

on the range,” he said. “It was satisfying to train them, not just getting them behind the gun and pulling the trigger, but teaching them to sight the weapon in for different ranges and watching them knock down targets.”

The Oregon Soldiers trained and lived alongside platoons from six different countries, gaining multi-cultural experiences along the way.

“Even though these people haven’t been given the opportunities we have in America, they are very clean, courteous, very well-mannered, they have great military bearing,” said Staff Sgt. Jeromy Turner, of Bravo Co. “A lot of them are warriors themselves and have deployed all over the world. They’re combat veterans just like us and in most cases they’ve deployed more places than we have,” he continued. “There’s a lot of countries here with great history they’ve been sharing with us.”

At the end of each training day, Oregon Soldiers spent their free time playing volleyball and rugby with platoons from other countries. At night, they gathered in the recreation tents, sharing songs and stories with the Fijian and Tongan Soldiers. The participants taught each other words and phrases in their native languages, spanning seven different countries. Several Soldiers even learned kick-boxing techniques, and how to use Daab swords from the Thai Soldiers.

“Culture plays a such huge part in the way we think and the way we act,” Rogers said.

the Mongolians. The Mongolians also drew upon their long history as horsemen, racing them in the grass fields of Five Hills Training Center among free-ranging cattle.

“I’ve been in shock and awe over the beauty of this country,” Mitts said about Mongolia. “It’s inspiring to see a country where the richest people are nomads who own a few hundred sheep, or a few horses and cows.”

Becker said he learned a lot from working and living with foreign Soldiers.

“Coming away from this experience, I have a new-found respect for a lot of these Soldiers in foreign militaries,” he said. “We’re different culturally in a lot of ways, but when it comes down to it, we’re all still Soldiers, no matter where we come from.”

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston visited with the U.S. platoons during Khaan Quest and was pleased by the relationship building between U.S. Soldiers and other countries.

“The relationships that U.S. Soldiers are building with the Mongolian Army and the other NATO countries here is important,” Preston said. “It’s a sharing of concepts and ideas, and it builds great relationships not only between armies but also between countries. The Oregon and Alaska National Guard Soldiers here have been great ambassadors for the United States in Mongolia.”

During the third phase of Khaan Quest, all participating platoons were evaluated on



Soldiers from Bravo Co., 2-162 Inf. Bn., Spc. Joel Steinman, of Beaverton, (left) and Pvt. 1st Class Scott Perry, of Oregon City, (right), learn how to use Daab swords from Sgt. Boonmee Samart (second from left) and Sgt. Petai Pimthong (third from left), of the Thailand 23rd Infantry, August 9 at Five Hills Training Center, near Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

Community relations satisfying for ANA, CJTF members



Maj. Michael Wegner at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan. Wegner is part of a one-year deployment in Afghanistan for the Oregon Army National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team, as part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V. The Oregon Soldiers are preparing the Afghan National Army to take control of their country's security and defense.

Continued from **PAGE THREE**

in mind, then we are losing sight of the heart of mentorship. If this had to be generalized for the entire ANA organization, we are in that transition of doing things WITH the ANA and moving towards BY the ANA. This fundamental change is more evident in some places than others. The ANA is on the verge of its next significant evolution as it continues to move towards the BY phase. The great changes that are occurring in the ANA are occurring at the individual relationship level and with a strong coalition team effort, stronger and better trained ANA leaders are beginning to do more and more on their own.

Of course there are more TF PHOENIX warriors downrange than just the ETT's. There are the logistics task force warriors of the 141 Support Battalion. There are SECFOR warriors from the 41st in addition to warriors from the 1-180th Infantry Battalion of the 45th Brigade out of Oklahoma. Finally, there are the sailors, marines, and airmen that are also part of the task force in other support capacities. As the HHC/41 BCT commander, most of my warriors work on Camp Phoenix in Kabul ensuring the Task Force headquarters can accomplish its missions, but I do have warriors throughout the regional commands supporting the ETTs. Members of HHC/41 BCT are also there along with the ETT's supporting the mission of the task force throughout the regional commands. Sometimes these skilled warriors and junior NCO's are reporting directly to the task force regional commanders and are doing wonderful things. There are warrior's of HHC that are down range, often in an austere environment that are monitoring networks, analyzing and interpreting enemy data, working personnel issues, and assisting in local rebuilding projects. A challenge to my mission is that the needs and mission downrange are unique for every region. The variations are often based on the geo-political environment within each region. For example, the local economy, how far ANA soldiers are from home, the regional geography, the ANA facilities, the proximity to tribal and population centers of influence can affect the ANA command and the ANA organizations in those regions. These missions also vary due to the different threat levels. In some areas IED's, rockets, and enemy contact are a common event. In other areas, there is an established, friendly, working relationship with local leaders and elders that directly influence the dynamic between community, the ANA, and the role of the ETT. This threat configuration historically follows most of the same centers of influence the Taliban once held prior to US involvement. No matter the variation or challenges to the mission, commanders, ETTs, and all the support elements have to develop their own systems and procedures requiring warriors that are flexible, patient, adaptive, and creative. Not only are they doing great work mentoring the ANA, these warriors also have all the responsibilities of maintaining the military requirements. Being an ETT is a full time job, and they still have to manage the force protection, service member personnel management, humanitarian projects, as well as interacting with the local Afghan National Police, the local elders, and the local community.

One of the most satisfying events for any service member here outside of the ANA-ETT relationships is the ability to get out and do projects and humanitarian visits in the community. The TF mission is ultimately a mission to develop the army, but that is only one piece to building a sovereign, self-sufficient, self-securing, stable country. There are lots of opportunities to reach out and directly influence a child, a family, a village, and even a city. Many of my warriors have had the opportunity to deliver school supplies to local schools, help a local village with a new well, and visit children at a local hospital to name a few. Sometimes it is a balance between the needs of force protection and the benefits and impact of a humanitarian mission, but overall we do encourage the service members to get involved in these events. Unanimously, warriors return with the feeling of accomplishment and a sense that they have helped. For many of the warriors, they have not been exposed to such an opportunity and usually not in such a direct manner. I really cannot emphasize enough what a great experience this is for our warriors. First of all, the ability to get out and see something besides the walls and fence of the camp gives a service member a great perspective of what the Afghans have gone through and the full spectrum of efforts to build Afghanistan. Second, it's really humbling to see what the smallest of things can do for an Afghan citizen or child. According to the UN, this is one of the poorest countries in the world, and to give the gift of something as simple as a pen or paper to a needy child really catches you off guard. Third, it gives a service member an opportunity to have some direct interaction with Afghans. Not only does it present the image of Americans as partners, it gives a new perspective to talk to an Afghan in person, nothing is better than a personal thank you for a helping hand. Finally, we are all human beings and an opportunity to help is a very rewarding, satisfying experience. For many of us, it will end up being one of the significant experiences we keep with us long after the deployment is over.

The task force is just settling in and so far it has been a great experience for us all. There is a lot of work and change ahead and there is lots of time left to do some great things here. The 41st brigade has already had a positive impact and I'm sure there is more to come. What continually amazes me is the quality and professionalism of the brigade warriors and those from HHC. With challenges in front of them and an opportunity to move beyond the standard expectations, outstanding warriors will step forward. Personally, it has just been the start of a great experience and I am not sure if I have ever been able to say that I feel as though I am at a decisive point for the future of a country the way I am here with TF Phoenix.

Lt. Col. Hill visits Herat, other sites



Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Daniel Hill



In my most recent away mission I visited our Forward Operating Base outside of Herat.

In picture #1 (above) was taken from a C-130 near Herat, the site of the 'large' Buddha statues destroyed by the Taliban (including Pakistan and other Arab fighters) in 2001.

In picture #2 (center) you can see me with some children during a CERP (Commanders Emergency Relief Program) mission.

Picture #3 (bottom) shows me at the former Soviet base next to the FOB, which was destroyed by Afghan Forces after they drove out the Soviets (the Afghan leader apparently called all of the Soviet troops and their families together, and killed them all). Instead of using the base, which had a swimming pool and several sauna buildings, the Afghans just destroyed it.

Lt. Col. Daniel J. Hill,
Staff Judge Advocate
41 BCT and CJTF Phoenix V
daniel.j.hill@afghan.swa.army.mil



Capt. Luqman settles in with ETTs



Photo by Naimatullah Khan, Titan interpreter

Staff Sgt. Roosevelt Bradley (left) and Capt. Dawood Luqman (center) verify sectors of fire and deadspace while setting up a mountain observation post with the Afghan National Army, in late July, 2006. The ANA routinely conducts combat patrols and mans observation posts outside Forward Operating Base Orgune in Paktika Province, in order to deter rocket attacks against the FOB and attacks against coalition forces.

Oregonians help Afghans with donations



Photo by Lt. Col. Ken Vaughn, Commander, 95th Division, 13th Detachment

Members of Oregon Army National Guard's Detachment 13 and the 41st Brigade Combat Team help distribute donated clothes to families in a village near their base in Kandahar. The clothes were sent by Oregonians in an effort to help civilians in the war-torn country prepare for the cold winter ahead.

Letters
From The Front

Soldiers’ schedule very busy in Afghanistan

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope you will forgive me for not sending a personal email but I am sure you understand my time is very limited with a work day that is never less than 14-16 hours, 6 days per week.

Friday is the Muslim religious day and the Afghan Army takes that day off so we have what we call Commanders Time. The definition of Commanders Time is my Soldiers get a day of rest and me and my other Commanders have a day to get caught up.

It is really not as bad as it sounds. Other than exercising, reading, sleeping, eating and watching TV or movies there isn’t much else to do other than your job. I start my day at 0500 every morning and spend the first 1.5 to 2.0 hours exercising and getting ready for work. I have a full breakfast between 7 and 7:30 in the chow hall and am in my office between 7:30 and 8. After my coffee, email and addressing any problems that have come up in the last 24 hours I then go over to the Kabul Military Training Center Headquarters and meet and have tea with the Commander and my counter part, Brigadier General Wardock.

Because this is the one and only training center for the whole country we get a lot of dignitaries visiting. Yesterday I had a two-star Admiral here that is testifying to Congress next week and today I had the Commander of the Italian Forces from Camp Avicta which is just west of us for lunch and a tour. I have been here exactly two weeks today and we have had four Generals and the Admiral come through, a contingent from the British Parliament and the three-star Chief of Staff of the Afghan Army twice. Wednesday I have the French Ambassador and Thursday, six people from the US Embassy.

In between briefings and entertaining dignitaries the rest of my day is spent in meetings and working with my staff. I try to get out of the office for 1-2 hours per day and visit with the Troops and observe training. The food is so good I skip lunch and usually head to the Chow Hall around 5-6 o’clock for dinner. From 7-9 PM I work my email and usually go to bed around 10PM. It is hard work but this is the most rewarding job I have had in my whole military career.

Our quarters are the metal shipping containers they use on cargo ships. They put a door on each end of the container and a wall in the middle, floor and wall coverings, lights and an air conditioner and you have a portable room. They stack them two high and add stairs and a catwalk and you have instant housing. We call our housing area Lego Land because it looks like a bunch of building blocks. As a “full-bird” Colonel I get a whole Connex so my room is 20x8 and the singles are 10x8. They are small but it is better than a tent and we have air conditioning. The Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) is a 35-acre complex with barracks, a parade ground, admin buildings, mess hall, motor pool and medical clinic.

We are training anywhere from 6-8 thousand Afghan Soldiers at any one time. My staff is 350 and is a coalition of five other countries. The Afghan Army staff running the school that we support and mentor numbers around 1,600. My compound is in the middle of KMTC. We have gates and a 20-foot wall all around us with guard towers in each corner. Because we are surrounded by the school someone decided to name our compound the Alamo. In the future when I talk about KMTC and the Alamo you will know what I am talking about. To the north of KMTC we have 14,000 acres of training area where the firing ranges are. Everywhere you go there are hundreds of destroyed Russian Tanks and equipment scattered all over. KMTC is located on the eastern edge of Kabul. Camp Phoenix, which is where my one-star US Army boss is, is about 8 miles to the west. I usually go to Phoenix once or twice a week for meetings.

About 10 miles to the west of Phoenix, in downtown Kabul is Camp Eggers where my two-star US Army boss is. I go there once a week to give him my weekly Commanders Update Briefing. Tomorrow I will be there to brief him on our new Firing Range plan. Any time you go outside the compound or outside the “wire” as we call it, you have to have a two-vehicle convoy with a minimum of two people in each vehicle. We travel with full body armor, helmet and weapons at the ready.

The biggest danger is not insurgents but the traffic. There are no laws and no license requirements so if you can afford a car all you have to do is be big enough to reach the peddles and see out the windshield and off you go. With no laws it is like a demolition derby. It is so crazy that the bad guys would be run over and killed before they ever had the chance to plant a bomb.



an Air Force aircraft to get us to Afghanistan. Once we arrived at Camp Phoenix we had two days of briefings on the war zone and finally moved to the Alamo on Monday the 12th, a week after we left the United States.

It is about 9:30 PM and I am running out of steam and I have probably bored you to death anyway. Thanks for keeping me and my Soldiers in your thoughts and prayers. I will try and do a newsletter more often so these things are not so long. We are making a difference in a lot of lives and the Afghan people truly appreciate the support and freedom we provide. Hope you are all doing well, happy and enjoying life like I am.

Here is the picture I promised to send. We have six Oregon State University Alum in my command. From top left to bottom right is Capt. Earl Vosika, Lt. Col. Frank Flux, 2nd Lt. Travis Ostrem, Maj. Steve Mclay, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Whitney, and myself.

Take Care for Now.

Col. Jim Lyman
Camp Phoenix
APO AE 09320

Oregonians brave dust storms, heat during Afghanistan mission

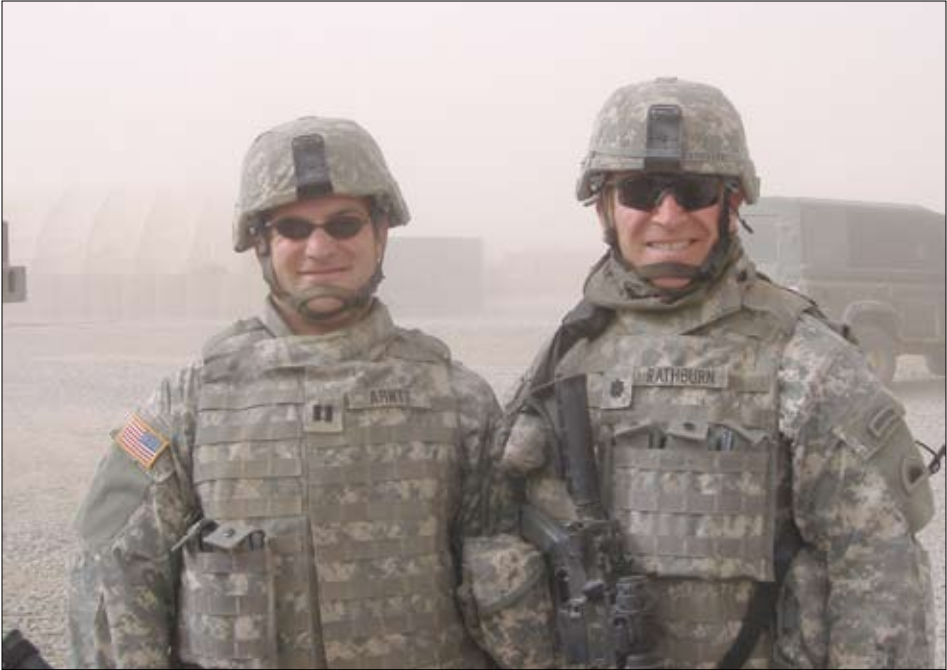


Photo by Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn, 41st Brigade Combat Team

Here is a picture of Capt. Steven Arntt and myself (Lt. Col. Mark Rathburn), taken somewhere within the Helmand Province during one of our dust storms. The temps were well over 120 degrees and the fine dust cut through everything. We felt like someone had turned on and through dirt into a large hair dryer! It was a mess. Visibility was so poor during this storm, we had to stop driving for a few hours and wait out the weather.

Majority of Afghans grateful for help, say Oregon Soldiers



Photo courtesy of 41st Brigade Combat Team

Above: Sgt. 1st Class Steve Buck of Portland, Ore., cools off with the help of two Afghan children. Oregon Soldiers helped restore wells and water supplies to several villages in the areas surrounding their base at Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.



Above: Local Afghan children pose for photos at a refugee camp near Pol-e-Charki during a humanitarian mission. Photo by Maj. Michael Wegner, 41st Brigade Combat Team.

Left: An Afghan National Army Medic (right), tends to a local villager while on a medical mission with one of the Combined Joint Task Force V’s Embedded Training Team. The ETTs are spending one year in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army in all areas of Soldiering, including humanitarian missions. Photo by 2nd Lt. Amanda Straub, 41st Brigade Combat Team.

Baker City looks to its new armory as city lynchpin

Story and Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

The town of Baker City, Ore. officially welcomed a new neighbor recently. It is fast becoming an integral part of the city's landscape, and according to city officials, may actually help define it.

The Baker City Armory was officially dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 31, 2006. The ceremony was attended by Oregon National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, and the Director of State Affairs for the Oregon National Guard, Brig. Gen. Michael Caldwell, along with other civic and military dignitaries.

More significantly however, were the eight original members of F Company, 2nd Infantry, 186th Regiment – a unit which called Baker City home since 1947.



Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell prepares to cut a ribbon at the official dedication ceremony for the Baker City armory on Aug. 31.

"You ought to see the building we had when we started out," said Eldon Clapp, one of the original members of F Company.

Clapp, who enlisted in the military in June 1940, served during WWII, and at one time worked as a crew chief on B-29 bombers on Tinian Island. He joined the Oregon National Guard after leaving the Army Air Corps, finally retiring from the military in 1984.

"It was just an old 1940s building," Clapp said, referring to the old armory, located just around the corner from the new facility. "Any building that was large enough to house an armory during WWII was probably used that way," he added with a chuckle.

Rees talked about how the old Baker City Armory served the community and the National Guard for a little over 50 years.

"But I can see this magnificent structure serving us for 75, maybe 100 years," Rees said, referring to the new building.

He compared the dedication of the new building, coming on the heels of the 2004 return of Oregon National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry from duty in Iraq to the 1951 dedication of the old armory, and the original members' participation in WWII, and their return from duty in the South Pacific. Rees also drew parallels between the two groups' sacrifice for their country.

"I can see the new building serving our veterans and soldiers who will be available to help out with our emergencies statewide, disasters, or those things where our nation

calls upon us to serve," Rees said.

As part of the Army's transformation, the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry (Armor) was redesignated in March 2006 as Company F (-) Forward Support Battalion (145 Brigade Support Battalion) – the unit which will now call the armory home.

Rees was joined on stage by Baker City Mayor, Charles Hoffman, and Baker County Commissioner Fred Warren, Jr., State Chaplain, Col. John Dinsmore, and Senator Ted Ferrioli, (R-John Day), who represents District 30, which encompasses most of Eastern Oregon including Baker County. According to Rees, Ferrioli was instrumental in helping to source funding for the new facility.

"The Guard has done so much for us, and I don't think we as civilians can ever repay the debt that we owe them," Ferrioli said during his speech.

Ferrioli talked about how government officials have a responsibility to do everything they can to provide facilities and equipment for the National Guard.

"This facility is an expression of that commitment," Ferrioli said. "And hopefully [this armory] serves as an example for other legislators to respond positively when they are asked to provide resources that the Guard needs."

"Wow, what a facility," said Baker City Mayor, Charles Hoffman. "This one is cutting edge."

"It is on the gateway of Baker City," Hoffman continued. "And along with our museum, it fits in with our flavor of Baker County."

Of the total construction cost of \$7.4 million, roughly half was funded by the National Guard Bureau. Baker County partnered with the Ford Foundation to fund just under \$1 million, and just over \$2.5 million was raised by the sale of State of Oregon Certificates of Participation.

By comparison, the old armory was completed in 1951 at the cost of \$73,808, and boasted 11,776 square feet.

Other partnerships with the Oregon Military Department include the Blue Mountain Community College, which will utilize two 624 square foot classrooms. Three additional classrooms totaling 1,568 square feet is also available to BMCC should the need arise.

"I can see it being a wonderful part of Baker County, and a companion piece to the county fair," Rees said, calling the facility "first rate" and a "trend setter" for other states to follow.

The 40,000 square foot building, located at 1640 Campbell Street in downtown Baker City, is situated across the street from the museum, which itself is undergoing renovations. According to many, the new armory finds itself right at home in Eastern Oregon, featuring architectural cues reflecting the history and rural nature of the region. The building is a grand design, soaring high above the street with a red brick exterior and a Gothic-inspired roof line.

The high-ceiling in the foyer gives visitors a preview of the grand, open design of the interior, which is treated with bright neutral colors, and liberal use of glass and chrome fixtures throughout. Natural light filters through large skylights in the entry hall, taking full advantage of the copious amounts of sunshine in the eastern part of the state, while a contemporary staircase leads to generously appointed classrooms and meeting rooms on the second floor. The



Top: The new Baker City armory, which was dedicated Aug. 31. The \$7.4 million, 40,000 square foot facility is "first rate" and an example for other states to follow, according to Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, Adjutant General for the Oregon National Guard.



Above: Wadean Holcomb stands near a brass plaque dedicated to her son, Sgt. John Noble Holcomb, who died in Vietnam, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The entry hall to the new Baker City armory is named in his honor.

Below: Original members of F Company, 2nd Infantry, 186th Regiment join Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees and other civic and military leaders during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

large auditorium-style drill floor, which was dedicated to Maj. Gen. Edward Dickinson Baker, is treated with a number of hefty internal columns and pointed arches, reminiscent of a large-timbered barn structure so common to the region.

The lobby and entry way was dedicated to Oregonian and Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. John Noble Holcomb, who died on December 1968 during an assault mission in Quan Loi in Vietnam.

"I think John would have been very proud," said Wadean Holcomb, as she reviewed her son's memorial plaque and framed photograph mounted in the entry hall. Mrs. Holcomb also participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony held earlier.

Although the new facility was completed in Oct. 2005, and an open house for the public was held shortly thereafter, the official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony

would wait till late August, 2006.

Aside from ample kitchen facilities, the armory features 4,700 square foot vehicle and equipment maintenance bays, administrative offices, and a rifle range which employs a recycled rubber 'bullet trap' made of shredded tires, which is cleaned and sifted of bullets every 100,000 rounds.

Refreshments were served on the drill floor following the ceremony, and maps of the facility were passed out for those who wanted a self-guided tour.

The lead architect is Mark Danielson, AIA, of Architects Bates and Lee, located in Lake Oswego, Ore. The building was constructed by Kirby Nagelhout Construction, of Bend, Ore.

Baker City, which is located in northeastern Oregon just off Hwy 84, was chartered in 1874, and is home to approximately 9,860 people, according to the 2000 state census.

THE SENTINEL WANTS YOU!

We want your stories
We want your pictures

Submit them to:
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.



Oregon Soldier saves girl from drowning

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs



Spc. Tom Hoy, his wife Jennifer, and daughter Heidi, stand with Oregon Congressman Greg Walden at the Bend Armory on July 15. Walden recognized Hoy in a statement of Congressional record.

An Oregon National Guard Soldier is being hailed a hero after saving a young girl from the Deschutes River. Spc. Tom Hoy of the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry, 41st Infantry Brigade Team was on duty participating in recruiting activities near the Deschutes River in Bend, Ore., on July 10, 2006 when he spotted a young girl who appeared to be in distress in the water. She was floating with two other children on inner tubes with no life jackets, dangerously close to a spillway. A woman was reported to have drowned near the first spillway the day before.

“The little girl said, ‘I can’t get back to shore’ and her big brother was trying to comfort her,” said Hoy. “The current was speeding up – and as they got closer to the bridge she was ending up on the other side of the river from her brothers,” Hoy continued.

After Hoy directed the three children to come ashore, the two boys were able to make it, but the girl could not. Hoy instructed the girl, who appeared to be crying and frightened, to grab onto some weeds that were growing out of the water and instructed another soldier to stay near the other side of the river in case she let go and made it to the near shore. Hoy then ran upstream, crossed a bridge and ran back down the opposite bank, jumping several fences until he reached the girl’s location.

Hoy entered the waist-deep, fast-moving water and was able to have the girl climb onto his back where he carried her to safety. He did this, “without any concern for his personal safety,” said Lt. Col. Eric Bush, battalion commander of the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry (RSTA).

Hoy, the other soldiers and a civilian returned the girl to her thankful parents. “I think any human would have done it — you know, you see somebody in trouble, you just want to help,” said Hoy. “The emotional part was, after I got her on the bank, she just looked at me with those big eyes and said, ‘I’m so glad you were here.’”

For his efforts, Congressman Greg Walden presented a statement into record at the U.S. House of Representatives detailing Hoy’s heroism. His statement read in part, “I urge my colleagues to applaud his selfless act of service as a way of urging others to follow the example set by this real life hero,” said Walden.

Hoy was also recognized on Sept. 10 with a national Heroism Medal from the Sons of the American Revolution and an Army Commendation medal awarded by his unit.

Hoy humbly says he doesn’t deserve the attention, but as a father of two he concedes, “I did squeeze my kids a little tighter when I got home.”

Hoy lives in Prineville, Ore., with his wife Jennifer and two children, Heidi, 9, and Tommy, 12. He is a Reserve Police Officer for the Prineville Police Department.

Motorcycle riders have responsibilities too

Stories by Lt. Col. Marilyn K. Woodward, ORARNG Safety Manager

From recent events, we know riding a motorcycle has increased risks for serious injury. The recent TAG Motorcycle Safety memo reiterated just a few issues. Riders have responsibilities concerning speed, personal protective equipment, fatigue, ability, etc.

All of us share in the safety of motorcycle riders. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation has put out information tips for car and truck drivers.

This is a synopsis; the entire text can be viewed at www.msf-usa.org. Look for motorcycles especially at intersections. Predict that a motorcycle is closer to you than it looks. Motorcycles can easily be in blind spots, so thoroughly check traffic when changing lanes or turning. A motorcycle may be traveling faster than it appears due to its size. Allow greater following distance, 3-4 seconds instead of the 2 seconds. Motorcycle turn signals may not automatically turn-off after a turn, so be cautious. Riders may move around in their lane to avoid objects, and not be making a lane change. A motorcycle may not be able to “dodge” out of your way just because of its maneuverability. Stopping distance is the same for a motorcycle as it is for you, and slippery roads may increase this distance. When a motorcycle is in motion, think of it as a person.

We want all of our ORNG/OMD riders to be safe. Both riders and car/truck drivers share the responsibility. Use Risk Management 24/7 and Own the Edge.

Sexual Assault Awareness: Unit Victim Advocates provide sympathy, support

Most of you have probably received the Sexual Assault Awareness Training sometime over the last several months. Unit Victim Advocates (VA) play a key role in the Response segment of the program. Oregon has set a policy that requires at least two Victim Advocates per BN or Group/Wing.

Unit Victim Advocates must be safe, non-threatening, and a sympathetic source of support and information for the victims of sexual assault. The VA will be the support contact for a victim within the Battalion or Group/Wing, or on a regional basis if necessary due to extensive distances.

We are looking for volunteers who have an interest in the program and meet the basic criteria. The volunteers will then be interviewed by a trained Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (State, Brigade or Wing). Training for VA will be conducted in FY-07 at a DOD or NGB class.

A partial list of criteria follows (the full list is on the ORNG Webpage under “Sexual Assault Prevention Program”:

- a. demonstrate stability and maturity,
- b. must not be a victim who is still recovering from a sexual assault (SA),
- c. must never have been a SA offender,
- d. not have a recent history of domestic violence,
- e. must be able to respond to a sexual assault incident at anytime during Inactive Duty Training, Active Duty for Training, and/or Annual Training,
- f. shall be or an officer (CPT/CW2 or higher), or a senior NCO (E-6 or higher),
- g. shall not have rigid biases regarding culture or gender.

If you are interested, please contact your command for an initial review. The command will contact their Brigade/Wing SARC (if trained) or the JFHQ SARC at 503-584-3931.

Portland says goodbye to the 939th ARW



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Wieland

A KC-135, based at the Portland Air Base in Portland, Ore., prepares to refuel an F-16 from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, as part of Northern Edge 2006. Northern Edge is Alaska’s premier joint-training exercise.

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

The 939th Air Refueling Wing is leaving Oregon. It has operated out of the Portland Air Base at the Portland International Airport for more than 40 years, first as a rescue unit and then as a refueling unit. It helped with the rescue of high school students trapped on Mount Hood in 1986 and the rescue of an American fighter downed near Belgrade in 1999. It has refueled military planes around the globe and brought back the remains of an American serviceman killed in Vietnam. The federal government decided in 2005 to dismantle the 939th as part of a move that closed 22 major bases, reconfigured 33 others, and affected hundreds of smaller installations in an effort to save an estimated \$4.2 billion.

The 939th has eight KC-135 aircraft. The first four departed in mid-July for March Air Reserve Base near Riverside, Calif. The four others departed for Tinker Air Force Base near Midwest City, Okla. in early August.

The 939th is being phased out gradually. The unit once had 1,000 personnel, most from the greater Portland area. About 600 of the unit’s full- and part-time jobs will be gone from Oregon by 2007 and the rest by 2010. About 400 of those jobs are being moved to Vandenburg Air Force Base in California to support a growing space program.

Some of the crewmembers, including Master Sgt. Ken Kistner, have decided to retire rather than move from the Northwest.

“I don’t know what to expect. I’ve been flying for so long, I have no clue what it’s gonna be like,” Kistner said.

The Portland crews’ final flight lasted three-and-a-half hours. And back on the ground, Kistner and his coworkers were greeted with the ceremonial hosing down. The crew also posed for pictures with their families.

The Air Force Reserve will maintain a presence in Portland after the mission is gone. After the 939th’s executive and support staff leave in September, the airport will still be home to the 304th Rescue Squadron, a 100-member organization that performs civil and combat rescues.

Portland Air Base a big hit during Young America Day



Photo by Senior Airman John A. Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Multimedia

Prepared by Sentinel Staff

Above: Capt. William Kopp shows the instruments of an F-15 Eagle to a youth during Young American Day on Aug. 12, 2006 at the Oregon Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore. Kopp is a pilot with the 142nd Fighter Wing.

The unit hosted the annual event on the ramp of the former 939th Air Refueling Squadron. Attendees included a number of Boy Scout packs and their families. Some of the displays included a UH-60 “Jayhawk” helicopter from United States Coast Guard Station Astoria, Portland Air Base Fire and Rescue vehicles and equipment, an F-15 weapons loading demonstration put on by the 142nd Maintenance Squadron, and a narcotics and bomb sniffing exercise put on by a K-9 Unit from the Port of Portland.

Approximately 250 people made the trip to the Portland Air Base for the event, which was held on Saturday morning of the wing’s UTA weekend. A family day BBQ for 142nd Fighter Wing personnel and their families was held later that day in the main hangar.

DoD: TRICARE Reserve Select now available to all service members

Story by Kimberly L. Lippert, *Oregon National Guard Public Affairs*

The Department of Defense recently announced that TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) is now available for every member of the selected reserve beginning Aug. 1, 2006. You must apply for the benefits before September 30, 2006 or wait until the next session of eligibility which begins January 1, 2007. TRS is a premium-based, three-tier TRICARE health plan for certain selected reserve members and their families. This plan allows eligible servicemembers to purchase military health insurance coverage (TRICARE). TRS begins after the servicemember has been released from active duty in exchange for their commitment to continue serving in the Guard or Reserve.

The qualifications for the three tiers of coverage are as follows:

Tier 1 – Contingency Operations

- Was called or ordered to active duty (AD) for a period of more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation.
- Either served continuously on AD for 90 days or more OR served less than 90 days due solely to an injury illness or disease incurred or aggravated while on AD.

Tier 2 – Certified Qualifications

- An eligible unemployment compensation recipient as determined by state law.
- An employee whose employer does not offer a health plan to anyone working for the employer.
- In a category of employees not offered an employer-sponsored health benefits plan(not based on membership in the reserves)
- Primarily self-employed as reported to the IRS (not including Selected Reserve income).

Tier 3 – Other Selected Reserve Members

- Is a member of the Selected Reserve.
- Does not qualify for Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Is currently employed with an employer who offers health coverage.

If a service member leaves the service, transitions to Inactive Ready Reserve, or retirees, they are no longer eligible for any of the Tricare TRS benefits. Pricing for TRS varies depends on which Tier you qualify for and includes pharmaceutical coverage. Dental coverage is available for purchase through the Tricare Dental Program. More information on that program can be found at www.tricaredentalprogram.com. Service members are encouraged to contact their local TRICARE Service Centers to discuss enrollment qualifications and options. The Oregon centers are listed below. For more information visit the TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil or 1-888-TRIWEST.

Lake Oswego
5285 SW Meadows RD #194

Astoria USCG
2185 SE 12th Place

North Bend USCG
1684 NW Ocean Blvd.

Second opinions important with TRICARE

It’s an iffy question – under what circumstances should patients seek second opinions?

At last, there are some definite guidelines to that sometimes difficult question.

In a new brochure, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) encourages patients facing non-emergency surgery to do their homework about the procedure, facility and surgical team, and to get a second opinion.

The brochure, Having Surgery? What You Need to Know, emphasizes the importance of patients and their families asking questions about recommended non-emergency surgery so they can understand what will be done and why. Recommended questions include:

- Why do I need an operation?
- Would you explain the operation you are recommending?
- Are there any alternatives to surgery?
- What are the benefits/risks of having this surgery?
- What are the hazards of not having this surgery?
- How long will it take me to recover?
- Where can I get a second opinion?

TRICARE beneficiaries are entitled to request a second opinion from another specialist. Unlike Standard beneficiaries, Prime beneficiaries must first obtain a referral from their primary care manager (PCM) and an authorization from TriWest.

Obtaining a specialist’s services without the proper referral and authorization makes a Prime beneficiary responsible for higher, out-of-pocket costs under the point of service option.

The Having Surgery? What You Need to Know brochure is available on the AHRQ Web site: www.ahrq.gov/consumer/surgery/surgery.htm, or by calling 1-800-621-4111.

Information about TRICARE benefits, referrals and authorizations is available at www.triwest.com or www.tricare.osd.mil, or by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378).

TRICARE to not reimburse for TRICARE for Life beginning October 1

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) has learned that beginning October 1, 2006, TRICARE will no longer reimburse TRICARE for Life (TFL) claims from beneficiaries who use providers that have opted out of Medicare.

An opt-out Medicare provider is one who notifies Medicare that they are no longer seeking Medicare payment for their patients and cannot submit claims.

TFL members are urged to check whether their provider accepts Medicare.

News Briefs

Virtual Armory a wealth of resources

With the start of school just around the corner now is a good time to review what education benefits you may be eligible for as a member of the Oregon National Guard. The benefits fall into three main categories – Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), the Montgomery GI Bill, and the Student Loan Repayment Program. By taking advantage of these education benefits you can go a long way towards advancing your career goals.

FTA provides 100% of tuition costs up to \$250 per semester hour or \$167 per quarter hour. The cap on FTA per year is \$4,500 not including books. You may use FTA for one credential at the associate, bachelor, graduate level and vocation/technical certification. Since FTA operates on a limited budget and a first come first serve basis don’t delay in submitting your request online through www.virtualarmory.com.

As a member of the ORARNG, you may be eligible to receive a State Tuition Waiver if you are attending an Oregon college, working towards an undergraduate degree and agree to remain in the ORARNG for 4 years.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) pays for vocational and undergraduate through doctoral programs for 36 months of full time benefit, or if you attend college half time, 72 months of benefit. (If you choose not to go to college, you can also use your MGIB towards an apprenticeship program).

As a member of the ARNG, you may be eligible for the Chapter 1606 MGIB. Eligibility requirements include a 6-year obligation with the ARNG, high school diploma or equivalent, and completion of IADT. The Chapter 1606 MGIB is good for 14 years just as long as you remain a drilling member of the ARNG.

If you have completed a deployment or called to active duty for a national emergency supported by federal funds since September 2001, you may be eligible for the new Chapter 1607 MGIB, which pays based on the number of months on orders. To maintain eligibility for the Chapter 1607 after returning from a deployment, you must remain a drilling member in the ARNG or Reserves.

If you are eligible for the Chapter 1606, 1607 or Chapter 30 MGIB, you may also be eligible for a “kicker”. The kicker is paid on a monthly basis along with the MGIB payment. If eligible you would receive a \$200 kicker for Enlisting/Reenlisting or a \$350 kicker for participation in the OCS, ROTC/SMP, WOC and College First programs.

The Student Loan Repayment program (SLRP) is only for those who have preexisting student loans. Non-prior service can enlist 6 to 8 years for the \$20,000 SLRP, and current members can extend 6 years or less for the \$18,000 SLRP. The SLRP pays \$500 or 15% of your student loan annually, which ever amount is greater. Annual payments are only made during that 6-8 year contract period.

For more information on your education benefits please contact Chief Beach at diane.beach@or.ngb.army.mil.

Xerox Corp. launches website to say thanks to deployed troops

As of early 2006, nearly 150,000 U.S. servicemen and women have been deployed to the Middle East. To show the country’s appreciation for their service, Xerox has created a nationwide campaign aimed at saying thank you to our troops.

Free postcards designed by young children are available at a Web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com. There the public can select their favorite design and submit a personalized message of thanks. The signed postcards will be printed on the Xerox iGen3® Digital Production Press and then mailed in care packages to deployed soldiers by military support organization Give2TheTroops®.

It’s easy to get involved. You, your family and friends simply pick your favorite design, select a message of thanks, and Xerox does the rest!

Law expands IRA options for military

WASHINGTON — Members of the military serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other combat zone localities can now put money into an individual retirement account, even if they received tax-free combat pay, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities (HERO) Act, signed into law on Memorial Day, taxpayers can now count tax-free combat pay when determining whether they qualify to contribute to either a Roth or traditional IRA. Before this change, members of the military whose earnings came entirely from tax-free combat pay were generally barred from using IRAs to save for retirement.

“The HERO act is one more way to let our fighting forces in combat areas know that we support them,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “This is a good way for people serving in combat zones to save more of their earnings for retirement.”

In addition, the HERO Act allows military personnel who received tax-free combat pay in either 2004 or 2005 to go back and make IRA contributions for those years. Eligible military members will have extra time, until May 28, 2009, to make these special back-year contributions.

For those under the age of 50, the IRA contribution limit was \$3,000 for 2004 and \$4,000 for 2005. For those 50 and over, the limit was \$3,500 for 2004 and \$4,500 for 2005.

Taxpayers choosing to put money into a Roth IRA don’t need to report these contributions on their individual tax return. Roth contributions are not deductible, but distributions, usually after retirement, are normally tax-free. Income limits and other special rules apply.

On the other hand, contributions to a traditional IRA are often, though not always, deductible, and distributions are generally taxable.

Deductible or not, contributions to a traditional IRA must be reported on the return for the year made. Deductible contributions are claimed on Form 1040, 1040A or 1040NR. Nondeductible contributions are reported on Form 8606, which is normally attached to one of these individual return Forms.

If a return has already been filed for a particular year, contributions should be reported on an amended return, Form 1040x. Depending upon the circumstances, military personnel who choose to put money into a traditional IRA for 2004 or 2005 may qualify for additional tax refunds.

For those planning ahead, the IRA contribution limit for 2006 is \$4,000 for those under age 50 and \$5,000 for those 50 and over.

PTSD workshop offered in November

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Families: Paths towards Healing, is an event for military members and their families. It will be held on November 10, 2006 from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm at the Canby Grove Conference Center.

This event is an opportunity for military members and their families to come together to learn to live and cope with trauma. Family members should be a major part of recovery and this event will explain how. Military members and their families who have successfully dealt with adversity will speak, along with health care professionals and chaplains.

The workshop will focus on post-traumatic stress and the unique challenges families face during readjustment periods. Pre-registration is a must. Please contact Mandy Martin at mandy.martin@va.gov to register or call her at 503-273-5370.

Monthly small arms training for ORNG

The Small Arms Readiness Training Section will conduct basic rifle and pistol marksmanship training monthly throughout 2006.

These training sessions are open to all members of the Oregon National Guard and will provide opportunities to safely train with highly skilled instructors offering qual-

Continued on next page

Quotable Quotes

“Pick battles big enough to matter, but small enough to win.”

— Johnathan Kozol, award-winning author and scholar.

ity, focused marksmanship training. Guard members who participate will gain an increased level of shooting skill and a thorough understanding of the basic principles of marksmanship. Check the SARTS webpage for location, dates and additional information: www.mil.state.or.us/SARTS Although use of unit weapons is preferred, SARTS can provide a rifle or pistol to participating soldiers or airmen. Contact MSG Arnst via email: jeff.arnst@us.army.mil.

Uniforms now available online

Busy troops can now assemble their uniforms with just a few clicks of the mouse. The virtual exchange’s new “Uniform Ready-to-Wear” website makes it easy to complete uniform orders through one easy-to-use webpage. The final product is shipped to the Soldier’s or Airman’s door, ready to wear right out of the box. ACUs and BDUs can be ordered along with add-on items such as boots, belts, t-shirts and socks. For a small fee a local alterations contractor will even attach all nametapes, rank, insignia, badges and patches on BDUs before they are mailed.

The website can be accessed by logging on to www.aafes.com and clicking on “Military Uniforms Ready-to-Wear.”

Military eligible for license reimbursement

If you are currently serving in an active duty capacity, National Guard, or reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, or have retired from military service within the last 12 months you are eligible to for reimbursement for your Oregon Hunting and Fishing License.

The reimbursement goes through the recruiting department. You will need to show your military ID, hunting and or fishing license, secondary ID such as a driver’s license, DD 214, or NGB Form 22 if you recently retired from the Armed services. Take the items to your nearest recruiting office and after filling out a form your reimbursement request will be submitted.

If you have any further questions please call the Oregon National Guard Recruiting Office at 503-584-3811.

Your Letters

July 4th volunteer grateful for F-15 flyover

I want to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Cedar Hills community to the 142nd Fighter Wing for its continued support and commitment to the Cedar Hills Fourth of July Parade and Celebration. The flight crew showed up on time and directly over the parade starting point. The roar of freedom! It was simply wonderful! A special thank you to the pilots and ground crews. They take time from their families and friends to help us remember our freedom and the price that is paid for that freedom by men and women in uniform, past and present. Again, thank you for all your help in supporting our small but enthusiastic salute to our Nation.

Ken Dyar
Program Volunteer

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays, 10 am to 2 pm

(503) 584-3804
1-800-452-7500, ext. 3804

E-mail:
Randall.Witt@or.ngb.army.mil

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

Department of Justice launches web-site to protect service members’ rights

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15, 2006 – The Department of Justice has launched a Web site to protect service members’ rights, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzales, speaking to the Disabled American Veterans annual convention in Chicago, said the Justice Department has made it a priority to enforce civil rights laws for American service members. “The law recognizes that although we can never thank you enough for your service, we can take away some of the worries that soldiers might face when they are deployed,” he said in prepared remarks. The government promises that service members’ jobs will still be theirs when they come home and that they cannot be discriminated against by their employers because of their military service. The U.S. vows that service members will be able to vote and that their vote will be counted. And it promises that service members “will have procedural protections in civil actions, like lawsuits or property re-posessions, when serving overseas.”

The Justice Department Web site, www.servicemembers.gov, outlines the rights service members have under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and the Service members Civil Relief Act.

“These basic civil rights are enforced by the Department of Justice, and I can assure you that the department’s staff and prosecutors are deeply committed to these enforcement efforts,” Gonzales said. “We feel that it is an honor to serve those in uniform in this way. It is our way of saying thank you for your service.” The attorney general said these are not just “pie in the sky” rights, but issues that directly affect people.

In one case, Justice Department officials filed its first complaint alleging that American Airlines violated rights of employees who also serve as military pilots. The case was brought on behalf of three military pilots employed by American Airlines. It states that the airline reduced the employment benefits of pilots who had taken military leave, while not reducing the same benefits for pilots who had taken similar, non-military leave, Gonzales said.

“In another vivid example of the people for whom we enforce these laws, the department recently won a consent decree from an employer who terminated employment of a serviceman named Richard White the very same day that Richard told his boss he was being called to active duty,” the attorney general said. “The consent decree requires the employer to pay back wages to Mr. White.

“What leads an employer to treat a soldier like an inconvenience is something for a higher power to judge. But here on earth, we have USERRA, and we’ll use it for Richard White and for soldiers like him, as often as is necessary.”

Voting is another service member right the Justice Department guards. “Earlier this year, (the department) addressed long-standing structural issues affecting uniformed military personnel posted both in this country and overseas who wished to vote in North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama,” Gonzales said. These states had run-off elections too close to the primary elections to allow these voters to receive and return ballots. With cooperation from state election officials, the department was able to redress each of these violations. “As the 2006 general election approaches, we will continue vigilant protection of the voting rights of service members, their families and other overseas citizens,” he said. Gonzales also addressed the Service members Civil Relief Act. “Thanks to this law, men and women currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have procedural protections in place that will allow them to be less distracted by litigation back home -- by someone trying to repossess a leased car, evict their spouse and children, sell their house at an auction or run up penalties on credit cards with 21 percent interest rates,” he said. “It’s hard to respond to a civil lawsuit while you’re focused on improvised explosive devices, and the law protects service members for that reason.”

Enforcement of this law is a readiness and morale issue, he said. “Men and women in uniform, like all Americans, have to honor their obligations,” he said. “However, Congress long ago decided, wisely I think, to provide protections to them against lawsuits while deployed overseas on active duty.” Gonzales urged any service member with questions to go to the Justice Department Web site. Military lawyers can help service members and their families navigate through the laws.

DoD launches program to assist financial hardships of Guard, Reserve

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Aug. 4, 2006) — The Defense Department this month kicked off a program to help prevent activated reservists and National Guardsmen from facing financial hardships.

The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible National Guard and reserve members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation.

“RIRP is designed to assist those mobilized Guard and reserve members that are experiencing a loss of income while mobilized,” said Tom Bush, principal director of manpower and reserve affairs for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Program payments are not automatic. Guard and reserve members must apply for the RIRP payments thorough their service personnel offices.

To qualify for RIRP, service members must be serving on active duty in an involuntary status and have completed 18 continuous months of involuntary active duty, or have completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty within the last 60 months, or be serving on involuntary active duty for a period of 180 days or more that starts within six months of separation from a previous period on involuntary active duty for at least 180 days.

Guard and reserve members serving on involuntary active duty and earning at least \$50 less than their normal civilian income each month must verify eligibility for this benefit through their military service’s personnel system, using a new DD form created for this program, DoD officials said.

Financial records submitted with the RIRP application must include the member’s most recent federal income tax return or other record of earnings that shows gross income during the 12 months before the member’s mobilization, officials said.

The first payments under the program will be made at the end of August for members who have completed the application and meet all eligibility criteria.

Congress authorized the Reserve Income Replacement Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006. The authority for RIRP will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.dod.mil/ra/>.

Tell us what you think!

Address your comments, feedback and ideas to:

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The Oregon Sentinel

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Stories and photos from the field are gratefully accepted. We need your input to ensure 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 loses Soldier in Afghanistan

Guard Day at Reiser Stadium



Photo courtesy of 41st Brigade Combat Team

Sgt. Nathaniel (Brad) Lindsey, training with the 41st BCT at Camp Shelby, MS in May.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon National Guard Public Affairs

A memorial service was held Sept. 22, 2006 for Oregon Guardsman, Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Bradley Lindsey, 38, of Troutdale, Ore., at New Hope Community Church in Clackamas. Lindsey was then rendered full military honors at Willamette National Cemetery later that morning.

Oregon’s Governor, Theodore R. Kulongoski, and Oregon National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees were among the many military and civilian mourners who attended the mid-morning ceremony. Those who spoke to the gathered crowd of about 200 people praised Lindsey for his professional demeanor and exemplary soldiering skills.

“He was widely known and admired,” Rees said. “The epitome of the citizen soldier.”

Rees said he had been contacted by Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team, and Commanding General of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, the unit to which Lindsey was assigned in Afghanistan. He said Pritt explained there had been a firefight with insurgents, and that there were casualties, but when he got to the list of names and read Lindsey’s information, Rees said Pritt’s voice broke.

“I knew then that it was personal, and emotional,” Rees said.

Rees personally thanked Lindsey’s son, Marcus, for his service, who sat in the front row with his younger siblings, Brandon, Michelle, and Kailina, and his mother, Joyce. Marcus wore his Army dress uniform to honor his father, although he is no longer serving in the Active Duty Army.

Rees added that in honor of Staff Sgt. Lindsey, the new Forward Operating Base in Afghanistan would be named Camp Lindsey. Also, the current segment of anti-insurgency patrols would be named Operation Lindsey.

Lindsey died after an attack by Taliban militants Sept. 9, 2006 near the town of Shajoie in Afghanistan’s Zabul province, located in the South-east part of the country. Lindsey was on patrol with U.S. troops and members of the Afghan National Army when Taliban militants, who had set up a fake checkpoint, attacked the convoy. Lindsey was in the turret of an up-armored Humvee when he was killed either by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) or improvised explosive device (IED). He was wearing his protective armor and equipment at the time of the attack, but sustained life threatening wounds.

Lindsey was assigned to the 205th Regional Corps Advisory Group, a unit responsible for working closely with elements of the Afghan National Army and training them to be a professional military corps. According to his fellow Soldiers, Lindsey was very eager to do all he could to help the people of Afghanistan and serve his country. He had volunteered for the assignment, choosing the Embedded Training Teams over administrative duty. The 205th RCAG deployed as part of the 41st Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan early this summer.

Col. David Stuckey, deputy director of operations for the Oregon National Guard, worked closely with Lindsey when he was commander of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry. He chose Lindsey as his driver — a privileged position which carried a lot of responsibility. The two formed a close bond, and each got to know the others’ family members.

Stuckey thanked Lindsey’s wife, Joyce, who volunteers as a family support group coordinator for the Oregon National Guard.

“He was truly a wonderful human being, Soldier, husband and father,” Stuckey said of Lindsey. “Brad’s love of family was evident in everything he did. As was his friendship and his Soldiering spirit. Soldiering was what he loved to do,” Stuckey said.

“There’s another trait I saw in Brad,” Stuckey continued. “Duty.”

Stuckey said Lindsey was always the first to volunteer for assignments or deployments. His prior deployments were to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina and to Southern Iraq with 1-162 Inf. Bn. Prior to joining the Oregon Army National Guard, Lindsey served in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise.

Lindsey, who was born in Portland, Ore., is survived by his wife Joyce, three step-children, his daughter, parents Dan and Donna Lindsey, and grandparents.

There are more than 900 of Oregon’s citizen-soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan with the 41st BCT, making it the largest single deployment of Oregon Soldiers outside the U.S. since World War II. The brigade leads Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, commanded by 41st BCT commander, Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Pritt.

According to Pritt, the Task Force was shocked and deeply saddened by Lindsey’s death, but have vowed to continue to focus on their mission.

Lindsey is the fifteenth Oregon National Guard Soldier to die while serving overseas.

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gower Talley, Oregon National Guard Recruiting

When you think of camouflage, pig skin, music, Olympic athletes and large buck tooth rodents, what is the first thing that comes to mind? It’s obvious, isn’t it?

Aug. 31 marked the fourth annual Guard Day with the Oregon State Beavers at Reiser Stadium in Corvallis. This year’s extravaganza was the biggest in the history of the event. The excitement began before the game, with the 234th Army Rock Band providing pre-game entertainment at the fan fair in front of the stadium. If you haven’t heard this small group, which is a part of the 234th Army Band, be sure and catch them at the Guard Night at the Blazers, early next spring. They are absolutely incredible.

Near the guard display, winter Olympic gold medalist and Oregon National Guard member, Spc. Jill Bakken signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans. When the crowd moved into Reiser Stadium for the game, they got to see the newest Oregon National Guard video creation produced by 1st Lt. Richard Paetz projected on the stadium’s Sony “Jumbotron”.

The Oregon City High School’s Junior ROTC color guard posted the colors on behalf of the Guard, and Sgt 1st Class Mark Browning sang the National Anthem. Bakken got the game started by accepting the game ball on behalf of the Oregon National Guard.

The Guard provided most of the excitement for this game. The Beavers won, shutting out the Eastern Washington University Eagles 56 to 17.



L to R: Beaver fans, Rachel Polack, Tyson Polack, Tonja Polack, Oregon National Guard member and Olympic Gold Medalist Jill Bakken, and Canadian Olympic Team member, Florian Linder.

Oregon State Defense Force assists

with ‘06 Hood to Coast Relay

Story and photo by Master Sgt. (Ret.) David Funk, Oregon State Defense Force

Oregon State Defense Force Ham radio operators provided invaluable communications support to the 2006 Hood to Coast Relay, held Aug. 25-26. The State Defense Force, headquartered at Camp Withycombe and commanded by Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, is tasked to assist the Oregon National Guard and civilian emergency managers during disaster situations and with community service events.

Personnel from 1st and 2nd Battalions worked directly with county and emergency services personnel, providing communications between various checkpoints along the route through Clatsop County. A total of 1,450 teams – one thousand Hood to Coast relay teams, 400 Portland to Coast walking teams, and 50 Portland to Coast High School Challenge teams, took part in the annual event. Several Oregon National Guard groups participated as well, helping mark the 25th anniversary of the relay.

Ham radio operators included project officer, 1st Sgt. Tom Nelson; Capt. Tom Carothers, Staff Sgt. Ben Sanford, Sgt. David Havlicek, Cpl. Robert Trietsch, Cpl. Jeff Goff, and Cpl. Kevin Fenton. Personnel from the State Defense Force worked directly with Senior Master Sgt. Don Hillgaertner, who works in communications at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., who served as their point of contact. Assistance to the operators was also provided by Hobie Baker and John Christle, local civilian ham radio operators.

The team provided radio communications from various points on the race course, relaying such information as traffic data, health and welfare of runners, team van status, positions of the teams, and any other data needed to keep the relay operating safely.

Not only did the State Defense Force

provide necessary operational data to race officials and emergency personnel, but they even directly assisted one runner overcome by heatstroke. Cpl. Kevin Fenton, from HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, noticed one of the runners who was in trouble, and was first on scene, providing first aid assistance and accurate triage information. Nelson’s team forwarded the patient’s condition to the medics and then provided traffic control communications to assist the movement of the medical vehicle. The runner was quickly evacuated to a nearby hospital where he fully recovered.

All OSDF personnel were on voluntary status. During their 12-hour shift, radio operators and other volunteers provided race officials with immediate, real-time communications, ensuring a successful event for all the participants. County officials were extremely pleased with their contributions and have already asked them to assist with the 2007 race.

The State Defense Force is staffed by volunteers who help county emergency managers and the Oregon National Guard in times of local or state emergencies.



The team from Endicott Steel crosses the finish line together during the 2006 Hood to Coast Relay Race, held Aug. 25-26. Volunteers from the Oregon State Defense Force assisted along the route with communications and logistical support. Almost 1,500 teams participated in the annual event.

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