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# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## 1-168th Aviation deploys Soldiers into the Persian Gulf



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian M. Kummer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

An Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook Helicopter from Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, deploys Soldiers into the Persian Gulf during a Helocast exercise May 2. Helocast is a method of inserting teams of troops into combat zones that might not be otherwise accessible. See the full story on page 5.

## Oregon MPs train with civilian law enforcement

Story and photos by Sgt. Anita VanderMolen,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SALEM, Oregon** – Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard’s 1186th Military Police (MP) Company spent a day at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) learning active shooter response techniques from their civilian counterparts in Salem, Oregon, April 2, 2016.

“The goal of this training is to integrate what we are training the police throughout the state of Oregon with the MPs that are serving here in Oregon in our National Guard,” said DPSST Regional Training Coordinator Tim Ragan. “We want to get them on the same page so that if there were ever a situation they would be an asset to us, or to be able to help a local agency with some sort of emergency.”

Normally, the training takes two days. The MPs received a crash course in four hours.

“It is a familiarization training,” DPSST Instructor Josh Calief said. “They are learning timing and response: to see and identify what is going on and to identify the threat, then reacting accordingly.”

The Soldiers began with classroom instruction learning the techniques and philosophy behind the action. After the classroom instruction, the Soldiers were shown demonstrations of the techniques; practiced the techniques without



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1186th Military Police (MP) Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, 82nd Brigade (Troop Command), move through an active shooter training scenario after learning techniques from their civilian counterparts at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon, April 2, 2016. The Soldiers learned how to integrate with civilian law enforcement in case emergencies require a combined effort to protect Oregon citizens.

ammunition; then they went through scenarios with role players and man-marking ammunition cartridges. The idea was to have the training be as close to real life as possible.

“It has been an eye opener, a refresher, actually having role-players and incorporating what we already know,” said Pfc. Andrea Martinez, of Hermiston, Oregon. “Being able to do training in facilities like this, using weapons and doing tactics we talk about consistently -

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## COMMAND

## What the Oregon National Guard brings to the table

From the State Partnership Program to emergency management, from wildfire support to federal disaster missions, our Oregon National Guard is in a unique position that requires the continual building and maintaining of partnerships and collaboration with agencies across the state, country, and world. The Guard's unique position gives Soldiers and Airmen a set of skills and experiences unmatched by any other organization or service.

What we, the Oregon National Guard, bring to the fight is truly unique. Our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen across the state bring a range of skill sets not only from their civilian careers and experiences, but also from dynamic opportunities across DoD. This is a win-win scenario for both our local communities and the Oregon Guard, as we build more resilient citizens and Guardsmen.

The Oregon National Guard is our governor's Guard. We are, "Always Ready, Always There." In order to meet this mission, we must also prepare and train for local disasters that may affect our state and the entire Pacific-Northwest Region. Most recently, the Oregon National Guard prepared for and participated in the Cascadia Rising exercise. This four-day exercise integrated multiple local, state,

and federal agencies to include FEMA, the governor's office, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Washington and Kentucky National Guard, Portland Fire and Rescue, Air Force Reserves, U.S. Coast Guard, and local tribal nations, to name a few. Again, the mission to work with so many agencies to get the job done, highlights another integral and unique role the Oregon National Guard plays in serving our nation.

The Oregon National Guard's mission reaches beyond homeland emergency response and assistance. The Oregon National Guard continues to lead the way with the Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. Assisting in the federal mission to build partnerships around the world, the Oregon National Guard has partnered with two countries, Bangladesh and Vietnam. This program allows the exchange of skills related to domestic emergency response and disaster preparedness. It also provides Guardsmen the opportunity to conduct foreign relations training. Again, a unique opportunity that most Oregonians or U.S. citizens would never otherwise have the opportunity to experience, learn from, and bring back to our local communities.

Last, but certainly not least, Oregon



Major General  
Michael E. Stencel,  
Adjutant General,  
Oregon National Guard

Soldiers and Airmen are always conducting training to stay ready to deploy and fight the Global War on Terrorism across the globe. Over the last year, Oregon Airmen and Soldiers have deployed and returned from both the Middle East and Europe. They have conducted annual training exercises to stay battle ready. From F-15s in the sky, to Howitzers on the ground, to Air Assault training, to special tactics, the Oregon National Guard is a highly skilled, ready force.

I am proud to be an Oregon Guardsman and I am proud of all our Guardsmen throughout the state. I challenge others to rise to the occasion and become uniquely Guard. You and the Oregon Guard will be better for it.



Photos By  
Tech Sgt. Jason van Mourik  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, presented Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz with a 30-Year Medal recognizing her for 30 years of military service in a ceremony during the annual Women's Veterans Conference at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Readiness Center in Clackamas, Oregon, March 18. Maj. Gen. Bentz is currently serving on active duty as the vice director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency in Washington D.C.



## Oregon Army National Guard general retires in ceremony

Story and photos by  
Tech Sgt. Jason van Mourik  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** -- The Oregon Army National Guard hosted a retirement ceremony in honor of Brig. Gen. Todd A. Plimpton, June 17, at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Oregon.

Plimpton most recently served as the commander of the Oregon Army National Guard (Land Component Command), which oversees all Army operations for the State of Oregon and is responsible for more than 6,000 Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers. Brig. Gen. William Edwards succeeded Plimpton and assumed command of the Oregon Army National Guard in a change of command ceremony, April 3, 2016, at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon.

"Todd has a long and distinguished career as a Citizen-Soldier and we wish him the very best in his retirement," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. Plimpton began his 33-year military career in 1983 when he enlisted in the Nevada Army National Guard. He served as an enlisted member in the 422nd Signal Battalion, where he became the assistant operations officer after receiving his commission through the Officer Candidate School at the Nevada Military Academy in 1986. The following year, he transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard, where he has served in a number of leadership positions over the span of his career.

Plimpton served as a weapons platoon leader and reconnaissance platoon leader for D Company, 1st Battalion, 249th Infantry Regiment. He was the Aide-de-Camp for the 82nd Brigade commander. He held several company-level commands including, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd

Cavalry Regiment; E Company and then D Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment.

Plimpton served as logistics officer, operations officer and then executive officer for the 1-186th Infantry Battalion. During his time in the battalion, he deployed to Sinai, Egypt, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002-2003. Upon his return from Sinai, he became the battalion commander. During his time as commander, the battalion deployed a significant number of Soldiers to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He deployed with the battalion to Louisiana in support of Hurricane Katrina and Rita relief efforts in 2005.

In 2006, Plimpton took command of Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. In 2008, he deployed again in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the commander of Afghan Regional Security Integration Command in Kabul, Afghanistan. Plimpton served as the strategic planner for Joint Force Headquarters before taking command of 82nd Brigade (Troop Command) in 2009. He then became the Assistant Adjutant General - Army before taking command of the Oregon Army National Guard in 2013.

Plimpton's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, among many other federal and state awards.



Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard, speaks to an audience of more than 100 fellow Veterans from all eras, family members and guests at an event hosted by the Beaverton American Legion Post 124 in Beaverton, Ore., Nov. 11, 2014.

He was also awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award.

In his civilian career, Plimpton is a partner with the law firm of Belanger & Plimpton, in Lovelock, Nevada. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from the University of Nevada in 1987. He holds a Master's in Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence from Willamette University. He also completed a Masters of Strategic Studies at the U.S. Army War College.

He is a member of several professional associations, including Military Officers Association of America; National Guard Association of the United States; Oregon National Guard Officer Association; American Bar Association; Knights of Columbus; Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America; and Lovelock Lions Club.

Plimpton and his wife, Jill, currently reside in Lovelock, Nevada, and they have four children together; Eric, Ben, Scott and Katie.

## COMMAND

## Air National Guard command chief retires after 28 years of service

Story by Staff Sgt. John Hillier,  
Air National Guard Readiness Center  
Public Affairs



Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston

Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, the 11th command chief master sergeant of the ANG delivers remarks during his retirement ceremony May 20, 2016, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Hotaling retired after serving a combined 28 years in the Air Force, Air Force reserve, Air National Guard, and U.S. Coast Guard.

**JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md.** -- The command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard retired from the Air Force during a May 20 ceremony held at the ANG Readiness Center on Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, the 11th command chief master sergeant of the ANG, retired from the Air Force after 28 years of service in the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, regular Air Force, and Coast Guard Reserve. Hotaling served in the Oregon Air National Guard before he was selected as the ANG command chief.

"It's an absolute privilege to serve that flag there - that American Flag," said Hotaling. "This 'old glory' owes us absolutely nothing, but I owe it everything. And I love that I am a servant to this nation."

Many of those whom Hotaling served with or under took part in the ceremony, and spoke about his character and devotion to enlisted Guard Airmen. Former Director, Air National Guard, retired Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke, who served as director during most of Hotaling's time as command chief, spoke about how he was impressed with the selflessness of his service.

"Every time he came into my office, he never once talked about himself - Not

once," said Clarke. "He never asked to do anything to glorify his position or advance himself. It was always about the Airmen and the Air National Guard. He always had the Airmen he served in his heart."

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody talked about how Hotaling treats everyone as part of the same team, and the role of a senior enlisted advisor.

"I want to share how great this team has been for our Air Force, because nothing gets done in the Air Force without a team," Cody said. "I've never once heard [Chief Hotaling] talk about a legacy. ... All he ever talked about was wanting to make it better for the ones who were coming after him - to make our Air Force better. It was never about the person in the position; it was always about what the position had the opportunity to do."

Hotaling's remarks centered on what it means to be a member of a warrior society, and the National Guard's heritage as modern-day Minutemen.

"[Minutemen] dropped their plow, they picked up their musket and they moved out," said Hotaling. "I've had the privilege for the last three years to see our Airmen do just that every single day. You have college students, you have auto mechanics, you have owners of companies drop the tools of their trade,



Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice, director of the Air National Guard, presents Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, the 11th command chief master sergeant of the ANG, with the Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony May 20, 2016, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Hotaling retired after serving a combined 28 years in the Air Force, Air Force reserve, Air National Guard, and U.S. Coast Guard.

and pick up the musket for America. It is amazing what our Air National Guard is."

He also challenged Airmen to make the most of the time they are given.

"Everybody needs to live life like there is no tomorrow," he said. "Live your life with intensity. So on the day when you stand on this stage ... you want to hold your head up and say 'I gave it my all. For myself. For my family. For my co-workers. For my nation.'"

## Command Sgt. Maj. Conley finishes tour as Sgt. Maj. of Army National Guard

Story by  
Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy,  
National Guard Bureau

in the ranks of private through sergeant, who make up the majority of Soldiers in the Army Guard. "They are the doers. They drive the trucks. They break the track [for repair of tracked vehicles]. They maintain the [AH-64] Apaches. They fire the rounds. They blow up the bridges. And, as an infantryman, they take the hill," he said.

Kepner, assured him that he would.

"As we look at the future, it's not a time where we can take a knee," he said. "The strategic initiatives that were started with Command Sgt. Maj. Conley, we've got to go forward with them. The work ahead of us is important and it is significant."

After enlisting in 1980, Kepner served with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 10th Mountain Division before transitioning to the Pennsylvania Army Guard in 1987. He most recently served as the command sergeant major of the Pennsylvania Army Guard's 28th Infantry Division and previously served as the brigade sergeant major of the 28th Combat Aviation Brigade and the battalion sergeant major of 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment.

"I am the product of the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers

of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and it is because of their leadership and their friendship that I am able to be here today," he said.

Kepner deployed to Kosovo and later to Iraq and participated in transitioning the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th ID, from an infantry brigade combat team to a Stryker brigade combat team.

"He comes with a wealth of experience, is tremendously talented and is an outstanding and great leader," said Kadavy, during the ceremony. Kepner said he's ready to take on the challenges of his new role.

"Lt. Gen. Kadavy, I commit to you that the Army National Guard will be successful," he said. "We will be successful in being warfighter capable and governor responsive."

He added that he's eager to get to work. "I look forward to working with all of



Photo by Sgt. Gina Russell, Multinational Battle Group-East

Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley speaks with Soldiers deployed to Kosovo with Multinational Battle Group-East during a Dec. 21, 2015, visit to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Conley discussed the "Citizen-Soldier" role of National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers in the military during a town hall forum with the deployed troops.

you and finding whatever those initiatives are that help us achieve that vision and make sure we have a ready Army National Guard," he said.

## Colonel Smith takes command of the 173rd Fighter Wing

Story by Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore.** -- A change of command took place, April 3, at Kingsley Field. Colonel Jeff Smith, who has more than 20 years of military experience, took command of the 173rd Fighter Wing in an official ceremony.

Smith has a wide range of experience to include 10 years with the active-duty component and joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 2005. He previously served as the 173rd Maintenance Group commander, and prior to that held numerous positions within the 173rd FW to include 173rd Maintenance Group deputy commander, 173rd Maintenance Squadron commander, and the 114th Fighter Squadron director of operations.

"Col. Smith is one of Kingsley's own, with strong relationships at the national level," said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver, Oregon Air National Guard commander. "I have no doubt that he will successfully carry on the 173rd Fighter Wing's legacy of excellence as he leads the Wing forward."

The official ceremony included the

passing of the wing guidon from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. According to Air Force protocol, this ceremony is rooted in military history, dating to the 18th Century. During this time, organizational flags were developed representing the individual units. When a change of command took place, the outgoing commander would pass the flag to the individual assuming command. This took place in front of the entire unit so that all could witness the new commander assuming his position.

Additionally, Smith's name was revealed on the wing flagship F-15 Eagle. The newly painted aircraft on display commemorates the Oregon Air National Guard's 75th Anniversary.

Smith thanked those in attendance, the local community, and his family.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to help the whole wing move forward," Smith said. "We have phenomenal Airmen doing phenomenal things all across the base. I will learn a ton in this new job about people and jobs that I have not been directly connected with before, and I look forward to it."

Smith noted that this job does not come



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd FW PA

The assembled Airman of the 173rd Fighter Wing stand at parade rest before the Oregon Air National Guard 75th Anniversary commemorative jet during a change of command ceremony in which Col. Jeffrey S. Smith accepted the helm from Brig. Gen. Kirk S. Pierce who was promoted in an earlier ceremony.

to him without challenges but was quick to add, "We have the right team with the right skillsets to address all of those with proper engagement."

Smith replaced Brig. Gen. Kirk Pierce, who commanded the 173rd Fighter Wing from January 2015 to April 2016.



NEWS

Oregon MPs train with civilian law enforcement instructors

Continued from Front Page

it's like it's real."

During the training scenarios, the MPs had to get civilians out safely, identify and subdue the threat, all while taking fire. The Soldiers cleared a tower-type building with stairs and rooms while searching for the shooter. They also trained in a school-type building, clearing classrooms until they identified the threat and captured him.

"We did scenarios where we had to clear the buildings and people were shooting at us with munitions rounds," said Spc. Alexander Lofting, of Pendleton, Oregon. "When I was in the tower there were a lot of stairs. It was kind of confusing."

After each scenario, the instructors commented on why the scenario was set up in a certain way. They asked the Soldiers what they saw, how did they react, and why they reacted that particular way.

"We make noise, have some gunfire,

send civilians out to cause confusion," said Chris Wingo, who role-played as an active shooter. "They did very well both times. They acquired the target quickly, made a decision to shoot."

The survival skill instructors are retired or current law enforcement officers working throughout the state. They said decision-making is imperative when operating in an intense situation. Decisions need to happen fast to prevent loss of life.

"Make a decision and go with it. You have to take charge," said DPSST Instructor Greg Peterson. "Drive straight forward. Keep moving. You may get hit, suck it up and move on."

The basics of military and civilian law enforcement are essentially the same. It is how and why the techniques are implemented that makes them different. Each unit has a different mission and they train accordingly. Stateside active shooter response is different to any of the training

MP Soldiers received in basic training and their initial training as an MP.

"As MP Soldiers we have to operate at one end of the spectrum for wartime missions then we have to operate at the complete opposite end for peacetime, or stateside missions," said Staff Sgt. Kristopher Baxter, platoon sergeant with the 1186th MP Company. "It's a different mindset."

Stateside law enforcement for the MPs includes crowd control, safety checks, and traffic stops. With the DPSST training, the MPs will also be able to work together effectively with civilian law enforcement to defeat a threat, such as an active shooter, and save lives.

The MP unit also has civilian law enforcement officers in their ranks. Baxter, from Clackamas, Oregon, said they share the skills they have learned with the unit.

"The training today gave us an advantage of having an entirely civilian-side trained staff and personnel. It gives us a civilian-specific viewpoint," Baxter added.

One of those dually-qualified law enforcement officers, Staff Sgt. Colleen



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1186th Military Police (MP) Company, Spc. Brandon Thompson (right) and Pvt. Joshua Herron, both of Helix, Oregon, practice moving in unison to locate an active shooter threat during training at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon, April 2.

Neubert, of Irrigon, Oregon, said working together, learning civilian law enforcement operations, techniques and philosophy will aid in peacetime stateside emergency support.

"When the National Guard is called in to help other agencies they will know what we will do; that we are trained to DPSST standards," said Neubert.

The Guard helps Oregon celebrate Independence Day



Left: Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers, Pfc. Shelby Dunivin (left), Sgt. Kevin Kildal and Staff Sgt. Clinton Stayton (right), participate in an Independence Day parade in Creswell, Oregon, July 4, 2016. Members of Company G, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, and Company A, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, drove trucks and Humvees as part of the parade. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Above: Nine new recruits enlist into the Oregon National Guard during an enlistment ceremony at the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Patriotic Celebration in Keizer, Oregon, July 4, 2016. The Patriotic Celebration honored members of the Oregon National Guard and other Veterans for their service to the state and nation. (Photo by Capt. Heather Bashor, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Background: Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle fighter jets from the 173rd Fighter Wing, based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, fly over the parade in Creswell, Oregon, July 4, 2016. The 173rd Fighter Wing conducted flyovers for Independence Day events throughout Oregon and Northern California. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

NEWS

Oregon Youth Challenge Program graduates 51st class

Story and photos by Christopher L. Ingersoll  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

BEND, Ore. -- The Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) hosted a graduation ceremony for its 51st class, June 15, at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon.

Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins and Deputy Director for the Oregon Military Department Dave Stuckey both gave remarks, congratulating the class on their perseverance through the grueling in-residence phase of the program.

OYCP is a statewide accredited alternative high school that serves all of Oregon. The graduation ceremony featured 126 students from 50 different high schools and 17 Oregon counties and consists

of a rigorous five-and-a-half-month in-residence phase followed by a year of active mentorship.

Of the 126 graduates, 13 received high school diplomas and 6 earned GEDs. 117 cadets earned enough credits through OYCP to return to their hometown high schools and graduate with their respective classes.

As part of their training through the program, 126 cadets earned their food handler permits, as well as first aid and CPR certification. In addition, cadets donated 130 units of blood through the American Red Cross. Cadets set a goal of giving 110 units of blood, and exceeded that goal by 20 units. During the five-and-a-half-month residential phase of the program, the class also provided 11,015 hours of community service at numerous civic events and nonprofit organizations in the Bend area, averaging 87 hours of service per cadet. The estimated total value of their combined volunteer service is \$101,888.75.

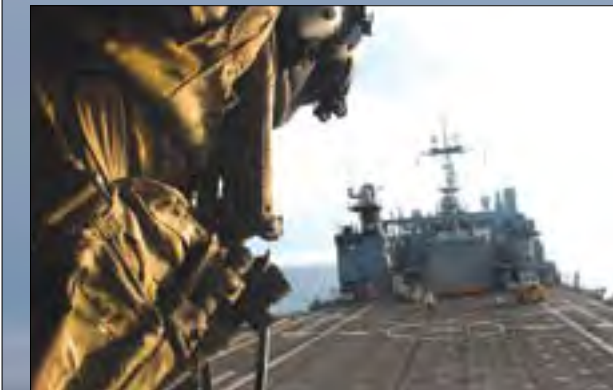


Cadet Pedro Pachenco is presented with the Overall Outstanding Cadet of the Company award by (left to right) Shey Mikelson, Superintendent of OYCP; Jeanne Atkins, Oregon Secretary of State; and Dave Stuckey, Deputy Director of Oregon Military Department, during a graduation ceremony at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds on June 15. The OYCP program helps teens who are behind in school make up their credits and learn military core values.



Left: Cadet Abigail Tamay speaks to the audience about what graduation from the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge (OYCP) program has meant to her.

1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment in the Persian Gulf



Left: An Oregon Army National Guard crew chief from Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, looks out of his CH-47 Chinook helicopter as it lands aboard the USS Ponce, an Afloat Forward Staging Base, in the Persian Gulf, March 14.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Ian Kummer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs



An Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, lands aboard the USS Ponce, an Afloat Forward Staging Base, in the Persian Gulf, March 14. The 40th CAB practices landings aboard Naval vessels every month while deployed overseas.



1-168th Aviation Battalion performs sling-load and helocast jumps



Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, conducted sling-load training operations with Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment March 31, 2016. The decommissioned vehicles were transported to Udairi Range Complex where they will be used as mortar targets. (Photos by Sgt. Dana Moen, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs)



Solders from the 86th Engineer Dive Detachment drop off Soldiers from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade back onto dry land after being helocasted into the Persian Gulf by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter with Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, May 2. Helocast is a method of inserting teams of troops into zones that might not be otherwise accessible. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ian M. Kummer, 40th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs)



NEWS

Oregon Airmen train in Finland as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve



The 173rd Fighter Wing's flagship F-15C aircraft taxis past a row of Finnish Air Force F-18 Hornet aircraft as it leaves for a sortie during a joint training exercise between the U.S. and Finland. The exercise was a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve and represented a training opportunity for two partner countries.

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KUOPIO, Finland** – More than 100 Oregon Air National Guard Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field, Oregon, traveled to Kuopio, Finland for a training opportunity between two partner countries.

The exercise was part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, but differed from other deployments to the region called theater security packages in that it is really a training opportunity between partner nations–Finland and the United States.

The 173rd Fighter Wing is the sole F-15C training unit for the United States Air Force, and its main mission is to introduce Airmen to the F-15C for the first time or requalify pilots from non-flying positions or other airframes. 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeff Smith said that expertise proved valuable in this environment.

“At home with our students we use a building block approach beginning with one-verses-one scenarios and progressing to two-verses-two and so on, and that format is how we are conducting this exercise beginning with the smallest block, getting familiar with each other’s tactics and working to cross the language barrier,” he said. “By the end of next week we’ll be training in large force exercises, possibly as



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Carlos Ruiz, a 173rd Fighter Wing F-15C crew chief, works with Vilma Niiranen of the Finnish Air Force to fuel an F-15 following a sortie, May 10, at Rissala AFB, Finland. The aircraft sports a special paint scheme approved for one year in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Oregon Air National Guard.

many as eight-verses-eight.”

Lt. Col. Alaric Michaelis, 173rd FW F-15 instructor pilot, says that in more than 19 years of flying the F-15, this training experience is near the top.

“The fighter pilots from Finland are the best international fighter pilots that I, in my career, have flown with,” he said. “It’s not just their ability, but their want, their tenacity, and their grit to get better.”

Another high point the American pilots are quick to point out is the first-class way the Finns have welcomed them.

“Personally this has been my favorite



A Finnish Air Force F-18 and a U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, return to Rissala Air Base, Finland, following a sortie during a training exercise that is part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, May 10. Over the course of two weeks the Oregon Air National Guard flew jointly with the Finnish Air Force to practice interoperability between the two forces.

trip I’ve ever been on,” said Maj. Kevin Welch, an instructor pilot with the 173rd Fighter Wing. “To see the work ethic of the younger guys—to see the intensity of the older guys to help make them better is amazing!”

Over the final week of the training exercise, the Finns and the Americans will practice a large scale exercise against the Swedish Air Force; Welch says it will put to the test everything they have learned in the last 10 days.

741st Brigade Engineer Battalion practice breaching a building



Photos by Capt. Leslie Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

**Left:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Companies, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stand behind a blast curtain during a training demolition breach on April 9, 2016, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Soldiers were able to experience multiple urban breach methods during the day long training event.

**Right:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepare to execute an equipment breach during training on April 9, 2016, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. The equipment breach was just one of several urban breaching methods that the Soldiers trained on during the day long training event.



FEATURES

Oregon National Guard hosts annual marksmanship competition



Members of the Oregon National Guard shoot tracer rounds for a night-fire exercise during The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at Camp Umatilla, April 16. The TAG Match is an annual event that allows Soldiers and Airmen to become familiar with multiple military small arms in a competitive atmosphere to promote marksmanship training. Winners earn point towards national awards for marksmanship.



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Davon Todd, a mechanic with Bravo Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, spots the target while Sgt. Bobby Stewart, a medic with Charlie Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, shoots an M14 rifle during The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at Camp Umatilla, April 16.

**Left:** Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Rafe Pierce, a quality assurance inspector for the 173rd Fighter Wing, shoots a target with an M26 shotgun during The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at Camp Umatilla, April 16. The TAG Match is an annual weekend-long event bringing Soldiers and Airmen from across Oregon to familiarize and compete with multiple small arms weapons in individual and team events.



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Nicholas Newson, with the 1186th Military Police Company, shoots a target with a Kimberly target rifle during The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at Camp Umatilla, April 16.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Thomas Hoy, an infantry squad leader with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, demonstrates the proper use of a M2 .50-caliber machine gun during The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at the Boardman Range, April 16.

Story and photos by  
Spc. Michael Germundson,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**HERMISTON, Oregon** – Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state competed in The Adjutant General (TAG) Match marksmanship competition at Camp Umatilla, in Hermiston, Oregon, April 15-17.

The annual three-day match is a chance for individuals and four-person teams to compete with small arms weapons, including some they have never fired before. The event is supported by the Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SERTS) who spend a year planning and developing the event.

“It’s a unique opportunity for Guard members to compete on several available weapons that not all Service Members get to train with,” said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Mansfield, assistant SERTS coordinator from Joint Force Headquarters. “From hand grenades to competition Kimber .22-caliber rifles, it’s a chance to have a lot

of fun in a safe environment.”

The event is voluntary and this year saw the biggest turnout of 82 Service Members.

“The best part of these competitions is working with other forces,” said Sgt. Thomas Hoy, an infantry squad leader with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, in Gresham, Oregon. “It’s great to see competitors who haven’t shot certain weapon systems come off the line with a big smile.”

This year’s winning team was from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Bend, Oregon. The team members included Sgt. Montgomery Lemire, Spc. Lance Peirce, Spc. Caelen Moore and Capt. Ron Clement.

The top overall individual shooter was Lemire. Hoy took second place. In third place was Sgt. Cody Callahan, of B Troop, 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron.

“It’s great training that we take back to our units,” said Lemire. “As a sniper team leader, I’m doing the job that I love.”



FEATURES

# Cascadia Rising exercise pushes Oregon National Guardsmen to the brink

Several major Oregon cities, 23 county jurisdictions, all 9 tribal nations, 17 state agencies and departments, the American Red Cross, and two private sector partner organizations and our own Oregon National Guard partnered with Washington and Idaho to test their ability to respond to a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and the following Tsunami.

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. John Hughe, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

CAMP RILEA, Ore. -- In the early morning hours of June 7, a massive magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck the Pacific Northwest, generating a tsunami as the two natural disasters combined to create a devastated blow to the region. Before nightfall, crews of highly trained first responders from the Oregon National Guard are setting up mobile treatment facilities as casualties begin to emerge in need of assistance.

Lacerations, broken bones, hypothermia and biological contamination are a few of the apparent conditions the Oregon National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), team immediately faced in this simulated catastrophe. Shock, hunger and emotional trauma pushed caretaker's resources and resolve as well.

As a training exercise, Cascadia Rising is designed to test first responders and emergency management agencies throughout the Pacific Northwest should the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) deliver a long overdue jolt to the region. In total, nearly 20,000 participants took part in the four-day readiness drill.

As members of Oregon CERFP, the team works with civilian authorities to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

"This is an excellent opportunity to put our skills to use and work with multiple partners," said Army Lt. Col. Mike Moffit, CERFP commander.

Training with other National Guard units serves a multitude of requirements. As local hospitals and resources would be inundated, outside partners would be needed to fill in the gaps while adding support to the teams



Above: The CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) members from the Oregon and Kentucky National Guard treat injured victims during the Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 9.



Above: Oregon Air National Guard Security Force members from the 142nd Fighter Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing train together as they establish security search operations at the Camp Rilea training village, Warrenton, Ore., during the Cascadia Rising exercise, June 10, 2016. The Cascadia Rising scenario is a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) resulting in a tsunami, testing first responders, emergency management and public safety officials in the Pacific Northwest. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughe, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

already in place.

The Kentucky National Guard arrived to supplement the Oregon team, stepped in to augment the response and at times lead the exercise.

As the medical plans operations commander for the 123rd Airlift Wing, Lt. Col. Brian McMorrow said the Cascadia Rising exercise allowed the 123rd Airlift Wing members a chance to train with another unit.

"This was our first time to work with another CERFP team and it allowed us to both teach and learn at the same time," he said. "The first day of any exercise is often the biggest challenge but building relationships is everything in this business."

On the second day of the exercise, the Kentucky Soldiers and Airmen took the lead allowing the Oregon members a chance to liken different problem solutions to familiar issues.

"In a real world situation, so many activities happen at once," said McMorrow. "Shortages of supplies or being overwhelmed with high casualty numbers are variables that this training tries to take into account."

The stress on first responders also has to be factored into the training. On each day of the exercise, each member's vital signs are taken to both determine a baseline number but also to see if they are healthy enough to

suit up.

"Having an established baseline allows us to monitor each other," said Capt. Derk Maniscalco, a nurse practitioner assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing. "We can see if there is a significant issue with weight loss due to hydration after someone has been in a (chemical) suit after an hour."

As the officer in charge of patient stabilization for the Oregon CERFP, Maniscalco said everyone that suits up is tested when they come out of the suit.

"There are a number of circumstances that can eliminate someone from re-suited," he said. "It could be the temperature or that they were in the suit too long or working really hard and lost a great deal of volume."



Above: The CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) members from the Oregon and Kentucky National Guard train together during the Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 8.

Right: Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Alex Charney-Cohen, left, and Oregon Army National Guard Lt. Col. Michael Moffit, CERFP commander, right, discuss the set up area for equipment and materials in the exercise village at Camp Rilea during Cascadia Rising exercise, Warrenton, Ore., June 9.



Above: U.S. Air Force Reserve members from 304th Rescue Squadron, assigned at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., train with Oregon and Kentucky National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Force Response Force Package (CERFP) members during the Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 8.



Above: CBRNE Enhanced Force Response Force Package (CERFP) members from the Oregon and Kentucky National Guard wait to enter a training area together during the Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 7.

During the course of the exercise, other factors took their toll on the first responders. The early summer temperatures, long hours of work, and improper nutritional intake made it difficult at times to address some of the situational complexities.

Coordinating the Oregon team's medical response, Lt. Col. Alex Charney-Cohen said multiple challenges are ongoing and can quickly become problematic.

"At times radio communication was inconsistent," he said. "How we were able to overcome these types of issues had our members trying new procedures."

With the two teams working in tandem, best practices of one unit became a learning situation for the other unit.

"These are constant situational concerns but our blended teams did extremely well supporting each other," Charney-Cohen said.

Throughout the exercise, Moffit reiterated how a disaster of this magnitude would stretch both the resources and the perseverance of every Guardsman.

"We learn something new every time we work with another unit," he said. "What is important to remember is that we will have to adapt and put best practices in place if a major disaster were to hit in our back yard."

Right: Oregon Air National Guard Security Force members from the 142nd Fighter Wing and 173rd Fighter Wing train together as they conduct a door to door search at the Camp Rilea training village, Warrenton, Ore., during the Cascadia Rising exercise, June 10.





OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Fighter Wing Airman Spotlight - Major (Dr.) Anil Menon

Story by  
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - Maj. (Dr.) Anil Menon is a Citizen-Airman with a tremendous breadth of experience. He is residency-trained and board-certified in Emergency Medicine and Aerospace Medicine. He lives and works in Houston, Texas as an emergency room doctor and as a flight surgeon certified to work in Mission Control for NASA. There, Menon supports the International Space Station and travels to Russia to support launch and landing. In the last two years he has lived at the Gagarin Training Center near Moscow for six months. He travelled to Baikanour, Kazakhstan, four times for launches and landings. He also helped design the medical kit used for contingency operations.

Menon is a flight surgeon in the 173rd Medical Group and is a member of the Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT). He has deployed three times with CCATT, transporting critically wounded Soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan to Germany.

After his most recent CCATT



Photo by Tech Sgt. Jeff Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing PA

Maj. Anil Menon, 173rd Medical Group Flight Surgeon, poses in front of an F-15 Eagle at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. Menon is a member of the Critical Care Air Transport Team and has deployed three times with the CCATT, transporting critically wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan to Germany.

deployment in April 2015, he and his fiancée, Anna, flew to Bagdogra, India, to provide race support for an ultramarathon called Windchasers. Ten minutes after arriving at Bagdogra airport, they felt the airport shake. Those tremors were from a 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal, causing more than 8,000 fatalities, 22,000 injuries. Menon and Anna made



Photo courtesy of Maj. Anil Menon, 173rd Fighter Wing

Maj. Anil Menon, 173rd Medical Group flight surgeon, is an emergency room doctor and flight surgeon certified to work in Mission Control for NASA. Menon supports the International Space Station and travels to Russia to support launch and landing.

the decision to give up race support and venture to Kathmandu. After 24 hours of driving, they reached the outskirts of Kathmandu, found housing, and identified themselves to a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) providing relief to disaster victims. Menon organized the early medical response amongst other

volunteers, and Anna worked on waste and sanitation.

Dr. Menon is no stranger to medical humanitarian missions. He was also a volunteer in the Haitian 2010 earthquake, providing desperately needed medical care to earthquake survivors in austere conditions.

The Birth pangs of Portland ANG Base – Part II: Major Units Arrive

Story by Lt Col Terrence G. Popravak,  
USAF (Retired)

PORTLAND, Ore. -- With construction of Portland Army Air Base's (PAAB) well underway in the spring of 1941, the first "housekeeping" unit arrived by truck and train from Hamilton Field, California, the 43rd Air Base Group (Headquarters, 44th Air Base Squadron and 57th Materiel Squadron) with 17 officers and 233 enlisted men, circa April 21, 1941. Advance elements of the base's first tactical unit, the 55th Pursuit Group, also from Hamilton Field in California, showed up as well.

But due to a lack of barracks at the base ready to accommodate the new arrivals, many were temporarily billeted in tents over at Vancouver Barracks and commuted the eight miles to the base by truck to perform their duties. At Vancouver Barracks the Portland refugees were able to use a new building for a mess hall and the downstairs of another barracks for orderly rooms.

Soldiers not immediately needed at the base, for lack of facilities and equipment, remained at Vancouver Barracks and accomplished fatigue and miscellaneous details. Though much progress had been made in building the base, there were no paved streets or walkways yet and the area became a sea of mud.

Among units arriving early at Portland in these early days were the 255th Separate Quartermaster Company (AB), 35th Signal Company, 320th Signal Company, from McChord Field, as well as the 684th Ordnance Company and 723rd Ordnance Company.

The Soldiers assigned to Portland Army Air Base were not the only Air Corps elements with a space problem. The initial aircraft assigned to the base were a Northrop A-17 single-engine attack plane and a lone Douglas B-18 Bolo twin-engine bomber. But the parking ramp on the new flightline was not ready yet, so the aircraft were temporarily kept at nearby Pearson Field, in Vancouver, Washington, until the base flightline area was operational.

Finally, on May 13, 1941, 554 enlisted men and 54 officers moved into the base, essentially bringing the 43rd Air Base Group, advanced elements of the 55th Pursuit Group and Signal Corps and Quartermaster Corps units onto the station. The base really began to function on its own with this infusion of personnel.

The station medical Detachment activated at PAAB on May 15 when the original cadre of 42 men arrived from CASC Unit 1907 at Fort Lewis. With the



Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, Chief of the Army's General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ AF), is seen during an inspection of Portland Army Air Base during WWII in 1941.

base hospital not yet finished, a temporary infirmary was created in one of the new barracks buildings. Sick call took place daily and the infirmary was able to handle minor medical matters, with more serious cases transferred to the station hospital at Vancouver Barracks (later called Barnes Medical Center, now the Portland VA satellite campus in Vancouver).

About a week later, on May 22, the main body of the 55th Pursuit Group (Headquarters, 37th, 38th and 54th Pursuit Squadrons) relocated to Portland and its three flying squadrons began to operate with P-43 Lancer fighter planes fresh from the Republic factory. The 55th Pursuit Group, commanded by Major James W. McCauley, was thus the first tactical unit to be stationed at Portland. Air strength built slowly, however, as the aircraft arrived in Portland in dribbles as they came out of the factory on the East Coast and were then flown across the states to Portland.

After war broke out the 55th Fighter Group moved north in February 1942, to defend the Puget Sound area during the early war period when the US was at greater risk from Imperial Japanese attack. It later deployed overseas to the European Theater of Operations where it flew combat with Eighth Air Force in the Lockheed P-38 Lightning and later the North American P-51 Mustang. Today the group is designated as the 55th Operations Group, operating the Boeing E-4B National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC), a key component of the National Military Command System for the President, Secretary of Defense, and Joint Chiefs of Staff. The group is also responsible for units operating a number of reconnaissance variants of the Boeing C-135 as part of the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Nebraska.

Portland's construction was not without



The A-17 series attack aircraft was a direct descendent of the pace-setting Northrop "Gamma," made famous by the aerial explorer Lincoln Ellsworth. It replaced the Curtiss A-8 and A-12 Shrike and was the last of the pre-World War II single-engine attack aircraft ordered into production by the Army Air Corps. In 1938 when the Army Air Corps determined that all future attack aircraft procured would be multi-engine models and remaining examples not sold to overseas customers were used as advanced trainers and squadron support aircraft, most ending up as ground maintenance trainers. Portland Army Air Base received one A-17 aircraft in 1941.

difficulty and at one point the cantonment area drainage system necessitated a change in plans. The War Department purchased an additional 2 and 1/3 acres and the Port of Portland additional land which was then added into the original lease agreement in order to facilitate the required drainage of the rising base.

Many of the new arrivals at Portland were draftees from other parts of the United States as well as local recruits. Given the great expansion of the Army underway at that time, basic training for new recruits was conducted at many military bases across the U.S. and Portland was no exception. So the base had to form its own basic training program. Given the limited facilities initially available, such training was constrained. But classes were organized to instruct new personnel in military matters, including rifle training, though it was dry-run firing as no range was available. The largest single groups trained in these early days were 100 men from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and 100 men from Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, who arrived as one unit. They received seven weeks of basic military training at Portland.

This challenge was compounded by the great demand within the Army for competent, qualified officers and non-commissioned officers for technical, administrative and officer candidate schools. This created a sort of personnel "turbulence" within units as such personnel

received orders sending them from Portland for such training, some not returning to Portland. Remaining personnel had to fill in for such departures, temporary or permanent, until returnee or replacements arrived.

Operationally, the base and assigned units fell under 2nd Air Force, headquartered at Fort George Wright near Spokane, Washington, and commanded by Major General John F. Curry. General Curry made frequent visits to Portland to inspect the construction and arriving units. He later became the first national commander of the Civil Air Patrol.

On May 21, the Chief of the Army's General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ AF), Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, also paid a visit to Portland to see the new base. Emmons GHQ AF was in operational control of all the Army's aviation units including Curry and his 2nd Air Force.

Though busy with construction and organization tasks on base, Portland's new Army Airmen also made efforts to engage the citizens of Portland and the surrounding area. And some of the women associated with these men also began community engagement; in May officers' wives met in Vancouver to organize the ladies' Auxiliary.

On May 30, 1941, Memorial Day, all available personnel from PAAB participated in Portland's Memorial Day parade. It was the first parade of officers and men assigned to the base.

To be continued...

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Fighter Wing student pilots learn air-to-air dominance in an F-15

Part three of the B-Course series follows the journey from the classroom to the cockpit as student pilots with Class 16-ABK, at the 173rd Fighter Wing, learn one-on-one air-combat scenarios of an F-15 Eagle.



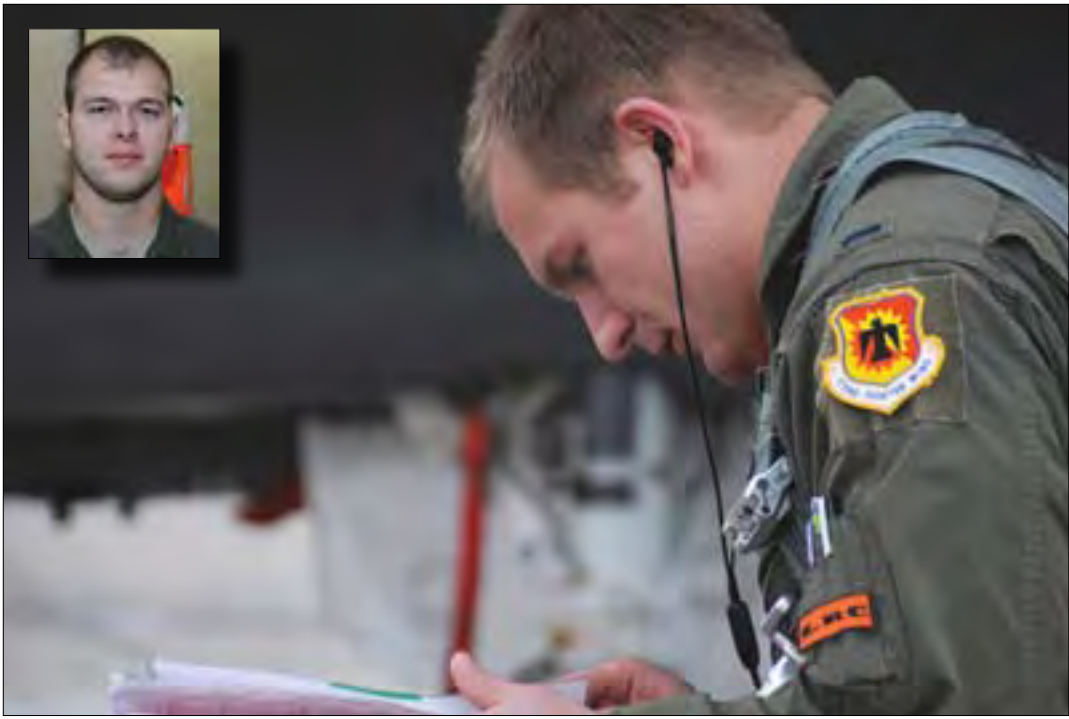
Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – As 16-ABK crosses the halfway point they leave behind the basic aspects of flying and dogfighting in one-on-one scenarios.

The F-15 does these things very well, but these students are moving toward the core of what the Eagle was born to do—control the air.

Like its namesake, this aircraft has excellent vision and with modern upgrades; its radar sees a huge swath of airspace. The wrinkle for these students is that means one more thing to think about. 1st Lt. Brock McGehee paints a mental picture of what it can feel like as a student trying to come to grips with the extra layers of complexity.

"It's like driving a race car, while you're playing a video game, while you're



1st Lt. Brock McGehee, Class 16-ABK, looks at the paperwork showing his jet is ready for the mission, in this case it's to practice basic fighter maneuvers with an instructor pilot in the back seat of the D-model F-15, March 11, 2016. Class 16-ABK has crossed the half-way mark for their introduction to the airframe and is rapidly moving into the heart of the training—learning to employ the Eagle as the weapons platform it is designed to be.

playing football on a roller coaster and commenting on it on the radio at the same time.

The underlying point is that for these students the task of flying and fighting in this aircraft outpaces their ability to keep up mentally, and in these moments they return to a mantra every pilot knows, "aviate-navigate-communicate."

That phrase anchors them, when task-saturated, by prioritizing the three most basic elements of flying, get your aircraft right in the air, recognize where you are on the map, and tell somebody.

Capt. Ryan Reeves is the new flight leader for this class and he describes the challenges he and the other instructor pilots are presenting to the students.

It's like driving a race car, while you're playing a video game, while you're playing football on a roller coaster and commenting on it on the radio at the same time.

- 1st. Lt. Brock Mcgehee, B-Course student

Another Milestone achieved for the Oregon Air National Guard

Story by  
Capt. Heathor Bashor,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - Oregon Air National Guardsman Lt. Col. Micah Lambert, Joint Force Headquarters Deputy Director of Staff - Air and former aircraft maintenance officer, was the first Air National Guard member to serve as the deployed forces Maintenance Group commander for the Pacific Air Forces-Sponsored, Joint National Training Capability Accredited Exercise, known as Red Flag-Alaska, at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska from June 6-17.

The Red Flag exercise split up



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Weaver

Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, Deputy Director of Staff - Air, Lt. Col. Micah Lambert, right, serving on temporary duty as the deployed forces maintenance commander for RED FLAG-Alaska (RF-A) 16-2, is briefed on operations by U.S. Army commanders from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, June 8, 2016, while visiting the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) during RF-A 16-2.

participating units and personnel into two separate teams. One team was designated "friendly forces" and the other team was designated as "opposing forces." With each unit given their respective roles and scenarios, the exercise focused on preparing and exposing pilots to real-life situations and stressors when faced with potentially hostile nations.

As the maintenance commander for the "friendly forces," Lambert interacted with multiple service members and coalition partners to include the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, Japan, and Singapore. In his daily duties, he managed the coordination of 97 aircraft and 1,200 personnel. As one of only three Air Guardsmen in the exercise, he had to quickly adapt and integrate with other forces and operational procedures.

Lambert stated, "My chief and first sergeant were from Lakenheath, and we formed a cohesive leadership team right away."

Lambert added, "The maintenance commander for the opposition forces was great and took me in right away. He showed me how the installation operated, the previous Red Flag lessons learned, and checked in with me almost every day to see if I needed anything."

Lambert said working with such a diverse group of personnel and units was an amazing experience. He was able to build relationships and work seamlessly with others based on the common ground of military knowledge and expertise.

"The Japanese brought F-15s, so we had



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Nickel

Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, Deputy Director of Staff - Air, Lt. Col. Micah Lambert, left, serving on temporary duty as the deployed forces maintenance commander for RED FLAG-Alaska (RF-A) 16-2, is briefed on operations by U.S. Army commanders from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, June 8, while visiting the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) during RF-A 16-2. The JPARC provides a realistic training environment and allows commanders to train for full spectrum engagements, ranging from individual kills to complex, large-scale joint engagements.

a common connection and understanding. They made every sortie, and their jets, looked impeccable," stated Lambert.

Lambert said he took a lot away from the experience that he will bring back to the Oregon Guard. He was able to experience the integration of multiple military capabilities, build partnerships for future missions, and gain perspective and knowledge to educate and pass down to his colleagues and counterparts. One experience that stood out to Lambert involved the integration of a Stryker brigade with air power in a live-fire

"So now the big thing we are introducing to them are contracts," says Reeves explaining that the idea is a student agrees to execute specific tasks in concert with their flight leader. "It's just piling more responsibilities onto them as they are flying, watching their flight lead, watching the bandit and now starting to operate their radar as well as their defensive systems to let them know if they are being targeted by an enemy outside visual range," said Reeves.

The students feel that pressure and note that though their skills are growing, it is unrelenting.

"Every phase you step up, the game gets harder, but you're better too," he says.

"What I'm doing right now, gosh, even a year ago would completely blow my mind, so I'm better than I was a year ago. But the growing process means the pressure cooker never really lets up."

And Reeves says that is by design, "this is a course that continues to get harder, there is not really a point where they know they have it in the bag."

He evaluates Class 16-ABK saying that they are cohesive as a team and are receptive to learning and he complements their good attitudes. The difficulty hasn't eliminated any of the six-person class and he says by and large they have a strong reputation. However, when asked if anything in particular has impressed him he says "no," and it seems to suggest that for this class there are many sorties and many hurdles yet to come, and it will be graduation day before we know if each of these six students earns their Eagle Driver patch.



SPORTS

Top military cyclist trains as aircraft maintainer and world class cyclist



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Farr, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, poses with one of his bicycles during a photo shoot at the air base public affairs office, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., April 7, 2013. Farr has been training and racing as an endurance cyclist during the past four years and was part of the Military World Games in Mungyeong, Korea, Oct. 6, 2015. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Story by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Oregon** – With endurance cycling, nearly every part of the sport is tough; from the demands of distance and the quality of the competitors, to changing natural elements on any given day.

For Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Farr, those difficulties pale in comparison with splitting his time between the compulsory grind of bicycle training to his no-fail mission with the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG).



Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Dwayne Farr, an egress repairman with the 142nd Fighter Wing inspects an F-15 Eagle seat at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., July 9, 2013. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Over the past eight years, Farr has been assigned to the 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, where he is currently the non-commissioned officer in charge of aircrew egress. It has only been in the past four years that curiosity has transformed him into an elite international cyclist.

“It started off really simple. I wanted to see if I could commute from home by bike and use the time going back and forth to get in some exercise,” said Farr.

Yet six months after jumping on his bike, Farr was involved in racing events on weekends around the Pacific Northwest. The endeavor served to refuel his desire to participate in sports at the competitive level.

At slightly less than six feet tall, slender and with a constant and contagious grin, Farr’s unassuming and easy-going personality obscures his deeply competitive nature. At Ridgefield High School in Vancouver, Washington, he was a standout point guard for the school’s basketball team, which made several appearances at the state’s finals.

“He was an incredible basketball player growing up and into high school,” said Chief Master Sgt. Don Brice, 142nd Fighter Wing alert superintendent of maintenance, who is also Farr’s stepfather.

Brice said that Farr’s style on the basketball court over the years put a great deal of impact on his knees and other joints. “He has an amazing cardiovascular reserve that has translated well into biking, where he now doesn’t do all the cutting and slashing, both up and down the court.”

Brice has been the father figure in Farr’s



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Farr, an egress repairman with the 142nd Fighter Wing, participates in altitude training in Tucson, Ariz., riding up to Kitt Peak with an elevation topping out at 9,000 feet above sea level, July 1, 2015. (Photo courtesy of Dwayne Farr)

life since the age of 11, and he made the phone call when Farr wanted to talk to the Air Guard recruiter eight years ago. “One of the reasons I joined was definitely because of him [Brice],” said Farr.

But Farr struggles with a dilemma; balancing his two passions – cycling and his job with the ORANG. Biking takes time away from his career and continuing education goals, yet the demands of his job makes training problematic because of time and energy constraints.

“He feels a real responsibility to his fellow Airmen, especially since he is the shop supervisor with the demands of the mission,” Brice said. “Yet knowing how much the coaching staff and military organization want to support him, he struggled for a while to find the time to commit more to the sport.”

To create a win-win situation, Farr was able to compromise with a work schedule that allows him to thrive at both endeavors. He sat down with his supervisor, Lt. Col. Todd Hofford, 142nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander, and created a schedule that permits him to work four 10-hour days each week, allowing one full day to train with his local team.

“It’s pretty incredible to realize what a professional athlete we have working here every day,” said Hofford.

Hofford described the benefits of having Farr serve in uniform as well as on the bike.

“Not only has he put Oregon on the map, but he’s integrated a team of officers and senior enlisted. He is the fastest contributor [of the team] and also the junior-ranking member,” he said.

He emphasized that the positives outweigh the negatives in Farr’s circumstances and stressed that he inspires coworkers and leadership throughout the Maintenance Group.

“What has he done? The real question is what hasn’t he done?” Hofford said in jest. “When you talk to him about his story from just jumping on a bike one day for recreation, to where he is today, it’s incredible. His energy and positive approach to everything is infectious.”

Hofford remarked about a letter he received from Capt. Sean Cahill, with the Massachusetts Air Guard, echoing many similar sentiments about Farr. Cahill said about Farr’s involvement in the 2015 Military World Games in Mungyeong, South Korea, in October: “I wanted to let you know what a great guy you have there, both on and off the bike. He did a great job representing the Air National Guard and the 142nd FW.”



Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Dwayne Farr, competes in the Sea Otter Cycling Classic earlier in 2013. Farr is one of 10 members on the Department of Defense road bike racing team, and the only team member who is in the Air National Guard. (Photo courtesy of Dwayne Farr)

The Military World Games is the second largest sporting event, after the Olympic Games, and more than 8,500 athletes from 123 nations participated in 2015. Of the seven U.S. military competitors that made up the cycling team, Farr was the only enlisted member of the squad.

On a mostly flat course, the 95-mile bike race on Oct. 6, 2015, included competitors from 16 nations.

“My job was to cover the early moves and breakaways of the other riders,” Farr said of the event and his team’s strategy for the race.

As the race progressed, Farr said that it was up to teammate Ian Holt to chase down the final lead riders.

“Ian’s a sprinter and track guy so, by the end of the race, we held our own but were not able to cover other team moves,” he said. “In the end, there was no final card to play.”

Still, the experience left Farr with a new level of excitement, representing the United States on a world stage.

“It is something special, and yeah I have to admit, there were chills at the starting line,” he said.

Prior to his trip to Korea, Farr had competed in other races earlier in the summer to prepare him for the games and once again underlining some of the unique challenges he faces with a dynamic dual career.

At one event, held in Vermont, Sept. 4-7, Farr’s stark progression in the racing community was highlighted. After racing different events on four separate days, his combined place was eighth overall.

His team director and coach, George Gonoung, a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander, told Farr, “You’re probably the only person to finish in top 20 [places] with a full-time job.

Gonoung, who lives in Washington, D.C.,



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Farr, an egress repairman with the 142nd Fighter Wing, participates in a weekly Wednesday night bike race at Mount Tabor, Ore., March 10, 2015. (Photo courtesy of Dwayne Farr)

shares training data almost daily with Farr, and they also talk several times a week by phone to get a better gauge about diet, weight, cross-training workouts and other performance issues.

Now that it’s the off season, Farr has reflected on the past year and wonders about what it would take to proceed to the next level of his cycling career.

“To sign with a pro team means I would need to quit my job here,” said Farr. “I don’t want to do that!”

Having raced now in nearly every state and many other locations in Europe, Farr said some of the excitement is starting to wear off. The training can be grueling and the elements take their toll over time, he said.

“There are those 20-minute hill-climbing training rides where I go as fast as I can, as far as I can; it’s one of the worst feelings ever,” he said with a laugh. “But literally, to reach the top of this sport, you have to have that killer instinct.”

And then there are the distinct weather conditions when riding in the Pacific Northwest nine months of the year.

“I’ve come home from a 100-mile training ride and my hands are so frozen I can’t get the key out of my pocket to unlock the door,” he said. “But like a gold fish, a horrible experience on one day is easily forgotten the next day.”

Still, for Farr taking his game to the next level comes with some perplexing choices. At 28, he’s at a prime age for endurance athletes, but he’s not sure at this point what will be the next step beyond his currently synchronized biking and Air Force careers.

“I’m really pleased with where I’ve gone,” he said. “As much as I love cycling, I love coming here and being part of the team I work with every day. For now, it’s great that I can do both.”

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Disaster declaration pacific storm event brings a silver lining

By Jane Feehan,  
FEMA External Relations

For many emergency managers in Oregon, 2015 ended on a very busy note. Beginning Dec. 6 and continuing through Dec. 23, the state was slammed with widespread flooding, mud, land and debris slides, high winds and early snow accumulations. The severe weather damaged and destroyed homes, businesses, productive agricultural lands, farm buildings and fences.

Local governments and voluntary agencies were first on the scene to respond. While local response agencies did tremendous work protecting lives and property, the severe weather still did more than \$25 million in assessed damage to public infrastructure in 14 Oregon counties, according to Clint Fella the state coordinating officer for the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

“The cost of providing emergency response and removing the debris was more than the local communities had anticipated,” said Fella. “During the height of the event, more than 100 roads were reported closed due to mudslides, high water, and downed trees.”

On Dec. 10, Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency for 19 counties. It was clear that Oregon needed outside help to recover from the severe weather. On Feb. 2, 2016, the governor requested a federal disaster declaration from

President Barack Obama. The President reviewed Governor Brown’s request and signed a major disaster declaration for Oregon on Feb. 17.

Twelve counties were on the original declaration; two more were added in March. “This set the wheels in motion for Oregon to deliver FEMA’s Public Assistance program to 14 counties as well as state agencies, local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe winter storms,” said FEMA’s Federal Coordinating Officer Dolph Diemont.

FEMA’s Public Assistance program will provide funding to communities to help repair or replace public infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the storm.

Diemont added that when an incident of such severity and magnitude occurs and requires federal assistance, it calls for the establishment of a Joint Field Office (JFO), a coordination center for operations.

“A space was leased and FEMA’s Logistics team swiftly delivered and set up communications equipment, printers, tables—anything we needed to get an office up and running,” said the federal coordinating officer.

By Feb. 23, the JFO, headed by Fella and Diemont, opened its doors to other state and federal officials with a workforce of more than 120 from around the country.

“This is where the rubber hits the road,” explained Diemont. “The JFO provides

a central location for coordination of federal, state, local, nongovernmental and private-sector organizations. Here we share information, establish priorities, allocate resources, and provide strategic coordination and direction in delivering assistance.”

The JFO typically is organized into several sections.

“This system of organization enables effective incident management by integrating facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure,” Fella said.

Federal, state and local agencies use this system of organization to manage emergencies of any kind or size. For the Oregon JFO, priorities include not only recovering from the December event but also mitigating damaged and undamaged infrastructure against future disasters.

“When the declaration for Public Assistance was signed, it provided funding opportunities for mitigation projects throughout the state, even in areas not affected by the December storms,” said Diemont. “Every dollar spent to reduce risks from future hazards saves about four dollars of disaster expenses down the road.”

As the state recovers, Oregon and FEMA work closely to identify opportunities to rebuild beyond pre-disaster conditions to standards that will minimize, or mitigate, the impact from future disasters. Rebuilding



Photo courtesy of OEM

Flood waters cover a parking lot in Portland after the the December Pacific Storm event.

with mitigation in mind helps to make Oregon stronger and more resilient.

“Resilience in Oregon has been a priority for Governor Brown.” Fella said. “As the state office of emergency management, we want to be a leader when it comes to making our communities better prepared to respond emergencies.”

Fella explained that these all serve as reminders that mitigation is possible and effective, and that it is a good idea for home and business owners to consider ways to make their homes and businesses stronger.

The Public Assistance program brings significant benefits to everyone who calls Oregon home. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of local, state and federal partners, the Pacific Storm Event in December delivered a silver lining in the form of federal assistance that will help repair public infrastructure and provide funds to mitigate against future damage.

All Oregon Native American tribes come together for Cascadia Rising

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Anita VanderMolen, 115th Mobile  
Public Affairs Detachment

“Warning! Warning! Warning!” The ground begins to shake. It is an earthquake and tsunami destroying much of the Oregon coast. How will Oregon respond to such a devastating natural disaster?

Victim volunteer, 92-year old Catherine Harrison, expressed real concerns of an actual disaster.

Harrison said, “I want to know I will be taken care of.”

Jamie Baxter, Emergency Operations Coordinator with the Grand Ronde Police Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, specializes in building and organizing emergency response programs from the ground up. The Grand Ronde emergency response program is in its infancy, beginning only two years ago.

Baxter and other members of the emergency management team, community members, and local agencies took their baby steps as they participated in the Cascadia Rising Exercise, June 8, 2016, at the Grand Ronde Tribal Community Center, Grand Ronde, Ore. Cascadia Rising is a four-day functional exercise focused on interagency and multi-state coordination to provide decision makers with information to implement programs and policies in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

Baxter said, “This provides a snapshot for the community on what could happen during a large Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake or rupture.”

Grand Ronde is in a unique position being the first city inland from the Oregon coast on Highway 18. Grand Ronde also has the Spirit Mountain Casino as a landmark which is an attraction to many visitors.

“We know we are the first city from the coast, from Lincoln City and Pacific City,” Baxter said. “We know people will make their way here because the casino is very large and seen. So we are practicing setting up a casualty collection point (CCP).”

Tonya Gleason-Shepek, elected Tribal Council member and one of the first students in the first tribal Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) class in Grand Ronde said, “We are not going to have state or federal aid here immediately so we certainly need to take care of ourselves initially for the first few days.”

Community involvement is necessary for community survival.

“It’s important for everyone to be prepared and be aware and learn what they need to survive and how they can contribute and help in an event like that especially in a rural area such as Grand Ronde,” said Gleason-Shepek. “Anyone can help.”

Teams practiced setting up and staffing a small CCP for the coast victims, the casino population of about 2,000 people, and those with special medical needs.

Agencies and individuals involved in the exercise were the Red Cross, West Valley Fire Department, Grand Ronde Clinic, West Valley Hospital, Grand Ronde Police Department, victim volunteers, medical staff volunteers, and Oregon Lifeguard helicopter rescue team.

This exercise marked the first time a rescue helicopter had landed in Grand Ronde. Helicopter rescue training was provided. Volunteers also were trained on packaging, loading and unloading procedures, helicopter safety, and a general orientation of the aircraft.

“We know we will have visitors, travelers, and we know many of our visitors have chronic medical issues,” she added. “Our tribal elders live here and we want to make sure we can meet their needs in an event like this while meeting the needs of the community. We want to be able to take care of our vulnerable population.”

As one of the community’s vulnerable population, Harrison has concerns for her health and medical needs.

“I can’t walk too far,” Harrison said. “I want to know if I will have the medicine I need.”

The coordination with eight of the other



West Valley Fire District volunteers and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members practice loading and unloading a victim volunteer in and out of a helicopter during the Cascadia Rising training exercise, June 9, in Grand Ronde, Ore. Cascadia Rising is a four-day functional response exercise in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

Oregon Native American Tribes was also a major part of the training.

“Tribes understand tribal culture and how the tribe works. We are very close-knit and family oriented,” said Baxter. “Whole families have lived here their whole lives.”

After a disaster, she added, “they want to bring tribal culture into the healing process of resiliency and recovery. Tribes have a particular culture in terms of how they heal and what they do to heal.”

One outcome of preparing for this exercise also included a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the tribes for mutual aid.

“We’ve developed a MOU for all nine tribes. It’s not legally binding,” said Baxter. “What it amounts to is a spiritual handshake that says we are going to try to help if we can.”

Those not affected prepared to provide short-term aid in the first 48 hours to the affected tribal nations prior to state-level support.

Andrew Phelps, Director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management said, “This is a fantastic opportunity for all the tribes in Oregon to come together and evaluate, assess and practice their response to a catastrophic disaster like a Cascadia

Subduction Zone earthquake.” He added, “This is a unique effort for the tribes to come together and evaluate their systems and unique needs during a disaster.”

Communication is the first step in rescue, life-saving and recovery coordination. If regular communication systems fail, Grand Ronde can utilize amateur radio operators for emergency communication. Radio operator classes began as part of the preparedness program.

“Warm Springs also has a ham radio operator available,” said Baxter. “Radio communication resources will provide mutual aid assistance and support when and where it is needed.”

Tribes can also, for the first time, request federal government aid through the disaster declaration process.

Phelps said, “The tribes can work directly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and request assistance directly through that system.”

For the duration of the exercise, each tribe trained at their location. They dedicated time to look at the logistical processes, resources and communications available for mutual aid, and where they need to fill in the gaps for the next exercise. They looked at what they need to do to support themselves and other tribes in the event of a disaster, including the disaster declaration process.

Grand Ronde is preparing to “make the tribal mutual aid concept a reality,” said Baxter. “The CCP is meant to be mobile.” Part of the mutual aid agreement is support for the initial response team. The need for immediate response, organization and coordination takes its toll on the first responders.

“We can ask the Tribal Incident Management Teams (IMT) to help the Grand Ronde IMT and the Planning Section Chief for respite and relief,” said Baxter.

Baxter sums up the goal of the exercise, mutual aid with the other tribal nations, local communities, and the government saying, “Alone, we would fail. Together: that’s the way to succeed.”



FEATURES

Kingsley Field Eagle Driver crosses 2,000 hour mark

Story by  
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**KUOPIO, Finland --** The flight from Klamath Falls to Kuopio, Finland, is nearly 5,000 miles as the crow flies, and ferrying five F-15 aircraft took roughly 12 hours. Incidentally, those flying hours meant one pilot crossed the 2,000 mark on his next sortie.

Maj. Michael Hiatt began flying the F-15 some 13 years ago and he summed up the experience saying, “2,000 hours was big as a personal goal,” and after a long pause he laughs and says, “But really it just means that I’m old.”

He goes on to say that really the mark that would mean much more to him is the 3,000 hour mark, but he also concedes that it’s rare for a pilot to hit that number. The last pilot at the 173rd Fighter Wing to reach that threshold was Col. Wes French, who retired in April after 24 years of service. According to Tech. Sgt.

Lisa Tysor, who tracks flying hours for the pilots, Col. Jeffrey Edwards, 173rd Operations Group commander, currently holds the wing’s highest total hours at 2,960 and will likely be the next to reach the 3,000-hour mark.

But looking back Hiatt has many fond memories, “One of the coolest things was when I became a two-ship flight lead when I was still a lieutenant and then taking another lieutenant out on a flight; so two lieutenants and two thirty-million dollar aircraft,” said Hiatt. “That was some fun.”

He says the part of his career that he likes the best is, “just getting to fly with a bunch of good friends, guys I’ve known since college.”

When he climbed down to the tarmac, May 10, the pilots on the deployment gathered around for a group photo.

“It was a fun mission to get 2,000 on, [Maj. Vanbragt] did a good job leading the mission and we did some good work.” Upon being asked specifically Hiatt did admit that his team won the scenario.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Pete Weigman, 173rd Fighter Wing

U.S. Air Force Maj. Michael Hiatt (center), an instructor pilot at the 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Ore., stands with his fellow pilots immediately after crossing the 2,000 hour mark in the F-15 Eagle while deployed to Kuopio, Finland, May 10, 2016. The wing conducted training operations with partner nation Finland over two weeks in early May as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

741st Brigade Engineer Battalion practices urban breaching



Photos by Capt. Leslie Reed,  
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Public Affairs

**Left:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Companies, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stand behind a blast curtain during a training demolition breach on April 9, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon.

**Below:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepare detonation cord prior to a demolition breach during training on April 9, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. The day-long training event introduced Soldiers to multiple methods of urban breaching. Many members of the new battalion are transitioning from other career fields and this event was their first exposure to engineer specific training.



**Above:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepare to execute an equipment breach during training on April 9, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. The equipment breach was just one of several urban breaching methods that the Soldiers trained on during the day long training event.

**Right:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from Alpha and Bravo Companies, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, practice working as a stack team in preparation for a training demolition breach on April 9, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Soldiers were able to experience multiple urban breach methods during the day-long training event.



FEATURES

Oregon Air National Guard pilot celebrates heritage

Story by  
Tech. Sgt. John Hughel,  
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Oregon –** Growing up in Hawaii, Lt. Col. Nick Rutgers discovered, like most children, the deeper meaning of “The Aloha Spirit” -- the gift of interacting in the natural world with boundless possibilities. This aptitude only nurtured his biggest childhood dream to a grander significance.

“I can’t remember wanting to do anything else besides being a pilot, and if given the chance, to fly fighter jets,” said Rutgers.

After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in May of 2000, the trajectory of his flying career first took him to Okinawa, Japan, and later to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, then eventually landing him here in Portland in 2012 with the 142nd Fighter Wing; all the while flying the F-15 Eagle fighter jet.

Prior to graduating from high school, Rutgers had already obtained his private pilot’s license and got his first taste of military life at Camp Pendleton, California, with the Marine Corps “Devil Pups” program. The summer youth camp allows teenagers a chance to gain insight into the military lifestyle while learning citizenship skills in personal responsibilities, self-respect and other valuable life experiences.

“The program definitely got me ready and prepared me for the harsh realities I faced prior to going to the Air Force Academy,” he recalled with a laugh. “It clearly was a boarding experience.”

Yet Rutgers’ path toward becoming a military pilot did not inevitably begin at Camp Pendleton or the Air Force Academy. His family lineage is rich in service and sacrifice. Rutgers’ grandfather fought in World War II as a member of the Marine Corps, and his father with the Army in Vietnam and later serving in the Hawaii National Guard. The love of flying and sense of service can be traced even further back, nearly 100 years ago when his great-grandfather, James Norman Hall, flew with the Lafayette Escadrille during World War I.

The Lafayette Escadrille was an all-volunteer squadron of American Airmen

who fought with France prior to the U.S. entry in World War I. In total, more than 200 Americans were part of the squadron, and 68 members died in battle. On April 20, Rutgers traveled to Paris to take part in the 100th Anniversary ceremony of the Lafayette Escadrille and pay homage to those, like his great-grandfather, who helped build and maintain the nearly 235-year France-American alliance.

The significance of the moment is not lost on Rutgers. During his childhood he was able to hear and read the accounts of James Norman Hall’s flying exploits and service with the British military when World War I broke out in 1914. After returning to the United States, Hall published his first book in 1916, “Kitchener’s Mob,” detailing his experience, and later returning that year to Europe on assignment with Atlantic Monthly Magazine. It was during his writing and coverage of the Lafayette Escadrille where Hall found himself joining the fight once again, volunteering with the American flying squadron.

“I grew up with not only the stories of my great-grandfather’s war experience but was able to read an excessive amount of his personal accounts during the First World War,” Rutgers said. “The details and richness to his written work in itself made a lasting impression on me early in my life.”

Toward the end of World War I, Hall, then a captain in the Army Air Service, was shot down and became a Prisoner of War (POW) in Germany. While being held as a POW, Hall met fellow American pilot and writer Charles Nordhoff. The two would become life-long friends and writing collaborators, publishing multiple books together to include notable literary works such as “Mutiny on the Bounty” and “Botany Bay.”

“My great-grandfather served the final months of the war as a POW and when the Armistice was signed, had to figure out how to get home,” Rutgers explained as he recalled accounts of his great grandfather’s release from captivity. “He traveled to Switzerland then France, doing so at times on the good will of others, to eventually get home.”

At the conclusion of the war, Hall was ultimately awarded the American Distinguished Service Cross and most notably, the French Légion d’Honneur.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shelly Davison, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Nicholas Rutgers, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, flew to France to take part in the 100th Anniversary of the Lafayette Escadrille, a squadron of American volunteers in which his great-father, James Normal Hall, was a member.

Rutgers represented not only the direct lineage and heritage of the Lafayette Escadrille during the commemoration ceremony in France, but also in the larger ongoing commitment America has to other European partnerships.

Last summer, Rutgers deployed to Romania and Hungary as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, training and flying with NATO partners while embracing the cultural relevance of other European nations. During that deployment, he and other members of the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing found a way to give back to others in the community while collecting items for a local orphanage. They donated and delivered everything from basic clothing items to new shoes for almost every child at the orphanage, which allowed the Oregon Guardsmen to spend a day hosting an American-style barbecue.

“The crux of these types of deployments comes down to nurturing and developing partnerships, and are invaluable to supporting our endeavors overseas and around the world,” he said.

Rutgers emphasized how current events in Europe are vital to maintaining these partnerships when it comes to global security. As the current operations officer

for the 123rd Fighter Squadron with the 142nd Fighter Wing, his job is to maintain the combat capabilities and proficiencies of the unit. He also is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force’s Weapons School and has participated in Exercise Red Flag, which allows U.S. and numerous NATO air forces to train together under realistic air combat situations.

Rutgers said it is important for many reasons to be involved with the anniversary of the Lafayette Escadrille, “because it allows us to pause and reflect on all of the service men that were involved and lives that were lost from WWI to current incidents in Europe.”

“By participating in events like the commemoration it helps fosters relationships and allows our nations the opportunity to strengthen our alliances, while engaging in our shared issues such as global terrorism,” he said.

When he arrived in Paris for the rededication of the memorial to the Lafayette Escadrille, Rutgers, in a greater sense came full circle, to honor his great-grandfather’s legacy, and thus; writing another chapter in his family’s unique shared allegiance with America’s allies in France.

University of Oregon celebrates military appreciation day



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon National Guard Soldiers perform a flag folding ceremony in honor of missing and fallen service members during half time at the University of Oregon Spring Game, April 30, at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Oregon. Members of the Oregon National Guard, along with Veterans from every branch of service, participated in Military Appreciation Day activities during the game.



Oregon National Guard Soldiers line up behind University of Oregon football players at the start of the Spring Game, April 30, at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Oregon. Members of the Oregon National Guard, along with Veterans from every branch of service, participated in Military Appreciation Day activities during the game.



AZUWUR



Members of the 114th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron prepare the F-4 Phantoms for a training mission at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in 1986. An F-4 training schoolhouse for Air National Guard pilots and WSOS was opened at Kingsley Field in 1985.

Story by  
Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson,  
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

World War II thrust a number of seminal changes upon the United States. Its economy leapt from the stagnation of the Great Depression to a wartime footing, fighting to produce adequate military hardware to win the war. Its citizenry signed up for the draft in droves, and women flocked to roles in factories, in military training capacities, and in the medical field. The sea of change stretched from coast to coast and a small, logging community in Southern Oregon was caught in the swirl. Klamath Falls, Oregon, found itself at the center of an effort to produce a large number of fighter pilots in close proximity to the Pacific Theater. Thus, the Department of the Navy gave birth to Klamath Naval Air Station in 1943. The hurry was so great the DoD actually shipped in the largest building, the base hangar, from Alaska. In short order, the base launched sortie after sortie to nearby ranges and target areas getting young men a degree of training before heading to the fleet for deadly combat, primarily in the Pacific Theater. Looking at a map, one may wonder why the base wasn't located closer to the coastline, after all, Klamath Falls is across the Cascade Mountains from the ocean and in drive-time lies nearly four

A look back at Kingsley Field's history

hours from the Pacific shore. Maj. Ryan Bartholomew, the 173rd Fighter Wing Historian, says several qualities made the location an ideal place to train pilots. "It has good flying weather, 95-percent of the time you can fly visual flight rules, and maybe most importantly, it was close to several federally owned reservoirs used for torpedo bombing practice and strafing runs," he said. After victory in Europe and victory in Japan came to pass, the frantic war effort gave way to peacetime operations and the training mission of the base slowed considerably. The Navy closed the base and turned it over to the City of Klamath Falls in the years 1948-1954, but in those six years rising tension with the Soviet Union prompted the U.S. to bolster its perimeter defense and in 1956 the Air Force recommissioned the base. "The Air Force was building a protective ring around the country and Klamath Falls was a strategic location between Portland and the bay area to defend against Soviet strategic bombers," said Bartholomew. "It was 1959 before that squadron was fully operational." The process of re-opening the base spurred its largest growth to date – construction of two large housing areas, renaming the base after Oregon's sole Army Air Corps recipient of the Medal of Honor, Lt. David R. Kingsley, and bringing nearly 2,000 new employees aboard. From that point, as the Cold War ground on, so named for its lack of actual hostilities, Kingsley Field once again saw operations pared back. In that environment, it made sense to turn the operations over to a leaner organization and the Oregon Air National Guard began operations at Kingsley Field. "The first presence was in 1971, it was the 104th Control Squadron, basically what we call 'Shadow Control' today," Bartholomew said. "In 1981, the Air Force alert detachment left and turned everything over to the Oregon Air Guard." A number of retired Guardsmen who are still involved at Kingsley Field remember this time. Former base commander, Retired Col. Billy Cox, remembers his initial visits to the base in the early '80s when he was with the 142nd Fighter Wing out of Portland, Oregon.



Photo courtesy 173rd Fighter Wing

U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom instructor pilots and weapons systems officers from the 114th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron pose for a photo in front of an F-4 at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon in 1985. An F-4 training schoolhouse for Air National Guard pilots and WSOS was opened at Kingsley Field in 1985.

"It looked a lot like you might imagine after the busiest years of the base, with many buildings standing vacant and most of the construction looked like it was from the World War II era," he said. Retired Lt. Col. Bill Morris, former base commander, remembers driving a bob cat tractor to remove years of accumulated bird droppings from the main hangar floor so it could house aircraft again. Once again Kingsley's good flying weather and proximity to large flying ranges pressed the little-used buildings back into service. In 1982, the U.S. Air Force announced the creation of an air defense schoolhouse for F-4 Phantoms at Kingsley Field, and the 114th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron was formed. Cox sees the foundation of today's successful training mission in those early years as a combination of a supportive community, a strong work ethic and the quality of training provided. "On a check ride for a student, if there was any question of whether they passed or not than there really wasn't a question, and we made real sure they got the chance to do it again," Cox said. Though the operation was challenging, it wasn't large, consisting

of three instructor pilots and four F-4 Phantom aircraft. In 1983, eleven brand new F-4 pilots graduated. Through the ensuing years that mission has grown. In 1988, the 114th TFTS transitioned to the F-16 airframe and boasted a complement of 18 aircraft. As the growth continued, the unit at Kingsley Field earned a new designation – the 173rd Fighter Wing was activated June 27, 1996. This transition brought the unit in line with other stand-alone Air National Guard flying units. In an article from the local newspaper, then base commander, Cox, was quoted saying, "I think our future is bright and strong." Nearly ten years after converting to the F-16 the wing moved into the air superiority business and began training F-15C pilots. In 2011, this small, southern Oregon base became the sole schoolhouse for F-15C training, as Tyndall Air Force Base converted to the F-22. As a part of that progress the 173rd Fighter Wing has also added a detachment of active duty Airmen to bolster throughput of pilots. Today, the ramp holds 32 F-15 Eagles and flies more than 5,000 hours in a given year – one of the highest tallies for a fighter unit in the Air National Guard.

The windmill patch and the 41st Infantry Division in France

Story by  
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On October 18, 1917, the first units embarked for overseas and the last units arrived in France on December 7, 1917. The 41st Division was designated the Replacement Division, I Corps, on December 8, 1917—the first division to be so designated. Its leading elements arrived at St. Nazaire on December 11 and established a depot in the vicinity of St. Aignan and Noyers from which about 2,800 replacements were forwarded to other units. On January 15, 1918, the division was redesignated as the Base and Training Division, I Corps. Upon arrival in France, the Division was designated as the 1st Depot Division and ordered to the St. Aignan training area.



The windmill patch of the 1st Depot Division in St. Aignan training area. (Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Museum)

The division was then broken up and formed into training cadres for the instruction of replacements for combat divisions at the front. The 66th Artillery Brigade was left intact and after a period of training was attached to the 1st Corps on July 1, 1918, as Corps Artillery. This brigade served as Corps and Army Artillery throughout its service in France and was engaged in active operations in the Marne-Aisne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 41st Division while serving as the 1st Depot Division from January 1, 1918 to December 31, 1918, forwarded from its area 263,395 replacements and casualties. "A replacement was a Soldier assigned, or destined for assignment, to fill a vacancy in an organization." Some replacements are called "filler" because a unit is newly formed and not yet at full strength, and other replacements are because a unit experienced losses from men being killed, wounded or ill. One explanation states replacements



41st Infantry Division tents in St. Aignan, France, June 12, 1919. (Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Museum)

were earmarked for a specific job/task prior to being sent overseas. The unit he was sent to was determined once he got overseas. A casual was a Soldier grouped with other casualties who were not

yet assigned a job prior to going overseas. Once overseas, a casual was assigned both a job and unit. Casuals were sometimes new recruits with little military training.