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Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Citizen Soldiers, Airmen volunteer to battle wildfires



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team watch a controlled burn during a field training exercise at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, Salem, Oregon, August 28, 2017. The exercise was part of their four-day training certification before being dispatched to fires across the state. The group received training on firefighting equipment, deploying fire shelters, how to assess and mitigate hot spots, protecting structures and understanding fire behavior.

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard activated a historic joint force of Soldiers and Airmen to assist with battling one of the worst wildfire season’s Oregon has faced in recent decades. More than 700 Soldiers and Airmen from across the state left their families and civilian jobs on short notice and answered the call to support their state.

“There is never a good time for a ‘no-notice’ mobilization, but I want to thank you and especially your families and employers for putting your lives on hold when your state needs you,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, as he addressed the troops mobilizing for firefighting duties.

Oregon Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency, Aug. 2, 2017, as wildfire danger increased across the state. According to the Incident Information System website, 28 wild land fires have burned approximately 652,000 acres in Oregon as of mid-September 2017.

The Oregon National Guard (ORNG) mobilized personnel and equipment in accordance with Operation Plan Smokey, including aviation assets, firefighting troops, and support personnel (drivers, fuelers, mechanics, medics). Operation Plan Smokey is an existing agreement between the ORNG and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) stipulating how Oregon Guard assets can be used to assist with wild land firefighting efforts. Fire managers and

incident commanders determine the location where ORNG personnel are deployed based on fire conditions and need for resources and support.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, were the first group to be activated, August 4, 2017. They provided Bambi bucket water drops on the Whitewater Fire, near Detroit, Oregon, using two CH-47F Chinook helicopters.

As fires grew in Southern Oregon, the Chinooks were later re-assigned to the Chetco Bar Fire near Brookings. By late September, each Chinook had dropped an Olympic-sized swimming pool of water on the fires. The Washington Army National Guard also provided a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter to assist with Bambi bucket drops. In total, the National Guard dropped more than 1.3 million gallons of water on Oregon’s wildfires.

By the second week in August, a series of lightning strikes sparked new fires and ODF called upon the Oregon Guard to provide firefighting ground crews. Oregon Guardsmen who were already trained and certified during the 2015 wildfire season were called up first. A team of more than 100 Soldiers and Airmen, known as NG-1, from across the state reported to the Oregon Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem, for refresher training before deploying out to the High Cascades Complex Fire near Crater Lake.

“We are excited to be serving as firefighters and working with other agencies to assist our great state,” said Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Martin Balakas,

173rd Fighter Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, who led the NG-1 group. “It’s hot, it’s sweaty, it’s smoky, but it’s an awesome and rewarding experience.”

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, were also on standby in Salem with HH-60M Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters. The unit was called



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A member of the Oregon National Guard firefighting team assigned to the Horse Prairie Fire, near Camas Valley, Ore., keeps watch for flare-ups and other fire hazards as part of the overall fire suppression efforts.

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COMMAND

In Oregon's time of need

Oregon Citizen Soldiers and Airmen,

Always Ready, Always There - the National Guard motto has special meaning this year. I ask that you reflect upon what this motto means to us as our state looks to us for support. A recent fire update brief to the governor was very sobering. Due to the size of the forest fires across the state, we learned that the Oregon Department of Forestry is projecting that the fire season may go well into October, when we get our first rains.

The Oregon National Guard has already called up men and women under Operation Plan Smokey, and I believe there is a very good chance that we will see a request from the state for more volunteers.

On top of this, Hurricanes Harvey and

Irma wreaked havoc in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Oregon has already sent a contingent from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron to Texas and Florida. Other states are mobilizing resources daily to help the citizens of Texas, Louisiana and Florida with numbers running in the thousands.

My hope is that we will fill potential firefighting and other requests for domestic support with volunteers. To that end, I have asked our senior leaders to lean forward and reach out to you to develop lists of Soldiers and Airmen able to support this effort. My desire is to minimize the impact on our ongoing missions and personal lives through volunteerism.

There is never a good time for a no-notice



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

mobilization, but I hope you recognize the dire situation that our state is facing, and find a way to voluntarily support the state response if we are called upon.
Thank you.

Soldier fights fires after evacuating own home



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

(Above) Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, recognizes Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Scott Guthrie, with A Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon, August 28, 2017. Guthrie, of Brookings, Oregon, volunteered for firefighting duty even though he and his family were already evacuated from their home due to the Chetco Bar Fire. Guthrie said he wanted to do his part to help put the fire out for the sake of his family and community.

(Left) Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Scott Guthrie, with A Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, checks for hot spots during a firefighting training exercise at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Salem, Oregon, August 28, 2017.

Air National Guard Chiefs Advisory Council Scholarship

I'm proud to announce the Oregon Air National Guard Chiefs Advisory Council Scholarship winners for 2017. Kayla Scott, dependent of Master Sgt. Michael Scott of the 173rd Maintenance Squadron, Kingsley Field, with studies in Nuclear Medicine Technology at the Oregon Institute of Technology, and Senior Airman Taylor Ingersoll, of the 116th Air Control Squadron, Camp Rilea,



with studies in Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree at University of Oregon.

The Oregon ANG Chiefs Advisory Council is a team comprised of all chief master sergeants who serve as an advisory body to the Oregon National Guard chains of command and responsibility, provides leadership input, helps resolve enlisted issues and concerns and represents the enlisted views and interests across the state.

In 2006, the council established an annual scholarship provide financial support to Oregon Air National Guardsmen and their Families. Applicants must be affiliated with the Oregon ANG as either a current member or dependent and have a GPA of 2.0 or above. The scholarship can be used for undergraduate education or



Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole, State Command Chief, Oregon Air National Guard

technical training school, and the funds are paid directly to the educational institution for tuition and books only. Each Scholarship Award is for \$1000 per category.

For more information on when and how to apply, please see either your section / group chief or wing command chief.

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

Chief Master Sgt. Ulana Cole (right), State Command Chief for the Oregon Air National Guard, has breakfast with Oregon Army and Air National Guard members during a site visit to the High Cascades Complex Wildfire camp near Crater Lake, Oregon, August 24.

COMMAND

New commanders for Oregon National Guard units



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

Oregon National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby (center), commander, Joint Domestic Operations, passes the 102nd Civil Support Team guidon to Lt. Col. Randall Lynch, incoming commander, during a change of command ceremony, May 5, 2017, in Salem, Oregon. The 102nd CST is a joint-service unit made up of Oregon National Guardsmen who assist civil authorities with detecting, identifying and responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents.



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, 249th Regional Training Institute

Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards, commander, Oregon Army National Guard, passes the 249th Regional Training Institute colors to Lt. Col. Demian W. San Miguel, incoming commander, at a change of command ceremony at Camp Umatilla, Umatilla Depot, Hermiston, Oregon, May 6, 2017. The RTI provides advanced individual and leadership training, and is the only certified U.S. Army infantry training academy west of the Mississippi River in the continental United States.




Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

(Above) Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards, commander, Oregon Army National Guard (left), promotes Lt. Col. Eric Riley (center), commander, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during a promotion ceremony at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon, July 22, 2017.

(Right) Lt. Col. Eric J. Riley, incoming commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, receives the brigade colors during a change of command ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon. The 41st Inf. Bde. Combat Team traces its lineage to the 41st Div. which formed in 1917 and served in World Wars I and II. Known as the Sunset Division, their patch symbolizes the sun setting over the Pacific Ocean.



Photo by Sgt. Cory E. Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs



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

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, promotes Col. Stephen L. Schmidt, commander, 82nd Brigade Troop Command during a promotion ceremony, at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon, Aug. 6, 2017.



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

Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards, commander, Oregon Army National Guard, passes the 82nd Brigade colors to Lt. Col. Stephen L. Schmidt (right), incoming commander, 82nd Bde., during a change of command ceremony, at Camp Withycombe, Clackamas, Oregon, June 3, 2017.

NEWS

Joint training supports local emergency response

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

NEWPORT, Oregon – Service members from the U.S. Navy’s Third Fleet, and the Oregon and Washington Military Departments trained on providing support to civilian authorities on the Oregon coast, July 31, 2017.

The Navy’s USS Anchorage deployed an amphibious landing craft to navigate into Yaquina Bay, with the assistance of a 47-foot motor lifeboat from U.S. Coast Guard Station Yaquina Bay, and practiced loading and unloading vehicles and equipment. The City of Newport along with the Military Departments of Oregon and Washington provided emergency vehicles for the exercise.

Washington Military Department personnel traveled onboard the Anchorage en route to Washington and completed the exercise in Grays Harbor, Washington, Aug. 1.

The joint training demonstration simulated a local government requesting equipment to remove debris and clear roads following a disaster. Amateur radio operators relayed the request to Lincoln County and then to the state officials through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Lincoln County and the Washington National Guard officials also rehearsed loading their equipment onto the landing craft to simulate moving needed assets throughout multiple disaster locations.

The scenario was inspired by the after action review process following the Cascadia Rising multi-state exercise conducted in June 2016. The exercise identified the need to simulate domestic response efforts across all levels of governmental agencies.

The demonstration showcased capabilities at all levels of government to order, distribute and receive emergency resources along the coastline during a catastrophic disaster response.



National Guard Soldiers, with Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment, based out of Vancouver, Wash., practice loading an ambulance onto a U.S. Navy Landing Craft from Assault Craft Unit 1, USS Anchorage, based out of San Diego, Calif., during a joint training exercise, Newport, Ore., July 31, 2017.

Portland’s 142nd Fighter Wing honors fallen comrade

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. John Hughel
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon -- On a tranquil summer afternoon, Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing (FW) gathered to commemorate a fellow fallen Airman, and dedicate a portion of the Air National Guard Base in his memory, June 26, 2017.

Two separate ceremonies honored ten-years to the day when Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Gregory ‘Grumpy’ Young, piloting his F-15 Eagle, died while training off the Oregon coast. Earlier in the morning, Young was honored with a wreath presentation ceremony over the Pacific Ocean from a helicopter provided by the U.S. Coast Guard Station Astoria. Later in the afternoon, a street was formally dedicated and named in Young’s honor.

Presiding over the Portland event was Col. Adam Sitler, vice commander, 142nd FW who reflected on the similarities of the day, likening to the tragedy ten-years before.

“It was a warm, sunny, and beautiful

day; much like today and in an instant our colleague was gone,” said Sitler, addressing those gather along the intersection of Carl Street and the newly-designated Young Way.

“As we approached today, the men and

women of the 142nd Fighter Wing wanted to permanently memorialize our friend and colleague, Grumpy,” said Sitler. “We also felt a need to honor his sacrifice, and remind ourselves that freedom isn’t free.”



Oregon Air National Guard Col. Adam Sitler, vice commander, 142nd Fighter Wing removes the cover of the newly-named Young Way street sign during a dedication ceremony making the tenth anniversary of Maj. Gregory Young’s passing, Portland, Ore. June 26, 2017.

The idea behind the street naming project was generated during a series of weekly meetings over the last year. Although it has been a decade since his passing, many co-workers who served with Young, wanted to honor him with a daily reminder of his sacrifice.

The roadway leading from Carl Street to the alert facility had no formal designation, so naming the road used on a regular basis and critical to the daily mission was a perfect choice.

Col. Sean Sullivan, commander, 142nd FW Operations Group was a roommate and friend of Young’s during his senior year at Oregon State University. Both finished Reserve Officers’ Training Corps before joining the Air Force’s active-duty ranks, and then eventually returning to Oregon and flying with the Air National Guard.

“The roadway is a lasting way to remember a true American, a true Oregonian and a friend,” said Sullivan. “It means a great deal to me that he will always be remembered on base, even after those of us who knew him well are gone.”

270th Air Traffic Control Squadron conducts field operations

Story and photo by Scott T. Sturkol
Fort McCoy Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wisconsin -- During the second half of July, Fort McCoy’s Young Air Assault Strip was the scene for the Patriot North 2017 Exercise - a joint agency exercise sponsored by the National Guard Bureau.

“Patriot North is a training exercise designed for civilian emergency management and responders to work with military entities in the same manner that they would during disasters,” said Lt. Col. Mickey Kirschenbaum, public affairs officer for the exercise.

More than 900 participants, including National Guardsman from more than 20 states participated in the exercise.

Approximately 30 Airmen with the Oregon Air National Guard’s 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron from Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, were among the first to set up operations on the airfield when the exercise began.

The Airmen set up a mobile tower and a tactical air navigation system to allow for air traffic control operations during the exercise, including placing grounding wires and navigational aids.

“This is one of the few times where an

air traffic control system has been used at the air strip,” said James Hubbard, chief of McCoy’s Airfield Division, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Young Air Assault Strip has been used for decades as a multiservice air strip for C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III Air Force aircraft, as well as Army rotary-wing aircraft.

“The air strip is an important part of our training complex at Fort McCoy,” said Hubbard. “There’s not many air strips like Young available for training, so it is highly sought-after as a training area for exercises, such as Patriot North.”

The exercise tests the National Guard’s abilities to support response operations based on simulated emergency scenarios, such as a strong storm bringing high winds and the storm surge creating a collapsed building, mass casualties, and the need for search and rescue along with evacuations of injured.

The National Guard, along with local, state, and federal partners, was deployed to exercise venues at Volk Field and Fort McCoy to practice its response.

“Fort McCoy provides our participants with outstanding training opportunities not available at other venues, especially the ability for landings and drops at Young Air

Assault Strip and the Badger Drop Zone,” said Lt. Col. Roger Brooks, exercise director. “Additionally, the support we

receive from the personnel at McCoy is second to none. Patriot North would not be as valuable without their support.”



Airmen with the Oregon Air National Guard's 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., set up for air traffic control operations during the Exercise Patriot North 2017, Fort McCoy, Wis., July 18, 2017.

FEATURES

Soldiers from across Oregon compete to be named Best Warrior



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Chais Fox, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, crawls through an obstacle during the 2017 Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, Aug. 25. Fifteen competitors from Oregon Army National Guard units across the state were tested on physically and mentally demanding warrior tasks over a grueling three-day period to determine the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Oregon Army National Guard Pfc. Blake Snyder, with Company D, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, fires a M9 pistol during the stress-shoot portion of the 2017 Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, Aug. 25. The competitors were timed on completing three firing sequences while enduring stressful distractions such as smoke, sirens, yelling and evacuating a simulated casualty. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Dane Moorehead (center), with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Brigade, and other Soldiers complete an exam and essay while they wait to face a board of sergeants major who will test their Army knowledge during the 2017 Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, August 24. Moorehead competed against six other noncommissioned officers from across Oregon to earn the title of NCO of the Year. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Tiffany Markham, 1249th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Brigade Troop Command, finishes the last stretch of her 12-mile ruck march along the Pacific Ocean as the sun comes up at Fort Stevens State Park, near Warrenton, Oregon. The 12-mile ruck march is just one of many events that Soldiers complete during the more than two day competition. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

(Above) Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jordan Rott, Joint Force Headquarters, races against other competitors through the Pacific Ocean to shore during Oregon's 2017 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, Aug. 26. The Soldiers were competing for the titles of Soldier and NCO of the Year and the opportunity to represent Oregon at the regional competition. Soldiers are tested over multiple days on their warrior tasks and skills and are awarded points for their performance on each task. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier proceeds through a combination of thick smoke, tear gas and razor wire, as a cadre member looks on, during Oregon's 2017 Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, Aug. 26, 2017. Soldiers compete in a variety of warrior tasks to determine which Soldier and NCO will represent Oregon at the regional level competition. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



(Above) Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Chais Fox, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, emerges from the Pacific Ocean after high-crawling through the surf in full battle gear for the Omaha Beach event during the 2017 Oregon Best Warrior Competition at Camp Rilea, Oregon, Aug. 26, 2017. Once on shore, the competitors had to carry two cement-filled ammunition canisters to the top of a steep sand dune and then race back down to the finish line. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)

(Right) Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers gather at dawn in front of the Peter Iredale shipwreck following a 12-mile ruck march on the beach at Fort Stevens State Park, near Warrenton, Oregon, August 26, 2017. The ruck march kicked off the final day of Oregon's 2017 Best Warrior Competition, which tested Soldiers both mentally and physically to determine who would become the Soldier and NCO of the Year and represent the state at the upcoming regional competition. (Photo by Capt. Leslie Reed, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs)



NEWS

Oregon Guard first in Army’s Net Zero energy pilot program

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

SALEM, Oregon -- As part of the Oregon Army National Guard’s ongoing facility replacement and renovations, the Oregon Military Department is adding photovoltaic, or solar, systems to its installations.

The Roseburg Readiness Center, a 20,000-square-foot facility in Roseburg, Oregon, is the first structure to add the solar panels to become an electric net zero facility. The facility is home to Company C, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

“This is among several installations in Oregon that have been renovated under the Armory Service Life-Extension Program,” said Col. Kenneth Safe, construction and facilities management officer, Oregon National Guard. “This electric net zero facility is a significant achievement for the Army Net Zero Initiative. Oregon is the only National Guard that is part of the Army’s Net Zero energy pilot program.”

The building received multi-faceted improvements before the solar panels were added.

“The remodel project brought the building up to current seismic and building codes, remodeled spaces and finished in the facility to better meet the needs of the tenants,” said Mark Williams, project manager, Oregon Military Department(OMD). “The new roof, replaced as part of the seismic upgrade, was intentionally designed for the follow-on PV system.”

Future renovations, such as Oregon’s Dallas Readiness Center will also include sufficient solar panels to make the facility electric net zero.

“In almost all remodel cases, solar installs will be a part of a larger component,” said Roy Swafford, director of installations, OMD.

“The Energy Trust of Oregon collaborated with OMD and SOLARC Engineering and Energy Architectural Consulting to make sure we had the right sizing, and the elements of work built to design,” said Safe. “We made changes that were more cost effective with the advice received from Energy Trust.”

The energy efficient goal of the renovations of Oregon Guard installations is to minimize energy consumption to the point where the building could be retrofitted with a photovoltaic system and achieve Net Zero energy status. Net Zero is balancing energy production with energy use through net metering: the amount used is equal to the amount produced.

“Net metering is an agreement with the utility company,” said Eric Manus, construction project manager. “The surplus goes into the system and tabulates what it is asking for and what it is using.”

The progression of change in energy usage went from using natural gas to electricity to the solar system. The solar panels are a part of the larger projects to help meet and exceed the State Energy



Robert Johnson (left) explains the differences between the newly installed photovoltaic system and one previously installed in 2015 to the operations facilities specialists, James Odan (second from left) and Steven Roche (far right), and Oregon Military Department project managers, Eric Manus (center) and Mark Williams, at the Roseburg Readiness Center, Roseburg, Oregon, Aug. 30, 2017.

Efficient Design(SEED) requirements. In the case of Roseburg, the PV array allowed OMD to significantly exceed the minimum SEED requirements as stated in the final analysis.

“SEED requires all state facilities to exceed the energy performance of the Oregon State Building Code by at least 20 percent,” said Williams.

The OMD’s energy efficiency goal is to significantly exceed the minimum SEED requirements. The entire building is subjected to an extensive energy-driven remodel effort on the building envelope, lighting, the HVAC system and domestic hot water heating system.

“This project achieved an astounding 70 percent energy savings while simultaneously greatly improving the conditioned space throughout the building,” said Safe.

“Oregon state law requires that public entities spend one-and-a-half percent of public building construction costs on green energy technology, such as solar,” said Williams.

The project was funded through the National Guard Bureau’s energy modernization funds. Energy Trust of Oregon also provided incentive funds for using energy efficient measures.

Inverters are stationed on an outside wall to change the solar energy into electricity.

“Inverters take the DC energy from the panels and change it to the AC usable side of the grid,” said Manus. The record-breaking 98 percent efficiency allows more energy production for an improved return



The Roseburg Readiness Center, a 20,000-square-foot facility in Roseburg, Oregon, is the first Oregon Army National Guard armory renovation to add photovoltaic panels to increase energy efficiency. The facility is home to Company C., 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, part of Oregon’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Oregon is the only state in the National Guard that is part of the Army’s Net Zero Energy pilot program.

on investment. These inverters also have sophisticated, digital control technology to achieve superior solar power harvesting that optimizes the performance of each PV module.

A display panel monitors the amount of solar energy produced.

“An overview of the system’s performance, current power, and energy production are shown on the monitor,” said Robert Johnson, a supervising electrician for Sunlight Solar. “It also shows the environmental benefits, displays the weather for three days, and can be remotely accessed.”

Besides energy efficiency, the overall appearance of the renovation and solar panels is aesthetically appealing and functional.

“The renovation is awesome,” said Sgt 1st. Class Frank Rademacher, readiness noncommissioned officer with Co. C. “Everyone enjoys it; it is useful and environmentally friendly.”

Other emergency preparedness upgrades include a potable well, a generator, storm water management, changes in the parking area, and adding a loop road to be used as a staging area for emergency equipment and supplies.

“Net Zero is a component of the overall concept of the organization,” said Swafford. “We are also considering wind and wave energy for future options.”

142nd Force Support Squadron conducts wing readiness training



photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen of the 142nd Force Support Squadron set up a mobile food service field tent during their four-day August drill at Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, Ore., Aug. 24, 2017. Airmen from the 142nd Services Sustainment Flight practice tent-building as part of their readiness training. In a deployed environment, building shelter would be the first phase towards providing meals for thousands of service members. The 142nd Services Squadron provides food, fitness, shelter, and mortuary affairs capabilities.



FEATURES

Air Guardsman retires after nearly 50 years service

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Riley Johnson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Col. (Dr.) Daniel M. Skotte, commander, 146th Medical Group, retired from the Air National Guard as potentially the longest-serving member from the National Guard and the United States Air Force, at Kingsley Field here, June 3, 2017.

During the ceremony he recounted that it all began as a seven-year-old gopher hunter in Minnesota.

“When I looked up to the sky and saw those jets, I thought maybe I could give up gopher hunting so I could fly a fighter jet,” he said

Skotte joined the community of Airmen at the age of 17, when he arrived at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for Basic Military Training in June, 1967. In 1968 he attended United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School and then the United States Air Force Academy where he earned a degree and commissioned in 1972.

While at the Academy his stature allowed him to play football, but unfortunately this kept him from the cockpit as he was

too tall for the airframes of that time. He mentioned this frustratingly derailed his plans to fly.

“At this point I was a morale case and I would have separated from the Air Force if

I could,” he said.

Instead, his career took him to El Segundo, California, where he served in the Space and Missile Systems Organization. Skotte noted that his perspective on his

career shifted and he happily stepped into his new role.

He went on to say that in one of life’s surprising twists, he became an osteopathic physician. This in turn led him to the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field in 1995, where he became a flight surgeon.

Over the ensuing years he flew in the back seat and attained more than 900 hours in the F-15D Eagle, F-16 Falcon, and C-130 Hercules. His duties took him to places like Iraq, New Guinea, Kuwait, Poland and Finland, and to various stations in the United States.

His last duty station was at Channel Islands, California where he served as the 146th Airlift Wing Medical Group Commander. However, he chose to conduct his retirement ceremony in Oregon to commemorate an association spanning more than 20 years.

Skotte’s years in service span from June of 1967 to June of 2017; records show him a few days short of 50 years of service. Efforts are still underway to determine if he was indeed the longest serving Airman in the history of either the U.S. Air Force or the Air National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Clay Garrison, commander, California Air National Guard presents U.S. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Daniel Skotte, commander, 146th Airlift Wing Medical Group, his certificate of retirement, at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 3, 2017.

Guardians develop and maintain professional skills

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

HEMISTON, Oregon -- Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, and 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted their annual training here and Yakima Training Center, Washington, July 12 through 28, 2017.

Soldiers trained in weaponry drills and live-fire exercises, medical care and instruction, and logistics.

“We are here to meet and beat training requirements and standards,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Geoffrey Miotke, senior enlisted advisor, 1st Bn. “The more specialty training we do, the better we become..

For Citizen Soldiers, readiness is all about training. Soldiers participated in 24-hour operations including mortar and sniper ranges in Yakima, as well as short-range marksmanship on the ranges at Umatilla.

“We are conducting ambushes and raids,” said Staff Sgt. Steven Luthi, an infantryman, with 1st Bn. “We have trained

on individual and squad tactics throughout the year and now we are working at the platoon-level “and team-level with live ammunition while on the firing range.”

Leaders demonstrated the series of react-to-contact scenarios for Soldiers to work through in order to improve familiarity with specific types of shooting postures and obstacles.

“Team cohesion and communication is the focus of this drill,” said Spc. Dustin Hagglund, an infantryman also with 1st Bn. “We are conducting short-range marksmanship and communicating what we are doing while moving, bounding from behind cover and in the open.”

Training with live ammunition while moving and reacting to fire, reloading, suppressing fire, and communicating clearly are issues that arise when there is increased tension and anxiety in a fighting environment.

“It is the reinforcement of infantry tactics of using live fire and the stress that is connected with it,” said Capt. Jeremy Wellman, physician assistant with Company H, 141st Bde. Spt. Bn. “We have 16 medics on the ground divided between Yakima and Umatilla to facilitate training and support.”

National Guard combat medic specialists not only instruct other Soldiers on field medical care, but they also use this annual training to refresh and retain their own medical skills.

During the training, mechanics maintained all the vehicles, providing needed services and repairs.

“Right now, we are looking for the source of a leak on a truck,” said Spc. Amar Prinzwow, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic, with Co. H. “We have been doing many services and technical inspections on our vehicles.”

Military training and vehicle maintenance requires maintaining Soldiers as well. Culinary specialists provide the nourishment Soldiers need to be able to complete the tasks assigned, setting up a self-contained field kitchen to serve meals made from scratch, hot off the stove.

“We are serving about 300 Soldiers during this training,” said Spc. Matthew Stallcop, a culinary specialist with Co. H.

Mobile field kitchens have the ability to provide fresh meals for up to 800 Soldiers - a brigade-sized element. The culinary specialists from Co. H also provide support to units every other drill weekend and at the brigade-level, training rotations such as Fort Irwin and Camp Roberts, California.

Camaraderie, working together and cross training are common denominators during annual training. Cooks satisfy hunger pangs. Medics provide combat lifesaver classes, with mechanics stepping in and becoming casualties for the medics



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Company A, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conduct short-range marksmanship training during the battalion’s annual training at Camp Umatilla, July 25, 2017.

to practice on.

Training can’t happen without Soldiers. “For the success of training, the mission, and readiness for combat, a battalion requires world-class Soldiers,” said Miotke. “World-class training makes world-class Soldiers.”



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers Spc. Amar Prinzwow, a mechanic with Company H, 1st Battalion, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, consults with other mechanics about a leak during annual training at Camp Umatilla, July 25, 2017.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers Spcs. Harley Mullican and Matthew Scallcop, culinary specialists with Company H, 1st Battalion, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, serves Soldiers during annual training at Camp Umatilla, July 25, 2017.

FEATURES

Nearly 700 Oregon National Guardsmen activated to fight wildfires

continued from Page 1

late at night on Sept. 2, 2017, to support the Hood River County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Forest Service with rescuing hikers trapped on the Eagle Creek trailhead between the newly-sparked Eagle Creek Fire and the existing Indian Creek Fire. The helicopter crew hoisted three hikers to safety. As the night unfolded and the Eagle Creek Fire grew, more than 150 hikers were stranded on the trailhead. The Black Hawk crew assisted with locating the hikers and mapping out the fire to determine a safe route for the large group to hike out.

Fire conditions worsened and resources were spread thin battling multiple fires across the state, prompting ODF to call for more National Guard personnel to support the Chetco Bar Fire and Horse Prairie Fire.

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Sean O'Donnell, a combat engineer with Company A, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, had already volunteered for firefighting duty but was even more eager to help out once he realized he would be dispatched to the Chetco Bar Fire. He grew up in Brookings and had family facing evacuations there.

"I'm definitely concerned for them," said O'Donnell. "I'm a little nervous, obviously, but more excited to get there and do my part to try to put this fire out. I'm glad I get to contribute to this fire because it's my home town, so I'm glad I can help."

Follow-on activations (teams NG-2 through NG-5) included new volunteers that had no previous firefighting training or experience. Each NG team included nearly 150 Guardsmen (approximately 125 firefighters, plus 22 support personnel) and consisted of both Air and Army National Guard service members. The ORNG and the DPSST academy worked feverishly to muster, equip and train the firefighting

teams as quickly as possible.

1st Lt. Anthony Hess, a platoon leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, lives in Auburn, California. He got a call on Sept. 7 to report to his unit for firefighting duty and less than a week later he was leading a team of Oregon Soldiers on the fire lines.

"I've told people in the past I'm in the National Guard and could be called up anytime for any natural disaster," said Hess. "Now it's reality, it's actually happening. I'm looking forward to helping the state get back to normal."

Senior Airman William Brow, with the 173rd Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron, said the wildfire activation was just like a National Guard commercial. He was one of several Airmen who had only been home from overseas deployments to Kuwait and Qatar for about a month when they got the call-up for wildfires.

"They talk about how you could be serving your country one day and then the next day you're serving your state, so now here we are doing both within the same year," said Brow. "It feels good to be able to go help your country and then come home and help your fellow Oregonians."

The Soldiers and Airmen received basic Level-2 wild land fire certification to prepare them for working in a support role assisting state and federal fire agencies as needed. The training is typically five days in length, but the instructors at DPSST were able to consolidate the training into four longer days so the Guardsmen could dispatch to the fire lines more quickly.

The training was taught by seasoned, professional wild land firefighters and included a variety of topics such as fire safety and hazards, use of water and hoses, digging fire breaks, mop up/hot spot operations, protecting structures, fire behavior, and more. As each crew

completed their training, they received pep talks from the DPSST instructors.

"These people want to be here, it's part of what they signed up for. They show a lot of enthusiasm," said Greg Hoss, wildfire-training instructor with 40-years experience. "I would be more than happy to be their crew boss and take one of these crews out on a fire."

Aviation

*Story and photos by
Capt. Leslie Reed
Joint Forces Headquarters Public
Affairs*

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, answered the call to help their state following Governor Kate Brown's emergency declaration order.

A group of aviation and support personnel from the Pendleton-based unit reported to Salem's McNary Airfield on August 4, 2017, just two days following the declaration, to provide Bambi bucket water drops using their newer F-Model CH-47 Chinook helicopters. They were initially assigned to the Whitewater Fire, near Detroit, Oregon, before later transitioning to the Chetco Bar Fire to the south, near Brookings, Oregon.

"We love doing this. This is our favorite part of the year," said Sgt. Joseph Ford, a CH-47 Chinook crew chief with Bravo Co., 1-168th Aviation.

The unit typically begins completing both its refresher and qualification course just before fire season, in mid-spring. It's during this time that they get the buckets prepped and pulled out of storage and start getting in the mindset. Re-certifications are typically conducted first, before new personnel become qualified.

"Where else can you go where you get to do this? I have the coolest job in the world," said Sgt. Jeremy Maddox, a flight engineer instructor with Bravo Co., 1-168th Aviation. "One morning I'm at my home station, and later that afternoon I'm 500-miles away, supporting a state mission and dropping buckets of water. I get a lot of satisfaction doing these state missions."

In order to qualify, Soldiers in the aviation unit must participate and become proficient during three separate, one-hour test flights consisting of multiple water bucket drops. The unit typically uses a site next to the Columbia River, where they are able to conduct bucket dips and drop the water on predetermined locations.

"The Columbia is wide-open, plenty deep enough for our 2,000-gallon bucket. Tons of room, no obstacles, like tall trees or altitude," said Maddox.

Hours of prep time go into each flight whether for training or real-world missions.

"Every morning we have to come out and do our daily pre-flight checks on the aircraft, it takes about an hour and a half, to two hours. We have to open up the entire aircraft and look at everything," said Maddox.

He said the pilots then inspect the aircraft following their pre-flight briefings, to look over everything for additional verification.

The unit began responding to the Whitewater Fire while the Oregon Department of Forestry was still in the process of securing a land-use agreement



photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A member of the Oregon National Guard firefighting team assigned to the Horse Prairie Fire, near Camas Valley, Ore., keeps watch for flare-ups and other fire hazards as part of the overall fire suppression efforts.

for Davis helibase. For the first few days, flight crews were initially departing from Salem's McNary Field and having to transport their Bambi buckets loaded inside their CH-47 Chinooks to and from the helibase each day. Once Davis helibase was secured, the crews could keep their buckets in place and would only have to preflight and attach the buckets before beginning their mission.

The crews wait on standby for Air Attack personnel assigned to the fire to call the Oregon Department of Forestry aviation representative, who would then give the Soldiers the go-ahead to respond. On the fire, all instructions as to where to pull water from (to fill the buckets) and where to drop water, were taken via radio.

"Those Air Attack guys have been doing this often for 20-to-30 years to get to this level, they know the big picture...we can't put the fire out completely, but what we can do is help control it, and keep it from spreading certain directions," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Brannen, an instructor pilot with Bravo Co., 1-168th Aviation.

Brannen first started working fires as a liaison in 2001 before transitioning to flying in 2002 and ultimately becoming a pilot-in-command in 2003.

"It's good to interface with other agencies, even though we work with them a lot, sometimes there are some misconceptions on what our challenges or capabilities are," he said. "I think they are always surprised on how much we rely on

the guys in the back."

The crew members in the back (flight engineers and crew chiefs) guide the pilots to the dip site, lining up the bucket, clearing the aircraft to move down, while simultaneously watching the rotors.

"There is a lot of helicopter on the Chinooks back here (behind the flight deck or cockpit), that the pilots can't see," said Maddox. "Our job is to paint a picture for them, a mental picture they can't see, so they know and feel comfortable with what we're going into. It takes a lot of trust in the back-seaters from the pilots. It's a team effort. Without one, the job can't be accomplished."

Power is also one of the most difficult aspects when it comes to maneuvering and dropping buckets. Maddox said the power required to lift the buckets to that altitude requires them to regulate the amount of water in their buckets. Sometimes they have to "burp" the bucket, meaning allow some of the water to be dispensed to reduce the overall weight, to ensure the pilots have the necessary power to be able to climb out of certain areas.

"I've never flown a fire with an F-Model (CH-47 Chinook) and it's a little bit heavier with the extra equipment," said Brannen. "When I flew the D-Model, we were running several thousand pounds lighter to start with, coupled with high temperatures,



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

An Oregon Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter, with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, dumps a 2,000-gallon capacity Bambi Bucket amid smoke over the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area in support of firefighting efforts at the Whitewater Fire on August 5, 2017. The Oregon National Guard was called upon following Governor Kate Brown's emergency order on August 2. Approximately 25 personnel and two Chinook helicopters are currently assigned to assist Oregon Department of Forestry with the fire.

our biggest challenge is power management. We are hauling as much water as we are able."

Ford said he welcomes the excitement that comes with the firefighting mission, "This is just a lot of fun. With the federal mission we are mainly moving people and stuff around, it's from here to there. Take it, set it down, and return to base," he said. "But here it's much more challenging. We run a great risk in this, if there's an up-draft of heat, or a down-draft, we have to be able to be 'Johnny-on-the-spot' to keep us in the air. There's a lot more challenge in it, risk versus reward. It's super rewarding when we are combating open flame all day long."

Brannen agreed, "I enjoy this probably a little more than a deployment, it's our own backyard, our own state."

Chetco Bar Fire

*Story by Sgt. Tyler Meister
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment*

BROOKINGS, Oregon – A sky full of ash looms overhead while Oregon Army and Air National Guard members work around the clock to help contain the threats. As of Sept. 8, nearly 700 Oregon Guardsmen have volunteered to join the fight against wildfires across the state, working alongside local, state and federal agencies to battle one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon's history.

The largest of these fires, which was started by lightning strikes in July, continues to burn southern Oregon in the rural areas around the town of Brookings. With a total of 177,301 acres burned so far, crews work nonstop to contain the threat and prevent it from spreading and endangering the local population and destroying structures.

"Every day on the way out to the fire lines we pass through the town of Brookings and the locals are always waving at us with smiles on their faces," said Spc. Isaiah Wunische, a human resource specialist with 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "They

constantly give praises and their support has rallied our troops here and helped keep morale extremely high."

Wunische said that most of the other Oregon National Guard personnel working alongside him were also activated for state active duty for 21 days. The first five days were spent at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Academy in Salem, Oregon, receiving their certifications to go out on the fire lines and fight the fires.

"I was more than willing to come help out my state when they needed it the most and the training we received at the DPSST was great at preparing us to help our fellow Oregonians in need," said Wunische.

Ensuring that Soldiers and Airmen can remain on the fire lines has been the responsibility of medics like Sgt. K-Cee Sperry, a combat medic specialist with Company C, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st IBCT. Sperry and her team have been able to treat minor medical ailments for their fellow Guardsmen at the Chetco Bar Fire, such as blisters and rolled ankles.

"This is my second time supporting the wildfire season and it has been an amazing experience," said Sperry. "We have been working with the civilian medical teams out here to ensure that all personnel and supply needs are met and the Soldiers can get back out on the fire lines ASAP to continue doing their job."

Sperry felt that challenges and experiences like this is why she and many others joined the National Guard. She said that being able to support fellow Oregonians has been the most rewarding aspect of this experience.

The team at the Chetco Bar Fire has been under the leadership of the military liaison Maj. Christopher Markesino, commander, Co. C.

"A total of 240 Army and Air Guardsmen from 14 different units have come together at the Chetco Bar Fire" said Markesino. "They have been able to seamlessly mesh together and do an outstanding job at working together to support the fire relief."

The National Guard's presence here has focused on supporting the incident commander and firefighters of the



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers practice containing fires during a field training exercise at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, Oregon, Aug. 28, 2017. Nearly 125 Citizen-Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team volunteered to join the second iteration of personnel activated by Gov. Kate Brown to assist with wildfires across the state of Oregon.

city of Brookings with putting out the fire and traffic assistance points."

Markesino has worked side-by-side with many civil authorities in the incident command post and he said the experience has been extremely educational and fulfilling because they are very professional and supportive of the National Guard's mission there.

"I feel that [the National Guard] is best suited to help in these types of disasters because this is our home and we will fight harder for our home than anyone else will," said Markesino. "We would not be able to do this without the support and understanding we receive from our employers and families."

Every year Oregon wildfires demand a lot from local, state and federal agencies that are in place to handle these types of disasters, but not every fire season requires a large call-up of National Guard firefighters.

One veteran of the Oregon fire season, Adrian Torres, who works for the Oregon Department of Forestry as a wild lands fires specialist, said he has enjoyed being able to reminisce on his eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps while working with the National Guard troops during the fire seasons.

"The National Guard supporters who are here to help us have greatly relieved the work load, all while maintaining a super positive atmosphere," said Torres. "It has been refreshing to see just how motivated and eager these Guardsmen have been."



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

Julie Olsen-Fink, an Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training instructor, initiates a controlled burn with a drip torch during a wild land field training exercise for more than 125 Oregon National Guard Soldiers at the DPSST facility in Salem, Oregon, Aug. 28, 2017. The exercise was part of their four-day training certification before being dispatched to wild land fires across the state. The Soldiers received training on firefighting equipment, deploying fire shelters, how to assess and mitigate hot spots, protecting structures and understanding fire behavior.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Ryan Dowell, a crew chief with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, monitors a Bambi Bucket through a hatch opening from inside a CH-47 Chinook helicopter over the Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area near Central Oregon on August 5, 2017. Dowell operated the valve beneath the bucket which allows for a quick fill and precise dump pattern while supporting the Whitewater Fire's ground crews.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

125th Special Tactics Squadron provide relief during Hurricane Harvey

Story by
Senior Airman Ryan Conroy
24th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs

HULBURT FIELD, Florida -- Oregon Airmen were deployed to Southeast Texas to provide critical disaster relief and to assist in rescue efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Special tactics Airmen with the 123rd and 125th Air National Guard Special Tactics Squadrons(STS) are exercising their personnel rescue and global access capabilities to provide critical relief to those stranded by Hurricane Harvey. The 123rd deployed from Louisville, Kentucky, and the 125th from Portland, Oregon.

“It’s like the Nile formed in neighborhoods throughout the Houston area – we’re talking four to six feet of standing water stranding people who can’t swim, families with children and drivers who are unaware of the depth of water on the roads,” said Maj. Aaron Zamora, director of operations, 123rd STS.

On Monday, the Airmen conducted a thorough assessment of airfields at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston, Texas, to assess the conditions of the runways following the massive rains of the storm. The assessment opened the airfield as a central hub to provide relief to Houston.

Global access teams are trained and equipped to assess air strips and landing zones for fixed and rotary wing aircraft to land anywhere from a major airfield to austere, clandestine dirt strips in either permissive or hostile environments. Once the team assesses the airfield and determines feasibility to land air assets, they maintain the capability of opening



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

Airmen from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron and the 304th Rescue Squadron with equipment and other supplies to support Hurricane Harvey relief efforts board a U.S. Air National Guard C-130 Hercules assigned to the 189th Airlift Wing, Ark. Air National Guard, as they prepare to depart the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., Aug. 29, 2017.

it for air traffic, and controlling the air traffic as it arrives.

Following the assessment, the operations center immediately deployed boat-launched search and rescue teams to start coordinating with military and civil authorities who are conducting rescue operations.

The teams quickly learned how to leverage the power of social media for this mission.

In the special tactics operation center, the teams utilize the Android Tactical Assault Kit system, which is generally used to track forces during military missions. Intelligence analysts working remotely from Kentucky, Ohio and Florida, screen information found on social media platforms and smartphone applications and use their expertise to connect potential rescues with special tactics capabilities.

For instance, individuals in distress can update a phone application with their location and the situations they find themselves in. The intelligence team screens the information and sends the information to the Airmen in real time.

“The area we’re working in is completely inundated with hundreds, if not thousands, of requests for rescue,” said Tech. Sgt. Brian Davis, intelligence analyst with the 123rd STS. “Since we’re such a small team with a specialized skill set, we find the people who need specialized rescue.”

Davis recalled a certain post where an elderly couple was trapped in an attic due to flooding, which required the special tactics team to utilize confined space rescue techniques.

In addition to personnel recovery, the Airmen in the field are being tasked with opening and coordinating helicopter landing zones for supplies and medical evacuations. As Hurricane Harvey began to dissolve and make landfall for its second time on Wednesday as a tropical storm, the special tactics teams redeployed east to where the storm expected to make landfall.

While the convoy drove, the intelligence team utilized live traffic cameras, monitored the Texas Department of Travel website for flooded, underwater or impassable roads to make adjustments along their route of travel to reach their target.

The number of rescues total is in the high 200s, but these Airmen are not worried about metrics.

“We try not to get caught up in the numbers, and I told my team before we arrived that our mission is to go to Texas and do the most good by helping as many people as we can,” said Zamora.

Air Guard munitions systems superintendent puts Airmen first

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. John Hughel
142nd Fighter Wing

PORTLAND, Oregon – With multiple deployments and unique assignments during her more than 29 years of military experience as a munitions system specialist, Chief Master Sgt. Kristen Miller has broken a few barriers along the way.

Her resume speaks for itself, as does her dedication to helping shape those in the career field.

With her recent job promotion, Miller has broken another barrier in the military, becoming the first female chief master sergeant munitions system specialist superintendent in the Air National Guard.

Her go-getter drive and determined personality started long before she joined the military. A natural and competitive athlete, Miller played softball at the University of Oregon in her hometown of Eugene until an extreme ankle injury ended her collegiate sporting career.

“I worked really hard and took pride in being a collegiate athlete, but I didn’t want that disappointment to define me or be the end of something,” she said.

Undeterred and looking for new challenges, Miller found her way to the Air Force and the munitions career field with a long-term assignment at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. After active duty she returned to Oregon, and eventually joined the Air National Guard in 1990.

For nearly 16 years she worked a variety of civilian jobs while maintaining her role as a traditional Guardsman. In 2006 she was hired full-time as a federal technician and has gained a reputation as a skilled expert and leader in the munitions community.

In the past 18-months alone, Miller has taken on four unique and diversified assignments around the world, beginning with a 6-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where she was in charge of

the entire stockpile of munitions used for both aircraft and security forces. When she returned to 142nd Fighter Wing she was appointed to head the Maintenance Operations Flight.

Still unpacking her boxes from these two assignments, Miller was selected for her next assignment in Washington, D.C., working as the special assistant to the senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“The assignment allowed me to see the big picture,” she said. It was fascinating to see how decisions made at the top could impact not just one particular unit, but how resources across the Department of Defense are managed and dispersed.”

Though the tour was cut short to address family concerns, it allowed Miller the perfect opportunity to step into her present assignment.

“We were looking for stability and a proven leader when Chief Miller was selected for the job,” said Col. Chris Lantagne, commander, 142nd Fighter Wing Maintenance Group.

Her ability to lead people stems from her approach to the mission and mentoring servicemembers along the way.

“Competency in the profession has always been one of her strongest assets,” said Lantagne. “Yet it’s her attitude that makes her the right person for the job.”

Munitions is a career field dominated in numbers by men, at a ratio of men to women in the Munitions Flight is in excess of 20 to one, making Miller’s accomplishment even that much more impressive.

Aside from the many demands there are all the meticulous necessary routines of accountability, storage, document control, not to mention all the moving pieces, from maintaining all the support equipment to transport the munitions but scheduling repairs and ordering replacement of defective or missing parts.

“Humble, approachable and credible,” said Lt. Col. Todd Hofford, commander, 142nd FW Maintenance Squadron,



Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Kristen Miller pauses for a photograph next to a display of weapons in her work area at the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., May 7, 2017. Miller recently was appointed as the first female Chief Master Sergeant Munitions System Specialist Superintendent in the Air National Guard.

summarizing the traits that make Miller such an effective leader.

Hofford has seen her take on each new challenge and invest in herself along the way.

Highlighting her extra dedication, Hofford noted that Miller is recognized nationally in the munitions community.

“She goes to conferences and gets to know this field inside and out,” he said. Miller “does the best job of anybody I have seen apply [Primary Military Education] in their daily life to manage people. She just doesn’t take the required courses and dump that information; she uses it as part of her management tool box.”

The hard work has paid off. When relating both overcoming obstacles and the

added challenge of the new job, Miller is honored for the opportunity to show what she can offer.

“I would have never dreamed that years ago when I was just drilling on weekends and working a variety of civilian jobs that I would get to this place in my military career,” said Miller.

This opportuning to lead Airmen and connect to their desire to serve the community and nation is part of what drives her with the job as well.

“It is hard to find these kind of people to lead an organization,” said Hofford. “She has the heart, she cares about people. She will be the first to lead the charge into battle, and everyone knows that she has their back.”

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon, Canadian engineers improve communities

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. John Hughel
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories, Canada -- Thirty Oregon Air National Guard civil engineers brought with them a diverse range of maintenance skill sets to complete repairs and construction assignments during a deployment July 16 to 29, 2017.

The Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron(CES) were joined by Royal Canadian Air Force construction engineers from 4 Wing Cold Lake, based in Alberta, as the two units completed a variety of projects, encompassing both military facilities and civic projects in the city.

“We meet regularly with the City of Yellowknife and federal departments, and the city asked us how the [Canadian Department of National Defense] could contribute to the city,” said Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Josh Van Tine, a construction engineer based in Yellowknife.

Van Tine’s efforts involves coordinating activities with the Joint Task Force North(JTFN) in the area north of 60-degree latitude.

“In the past, troop labor-based projects have been beneficial to the community, so when this [deployment] was identified, the city showed us projects that fit the criteria, and the Americans provided their time and skills,” said Van Tine.

The combined Airmen were seperated into teams based on trade skills. Plumbers were assigned to bathroom upgrades, heavy equipment operators tackled the Niven Lake Trail, electricians began installing new emergency lighting at the JTFN headquarters as well new hangar fixtures at the 440th Squadron, and structures tradesmen supported multiple projects at three different sites around the city.

American and Canadian troops “work well together overseas, so it only makes sense that we’d work together on projects in our own counties, and it prepares everyone for overseas deployments,” said Van Tine.

The 142nd CES has not deployed as a whole since its last expedition to Romania in 2015, where they restored a medical treatment center.



Oregon Air National Guard Master Sgt. Travis McDaniel, a civil engineer assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing Civil Engineer Squadron and Royal Canadian Air Force Lt. Jordan Vadala, a civil engineer assigned to 4 Wing Cold Lake, construct a concrete form to install a new lighting project at the 440th Squadron, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada, July 19, 2017.

“These deployments are important on several fronts,” explained Master Sgt. Ken Safe, operational superintendent, 142nd Fighter Wing CES. “This is how we train, recruit and retain our members, because the team building during these trips allows us to get the job done in the future.”

Beginning in January of this year, Safe, along with Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Eckert, conducted a site visit to the area, sizing up the projects, materials, and manpower capacities needed to complete the two-week endeavor.

“We had a couple of projects available to us, one in California and elsewhere, but we decided that coming to Yellowknife would allow us to build on the wing’s deployment here a few months before,” Safe said.

The Yellowknife deployment allowed the 142nd CES to work on a variety of projects, including a full range of lighting repairs and upgrades, along with installing a new air conditioner unit, a building fuel tank and upgrades in the dining facility.

Electricians took on two lighting projects at the 440th Sqdn. hangar. Upgrading the

lighting in the main hangar allowed for more energy- efficient fixtures to be added.

“Finding the right balance of tradesmen is always the most difficult part when you need 30 members on these deployments,” Safe said. “We never really know how long one project will take, or if we’ll have enough of one trade skill set; everything has to come together in a two-week window.”

The Airmen also completed the Niven Lake Trail extension, connecting two cutoff trails’ ends, which had to be tied together to complete the pathway. The project required heavy equipment operators to form areas into the marsh, in order to create a user-friendlier route around larger rock formations.

After scouting the location, it was estimated the trail would be around 600 to 800 feet in distance, but the terrain had hidden challenges. During the construction, trees needed to be cleared and extra materials were needed to fill the marsh, increasing the width and length of the completed trail.

“It took almost the entire two-weeks to

complete and was slightly over 1,000 feet in distance,” said Eckert. “The biggest challenge was working with the size of equipment, and the further you go down the trail with materials, the distance also increases per trip.”

Adjustment took place as the pathway moved forward. Trees were cut and hauled away, while the route was slightly extended to keep the elevation consistent.

On the last day of the deployment, the Canadian and American crew gathered for dinner and for accolades from local leadership, including the Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck.

“The Niven Lake Trail is a very proud part of the overall trail system in Yellowknife and accessibility is a high priority for the citizens of ours who may have trouble getting around on the conventional trail system,” said Heyck. “We are very grateful for the contribution that you made in our community, and for the continued service you have given back to your country and other countries around the world,” he said.

173rd Fighter Wing tests accident response readiness

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

MILLER ISLAND, Oregon – The 173rd Fighter Wing conducted a Major Accident Response Exercise to test off-base responsiveness to a disaster scenario, June 23, 2017.

Although unpleasant, officials assert that preparing for the worst is a critical responsibility for the flying mission; this exercise is a simulated aircraft crash into the Klamath River, not far from Kingsley Field.

“In crash rescue we don’t really get a lot of incidents—which is a good thing,” said Richard Fuller, from the Kingsley Fire Department and the incident commander for this exercise. “However it’s really good for us to come out and train and get out all of our equipment, all of our checklists, all of our experience and train for an incident as if it were live.”

Although an exercise is a simulation, planners say it serves to enhance actual responses far more than academic or tabletop exercises.

“The neat thing about today’s exercise is we are working with our off-base partners,” said Tech. Sgt. Morgan Lindsay, the exercise planner. “Air Link Helicopter Rescue, EMS, fire, as well as emergency management

professions off base to make sure that we can communicate with those partners, because in the event we have an aircraft crash, we’re” all going to have to work together.

First responders mobilized their resources to the scene, working with the coordinator, providing medical care, securing the site, and ensuring public safety. Additionally, the exercise tested emergency operations at Kingsley Field, including the Emergency Operations Center(EOC) and Crisis Action Team. Their emphasis was on communication, resource allocation, and the accountability aspects of emergency management.

“The role of the EOC is to coordinate resources for the on-scene commander as well as to help facilitate what the Crisis Action Team requests in terms of strategic direction for the developing situation,” said Lt. Col. Martin Balakas, director of the emergency operations center. “The biggest benefit from this exercise is practicing and refining our communication with our Kingsley Field first responders and our partners in the community.”

Balakas noted that one of the major roles of the EOC is to take broken up pieces of information and synthesize them in to a comprehensive view so that all responders will have a clear picture of what is happening during an emergency response.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy

Incident Commander Richard Fuller, a Kingsley Field firefighter, briefs emergency responders at Miller Island during the on-scene portion of the exercise, June 23, 2017. The exercise simulated an F-15 crash into the Klamath River and required a dive team, security forces, local sheriff’s office and other civilian first responders.

“There is always going to be chaos in the beginning of any major accident response and of course we saw a little bit of that today but it went away relatively quickly and the transfer of command between civilian agencies and the military happened rapidly, as well,” said Lindsay. “They had a good game plan and they executed it very well.”

According to Lindsay, each exercise proves its value by showing areas where confusion and poor communication can arise, and by addressing them for future responses.

“It’s good to know we can be confident in our first responder’s abilities to handle situations like this, she said.”

SENTRY EAGLE

30 years of Sentry Eagle

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon -- Exercise Sentry Eagle marked the history books for the 30th year since its inception in 1986 with the 2017 iteration of the exercise, July 20 through 23.

Sentry Eagle, a large-force, biennial exercise drew Airmen from around the country from as far away as Virginia and Texas. The Gunfighters from the 149th Fighter Wing in San Antonio, Texas, began flying with the unit one week prior and following the exercise the 162nd Wing remained in Oregon for two more weeks with their F-16 aircraft. Both units used the opportunity to fly air combat training missions with the 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles.

“Sentry Eagle is an opportunity for instructor pilots at Kingsley Field to participate in large-force air-to-air exercises, to practice the latest techniques and to operate with aircraft across the inventory,” said Lt. Col. Jon Vanbragt, the exercise’s project officer. “It’s an opportunity for us to really sharpen our skills.”

During the exercise a myriad aircraft launched, simulating the way an air war would take place. The fighters work as a team, learning to overcome adversities like service-specific practices, in the case of the visiting Navy pilots.

After each mission, the pilots harvest the greatest value in clarifying communications and learning to function as a cohesive unit, exactly like they would

in real-world circumstances, said Col. Jeff Smith, commander, 173rd FW.

Once the exercise began, it was up to Kingsley Field to keep things rolling smoothly. One example of the increased workload is the demand for fuel.

“Usually around 600 to 700 thousand gallons is what we pump in a month and we did that in under a week,” said Staff Sgt. Alex Huntsman, the fuels accountant for the logistics and readiness squadron.

What made the 2017 Sentry Eagle unique was the integration of the newest airframe to join the U.S. Air Force inventory — the F-35.

“The 4th-5th generation fighter integration was a true test of our capabilities and was the first time we’ve hosted a ‘next generation’ platform and capability on the ramp here at Kingsley,” Vanbragt said.

The logistics to make the exercise a reality can be daunting; the 141st Air Refueling Wing supplied two KC-135 Tankers for the duration of the exercise - the effort to bring it all to fruition began some time ago and involved many hours of work and each iteration of the exercise leaves its mark both on the base and on the local community.

“This community was bursting at the seams with personnel participating in the exercise,” said Vanbragt.

All of that translates into positive economic numbers for the city who also benefit from the visitors who come as far away as New Zealand and the Netherlands.

An open house serves as a tool to thank the community of the Klamath Basin for what Smith calls one of the most supportive local communities in all of the Air Guard and the Air Force.



An Oregon Air National Guard(ANG) F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing taxis to the ramp by a Texas ANG F-16 Fighting Falcon from the 149th Fighter Wing, following a training mission during Sentry Eagle July 19, 2017 at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore.

Blue Zone improves quality of life at Kingsley Field

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Riley Johnson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON -- The Oregon National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing(FW) achieved the designation as a Blue Zone Approved Worksite during Exercise Sentry Eagle, July 20th, 2017.

To achieve this designation, the team focused on multiple objectives such as designating a space for employees to quietly reflect, publish walking and running routes, and many others.

“Being a Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite means that 173d Fighter Wing has intentionally prioritized the well-being of its members through the implementation of research-based best practices,” said Jessie Hecocta, organization lead, Blue Zones Project - Klamath Falls. “The purpose is to create leaders who role-model well-being behaviors and create an environment which supports the health of others. It also means that the organization supports employees in pursuing their purpose and connecting that purpose in the context of their work.”

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony,

led by 173rd FW Commander Col. Jeff Smith and Klamath County Commissioner Derrick DeGroot, Airmen from around the base and their families participated in the Sentry Eagle 5K run/walk. Approximately 150 runners participated in the race and the overall winner was Assitant Chief Derek Sharrell, Kingsley Field Fire Department, with a time of 16:06.

“We are proud to be one of, if not the first DOD installation approved by the Blue Zones Project,” Smith said. “This is a phenomenal milestone for us.”

This event was put together by the 173rd FW Comprehensive Airman Fitness(CAF) Team. CAF is a holistic concept that focuses on taking care of Airmen and their Families by focusing on four different pillars of fitness: mental, social, physical and spiritual. The Blue Zones Approved Worksite designation is the result of the work the CAF team did over the last few months.

“For you guys to be here is huge, it shows commitment to our community and we could not be more proud,” said DeGroot. “We could not ask for a better partner than the 173rd Fighter Wing.”

173rd crews keep it safe



Staff Sgt. Rodney Clark signals to a pilot while weapons crews chalk the rear wheel in order to safely arm explosives integrated into the jettison system during Sentry Eagle, Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., July 23, 2017.

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

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON -- Launching aircraft during Sentry Eagle is a frenetic event as crews work to launch as many as 30 aircraft in under an hour. The typical largest launch for the 173rd Fighter Wing would top out at 12 aircraft, and that alone makes it one of the busiest flying wings in the Air National Guard. However, Sentry Eagle is one of the largest air-to-air exercise in the Air National Guard.(ANG)

Pilots climb into the aircraft, crew chiefs pull the pins on the gear, and the tower gives them the go-ahead to taxi off the ramp space toward the runway — but there is one more stop they must make. Just prior to take-off, weapons crews arm explosives designed to jettison external fuel tanks in an emergency, and under wartime conditions they would also arm a variety of weapons for the mission.

Four aircraft at time roll towards the weapons Airmen at a fast clip.

Staff Sgt. Rodney Clark, a weapons noncommissioned officer(NCO) with the 173rd, stands directly in front of them to marshal them to a stop while his

two Airmen execute a well-rehearsed sequence: chock the wheels, put a ladder next to the tanks, pull pins arming the explosives, place them all in a specially made bag and stow them inside the aircraft.

Despite the speed at which the load teams work, that is not their number one priority.

“There is a lot going on and we train to get the job done correctly and safely first,” said Tech. Sgt. Dane Sherin, a weapons NCO with the 173rd. “Speed comes with consistency and repetition. We try and work fast to get the pilots in the air, but we never want to work so fast that we miss something or take unnecessary risks.”

Sherin articulates one key principle for avoiding risk this way, “Our weapons shop is always trying to adhere to the cardinal rule of explosives safety—expose the minimum amount of people to the minimum amount of explosives for the minimum amount of time.”

Over this four-day exercise, weapons crews armed 75 F-15 Eagles from California’s 144th Fighter Wing, and Oregon’s 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings. That was then followed up with de-arming those same aircraft immediately following their return.



Kingsley Field members compete in the Sentry Eagle 5K run/walk at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore., July 20, 2017. The race was also part of the Blue Zones Project ribbon cutting ceremony which designated Kingsley Field as a Blue Zones Project Approved Worksite and was followed by the Sentry Eagle 5K run/walk. The Blue Zones Project encourages changes in communities that lead to healthier options.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Oregon Guard supports state agencies during solar eclipse

Story by
Sentinel Staff

PORTLAND, Oregon -- Oregon National Guardsmen from across the state were mobilized at the request of Gov. Kate Brown to support the Oregon Office of Emergency Management during the solar eclipse August 19 through 21, 2017.

Oregon's statewide governmental, preparedness, and tourism organizations worked together to ensure that Oregon was ready to accommodate an unprecedented number of Oregonians and visitors, said Brown.

Guardsmen were strategically placed across Oregon in communities across the path of totality to assist with traffic congestion, firefighting, search and rescue, aviation support and medically-trained troops were on standby in case of emergencies.

This was "a once in a lifetime opportunity to see a breathtaking natural phenomenon," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, adjutant general, Oregon National Guard. "Oregon citizen Soldiers and Airmen are pleased to support our communities and fellow state agencies to make sure that everyone had a safe experience during this event."

Besides some traffic issues, local, state, tribal and federal partners made sure that people had little trouble getting to see the eclipse.

"It was an excellent experience," said

"The Oregon National Guard is simultaneously supporting our state and nation - both at home and abroad."

- Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel
Adjutant General
Oregon National Guard

Dave Thompson, Oregon Eclipse Joint Information Center. "We stressed the importance of safe travel, preparing for delays, having adequate supplies and being mindful of fire dangers - and eclipse watchers did just that."

For the Oregon National Guard, the eclipse was just one of many duties that activated Guardsmen have been contributing to.

"The Oregon National Guard is simultaneously supporting our state and nation, both at home and abroad," said Stencel. "Ground and aviation servicemembers are on state active duty to augment fire-fighting efforts across the state, this is in addition to the approximately 250 Guardsmen deployed around the globe supporting our national interest."



photo courtesy of Oregon Office of Emergency Management



Photo by Capt. Jordan Villeneuve, Washington National Guard

A delegation of Bangladeshi border guard officers watches the total solar eclipse, during Bengal Guard 2017, an exercise with of the Oregon National Guard's State Partnership Program, at Camp Rilea, Ore., August 21, 2017. Members of the Oregon and Washington National Guards, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Pacific Command participated in the information exchange to share expertise in border security and counter drug operations. The Oregon National Guard has been partnered with Bangladesh since 2008.

NEWS

New Mexico Guard benefits from brigade reorganization

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

SALEM, Oregon -- The New Mexico Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 200th Infantry Regiment joined the Oregon National Guard's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team during the brigade's reorganization last year.

Since that time, the move has benefitted

both units, said Maj. Ali Dipour, the battalion operations officer. The two units already have history, including a deployment in 2009.

The relationship has provided new training opportunities for the New Mexico Guardsmen which have been both challenging and beneficial.

"Our Soldiers enjoy great training and this training has become very aggressive now with how we are transitioning into

a sustainment readiness function," said Dipour.

In April the Warfighter Exercise brought Guardsmen from both states together at Camp Rilea, Oregon, and provided the brigade a chance to train for the modern battlefield in a simulated combat environment, but also a chance to develop the partnership under the reorganization.

"The Warfighter Exercise successfully brought our Soldiers together for a

large-scale training event," said Capt. Francisco Cazares, battalion logistics officer. "Warfighter is the start of a new relationship between 1st Bn. and the rest of the 41st IBCT and we're excited about that," said Cazares.

The Las Cruces, N.M., battalion brings to the 41st IBCT a culturally diverse and well-trained battalion with more than 700 Soldiers. 1st Bn. is the only infantry battalion in the New Mexico National Guard, and that one of the things they bring to Oregon is all of the training they are able to conduct being located near Fort Bliss, Texas.

"As an infantry battalion we have transportation and the man power, and are the biggest battalion in southern New Mexico," said Capt. Luis Caloca, assistant battalion operations officer. "The state of New Mexico knows that we are well-trained and dedicated Soldiers."

The leadership from the two units will continue to work together and to bridge the gap that separates them geographically.

"The communication between New Mexico and Oregon has been great, the 41st leadership and staff have been great," said Lt. Col. Daniel Habbereiter, the battalion commander. "Both sides have embraced the idea of let's make this work."

From left to right: Capt. Francisco Cazares, Lt. Col. Daniel Habbereiter and Capt. Luis Caloca from 1-200th Infantry Battalion from the New Mexico National Guard pause for a photo outside the Las Cruces armory. The 1-200th joined the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat team as a Subordinate unit last year during the brigade's reorganization.



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

OR, Vietnamese CBRN teams increase interoperability

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

PORTLAND, Oregon. -- Members of the Oregon National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package(CERFP) participated in the 2017 Disaster Management Engagement Activity held in Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2017.

The National Guardsmen worked alongside the U.S. Marine Corps in order to share information and tactics for chemical disaster response with their partners in Vietnam's National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue.

During the training, subject matter experts from Oregon's CERFP team and VINASARCOM shared concepts and best practices in the medical and chemical triage fields.

"We hope we never actually have to respond to these types of threats, but it's our mission to train for it, and events like this show aggressors that we have the ability to respond," said Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Oliver Wisco, commander, medical group, CERFP Detachment 1. "This is expertise that we at the Oregon National Guard have and can share with other services and our state partners."

A key point for this training is the ability for the troops from both nations to develop professional relationships and to work together as one team during the event of a disaster.

"We're conducting this combined, joint training here in Vietnam to increase and validate our interoperability with our partners in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility," said U.S. Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher Joy, CBRN defense officer, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. "The interaction that we've had with our Vietnamese partners has been absolutely amazing. We may have language barriers, but we all speak CBRNE and that is what is bringing us together and strengthening our partnership."

The partnership between the Oregon National Guard and VINASARCOM began in 2012 as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, which pairs states with countries around the world for the purpose of supporting security cooperation between the U.S. and other nations.

The Oregon National Guard is also partnered with Bangladesh, a partnership dating to 2008.



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

Oregon National Guard Sgt. Jessika Lammert, a chemical, radiological and nuclear specialist along with a Vietnamese soldier demonstrates chemical decontamination techniques to members of Vietnam's National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue during a combined Disaster Management Engagement, Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2017.



National Guardsmen from the Oregon National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force demonstrate triage procedures during a combined Disaster Management Engagement, Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2017.



Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Enhanced Response Force speak with members of Vietnam's National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue during a combined Disaster Management Engagement, Hanoi, Vietnam, August 2017. The engagement was designed to increase interoperability between combined, joint CBRNE forces.

Contingent from Bangladesh border guards visit Oregon



Lt. Col. Mohammed Shafiul Alam Khan, a battalion commander with the Bangladesh Border Guards, explains his role during an information exchange known as Bengal Guard 2017 at Camp Rilea, Ore., Aug. 14, 2017. Members of the Oregon and Washington National Guards, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Pacific Command participated in the exchange to share expertise in border security and counter drug operations.



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

Staff Sgt. Nick Underhill, with the Western Region Counterdrug Training Center, speaks to a delegation of Bangladesh Border Guard officers during Bengal Guard 2017 at Camp Rilea, Ore., August 14, 2017. Members of National Guard, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Pacific Command shared expertise in border security and counter-drug operations. Oregon has been partnered with Bangladesh since 2008.

FEATURES

Oregon Guardsmen support multinational exercise

Story by Staff Sgt. Amy Elker
and Capt. Leslie Reed
Oregon Army National Guard Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon -- Communicating and working in a combined, joint-service environment can be challenging, especially with NATO counterparts from other countries in a high-intensity environment to accomplish a common goal.

One unit, the Oregon National Guard’s 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, had the opportunity to do just that, putting their media aquisition and relations skills to the test during their annual training.

Eight Soldiers from the unit deployed to eastern Europe in support of the U.S. Army Europe-led exercise Saber Guardian 2017, an annual multinational exercise, which took place in July in numerous locations across Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania and involved more than 20 NATO nations and partners.

Saber Guardian, one of 18 U.S. Army Europe allied and partnered exercises in the Black Sea region, featured a variety of realistic tactical training to convey a strong military partnership across Europe.

“Saber Guardian assures our allies and partners of our commitment to NATO and to the security of Europe to deter aggression of any force that would threaten the values and institution we fight for,” said Maj. Michael Harrison, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armor Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. “The greatest lesson we can learn is we are much stronger when we fight as a united force, with our allies and partners, rather than as a unilateral actor.”

“This experience is the most realistic way to test our unit’s mobilization readiness, while giving our Soldiers real-world opportunity to develop their skills and showcase the value of military public affairs,” said 1st Sgt. Kevin Hartman, 115th MPAD.

Based out of Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria, the MPAD’s Soldiers manned the Coalition Press Information Center and were responsible for providing photo and video imagery, writing news articles , producing video news packages, working with the local and international press, supporting press engagements with senior leaders, and coordinating public affairs coverage for combined, joint public



U.S. Army photo by Maj. John Farmer, 115h MPAD

Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, a public affairs broadcast noncomissioned officer with 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, captures video during an airfield seizure training exercise at Bezmer Air Base, Bulgaria, on July 18 during exercise Saber Guardian 17.

affairs assets - all of which are part of the unit’s mission.

“We are able to train on the vast majority of our mission essential tasks, while at the same time, contribute to a real-world mission that has strategic and political impacts both in the U.S. and Europe,” said Maj. John Farmer, commander, 115th MPAD.

The unit can divide into teams and provide comprehensive photo and video coverage of events. Soldiers are given the responsibility and expected to be self-sufficient in obtaining pertinent information for their final product. Once product is complete, it is uploaded for distribution to media outlets around the world and for inclusion into the U.S. National Archives.

“When I get to the location in order to meet up with the unit, everyone is so helpful, we all want to provide the best coverage for each unit and their mission,” said Spc. Michael Germundson, a public affairs specialist writer with the unit.

Sgt. Tyler Meister, a public affairs sergeant with the 115th, recalled his favorite event was being able to witness the multinational airborne operation at Bezmer Air Base in Bulgaria, and field

video teleconference, which allowed others back in the U.S. to see live, real-time footage of the event.

The training event, Operation Swift Response 17, which is linked to Saber Guardian, included the insertion of more than 500 military paratroopers from both C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Participating nations in Operation Swift Response included Bulgaria, Canada, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania and the U.S.

The MPAD’s Soldiers created more than 15 video products and 60 print products for release through the Defense Video Imagery Distribution System.

“Overseas training opportunities create an even more valuable unit camaraderie and boosts retention,” said Hartman “Our Soldiers are more excited than ever to share the Army’s story with our hometown, national and international news outlets.”

The MPAD is part of the 82nd Brigade’s 821 Troop Command Battalion and is based in Salem, Oregon. The unit

previously deployed to support exercise Saber Guardian 2016 in Cincu, Romania, supporting elements from the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. The 115th has also deployed to Bosnia (98-99), Iraq (07-08) and Afghanistan (12-13).



Multinational paratroopers are deployed via aircraft during Operation Swift Response at Bezmer Airbase, Bulgaria, July 18 during exercise Saber Guardian 17.

1186 Military Police Company trains for Afghanistan

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

Chapparral, N.M. -- Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1186th Military Police Company, Salem, Oregon, mobilized for training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and the McGregor Training Complex



Sgt. Desieree Henrich, a military police Soldier speaks with Oregon National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch, during PSD training at the McGregor Training Complex in Chapparral, N.M., June 30.

in Chapparral, New Mexico, August 2, 2017, in order to prepare for a nine-month protective service detail(PSD) deployment in Afghanistan later this year.

“They’re ready and have already been training together,” said Staff Sgt. Jonathon Carter, a military police observer-controller-trainer. “They came prepared and are doing great.”

The unit has been training for their upcoming mission for more than a year to provide security and convoy support for dignitaries and high-ranking officials.

“Most of our Soldiers have trained at the PSD course Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri,” said Sgt. Kenneth Clark, a shift leader with the 1186th. “It’s a three-week course, but now we’re training those who haven’t been.”

The 1186th is the only military police unit in Oregon and many of the Soldiers have been with the unit for some time.

“A lot of the relationships are really close-knit, so it’s a secondary family for a lot of us,” said Clark.

Sgt. Desiree Henrich, a military police Soldier hasn’t been in with the 1186th long, but agreed that it has a special camaraderie. She said it is her first deployment, and even though she is excited and a little nervous, she is



Oregon Army National Guard military police Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police Company practice defensive operations during a training mission at the McGregor Training Complex in Chapparral, N.M., June 30, 2017.

confident in the people she is going with.

The 1186th commander, Capt. Richard Smith, said he is proud of the character and competence of his unit.

“They consistently adapt and they really do want to do good,” he said. “Ever

since last year they’ve taken on this mission as a profession, they’ve all done an excellent job gaining understanding of this mission, applying all of their attention to it, and training to the best of their ability.”

AZUWUR

French community honors Oregon's 41st Division



Story by
Sentinel Staff

MILWAULKIE, Oregon -- Throughout 2017, the centennial of World War I, the government and nation of France will be honoring American and allied forces who contributed to the safety and security of their nation.

Among the military units to be honored is Oregon's 41st Infantry Division. For six months French communities in the Centre-Val de Loire region, southwest of Paris, will be highlighting the 41st, its veterans and their contributions to the local community and to France at large.

Representing the State of Oregon and the Oregon National Guard is retired Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach, who travelled to France in July and will return for ceremonies on behalf of the state and the 41st Division Infantry Association, in November.

"Oregon was one of the significant force providers for the 41st Division in 1917, and today's 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team bears their lineage and honors," said Beach. "The centennial anniversary of the activation and mobilization of the units that became the 41st Division is a milestone and a good time to acknowledge the Soldiers for their exceptional accomplishments in support of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I."

The 41st Inf. Div. was activated in April 1917, right before America entered World War I. Later that year, after training in North Carolina, the unit deployed to Europe as part of American Expeditionary Force, commanded by Gen. John J. Pershing.

When the 41st arrived in France, it was redesignated the 1st Depot Division, and served as the theater replacement unit for all of Europe. Based in the Loir-et-Cher department, the division was responsible for providing equipment and supplies,

training new units and individual augmentees, managing communications, operating hospitals, and running the largest cold-storage plant in the war.

For many Americans, World War I is a forgotten war, but not so in France, even a 100 years later.

"Remembering World War I is also remembering the friendship that evolved between the doughboys and the population of the region," said Valerie Chapeau, historian for the French region of Vallee du Cher et du Romorantinais. "After initial observation of these American Soldiers speaking a foreign language and having such a different, modern lifestyle, close ties with the local French population became the rule. After the war, many Soldiers kept in touch with the families that had welcomed them...we hope that these commemorations will strengthen the friendship between the people of the Loir-et-Cher department and the United States."

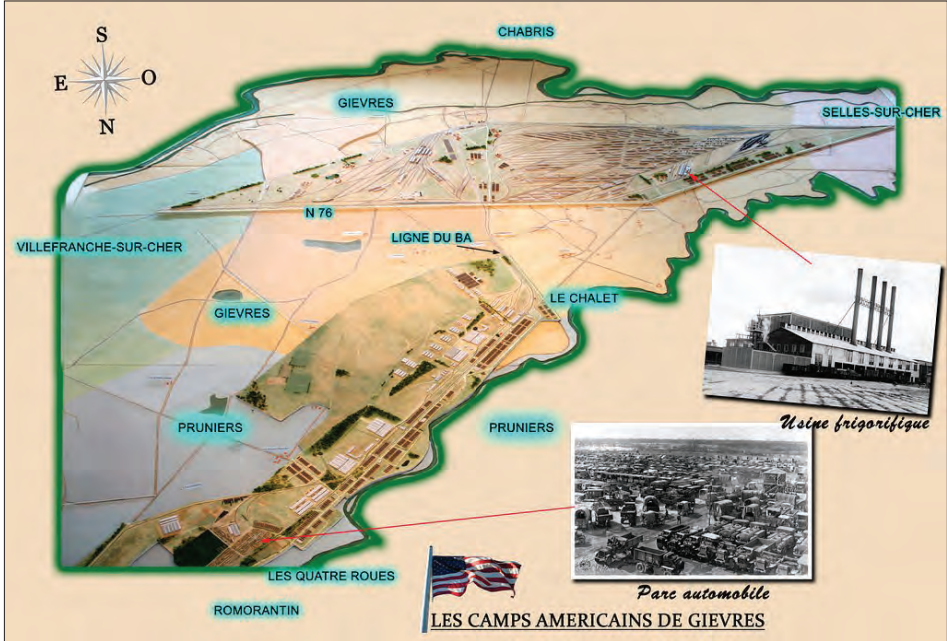
Beach agrees.

"Very strong friendships and partnerships were established and renewed during World War I," said Beach. The United States and France have been allies since the beginning of our nation. It's important that we remember this and keep the ties strong. The Soldiers sent from northwestern states to the Loire-Cher valley in 1917 endeared themselves to the

41st Division, as the division left its mark and the locals have not let the memories die - they have a respect for their history," said Beach. "There is a deep desire to reinvigorate the relationship with the United States and remember our shared history. Anyone who travels to France this year will have a great opportunity

to experience a unique touch of the hospitality that our Soldiers experienced 100 years ago."

For more information about centennial activities visit the American site www.worldwar1centennial.org or the French site www.centenaire.org, which is also available in English.



Courtesy U.S. World War I Centennial Commission

The American Camp where the 41st was headquartered is seen in the map above. The present location of the camp is marked with historical markers seen in the photo below.



Courtesy photo by retired Brig. Gen. Steven Beach

"The United States and France have been allies since the beginning of our nation. It's important that we remember this and keep the ties strong."

- retired Brig. Gen. Steven R. Beach

citizens of that region."

The centennial celebrations were the idea of local French community and veterans groups, with additional support from the Association France-Etats-Unis and the U.S. Embassy Paris. The region was recently honored by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication for their commemoration to their heritage.

During the year-long celebration, there will be temporary and permanent museum displays, musical and film events, lectures and battlefield studies, as well as military and equestrian displays.

"The people in the communities in the Cher Valley are very warm to Americans and especially to those with ties to the

Oregon Army Guardsmen present veterans with long-awaited medals

Story by Mike Allegre
Photos by Abe Andrade



LEBANON , Oregon -- Oregon Army National Guardsmen presented ten veterans who reside at the Oregon Veterans Home here, medals and other awards which they had earned while serving in the military during a ceremony, June 10, 2017.

Most of the veterans had never received or had been presented their military awards before they were discharged. Several had received some or all them, but later lost their medals and ribbons.

The eight men and two women who received a framed shadow box served in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan. A list of other awards the veterans had earned was announced as two Guardsmen, Col.



Former Oregon Army National Guard Soldier and Oregon Veterans Home resident Krystle Carruthers and her father admire her military awards and medals in a ceremony in Lebanon, Ore., June 10, 2017.

Kevin Dial and Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques, presented the framed ribbons and medals to each recipient.

Dial and Jacques said that it was a true honor to take part in the ceremony.

"We must remember that no one ever

wins a military award," said Dial. "It's not competition - these medals and awards result from the honorable service of these veterans and their service paved the way for those of us who followed in their steps to serve our country."

The list of honorees included: U.S. Army Spc. Krystle K. Carruthers, U.S. Army Cpl. Dorothy Parrish, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Milton L. Oleman, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Herbert Buller, U.S. Army Spc. Michael J. Kelley, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Nolan H. Meuse, U.S. Navy Seaman Gregory D. Pearce, U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jay B. McSpaden, U.S. Army Pfc. Joel F. Satoris and U.S. Army Sgt. Rodrigo A. Gonzalez.



Oregon Army National Guard Col. Kevin Dial and Sgt. Maj. Vince Jacques present former Navy petty officer and Oregon Veterans Home resident Herb Buller with military awards and medals in a ceremony in Lebanon, Ore., June 10, 2017.