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# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## 1-168 Aviation returns from the Middle East with honor



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, stand in formation during a demobilization ceremony to welcome them home, October 22, 2016, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Pendleton, Oregon. Approximately 60 Citizen-Soldiers in the unit deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. The company transported personnel and equipment throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations using CH-47F Chinook helicopters. See story on Page 5.

## 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion tests new Howitzers

Story and photos by  
**Capt. Leslie M. Reed, 41st Infantry Brigade  
Combat Team Public Affairs**

**YAKIMA, Washington** – The Oregon Army National Guard’s only field artillery unit, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, had the opportunity to show-off it’s new M777A Howitzer capability during their two-week annual training in May 2016 at the Yakima Training Center near Yakima, Washington.

The new weapons system is assigned specifically to the battalion’s new Charlie Battery, which was stood up just a year ago as part of the U.S. Army’s transformation process. The other batteries in the battalion fire M119A Howitzers.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class John Clevenger, a gunnery sergeant with Charlie Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, said that the battery is making necessary progress, “We’re suppose to have 107 (personnel) on the books, but we only have probably 50, so it’s one big family, and we are all taking our share of the responsibilities and duties.”

That was exactly what took place during their familiarization fire, with the two Charlie Battery firing teams leap-frogging; each team firing three of the six total M777A Howitzers.

1st Lt. Kalani Scott, the 1st platoon leader with Charlie Battery, 2-218th Field

Artillery Battalion, echoed the gunnery sergeant, saying that they are slowly continuing to build and that while it’s been a tedious process, in addition to getting the correct and sufficient number of equipment, the last couple of months have been extremely fast-paced.

Clevenger recalls the ball starting to roll quickly about a year ago, when a plan was put in place regarding the new guns. Charlie Battery then stood up and federal recognition soon followed.

“Its been a slow-rolling process for some and too soon, too quick for others,” said Clevenger, who also works for the battery full-time. “We’re trying to fit 10-pounds of stuff in a 5-pound sack.”

There were individuals selected for Charlie Battery that came from both inside the battalion and were recruited from outside of the battalion, to include former military police, aviation, engineers, and support battalion personnel.

“Everyone has been coming from everywhere,” said Clevenger. “Nobody knows this weapons system and it gives people the opportunity to have a fresh start on a weapons system that no unit here in Oregon has ever used. Anyone can join this unit, we can take from any unit, we sort of feel like this is our own ‘Field of Dreams,’ and we are building it.”

Scott said the battery benefitted when



An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier with Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, takes cover after firing a familiarization round on the M777A Howitzer, May 23, during annual training at the Yakima Training Center near Yakima, Washington. This was the first time the battalion fired their newly-acquired weapon system, part of the larger transformation of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Story continued on Page 15

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Salem, OR

OFFICE OF THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON  
P.O. BOX 14350  
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047  
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The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, and other interested persons by request, free of charge. Circulation: 13,500. The Oregon Sentinel is published by Eagle Web Press, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, Departments of the Army or Air Force, or the State of Oregon, and is under exclusive written contract with the Oregon Military Department. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically, and can be found online at [www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml).

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COMMAND

Oregon Guard adapts to organizational changes

We have all recently experienced significant reorganization of the Oregon National Guard. With change comes severance of ties, changing relationships, re-establishment of new rating relations, and the breakdown of old communication paths as new ones are established. Underlying all of this is the struggle to understand the leader's intent, what organizational dysfunction drove the change – that age old question we have always asked – “Why?”

Senior leaders at all levels owe an answer to the members of the organization to help allay the fears and anxiety that inevitably comes with change. Providing the answer to the “why” question is necessary in the Oregon Military Department because we value each individual and each individual's contribution to the organization's effort and mission. Each individual expects leadership to be forthcoming. If we don't answer the “why” question, we may be able to force compliance, but some members of the organization will feel slighted and we may miss out on full buy-in or other opportunities that only those intimate with the details at their respective levels can fully bring forward. Empowering individuals with knowledge about why the change is needed and what changes are coming allows them to bring forward patches and fixes that at least bear analysis. Answering the “why” question also demonstrates trust and helps smooth the transition. There is no better way to weather the uncertainty of change than to over-communicate and share information at every opportunity.

About three years ago, the change from a more centralized structure, with extremely heavy directorate staff in Salem, to our current structure with only a handful of personnel responsible directly to the Adjutant General was a drastic change to the Oregon National Guard. It dramatically increased the responsibility of the Land Component Commander, created a Joint Domestic Operations Command, and changed many reporting lines and staff coordination processes. Additionally, realignment of the units within the Combat Operations Group, receipt of the Strykers in fiscal year 2017, and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team transformation are the latest in a history of changes to the Oregon National

Guard. The Oregon Army National Guard transition was the next logical step in our efforts to reduce excess staff and inefficiency, when coupled with an effort to move personnel away from the headquarters and out to vacancies in deployable units wherever possible. In theory it was a smooth transition, but for many, it felt like turbulence.

This type of restructure is not new, there is an endless string of changes over the course of our history. In the late 1890s, the units that comprised the Oregon Militia were constituted into the 2nd Oregon Infantry to deploy and fight in the Spanish-American War in the Philippines. Upon return, the federal government made legislative changes to the state military forces, establishing the “National Guard” and providing for changes to the military units in each state so that in times of war, the forces could be better federalized. Oregon's 2nd Infantry transitioned with the 1st Oregon Infantry and other elements into the 41st Infantry Division at the start of World War I, becoming the square division which was deployed to Europe for World War I in 1917.

After more changes in the interwar years, the 41st Infantry Division was still in a square-division configuration when it entered World War II, with the 81st and 82nd Infantry Brigades Headquarters between the division headquarters and the infantry regiments. The division strength in late 1940, was about 14,000, well short of its required war strength of 18,500. Seven thousand Selective Service recruits filled the ranks, with the first arriving in February 1941. Late in 1941, the Division Commander and long-time Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George A. White, died (November 23), replaced by Brig. Gen. Horace H. Fuller. In January and February 1942, the division was reorganized as a “triangular” division, losing one regiment (the 161st Infantry) and the 81st and 82nd Brigade Headquarters, and shipped out in March 1942 for Australia to fight in World War II. So, in the course of a year, the division received about one-third new recruits, changed commander, drastically changed structure, and deployed. The Soldiers of the division adapted and fought admirably.

In 1965, the 41st Infantry Brigade was created from elements of the 41st Infantry Division that were within the borders of

Oregon. The plan was to deactivate the 41st Infantry Division, which occurred about three years later. Oregon was no longer home to a division headquarters, a significant change when you consider that the division headquarters in Oregon had been coordinating and controlling forces from several Northwestern states since before World War I. This change happened during the Vietnam War, when support for the military was not popular.

These and numerous other changes - activations, deactivations, reflaggings, and equipment changes - are all examples of the continuous evolution of the force. Leaders need to be on the forefront of change by looking strategically at the environment and for opportunities to stay relevant and increase organizational efficiency. The potential use of cyber, extensive use of robotics and unmanned equipment, continuous technological advances, and ever-present force structure changes loom on the horizon.

The U.S. military is replete with examples of how adaptable and flexible it has been toward changing conditions and situations. It is also an institution that holds dearly to its traditions. One tradition we need to acknowledge and embrace is our adaptability, making use of new equipment, technologies, tactics, and procedures to get the mission done. Our way ahead is to talk about the pending changes, to push ideas back and forth, to proactively ask questions and provide ideas to facilitate the transition process. As leaders, we need to listen, observe and talk about the changes so we can identify and solve potential problems early. No bullets are flying and no one has been “communicated to death,” but we all need to be involved in the transition and be ready for the next great innovation into who we are and how we do business.



Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General

New year brings new opportunities for warrants

By Chief Warrant Officer-5 Paul Zenchenko, State Command Chief Warrant

I enjoy this time of year as one calendar year closes out, another begins. This time of year provides a favorite pastime of reading the newspaper and revisiting the top stories that occurred throughout the year; allowing a moment to reflect on past achievements, changes that have occurred or about to occur, and in some cases, a time when we said our goodbyes.

A major achievement this past year for the Oregon Army National Guard Warrant Officer Corps is their Director's Personnel Readiness Overview (DPRO) strength report. In as many years, the strength of the corps has been down with many vacancies. Mid-year, the DPRO indicated a milestone of reaching a ‘green’ status. Accolades go to the command, mentors and fellow warrants who guided new additions to the corps. In looking into the future, we have the potential of reaching a hundred percent strength in the next 18 months and securing our ‘green’ status.

Several of our warrants attended Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) at Camp Murray, Washington, and Camp Atterbury, Indiana. The great relationship we have with the Washington Army National Guard provided our Citizen-Soldiers with a non-scheduled WOCS course and is one of the reasons we reached the ‘green’ status. The WOCs completed Phase 2 by attending drills from April through August at Camp Murray and a two-week Phase 3 in September at Camp Atterbury. Congratulations to Warrant Officer-1 Shawn Brooks (honor graduate and APFT excellence), Warrant Officer-1 Matthew Crawford (APFT excellence), Warrant Officer-1 Dave Darrow,

Warrant Officer-1 David Knuth and Warrant Officer-1 Randall Mayton.

The Land Component Command has elevated the priority of professional military education (PME) amongst the ranks, to include the warrant officers. I can remember a time when completing a PME came only through the completion of a correspondence course. Several times while attending college, I had to make a decision to work on the correspondence course or complete the assigned college classroom material. The option of attending the residency course during the summer months wasn't available. I'm proud to say that we now have the same equal opportunity as our active duty warrants in attending PME. This opportunity also comes with the individual's responsibility of scheduling their PME courses in advance. The goal is to have completed these required courses during their three year time in grade.

Several of our warrants attending their PME (Warrant Officer Senior Staff Education – WOSSE, Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education – WOILE) have brought great credit to our state. Chief Warrant Officer-4 Scott Brundidge (WOSSE honor graduate), Chief Warrant Officer-3 Devin Wickenhagen (WOILE distinguished honor graduate), Chief Warrant Officer-3 Mark Braeme (WOILE distinguished honor graduate) and Chief Warrant Officer-3 Pat Chertude (WOILE honor graduate). Our ability to have the opportunity to compete with other warrants across the nation has proven that we are as ever-prepared to perform and lead.

Currently, the accession process to become a warrant officer has taken an individual up to 18 months from predetermination to attending WOCS. This excessive length has lessened the

commander's ability to achieve the required personnel readiness level and the use of viable assets that only a warrant can bring. Beginning this fiscal year, a prototype of the Officer Candidate School accession model is being conducted for those who aspire to be a future warrant. The goal of the program is to decrease the processing time to a more reasonable length of five to six months.

This past year we have said our goodbyes to those who have served our corps, state and nation faithfully and with distinction: Chief Warrant Officer-3 Mark Allen (37 years), Chief Warrant Officer-3 Chyane Lemasters (26 years), and Chief Warrant Officer-2 Mark Peay (21 years). Sadly, we said our final goodbyes to Chief Warrant Officer-4 Dirk Kruysman and Chief Warrant Officer-4 Randy Witt.

As the New Year begins there is much hope and optimism to look forward to. There are several organizations whose mission is to support the Soldier and their families. This can be a great opportunity to rekindle old friendships, serve and support others. The Oregon National Guard Association (Chief Warrant Officer-3 Douglas Herinckx), Army Aviation of America Association (Chief Warrant Officer-5 Paul Zenchenko), and the Warrant Officer Association (Chief Warrant Officer-4 Robert Justice) are looking for individuals who would like to give back to the organizations that have supported them throughout their military career. If it is your desire to continue to serve in one or more capacity please consider one of these associations. If you're interested in seeing other acquaintances from years past, there will be an Oregon Guard retirement luncheon this coming April. Contact Mr. Lee Ashwill for the location, time and date.

COMMAND

# Oregon National Guard changes senior enlisted leader in official ceremony

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon**—Command Sgt. Maj. Seven Richmond officially took on duties as the Oregon National Guard’s command senior enlisted leader in a ceremony, October 1, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

The command senior enlisted leader (CSEL) represents and advocates for all enlisted members of the Oregon National Guard, both Army and Air, and reports directly to the adjutant general. The CSEL represents the highest level of enlisted leadership and is responsible for the welfare, readiness, morale, development and care concerning all enlisted personnel of the Oregon National Guard. The CSEL is charged with the leadership and mentorship for all noncommissioned officers (NCO) in the command, giving sound advice to commissioned officers in the command, and showing care and compassion for all Soldiers, Airman and their families. As the senior NCO of the Oregon National Guard, the CSEL also maintains the customs, traditions, and history of the organization.

Richmond was born in Toledo, Oregon, and joined the Oregon National Guard in 1998 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. He has multiple overseas deployments to include Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He has served in all enlisted infantry and scout infantry platoon positions. He served as the first sergeant for the 249th Regional Training Institute; the operations sergeant major at both brigade and state level; and as a command sergeant major at both battalion and brigade levels. His education and training includes the Air Assault Course, Airborne, Pathfinder, Ranger, Rappel Master, Digital Master Gunner, Battle Staff, among many other qualifications.

“His experience in infantry and engineer units and at the Regional Training Institute, to include brigade and staff level



Command Sgt. Maj. Seven Richmond receives a sword symbolizing his responsibility for the enlisted Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon National Guard as he assumes the role of command senior enlisted leader (CSEL) during a ceremony, Oct. 1, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

assignments, provides a great foundation to lead the Oregon National Guard enlisted service members,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Richmond takes over the position from Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake, who served in the position for four years, under two governors and three adjutants general. Lake helped oversee the Oregon Guard through deployments, state emergencies, expansion of the State Partnership Program, and many other organizational transformations.

“I want to extend my appreciation to Command Sgt. Maj. Lake for his time as the CSEL,” said Stencel. “His passion for our enlisted service members was evident every day. His initiatives always focused on improving the support and recognition of Soldiers and Airmen that do the day-to-day work of this great organization.”



Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Command Sgt. Maj. Seven Richmond (center); along with a crowd of Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, applaud Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (right) for his service as the command senior enlisted leader (CSEL) during a change of responsibility ceremony, Oct. 1, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. Lake served in the position for four years in which he was responsible for the welfare, readiness, morale, development, and care concerning all enlisted personnel of the Oregon National Guard. Richmond assumed the role of CSEL during the ceremony.

Stencel said Lake was an ambassador for the Oregon National Guard with the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C.; the Oregon National Guard’s partner countries, Bangladesh and Vietnam; as well as numerous community organizations and public events.

During the ceremony, the adjutant general passed the NCO sword from Lake to Richmond, symbolizing the relinquishing of responsibility and authority from the outgoing to the incoming command sergeant major. The war department adopted the NCO sword in 1840 and American sergeants wore it as a necessary weapon on the battlefield for more than seventy years. The sword is no longer worn by NCOs, but still held in the highest regard and used symbolically in the NCO change of responsibility ceremony. Command sergeants major may come and go, but the sword remains razor sharp.

Lake was recognized with gifts and tokens of appreciation for his service as the

CSEL. He spoke to the large gathering at the ceremony and received a standing ovation from the audience. He thanked Stencel and many others for their support throughout his career.

“Many of you will never know how you helped build who I am today,” he said. “Nothing we ever do is an individual achievement. For me it has been a collaboration of an amazing family, marrying the love of my life, learning each step of the way, and serving side by side with all of you.”

Richmond thanked Lake for his friendship and mentorship over the last 20 years, and said he will continue to work on Lake’s long-term vision for the NCO corps in the state.

“He’s leaving me with some very large shoes to fill,” said Richmond. “I promise I will never forget that there’s a Soldier or Airman at the end of every decision we make.”

# Colonel Pirak assumes command of the 142nd Fighter Wing

Story by Staff Sgt. Brandon Boyd  
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**PORTLAND, Oregon** — Colonel Duke A. Pirak assumed command of the 142nd Fighter Wing during a change of command ceremony held here Nov. 6.

Pirak assumed command from Col. Paul T. Fitzgerald who retired from the Oregon Air National Guard following the change of command ceremony today.

Major General Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General for the State of Oregon, was present to officiate the ceremony. Stencel praised Fitzgerald for his leadership qualities and willingness to serve.

“I can honestly say, I haven’t worked

with a more selfless leader,” said Stencel. “Whatever we have asked of him, whether stepping out of the cockpit, or taking a tour to the National Guard Bureau, he has willingly taken it on.”

As Stencel gave his remarks during the ceremony he brought up the readiness of Pirak to assume command.

“Colonel Pirak brings an enviable appreciation for the pulse of a fighter wing and its role in our Air Force,” said Stencel. “The Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing will be in great hands.”

As he relinquished command, Fitzgerald took a moment to highlight what the experience as commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing meant to him.

“Command of this wing, its many

operational missions, its legacy of excellence and its fantastic people, well, I’ll remember this for the rest of my life,” said Fitzgerald.

When the incoming commander, Pirak, was then given the opportunity to speak, he addressed the men and women of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

“It’s truly our collective leadership that will ensure the success of our mission,” said Pirak.

Pirak has served as the 154th Wing Vice commander and the 154th Operations Group commander, Hawaii Air National Guard, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. His most recent assignment was as Special Assistant to the commander, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

A previous member of the Oregon Air National Guard, Pirak addressed the audience and said “it’s good to be home.”



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Shelly Davison, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard members of the 142nd Fighter Wing are assembled prior to the start of the unit’s Change of Command ceremony held Nov. 6 at the Portland Air National Guard Base.



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

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver (left), Oregon Air National Guard commander, hands the 142nd Fighter Wing guidon to incoming commander Col. Duke A. Pirak (right) during the formal change of command ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Nov. 6.

## NEWS

# Oregon Soldier first American to receive British Churchill award

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

An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier is the first American recipient of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces Churchill Medal Award. Sgt. 1st Class William (Bill) Henderson, communications chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), received the award as a member of a joint, international communications team while deployed to Afghanistan from 2014-2015.

The British award is presented annually by the Joint Professional Engineering Institutions (a collection of the UK's leading engineering institutions) to individuals or small teams displaying outstanding achievement in engineering and technical advancement in support of military operations.

The U.K.-U.S. Royal Signals Infantry Team, that Henderson was part of, was announced as the 2014-2015 winners of the Churchill Medal during an awards ceremony at The Royal Society of Chemistry in London on November 12, 2015. Their efforts supported the Kabul Security Force – an element of Operation Resolute Support, which provides protection and movement control for more than 3,000 NATO forces in Kabul. The team was brought together to design, build and maintain a tactical communications infrastructure for the multinational force.

"We were tasked with making it possible for several different countries' units to be able to talk to each other over the radio and ensure that radio systems in vehicles had further range in the city of Kabul," said Henderson.

The other team members included Warrant Officer Class-2 Kearney, Staff Sgt. (Yeoman of Signals) Piff, and Sgt. Fothergill.

"These guys are good!" Henderson said about his team. "We figured a lot of it out just by trial and error. The guys I worked with and myself implemented multiple additions to the existing network using limited resources (some of which had to be fabricated) to enable multi-country communication in a place where just being



Photo courtesy 1-186th Infantry Battalion

Sgt. 1st Class William Henderson (center), communications chief with HHC, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is presented a certificate for the Armed Forces Churchill Medal Award by his battalion leadership during the 186th Infantry Regimental Ball, November 19, 2016, at Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville, Oregon. He is the first American recipient of the British award for his work as a member of the U.K.-U.S. Royal Signals Infantry Team that designed, built and maintained a multinational tactical communications infrastructure for the Kabul Security Force in support of Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan while deployed from 2014-2015.

able to reach somebody could be a life or death situation."

He also credits Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Andrew Reed, who was deployed at the same time with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st IBCT, for doing research that laid the groundwork for their team. However, Reed had to redeploy early back to the U.S. while the rest of the team continued the mission.

British Army Maj. Mark Barratt, with Headquarters 102nd Logistic Brigade, who commanded the U.S.-U.K. CJ6 branch of the Kabul Security Force in 2015, nominated the team for the award. He said their work was so impressive that they beat competition from 17 other teams from across the U.K. defense sector that were finalists in the running for the award.

"They worked tirelessly to plan, engineer and maintain interoperable networks that have directly strengthened the operation effectiveness, protection and safety of U.S., U.K. and NATO forces in the Afghan capital," the award ceremony pamphlet reads.

Mark Organ, head of membership for the

Institution of Engineering and Technology, said they received a record number of nominations for the year; so to win the award was a great achievement.

"I hope they will be inspirational role models to young people, highlighting the diverse and exciting range of engineering careers that the armed forces can offer," Organ stated in a press release.

Barratt said Henderson was a critical part of the four-man team, "He was excellent during the deployment and the team's successes would not have been possible without him. It was a pleasure and privilege to work with him."

Henderson was presented his certificate for the award, November 19, 2016, during the 186th Infantry Regimental Ball at the Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville, Oregon. The medal will be rotated around the team members' units.

Henderson said it feels "surreal" to be the first American to receive the Armed Forces Churchill Medal.

"I am very proud to have even been nominated," he said. "There is no way possible that I could have made it work without the rest of the team."

The award dates back to November 27, 1946, when British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave approval for the title of the medal. This followed the presentation of an Honorary Fellowship of the Society to Churchill by the president of the Society of Engineers. The first award was presented in 1952. Churchill, who expressed great enthusiasm for the award, reflected on the important contribution by engineers of all disciplines to the military during World War II. As a result of Churchill's recognition of the role of engineers in society, The Society of Engineers received continued support for the award by the Churchill family. The Churchill Medal was un-awarded for a number of years, but was re-instituted in 2011 at the request of the Churchill family. Given the background of the medal and its association with the military, it was deemed appropriate to associate the medal with the armed forces.

Previous winners of the award have included Sir Frank Whittle (the inventor of the jet engine), Sir Jeffrey De Havilland (World War I and World War II aircraft designer) and Sir Christopher Cockerell (the inventor of the hovercraft).



The Armed Forces Churchill Medal Award is presented annually by the Joint Professional Engineering Institutions (a collection of the United Kingdom's leading engineering institutions) to individuals or small teams displaying outstanding achievement in engineering and technical advancement in support of military operations.

## Soldiers share best practices at annual logistics workshop

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, Oregon Military  
Department Public Affairs

**WARRENTON, Oregon** – The Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG) Annual Logistician Workshop brought more than 100 of the state's logisticians together at Camp Rilea, near Warrenton, Oregon, for a week-long training event, Dec. 5-9, 2016.

Over the course of the week, Soldiers got to share best practices they have learned, network with fellow logisticians from across the state, and learn about new regulations and policies that will shape the future of how they work.

"This is a workshop that's based on training the supply sergeants and giving them the tools they need to be successful



Oregon Army National Guard logisticians attend class during the 2016 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 5-9, 2016, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The workshop enables logisticians from across Oregon to come together and share best practices and learn about new policies.

as far as supporting their units," said Col. Donald Rolph, director of Logistics (G4), the department that provides logistics support to the ORARNG.

Logisticians are the property managers of the Army, controlling different assets purchased by the Army or National Guard/Reserves and coordinating movements of those assets. Most Oregon Guard logisticians work alone, or with one or two other logisticians, as they are attached to other units while maintaining control of those unit's equipment. This workshop is an opportunity for the logisticians to learn the best ways to accomplish their mission, as well as share tips and tricks they've learned along the way.

"Every year you come to this conference and you get a checkup; I've got to do this or I've got to do that," said Staff Sgt. Jason Hamilton, supply sergeant with the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Hamilton has only been a logistician for about a year, but was able to share his unique expertise with fellow Soldiers at the workshop.

"I have experience ordering groceries for our cooks, which other units who have catered meals do not. So, I can walk them through that process," Hamilton said.

Master Sgt. Christian Watts, G4 operations noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) for ORARNG, said the biggest challenge is the manpower and the amount



Oregon Army National Guard logisticians attend class during the 2016 Annual Logistics Workshop, Dec. 5-9, 2016, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The workshop enables logisticians from across Oregon to come together and share best practices and learn about new policies.

of time and effort it takes to make material accountability and supply logistics happen.

"We brainstorm, share ideas. We find out what works for this guy that maybe that guy hadn't thought of, and form friendships or relationships so that we can all help each other out," said Watts.

Ultimately, this workshop ensures that Oregon logisticians, like Hamilton, are on the same page and are able to accomplish the logistician mission.

"You come to these things and you learn that you've got a lot of work to do," said Hamilton.

Rolph said that the workshop has also opened a lane of communication for the Soldiers to address issues with senior leadership at the state level. He said that

open communication channel provides valuable feedback from the field units across the state.

"The biggest challenge that we have right now is the overloading of the supply sergeants with taskings and additional duties," said Rolph. "They're able to say, hey, can you take this back for us to the state and let the command know that these are the difficulties and problems that you can help us resolve."

Col. William Schutz, the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for the ORARNG, supported Rolph's view of the workshop, "We get our supply sergeants to speak to the leadership about what the issues are down at the unit level. We can address that here, it's a great forum for that."

NEWS

1-168th Aviation honored upon return from Middle East mission

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, were honored in a demobilization ceremony, October 22, at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF #2) in Pendleton, Oregon. The unit recently returned from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Approximately 60 Oregon Soldiers deployed alongside Washington and California Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), 40th Combat Aviation Brigade. The company is comprised of Soldiers from several detachments of the 1-168th GSAB, including Detachment 2, Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Detachment 1, Bravo Company; Detachment 2, Delta Company; and Detachment 2, Echo Company.



U.S. Representative Greg Walden (OR-District 2) welcomes home Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, during their demobilization ceremony, October 22, in Pendleton, Oregon.

The unit performed heavy helicopter airlift operations, transporting personnel and equipment using CH-47F Chinook helicopters throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations. They flew thousands of hours, performing resupply and passenger movement that supported every branch of the U.S. military in the Arabian Gulf region over the last eight months. Collectively, the unit transported more than 10,000 personnel and 1.1 million pounds of cargo. They performed missions such as insertions, extractions, sling-loads, helocasts, parachute drops, and conducted deck landings on U.S. Navy ships in the Arabian Gulf.

“Every CH-47F pilot became deck-landing qualified, which will absolutely have a positive effect on the stateside mission in the event of a catastrophic



Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, welcomes home Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, during their demobilization ceremony, October 22, in Pendleton, Oregon.

event, such as a Cascadia earthquake where hospital ships could be sailed off-shore,” said Lt. Col. Alan Gronewold, battalion commander of 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment. “Our Soldiers conducted resupply and passenger movements that were vital to the U.S. mission overseas, keeping Soldiers all over the country equipped and ready.”

These aviation missions wouldn’t have been possible without the work of maintenance and ground support. The skilled maintainers from Oregon were able to increase the aviation maintenance capability in theater by over 33 percent. In addition, ground support personnel maintained wheeled vehicles, power generation equipment, fuel distribution systems, and assisted with providing security for their area of operations.

“Our maintainers were instrumental in ensuring quick turnaround on routine maintenance, allowing our helicopters to be available any time of day or night,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Shaver, the unit’s readiness noncommissioned officer.

The unit flew CH-47F Chinook helicopters that were already located in theater, while the Oregon Army National Guard is concurrently transitioning to the new F-model Chinooks here in Oregon. The F-models include new, updated electronics and cargo loading systems. The demobilization ceremony also marked the rollout of new F-model Chinooks for the Pendleton-based unit.

In attendance at the ceremony to welcome the unit home were Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, on behalf of Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Representative Greg Walden (OR-District 2); Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk; and Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, among many others.



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Matthew Fairbank, with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, holds his one-year-old son, Anson, following his demobilization ceremony, October 22, in Pendleton, Oregon.



Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins returns a framed guidon to Oregon Army National Guard Capt. William Liebhaber, detachment commander with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation, to welcome the unit home from deployment during a demobilization ceremony, October 22, in Pendleton, Oregon. The guidon flag was displayed in the Oregon State Capitol while the unit was deployed in the Middle East as a reminder that Oregonians were serving overseas.

“From a command perspective, it is easy to view deployments as a series of accomplishments and missions, but each of these men and women have added a new chapter to this community and their lives, filling it with their own personal experiences that together make up the story of their deployment,” said Stencel. “This community, and this battalion, continues to contribute to the defense of this nation, with our Oregon Guard Soldiers writing themselves into the history books once

again.” Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins expressed gratitude for their service and sacrifice as she addressed the Soldiers and their families on behalf of the governor and citizens of Oregon.

“You exemplify the best of our Citizen-Soldiers who work in our communities, who go to school, who raise families, but who never hesitate to put on the uniform when duty calls,” she said. “Simply put, you are Oregon’s finest.”

Soldier awarded by NGAUS for heroism



Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Jonathan M. Sweeney, with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, receives the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) President, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Sept. 12, 2016, in Baltimore, Maryland. Sweeney was recognized for his efforts in thwarting a child kidnapping and subduing the suspect until law enforcement officials arrived on the scene in downtown Portland, Oregon, last winter.

Oregon Service Member Relief Fund provides emergency financial assistance

SALEM, Oregon - The new Oregon Service Member Relief Fund (OSMRF) is a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) IRS Code to receive contributions and provide financial assistance to active members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, their dependents, and honorably discharged Veterans. The new OSMRF is independently operated by a board of directors comprised of retired members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard. The OSMRF was established to replace the Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund.

Funds may be distributed to qualified applicants based on short-term emergency or urgent need for financial assistance by loan or grant. Loans may be available when the applicant has the means and it is appropriate to repay the loan. Grants may be appropriate when requested if repayment would be difficult or inappropriate. Funds are not

sent directly to the applicant, but only to creditors.

Local unit commanders, noncommissioned officer support channels, and Family Assistance Specialists (FAS) are best able to evaluate a service member’s eligibility and genuine need for financial assistance. The unit leadership and/or FAS should advise and assist applicants requesting financial help. Application recommendations will be forwarded through the State Family Program Coordinator to the OSMRF.

The application process can be started by acquiring forms and information from the Service Member and Family Support (SMFS) website at [www.oregonbtyr.org](http://www.oregonbtyr.org), select the “Resources” tab, then select OSMRF Relief Fund link. Applications and donations can be sent to the Retirement Services Office, Anderson Readiness Center, ATTN: OSMRF, Room 243, 3225 State Street, Salem, OR 97309.

NEWS

Oregon Army National Guard medevac helicopter unit restructures under new name

Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** – The Oregon Army National Guard’s medical evacuation helicopter unit, well-known for assisting with mountain rescues, underwent a name change due to the restructuring of the Army National Guard. The unit, formerly known as Company C (Charlie), 7-158th Aviation Regiment, was deactivated during a ceremony, August 7, at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF #1) in Salem, Oregon.

The unit was renamed Company G (Golf) 1-189th Aviation Regiment. The unit conducts medical evacuations (medevac), search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression operations utilizing HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

“This change is a very positive thing for us,” said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Brady Phillips, commander of the new Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation Regiment. “It increases our unit’s force structure [personnel manning] for enlisted Soldiers, allowing us to promote more people and get more flight medics qualified as nationally registered paramedics.”

While their mission remains the same, the unit is a new company structured under the Montana Army National Guard’s 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment. Although the battalion is headquartered in Helena, Montana, the medevac company will remain stationed in Salem, Oregon, as part of the Oregon Army National Guard and will continue to support civil authorities throughout the State of Oregon as needed.

The unit received new colors, known as a guidon flag, during the ceremony to symbolize the activation of Company G



Maj. Brady Phillips (left), company commander, and 1st Sgt. Patrick Casha, company senior enlisted leader, unroll their unit’s new guidon flag, symbolizing the activation of Company G (Golf) 1-189th Aviation, Oregon Army National Guard, during a ceremony, August 7, at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF #1) in Salem, Oregon. The unit, formerly known as Company C (Charlie), 7-158th Aviation, underwent a name change due to the restructuring of the Army National Guard. The unit conducts medical evacuations, search and rescues, as well as wildland fire suppression operations utilizing HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

(Golf) 1-189th Aviation Regiment. Armies have followed their unit flags into combat since ancient times when they were used to direct Soldiers, foster esprit de corps and provide a rallying point in the confusion of battle. Flags still represent the soul of a military unit as a reminder of their deeds, glory and valor throughout history.

When a unit undergoes a permanent change of station, deployment, redeployment or deactivation, the guidon flag is furled and placed inside a

canvas case to signify that the command has completed its mission and ceased operations at that location. The guidon flag representing Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, was rolled and cased during the ceremony, symbolizing the deactivation of the former unit.

The history of Charlie Company, 7-158th Aviation, dates back to 1996, when it was originally formed as the 1042nd Medical Company Air Ambulance. The unit first deployed to Bosnia and then twice to

the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2007, the 1042nd Medical Company was reflagged and structured under the U.S. Army Reserve’s 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, headquartered at Fort Hood, Texas. The unit deployed three times under the 7-158th Aviation flag; to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn, and to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

1249th Engineer units change names as part of Army transformation



**Above:** Capt. Shane Maher (right) and 1st Sgt. Ryan Sisley (center) unveil the new unit flag during a ceremony renaming the 162nd Engineer Company as Bravo Company, 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion, at the Nesmith Readiness Center in Dallas, Oregon, May 15, 2016. The unit was renamed as part of the ongoing U.S. Army transformation and reorganization process.

**Right:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 162nd Engineer Company replace their shoulder sleeve insignia patches during a ceremony marking the renaming of their unit to Bravo Company, 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

(Photos by Staff Sgt. Paul Rushing, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



**Above:** 1st Lt. Mike Metzger (right) and 1st Sgt. Andrew McGillivray unveil the new unit flag during a ceremony renaming the 234th Engineer Company as the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, May 14, 2016. The unit was renamed as part of the ongoing U.S. Army transformation and reorganization process.

**Below:** Soldiers from the 234th Engineer Company stand in formation during the reflagging ceremony renaming their unit as the 442nd Engineer Utility Detachment.

(Photos by Master Sgt. Tom Hovie, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



NEWS

1-82nd Cavalry Squadron transfers to Washington Guard Stryker brigade

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** – The Oregon Army National Guard’s 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, officially restructured in a ceremony, October 16, at the Armed Forces Readiness Center in Bend, Oregon. The squadron transferred from command under the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Oregon Army National Guard, to the Washington Army National Guard’s 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), headquartered in Seattle.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron was a reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) unit subordinate to the 41st IBCT. The unit transferred as part of the transition to convert Washington’s 81st, formerly an armor brigade, into a Stryker brigade, due to the restructuring of the Army. The 41st IBCT gained Washington’s 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment, as a subordinate unit and the 81st SBCT gained Oregon’s 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron as part of the transformation.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron consists of Oregon Army National Guard units from Bend, Lebanon, Prineville, Redmond, and

The Dalles, Oregon. Although the squadron is now structured under Washington’s 81st SBCT, it will remain in Oregon as part of the Oregon Army National Guard with operational control under the 82nd Brigade Troop Command, headquartered in Clackamas, Oregon.

The unit’s combat role will remain reconnaissance, however the restructuring adds new troop positions to the squadron’s rosters and replaces many of their Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) with Stryker Armored Combat Vehicles. Stryker vehicles could increase domestic response in Oregon as rapidly deployable communication; search and rescue; evacuation and even medical vehicles during disaster relief.

The Stryker is a family of eight-wheel drive armored vehicles designed to maneuver more easily in close and urban terrain while still providing protection in the open. Stryker vehicles are highly mobile, known for both their off-road capability and navigating in urban areas. They come in different variants from troop carriers, to mobile command and control vehicles, to reconnaissance vehicles or even ambulances.

“I want to emphasize that you are still cavalrymen and women, so reconnaissance remains core to your mission and with this change to the Stryker platform it is not a replacement, but an addition to your capabilities – capabilities that are important to the Oregon National Guard and to the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team,” Brig. Gen. William Edwards, commander of the Oregon Army National Guard, told the squadron.

Soldiers in the 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron were required to change the shoulder sleeve insignia (or unit patch) worn on their uniforms as the unit transitioned under



Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Zacher (left) and Lt. Col. John Qualls (center), receive the 2nd Infantry Division (ID) shoulder sleeve insignia from Washington Army National Guard Col. Bryan Grenon (far right), commander of the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), and Oregon Army National Guard Col. Gregory Day, commander of the 82nd Brigade Troop Command, during a patching ceremony, Oct. 16, in Bend, Oregon. The ceremony marked the squadron’s transfer under the 81st Brigade’s structure, as well as the 81st SBCT partnership with 2nd ID as part of the “Associated Unit Pilot” program for the Army’s Total Force Policy initiative.

the 81st SBCT hierarchy. Washington Army National Guard Col. Bryan Grenon, commander of the 81st SBCT, and Oregon Army National Guard Col. Gregory Day, commander of the 82nd Brigade Troop Command, led the squadron in changing their shoulder sleeve insignia to the new unit patch during the ceremony.

“This transition is not and will not be easy, but the opportunities and the great challenges that come with the transition will make us a stronger brigade,” said Grenon. “Once we finish this endeavor, with Strykers in hand and new equipment training complete, your unit, as part of the brigade, will become one of only nine Stryker brigades in the Army. We will become a key strategic enabler for the operational Army.”

Soldiers assigned to the 81st SBCT are now authorized to wear the 2nd Infantry Division (ID) shoulder sleeve insignia as one of only three National Guard brigades to participate in the Army’s Total Force Policy “Associated Unit Pilot” program, partnering active duty and National Guard units. The partnership provides more resources for

equipment and training.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron was the first unit in the 81st Brigade to conduct the re-patching ceremony. The cavalry troops removed their 41st IBCT “sunset” patch during the ceremony and replaced it with 2nd ID’s shoulder sleeve insignia. The unit is now officially designated as 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

“It was decided at the highest levels of the Army to improve the Total Force Policy, basically how the Guard and the active Army fit together,” said Edwards. “Our partnership [with Washington and 2nd ID], signified by the patch these Soldiers now wear, will enable us to continue to improve the capabilities we provide to our states and the opportunities available to our Soldiers, all while we provide for the defense and security of our citizens. So as you wear your new patch, I want you to think about the partnership it represents and the capabilities and opportunities that this partnership brings.”



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, remove their 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team shoulder sleeve insignia and replace it with the 2nd Infantry Division patch during a ceremony, Oct. 16, in Bend, Oregon. The patching ceremony marked the unit’s transfer to the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team due to the restructuring of the Army National Guard. The squadron will remain part of the Oregon Army National Guard and retain its reconnaissance mission while gaining new Stryker equipment.

“Team of teams” uncases new colors for 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade  
Combat Team Public Affairs

**CLACKAMAS, Oregon** - The Oregon National Guard’s historic 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is getting a new look as it restructures to best meet the needs of the Army and Army National Guard. One of those key modifications was made official during a ceremony for the battalion that calls itself the teams of teams.

The new 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, formerly known as the 41st Special Troops Battalion, uncased its new colors, Sept. 11, 2016, on the 15th anniversary of 9/11. The ceremony took time to recognize those who lost their lives during 9/11 and highlighted the Oregon National Guard’s commitment to adapting and ensuring it has the best possible capabilities.

“What this means to me is capabilities, creating and establishing new capabilities; not only for the 41st Brigade Combat Team but also for the State of Oregon should the need arise to respond to a domestic disaster,” said Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander, Oregon Army National Guard.

The new 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brian Riese, said that while the move will provide expanded capabilities for the battalion, that it is the diverse skills of the Soldiers in his battalion that make it unique and effective. He said it is because of the many diverse

skill sets that the battalion calls itself the “team of teams.”

“In this team of teams, environment, understanding and fostering relationships is a core competency in the battalion,” Riese said. “From the contributions of our network signal support Soldiers to our smallest human collection teams, CBRNE, recon, or even one MI [military intelligence] analyst matters, and it must be harnessed along with our other engineer capabilities.”

The battalion executive officer, Maj. Vincent Habeck, mentioned that the reorganization will greatly increase what they can provide other units in the brigade by expanding engineering capabilities in addition to the combat support the battalion has always provided.

“All of these Soldiers are technical and tactical experts in their field,” said Habeck. “The ‘team of teams’ motto is really true, there are some outstanding Soldiers in this battalion.”

**Above Right:** Lt. Col. Chris Riese (right), 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion commander, unrolls the new battalion flag during a reorganization ceremony that changed the 141st Brigade Support Battalion into an engineer battalion for the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Sept. 11, 2016. The change is part of the restructuring of the Army National Guard.

**Below Right:** Soldiers of the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, present their new battalion flag during a ceremony, which changed the unit from a special troops battalion to an engineer battalion, Sept. 11, 2016.



FEATURES

# Oregon National Guard participates in Veterans Day celebrations across the state



**Above:** Students in the Oregon National Guard's Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) march during the 17th annual Bend Veterans Day Parade, through downtown Bend, Oregon, on November 11, 2016. More than 120 organizations participated in the parade, including the local Oregon Army National Guard unit, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Left:** An Oregon National Guard service member with the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) greets spectators along the parade route during the annual Albany Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2016, in Albany, Oregon. The CST assists civil authorities with responding to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced Conventional Weapons threats. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Below:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 234th Army Band perform in the annual Albany Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2016, in Albany, Oregon. The event was recognized as the largest Veterans Day parade in the nation this year. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



**Above:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, wave to the crowd during the 17th annual Bend Veterans Day Parade in Bend, Oregon, November 11, 2016. The squadron recently started the process of transitioning to Stryker vehicles, a new capability for the Oregon National Guard which will benefit the state in the event of a disaster situation. More than 120 organizations participated in the parade, including students from the Oregon National Guard's Youth Challenge program. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Left:** Sgt. 1st Class (ret.) Michael Dahl receives the Bronze Eagle Award presented by Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard, and Lt. Col. Alisha Hamel, the U.S. Army Museum Support Center Chief, during the rededication ceremony of the Larry Dahl Memorial in Oregon City, November 9, 2016. Michael's father, Larry Dahl of Oregon City, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice in Vietnam. Larry was killed in action on Feb. 23, 1971, sacrificing his life by throwing his body on a grenade that had been lobbed into the gun truck he was riding in. His action saved the lives of other members of his company. Michael accepted the award on behalf of his late father. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Below Left:** Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, perform a Howitzer salute during the annual Veterans Memorial Service, November 11, 2016, at Timber Linn Memorial Park in Albany, Oregon. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

**Below Center:** Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (right), Adjutant General, Oregon, and Brig. Gen. William Edwards (left), Oregon Army National Guard Commander, observe the annual Albany Veterans Day Parade from the reviewing stand, November 11, 2016, in Albany, Oregon. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Fighter Wing pilots participate in Sentry Aloha exercise in Hawaii

Story and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson,  
142nd FW Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii** - Hawaii, is known for its prime vacation destination, known for the amazing ocean views and the sweet smell of flowers. It's also a great location for military training. Sentry Aloha is an exercise that provides the opportunity for numerous pilots from a variety of aircraft, to train together in a large exercise with vast air space and little travel time.

"Sentry Aloha is a National Guard Bureau funded exercise, designed to increase combat readiness," said Major Ryan "Jipsy" Itoman, 199th Fighter Squadron pilot, Hawaii Air National Guard, and the officer in charge of Sentry Aloha.



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing participate in a Sentry Aloha exercise August 16, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Sentry Aloha is a training exercise hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard to train pilots on combat tactics.

This exercise is comprised of a variety of aircraft, which includes the F-16 Falcon from Texas; F-15 Eagle from Oregon, Japan, and Mississippi; KC-135 Stratotankers from Ohio and Utah; and C-130 Hercules from Georgia and Kentucky. The Hawaii Air National Guard featured the F-22 Raptors and the KC-135s.

"It's an educational experience for visiting pilots," said Itoman. "The focus for Sentry Aloha is the Pacific Command's area of responsibility. We have the largest surface to air space and the air space is vast."

Itoman went on to state the uniqueness of this exercise because of their ability to



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing participate in a Sentry Aloha exercise August 16, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Sentry Aloha is a training exercise hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard to train pilots on combat tactics.

tailor the mission and limiting the amount of participants.

"We limit the amount of participants so that units can fly the way they want, as opposed to other exercises where they have more restrictions, and everyone likes to deploy to Hawaii," he said.

The military provides numerous exercises throughout the year, such as Red Flag in Las Vegas, and Sentry Savannah in Georgia. These exercises provide pilots with training on various missions and tactical maneuvers.

"This exercise is a local exercise to Portland to practice fighter integration and offensive/defensive fighter air scenarios," said Major Jared "Dirty" Aranda, 142nd Fighter Wing pilot, Oregon Air National Guard, and weapons officer. "In Portland, we're limited to the kind of fighting we can do."

In a wartime situation, pilots would use defensive-air tactics to protect a target, and offensive-air tactics going out to strike a target.

"We don't have enough airplanes to practice defensive air tactics," said Aranda. "We practice air-to-air at home because that's all that we are capable of performing, so that's why we come out to Sentry Aloha. It's just easier to practice our offensive/defensive air tactics, instead of just tactical intercepts at home."

The benefit of coming to Sentry Aloha is the amount of ramp space and the location of the large air space is closer to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). In that



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing participate in a Sentry Aloha exercise August 16, 2016, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Sentry Aloha is a training exercise hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard to train pilots on combat tactics.

case, it provides the opportunity to have more time to practice fighting tactics and have more use with tanker refueling.

JBPHH is also better equipped to hold more airplanes on the ramp to enhance the exercise scenario. At the Portland Air National Guard Base, there is simply not enough ramp space for Portland's F-15s and plus other aircraft.

"This is the kind of training we just can't get at home, we couldn't house as many people in Portland," said Aranda. "The



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing participate in a Sentry Aloha exercise August 16, 2016 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Sentry Aloha is a training exercise hosted by the Hawaiian Air National Guard base to train pilots on combat tactics.

infrastructure here [Hawaii], is just better for us. These new facilities are world class. We have more secure facilities to house space for everyone to brief and debrief. The Total Force Integration, between active duty and the Guard, allows them more space and infrastructure."

This is the fourth time the Oregon ANG has participated in Sentry Aloha. The participation rate has been higher, because of the training opportunities and location.

"I think the biggest thing about Sentry Aloha is they do a great job of allowing individual units to tailor the training," said Aranda. "When you go to Red Flag, it's such a huge exercise that they already have it set up a certain way. You can't tailor the missions."

The training missions are already built in for exercises like Red Flag and Sentry Savannah. At Sentry Aloha, the missions can be tailored towards the learning objectives and requirements for each specific squadron, and each unit is in charge of their own mission, which makes Sentry Aloha a valuable exercise.

"I think we will continue to come to this exercise," said Aranda. "It makes us significantly more survivable, and it is excellent training."

173rd FW flies first combat injured veteran to summit Mt. Everest



U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. (ret.) Charlie Linville is fitted with a helmet by Staff Sgt. Thomas Howard, 173rd Fighter Wing Aircrew Flight Equipment, in preparation for an F-15 familiarization flight, Nov. 14, 2016, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Linville suffered an IED blast in Afghanistan in 2011 and subsequently lost his leg below the right knee. Despite his injuries, he went on to become the first combat amputee to summit Mt. Everest, the world's tallest mountain, in May. He visited the 173rd Fighter Wing to speak to Airmen about his experiences both good and bad during his recovery.

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - The 173rd Fighter Wing hosted the first combat injured veteran to summit Mt. Everest, Nov. 14, 2016.

Marine Staff Sgt. Charlie Linville, who is medically retired, climbed to the top of the

world's highest mountain in May, despite having lost his lower right leg to an IED while stationed in Afghanistan in 2011.

His visit included a briefing for the Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing where he described both his injury and eventual recovery.

Following his briefing Linville donned a flight suit and climbed into the back seat of an F-15 Eagle in what would be another first for him.

"Wow, I got more than I'd hoped for," he said. "Experiencing the Gs, the speed, and the capability of the F-15 was a great experience--I mean holy America!"

Those capabilities made a lasting impression on the

Marine.

"I've put my body through some hard times, but nothing like nine Gs," he said. "I went wheezy real quick...I have the utmost respect for the guys who fly these and protect us from above."

Linville was in town to speak at a local Marine Corps Ball, Nov. 10 and an instructor pilot with the 173rd Fighter Wing thought it would be good for Airmen to hear a message of resiliency.



After surviving an IED blast in Afghanistan, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Charlie Linville, who was suffered an amputation, PTSD and a lower spine injury, sits aboard an F-15 Eagle at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, waiting to take-off, Nov. 14, 2016. Among his achievements following his recovery, Linville is the first combat injured veteran to summit Mt. Everest in May, the world's highest mountain peak.

"I felt that our Wing needed to hear his story," said Maj. William Sullivan, an F-15 Instructor Pilot for Det. 2, 56th Operations Group at Kingsley Field. "As a training base most of us are not exposed to what can happen in war. We do not see what happens first-hand so the next best thing would be to hear from someone that has been through it and overcome its aftermath."

Sullivan was also the driving force in helping Linville return to 30-thousand feet.

"I felt he deserved an F-15 ride for all that he has done for his country and for showing others that they can dig themselves out of a hole, so I put the paperwork together to get him a ride," he said. "He did great. He was surprised by the G's and loved every minute of it. His stomach got the best of him on final when we came in to land."

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Fighter Wing participates in Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017

Story and photos by  
Senior Master Sgt. Shelly Davison,  
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories** - Touching down in a C-5 Galaxy loaded with people and cargo, members of the 142nd Fighter Wing arrived in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to snow, bitter temperatures and a warm welcome, to participate in Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, October 17-21.

The Vigilant Shield 2017 Field Training Exercise is an annual exercise sponsored by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and led by Alaskan NORAD Region, in conjunction with Canadian NORAD Region and Continental NORAD Region, who undertake field training exercises aimed at improving operational capability in a bi-national environment.

Bringing approximately 65 members, four F-15 Eagles and 119,450 pounds of equipment to the Northwest Territories, the 142nd Fighter Wing was greeted by a host of support from the Canadian Mission Support Element as well as multiple U.S.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Campbell, 142nd Maintenance Squadron, performs jet engine oil sample testing during the unit's participation in Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Oct. 19, 2016.



Maj. Nathan Rice, 123rd Fighter Squadron, is greeted as he returns from his mission in support of Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Oct. 20, 2016. During this exercise, forces supporting North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) deploy and conduct air sovereignty operations in the far north and the high Arctic, demonstrating the ability to detect, identify and meet possible threats in some of the most remote regions in the world.

military forces at Yellowknife, making it truly a joint exercise.

This year's exercise built on previous years' training successes when deploying air assets and personnel to the far north to exercise sovereignty operations in North America's northern aerospace and in the high Arctic. Vigilant Shield provides crucial training opportunities for numerous military personnel with a variety of aircraft and assets from Canada and the United States to improve interoperability and to demonstrate NORAD's ability to defend North America.

The exercise provided the opportunity not only to deploy troops, jets and equipment to a forward location, but also to operate in a climate much different than the 142nd Fighter Wing's home of Portland, Oregon.

F-15 Eagle pilot Capt. James Hastings, 123rd Fighter Squadron, said the weather in the Northwest Territories provided a chance to work through "new aspects of mission planning and execution that doesn't happen



**Above:** An F-15 Eagle assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing takes flight in support of Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Oct. 20, 2016.

**Below:** Members of 142nd Maintenance Group check the taxiway for debris, in preparation for the return of the F-15 Eagles supporting Exercise Vigilant Shield 2017, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Oct. 20, 2016.



at home."

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Conner, 142nd Maintenance Group and Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the 142nd Vigilant Shield deployment, said participating in Vigilant Shield "helps us exercise the machine, moving all of our equipment and people into another location and ensuring that we are capable of operating."

The men and women of the 142nd Fighter Wing wrapped up their portion of Vigilant Shield with the successful launch of their homeward bound F-15 Eagles. For Master

Sgt. Joshua Combs, 142nd Maintenance Group, it was his first deployment as a first sergeant, where he was able to truly see the valuable and concrete training this exercise provided.

"The highlight of the trip was seeing the jets take off, being able to move all of the equipment and all of the personnel, get set up, get the aircraft here and seeing our maintainers happy, and looking forward to doing what they were trained to do," said Combs. "I have to say that I am spoiled on this trip, it has been absolutely perfect."

173rd Fighter Wing conducts historic aircraft transfer to Israel

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

**REHOVOT, Israel** – Eight F-15s from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, touched down at Tel Nof Israeli air base in Rehovot, Israel, in the first-ever active ramp-to-ramp transfer of aircraft September 15, 2016.

This event was the result of approximately two years of concept development, planning and execution by Oregon Airmen from Kingsley Field, Department of Defense officials, Foreign Military Sales (FMS), the Israeli air force, and many more.

"Two years ago, several of our jets were scheduled for retirement and they were going to be taken to the bone yard; one of the options that came up was FMS," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Thomas, the detachment commander for the deployment.

While the U.S. Air Force has transferred decommissioned aircraft to other countries in the past, this transaction was a first of its kind. These transfers are typically done once the aircraft are already sent to Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, otherwise known as the boneyard, in Tucson, Arizona.

"This is the first time taking actual aircraft that were on the line flying one day, and then literally turning around and taking them to another country the next," said Thomas.

A direct transfer of aircraft in this way would mean significant cost savings for the United States according to Maj. Michael Kuehni, the project officer for this deployment.

Because this event was without precedent, making the transfer happen proved challenging as the Kingsley team

built an execution plan from scratch.

"It was a complex process that required the coordination of multiple agencies and near constant changes and updates," said Master Sgt. Michael Shirar, the personnel coordinator for the deployment. "At several points in the planning process it was thought that mission was going to be a no-go. But the no-fail attitudes of everyone involved brought all the moving parts together in standard Kingsley fashion."

However, the biggest challenge came when it was actually time to execute the transfer.

"Most of our challenges actually came from the time of year that we ended up having to make our deployment," said Thomas. "Doing it in the last month of the fiscal year poses some serious challenges as far as availability of other assets, and that is where the Kingsley team really shone."

Kingsley Field could only continue to fly and maintain the eight jets slated for transfer until the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30. That deadline loomed over the project, threatening to stall the transfer permanently.

With little time to spare, the paperwork for the transfer was approved, which required a last-minute scramble for the needed airlift and support to ferry the eight fighters halfway around the planet. Several plans looked promising, only to be dashed as units had their aircraft tasked for other contingencies. The transfer looked increasingly unlikely, but with only a few weeks left, Kingsley Airman made a last push to line up air support and a date was set.

"We end up leaving on Sunday, and we have to get the jets there by late Thursday ... in respect to religious holidays and some other things that were other defining



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing

Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing pose for a group photo in front of the F-15 Eagles they delivered at Tel Nof air base in Rehovot, Israel. After two years of planning and final execution, the wing participated in a historic active ramp-to-ramp transfer of aircraft.

factors on the timeline," said Thomas.

The jets made two stops along the way for crew rest and maintenance – one at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts, and then Royal Air Force Lakenheath in England. The short timeline meant these stops were brief, and left little leeway for any maintenance issues.

"A call out to our maintainers for what they did ... they managed to get eight code-one jets down on-time in Israel," said Thomas, pointing out how challenging that accomplishment really was.

"It was amazing to see eight F-15s, two KC-10s, and a C-17 go across the globe without any maintenance problems," said Kuehni. "In my 12-13 years of flying F-15s, I have never seen that happen before. It's a huge testament to the power of prayer, our maintainers and Air Force being able

to pull that off!"

Once the jets were on the ramp at Tel Nof air base, Kingsley maintainers quickly went to work to transfer the aircraft over to the Israeli air force personnel, who will now take the aircraft and start the process of converting it into the F-15I, which they refer to as "The Baz."

"I thought the most interesting thing was interacting with the Israelis, especially the F-15 community there," said Kuehni. "They are Eagle drivers just like us! I took a lot of pride of being able to meet them and help them out."

Thomas added, "It really showed a capability the F-15 has that we haven't demonstrated in a while because we haven't needed to. But being able to work as a team and get everything there was one of the learning factors from our side."

FEATURES

Oregon Soldiers test their limits at annual Best Warrior competition

Story and photos by  
Capt. Leslie M. Reed, Oregon Military  
Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** - More than twenty competitors began the Oregon National Guard's 2016 Best Warrior Competition, but only two finished on top as the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year. This year, it was southern Oregon's infantrymen from 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who walked away from the annual competition with some serious bragging rights.

The three grueling days of competition, August 18-20, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon, included traditional events like the obstacle course, weapons qualification and other Soldiering tasks. However, the competitors were also faced with some non-traditional events such as, "Pandora's Box" in which three separate weapons systems were disassembled and mixed together and Soldiers were expected to reassemble them blindfolded as much as they could within 10-minutes. Then there was the "Omaha Beach" event where Soldiers entered the Pacific Ocean wearing full battle-rattle and ran from the water to the beach, up the steep sand dunes while carrying heavy ammunition boxes to simulate resupply during the infamous World War II infiltration mission.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash, platoon sergeant with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1-186th Infantry Battalion, remembers the run that kicked-off the competition as being both the most difficult, yet the one he felt most confident about.

"I've done quite a bit of running. I used to run cross-country when I was younger," he said. "I can pace myself fairly well. Not a problem. I started off ... mile-two, good, mile-three, mile-four. Burgers for dinner before starting that run, probably not the greatest idea. Changing surfaces from paved to gravel; the running shoes that I had only broke in about a month ago; I developed a pretty good blister on the ball of my foot and had to finish it out with it. That 8.5-mile run, right off the bat, was a challenge that set the pace for the whole thing."

Ash said preparation, practice and continual self-improvement are the key.

"Find someone who is good at those types of skills and work with them," he said. "Find the subject matter expert. They exist everywhere. Its not just infantry; its not just combat arms. There are people that have a passion for shooting or for long distance running or for hiking, backpacking. Find out who those people are and start training with them."

The advice Ash gives is exactly what Spc. Emily Searles, a 36-Bravo, finance technician with Joint Force Headquarters, did to prepare for the competition. She spent some of her annual training time studying.

"I had a couple of months' notice, so I was a little nervous," she said. "I worked out a lot more. I studied a lot for the boards. The only infantry experience I've had was in basic training, so I had to look up all that



Oregon Army National Guard Pvt. Jacob Fay, with the 82nd Tactical Support Detachment, 82nd Brigade Troop Command, pulls himself under the last wire of the high-crawl portion of the obstacle course at Camp Rilea, August 19, in Warrenton, Oregon. Soldiers competed in Oregon's Best Warrior Competition to earn a spot as the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and continue on to represent Oregon in the Northwest Regional Best Warrior Competition scheduled for May 2017.

stuff and take apart a lot of weapons that I had never taken apart before, so it was lots of fun."

Searles said her unit didn't have some of the larger weapon systems, like the M240 and the M249, so she had to check those out from another unit.

"We only had an M4 and M9 to really practice on, so that made things a little bit more difficult," she said.

Searles felt confident on the written essay portion that the Soldiers were given late in the evening on the first day of the competition. One of the essay questions was, "if someone was asking you about wanting to join the National Guard, what would you tell them?"

"My answer is that it helps you grow as a person, you learn a lot about yourself," she said.

Searles joined the Guard when she was 17-years-old. She said going to basic training in between her junior and senior year made her realize she had grown up a little more than her peers when she came back.

"The military has taught me a lot, even in this competition," she said. "This is probably the most challenging thing I've ever done in my entire life. The military pushes you to learn more about yourself, to see what you can do. If I wasn't in the military, I would think 'I could never do that' and here I am doing it!"

Spc. Mitchell Sierra, with Company A, 1-186th Infantry Battalion, took home the "Soldier of the Year" title. He said, "When it comes down to it, it really depends on the individual; what you do when you're not training, when you're not at drill weekend."



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Dennis Cline, with Detachment 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, participates in the Pandora's Box event, August 19, during Oregon's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Soldiers were asked to assemble three different weapons systems within 10-minutes, with the parts mixed together in one box and while blindfolded.

Throughout the competition, Sierra had events he felt more confident in than others and shared some advice for future competitors.

"They definitely need to take care of themselves, eat right, and study when you can," he said. "That can definitely make the one point difference between first and second place."

Ash, the NCO of the Year, was also one of only six Soldiers to earn the Expert Infantryman Badge during his unit's annual training at Camp Roberts, California, in July.

"I'm sort of a 'Type -A' person, so if I want it, I'm going to go get it," he said. "I'm competitive like that, especially if it's something I believe in, something I want to go after."

He said he wished he had taken advantage of these opportunities to compete when he was a much younger Soldier and NCO.

"Being one of the older competitors this time, I'm glad to know I can still do it; glad to know I can still lead from the front," said Ash.

Both Ash and Sierra will represent the Oregon National Guard in the upcoming Region 6 Best Warrior Competition, which will take place in Washington state in May of 2017. The winners from the regional competition will then progress on to the national competition.



Oregon National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Lake (center), poses for a photo with the winners of the 2016 Best Warrior Competition, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ash (left), the 2016 Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, and Spc. Mitchell Sierra, the 2016 Soldier of the Year, August 20, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. Both Soldiers serve with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and will go on to represent Oregon at the Northwest Regional Best Warrior Competition scheduled for May 2017.



Oregon National Guard Soldiers take part in the Omaha Beach portion of the Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, August 20, in Warrenton, Oregon. As part of the Omaha Beach event, Soldiers ran from the Pacific Ocean onto the beach where they grabbed heavy ammunition cans, and carried them to the top of a steep sand dune, to simulate the resupply required during the historic World War II assault.

FEATURES

Oregon National Guard and Bangladeshi Soldiers train together

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Shawn McMillin, with 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, gives members of the Border Guard Bangladesh an after action review during training at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon, September 14. The Bangladeshi's trained with Oregon Air and Army Guard non-commissioned officers during a multi-week exercise as part of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program. The training enhances skills and relationships between both state partners, the U.S. and Bangladesh.



Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh “apprehend” Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers posing as smugglers during training, Sept. 14, at Camp Rilea near Warrenton, Oregon. The Oregon National Guard conducted a multi-week training exercise with Bangladesh as part of the State Partnership Program. The Oregon National Guard has been a state partner with Bangladesh since 2008.

142nd Medical Group trains while benefiting community at health fair

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



Oregon Air National Guard Capt. Loc Vu, with the 142nd Medical Group, examines a patient's mouth during the Tricentennial Health Fair in Natchez, Mississippi, August 2, 2016. The Oregon Air National Guard teamed up with Guard and Reserve units from across the country to provide free medical care to the surrounding community for a joint Innovative Readiness Training event.



Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Andrew Stott, with the 142nd Medical Group, takes a patient's temperature during the Tricentennial Health Fair in Natchez, Mississippi, August 2, 2016. The Oregon Air National Guard teamed up with Guard and Reserve units from across the country to provide free medical care to the surrounding community during a joint Innovative Readiness Training event.

Engineers build road and parking lot at Madrone Wall park site

Photos courtesy  
Madrone Wall Preservation Committee



Members of the 224th Engineer Company, Oregon Army National Guard, pose for a photo after completing construction on an access road and parking lot leading to the Madrone Wall recreation site in Clackamas County during their two-week annual training in August 2016. The construction project was part of the Innovative Readiness Training program, where Soldiers get hands-on experience while completing real projects for their local communities.



The 224th Engineer Company, Oregon Army National Guard, performs construction on an access road and parking lot leading to the Madrone Wall recreation site in Clackamas County during their two-week annual training in August 2016. The construction project was part of the Innovative Readiness Training program, where Soldiers get hands-on experience while completing real projects for their local communities.

FEATURES

Citizen-Soldiers follow call to serve in law enforcement careers

Story by Capt. Heather Bashor,  
Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** - Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Tara Littleton and Staff Sgt. Christina McCarty achieved a long-awaited goal as they stepped across the stage and received their certificates at the Basic Police Academy graduation ceremony, July 15, 2016, at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. Littleton, an Oregon State Police trooper in training, and McCarty, a Marion County Sheriff deputy in training, are Citizen-Soldiers pursuing careers in law enforcement.

These two Soldiers completed their initial four-month long law enforcement training course and graduated from DPSST, the training school for police officers entering various law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Littleton, a platoon leader for Alpha Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, in Portland, wanted something more dynamic and challenging out of a civilian career. She grew up with the mentality that if someone can serve and help others, they should. She decided to become an Oregon State Police trooper, realizing the possibilities of what she wanted was in a law enforcement career.

Upon completing the Pre-Academy and graduating from the Basic Police Academy at DPSST, Littleton also

completed the second step of her Oregon State Police (OSP) training process. The next steps in her training involve completion of the OSP Post-Academy and the Field Training and Evaluation Program.

While completing her OSP training, Littleton also manages her annual training requirements and drill weekends as an Oregon Army National Guard Soldier.

“The Guard is very supportive and understanding of my career with OSP, and OSP is very supportive of the Guard. The two agencies respect each other,” stated Littleton.

Littleton said being a member of the military has only helped her through the OSP application process and police training, from the physical training to the mental toughness. Her National Guard experiences and training have helped her with managing her time and responsibilities while paying for college and providing her valuable leadership training and cultural internship opportunities.

“Both occupations can be stressful and demanding at times, but I grow from it. I’ve never regretted it,” said Littleton.

In both occupations, Littleton enjoys the camaraderie and the variety of learning opportunities and challenges that keep her engaged and excited about work.

For others interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement and/or the Oregon National Guard, Littleton offers some advice: “Put yourself out there. Don’t be afraid to fail. Each experience helps you with the next one. Many people apply to more than one agency before getting hired. Be a reserve officer and volunteer to get your foot in the door. There is a diverse mix of people.”

McCarty, a former Marine and now a Soldier with the Oregon Army National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters, developed an interest in becoming a Sheriff’s deputy after working almost nine years as an office manager for the Marion County Sheriff’s Department Parole and Probation Division.

She was drawn by her sense of service and a desire for discipline and challenges. She wanted to get out and actively be a part of helping keep the local community



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Christina McCarty (left) and 1st Lt. Tara Littleton pose for a photo at the Basic Police Academy graduation ceremony, July 15, 2016, at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. McCarty is training to be a deputy with the Marion County Sheriff and Littleton is training to be a state trooper with the Oregon State Police.



Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Tara Littleton shares a laugh with her training partner during patrol shift training scenarios, July 13, 2016, as part of the Basic Police Academy at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. Littleton is training to be a state trooper with the Oregon State Police.

safe. McCarty decided to pursue her goals after a break in military service. As a mother of three, she decided to get in shape, join the Oregon National Guard, and apply for a career in law enforcement. Now she is also a fitness

competitor. McCarty has not looked back. “I was in unhealthy relationships and let myself go. I was out of shape and heavy. I decided to put myself first and get back into shape. Now fitness is a top priority,” said McCarty.

After graduating from the Basic Police Academy at DPSST, McCarty has now moved into her field training and evaluation program as a deputy in training. The intense field-training program involves bookwork as well as hands-on patrol with a coach providing constant evaluation, feedback, and exposure to numerous possible scenarios. The field training provides a slow phase out for deputies in training as they gain expertise, knowledge, confidence, and the ability to do the job on their own.

“I enjoy learning new things. In my law enforcement career, there is so much still to learn,” said McCarty.

As a former Marine, being a member of the Oregon Army National Guard has been a pretty seamless process for McCarty. Her sense of duty and desire for challenges, independence, and hard work keep her motivated and moving forward. Her fitness mindset has opened up opportunities for her in the Guard to help others with their fitness goals and requirements.

“Do it! Don’t let anyone hold you down. You have goals, follow them,” stated McCarty. “Put in the time and don’t give up.”



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Christina McCarty completes paperwork to book a simulated suspect arrested during patrol shift training scenarios, July 12, 2016, as part of the Basic Police Academy at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. McCarty is training to be a deputy with the Marion County Sheriff.



Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Tara Littleton questions a driver during patrol shift training scenarios, July 13, 2016, as part of the Basic Police Academy at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. Littleton is training to be a state trooper with the Oregon State Police.



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Christina McCarty and her training partner respond to a simulated armed suspect during patrol shift training scenarios, July 12, 2016, as part of the Basic Police Academy at the Department of Public Safety, Standards, and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon. McCarty is training to be a deputy with the Marion County Sheriff.

FEATURES

Artillery battalion gets familiar with new weapons capability

Continued from Front Page

the U.S. Army sent a training unit (called a Mobile Training Team or MTT) to Oregon to help those switching over from other military occupational specialties (MOS) to the 13-Bravo series (cannon crewmember), instead of having to send the Soldiers out of state to MOS qualification school.

Months of preparation and training led up to the familiarization firing in May.

“Finally getting the weapons systems now, the Soldiers have been anticipating getting these for a long time,” said Clevenger. “They are ready to go. They’ve been going through the motions. They are one entity with one common task and they’ve been executing it to standard. The teams that we’ve made in Charlie Battery, it’s a group coming together as one that I’m not sure I’ve seen in any other unit, for the goal of shooting the 777’s.”

On the morning of May 22, 2016, with both the battalion and brigade staff on site to witness, the six M777A’s fired their first rounds over the terrain at the Yakima Training Center in central Washington.

The first rounds had to be fired with a 25-foot lanyard because some of the main components on the M777A’s were used (all the electronic components were new). This safety measure is standard procedure after retrieving items from maintenance to ensure that the refurbished weapons were put back together safely. The lanyard was pulled behind a truck for the first shot with each of the guns. After that, the guns then rolled into a fire-for-effect; firing eight rounds per gun.

Clevenger said the M777A’s nearly double the distance the battalion can cover on the battlefield.

“Our medium howitzers will still cover



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Lloyd Reeves, with Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, plugs his ears during a live fire mission, May 22, at the Yakima Training Center near Yakima, Washington. The battalion completed fire missions using both their M119A Howitzers and new M777A Howitzers.

a distance in a shorter amount of time, and we can cover them while they move,” he said. “We will also be able to cover our brigade’s infantry battalions as they move, to quicken their time and open up more space for them to maneuver.”

Pvt. Cole Nelson, #2 cannoneer with Charlie Battery, 2-218th Field Artillery Battalion, was pumped immediately following the conclusion of the familiarization fire.

“It was amazing, the impact hitting you,” he said. “I’ve done the M119s but never the triple 7’s. The 119-ers compared to this is like a peashooter, it’s very small; the blast

will still rock you, but not like the 777. You can definitely feel how much power is behind these.”

Prior to the live-fire, the battery performed rehearsals, known as dry-fire, to ensure all the crewmembers knew what to watch for when the time came to fire live rounds. The dry-fire rehearsals are another standard procedure to ensure safety.

“During the dry fire, it’s a lot easier, going through the motions and learning it,” recalled Nelson. “Compared to this (live familiarization firing), when you can see how things can go wrong at any minute, you’ve got to check what you’re doing and



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, clean off the bore during a familiarization fire with their M777A Howitzers, May 23, at the Yakima Training Center near Yakima, Washington. The unit conducted the firing as part of their two-week annual training.

definitely stick with that training.”

Nelson originally started out in Alpha Battery, but then volunteered to switch to Charlie Battery, which of course came with getting a little ‘ribbing’ from his peers.

“When I’m out there, I know I have people watching my back, making sure everything is running smooth,” Nelson said. “Its just a crazy feeling, feeling the earth shake and that impact hitting you.”

East Oregonians show their patriotism at the Pendleton Roundup

Photos by  
Capt. Leslie Reed, Oregon Military  
Department Public Affairs



**Above:** F-15 fighter jets with the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, approach the west end of the Pendleton Round-Up Stadium following the conclusion of the National Anthem during the Military Appreciation/Patriot Day, Sept. 17, in Pendleton, Oregon. Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, who represented the Oregon National Guard at the event, praised the flyover saying, “F-15 Eagles from the 142nd Fighter Wing after the singing of the National Anthem was well-timed, a big hit with the audience, and was certainly enjoyed by all. The Round-Up participants and audience all communicated a true appreciation for military members.”



**Above:** A horseback rider carries the U.S. Army Flag during the grand entry of the Pendleton Round-Up on Military Appreciation/Patriot Day, Sept. 17, in Pendleton, Oregon. Pendleton has had a ‘Patriot Day’ every year at the Round-Up since 2011. Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, who represented the Oregon National Guard at the event said, “It is my hope that communities throughout the state will continue to appreciate members of the military as first-line defenders of the freedoms we enjoy in this great country.” The Round-Up first began in 1910 and has continued nearly every year since, except for two years during World War II.



**Below:** A horseback rider carries the U.S. Flag during the grand entry of the Pendleton Round-Up, Sept. 17, in Pendleton, Oregon.



**Left:** Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Steven Beach, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, and his spouse, Chief Warrant Officer-4 Diane Beach, attend the Pendleton Round-Up, Sept. 17, in Pendleton, Oregon. Brig. Gen. Beach represented the Oregon National Guard for the Round-Up's Military Appreciation/Patriot Day. He said, “Pendleton and the communities throughout Eastern Oregon have big hearts and have been very supportive of the military over the years. I’ve always enjoyed my visits to Pendleton with their great hospitality, wonderful sense of community, and traditional values.” The Round-Up began in 1910 and features events such as steer wrestling, team roping, bull riding and barrel racing.

AZUWUR



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

# WWII Vet brings history to 173rd Fighter Wing



**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - Mr. Joe Rolison, a World War II Veteran, stepped onto the sidewalk surrounding the Lt. David R. Kingsley Memorial, a display that tells the story of Medal of Honor recipient Lt. David Kingsley and his sacrifice during World War II, Aug. 31, 2016. The memorial itself is centered on a large metal piece of the B-52 aircraft that Kingsley met his heroic end. Rolison spoke about retrieving that very piece in Suhozem, Bulgaria, in 2004 with his late wife; Phyllis Kingsley Rolison, who passed in 2014, sister to Lt. Kingsley.

The couple accompanied the Oregon Air National Guard to Bulgaria to help dedicate a similar memorial there, commemorating the fateful day when Kingsley's bomber, damaged too heavily to remain airborne from German fire,



WWII Veteran Joe Rolison, moves to embrace 173rd Fighter Wing Vice Commander Col. Donna Prigmore during his visit to Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, Aug. 31, 2016. They first met when she escorted Rolison and his wife, late Phyllis Kingsley Rolison — sister to the base's namesake David R. Kingsley, on a trip to Bulgaria to honor Kingsley's heroic sacrifice during the war. Prigmore's presence was a surprise to Rolison.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeff Jensen, 114th Fighter Squadron commander, looks at a photo of David R. Kingsley, Kingsley Field Air Base's namesake, which Joe Rolison presented during a visit to the wing, Aug. 31, 2016. Kingsley earned the nation's highest honor for bravery and sacrificing his life for one of his fellow aircrew after taking heavy fire during a bombing run in WWII.

fell from the sky killing him and seven local children. In those final moments, Kingsley made the decision to remove his parachute and place it on a wounded gunner's body, thereby saving him and sacrificing his own life.

This visit to Kingsley Field was made possible by the Vital Life Foundation, who works to enhance the lives of senior citizens. Rolison's visit was organized to give him a special, memorable experience. He survives his wife of more than 50 years and lives alone at 92 years old.

Although the visit was ostensibly for his benefit there was no question that it greatly benefitted the 173rd Fighter Wing. Rolison brought with him a suitcase full of memorabilia from Lt. Kingsley's time in World War II, including his handwritten journal, black and white photos of Lt. Kingsley, and stories of Kingsley's youth that illustrated the character that earned him the nation's highest honor. He donated that journal to the 173rd Fighter Wing for display.

David Kingsley was 16 years old when his mother passed, and having lost his father several years earlier he endeavored to raise his seven brothers and sisters, but for the intervention of social services, he probably would have. Instead, he visited

them in their foster homes every day, one-by-one, checking on them and looking out for their welfare.

Rolison related these stories to a number of 173rd Fighter Wing Airmen who asked him questions of his own time in World War II, to which he quickly pointed out his stated aim to "find a place to hide." He said it with a big smile on his face and he made a few other jokes along the same lines. When asked how he was treated after returning home from the Pacific Theater in World War II, he said he'd never have to pay for a lunch again, but he might have to hang around for a while, again with the signature ear-to-ear grin.

At his age, he still boasts 20/20 uncorrected vision and he was able to stand and visit with local reporters and Airmen for several hours. One person who he remembered very well was Col. Donna Prigmore, who traveled with him and his wife to Bulgaria.

The moment he saw her he quickly walked up to her arms outstretched, he hugged her and tears welled in his eyes. Prigmore's eyes weren't dry either and she mentioned that she thought about telling him she would be there, but decided to surprise him.

"When I saw Joe for the first time since

Phyllis's death, it not only took me back to the special trip we had, but also made me sad to think that his lifelong and loving wife, his soulmate, of 65 years, was no longer with him," said Prigmore. "They were the happiest couple I had ever met."

Anne Adrian, with the Vital Life Foundation, said he mentions Prigmore often after the visit where she escorted them during the visit to Bulgaria.

Certainly the visit was a success for providing a memorable occasion for Rolison. While answering questions over lunch he said, "I'm on cloud nine; this day for me is the second best day of my life," then noting that the best being the day he married Phyllis Kingsley. He carries a photo of his wife dressed in nun's habit, something she gave up in order to have children and raise a family.

After several hours, Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, escorted Rolison to the hangar for group photos with the distinctly painted commemorative Oregon Air National Guard 75th Anniversary F-15 Eagle fighter jet. Rolison ended the day walking back to a waiting vehicle, and perhaps the only unanswered question being, "Who enjoyed the visit more - he or the Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing?"

## 100-year anniversary of World War I - "The War to End All Wars"

Story by Brig. Gen. Steven Beach,  
Assistant Adjutant General

The United States was a late comer to World War I — "The War to End All Wars," and it has now been 100 years since the members of the Oregon National Guard were called up to serve in Europe as part of the war effort. Our service as part of the American Expeditionary Force is tied to the 1st Infantry Division, the 2nd Infantry Division, the 32nd Infantry Division, and the 42nd Infantry Division. Each has a colorful history. Each has service in both WWI and WWII. Each had 41st Division Soldiers and units assigned to them in WWI. At this anniversary, it is important to acknowledge the units and our Soldiers who served, and especially those who did not come home from Europe.

The reasons we should acknowledge this history include:

1. The 41st Division was created for World War I, this was the first deployment of the 41st Division, and it isn't acknowledged or remembered as it should be.

2. The motto "First to Assemble" was drawn from the deployment - a proud moment in Oregon history. Preparedness is not easy, but is necessary to the security of the state and nation. The tradition of being "First to Assemble" is a heritage that we



need to embrace and encourage all to live up to today.

3. The Soldiers who were part of the 41st when it deployed felt a very strong attachment to the 41st, and when assigned to other units, oftentimes sewed the 41st patch into or over their assigned unit patch (examples of this personal Soldier action are in the Oregon Military Museum).

4. We should encourage Oregon media coverage because Oregon played a

significant role in the war and this is the 100th anniversary of our predecessor's service in WWI.

The 41st Division was created as a division at the beginning of the United States' entrance into World War I in April 1917, made up of National Guard units from the Northwestern United States (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, North Dakota and Washington) which were shipped to Camp Green, North Carolina, before going

overseas. Major General Hunter Liggett was the first division commander from September 18, 1917 to January 18, 1918, before moving up to command I Corps. Major General Ralph S. Phelps was the last division commander from April 1963 to September 1968. He joined the 41st Infantry Division in 1938 as a private. The 41st Division fought in two World Wars and lasted 51 years, from 1917 to 1968.

The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team was established in 1965, within the state of Oregon, as successor to the division, as the United States transitioned its forces in the continual process of force structure changes. As a nation, we try to balance the current needs for military forces (a political determination) against the current forces on hand, and then try to project what future needs and what future forces we will need to build (or eliminate). This year, 2016, the 41st Brigade has been a brigade for 51 years.

As French historians look to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the war fought on their soil, they discovered our ties to locations in the Loire/Cher River valleys. The 41st Division was moved into the area as a replacement division in December 1917, sending troops to the 1st, 2nd, 32nd, and the 42nd Infantry Divisions from the area near Noyers-sur-Cher, about 120 miles south of Paris.