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Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Golf Company 1-189 Aviation deploys to the Persian Gulf



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, stand in formation during a mobilization ceremony honoring their upcoming overseas deployment, January 27, in Salem, Oregon. Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit are scheduled to deploy to the Middle East where they will provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region using Blackhawk helicopters. **See story on Page 5**

Oregon Guard assists 58th Presidential Inauguration

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Nearly 50 Oregon National Guard service members supported the 58th Presidential Inauguration, January 18-22, in Washington, D.C. The Oregon Guardsmen augmented the District of Columbia National Guard as part of Joint Task Force - District of Columbia (JTF - DC), supporting the opening ceremony, swearing-in ceremony, inaugural speech and parade, as well as follow-on events.

Oregon Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police (MP) Company, 821st Troop Command Battalion, based in Salem, Oregon, assisted district and federal agencies with security, including crowd management, traffic control, and assisting with the flow of people in and out of the area during the inaugural events.

“It’s our job to help ensure people will be peaceful for the safety of the President, and all the people in attendance,” said Lt. Richard Smith, a platoon leader with the 1186th MP Company.

In addition, Oregon National Guard public affairs personnel assisted with highlighting the overall National Guard participation in the historical event. These public affairs specialists captured photos and video of the Guard’s participation, and assisted with coordinating news



Photo by Sgt. Tyrone Williams, JTF-DC Public Affairs

National Guard Soldiers assist local authorities with crowd control in front of the Capitol building during the 58th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20, 2017. The service members were sworn in as special police and tasked to support local and federal partners in ensuring the safety and security of inauguration events.

conferences and interviews with Guardsmen.

The Oregon National Guard routinely supports civil authorities when needed during major events and is able to seamlessly integrate with interagency partners.

“Partnering with local, federal security and public safety agencies during the 58th Presidential Inauguration is just one more example of how the Oregon National Guard is “Always Ready, Always

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COMMAND

Oregon Guard tradition transcends generations

I recently had an opportunity to speak at the 100th anniversary celebration of the initial activation of the 41st Division at the beginning of WWI. As I listened to the stories from wars in the distant past, I was struck by how the men and women in those stories did not know they were making history. They were trained and ready when the call came from their state and nation, and they performed their jobs with both courage and distinction.

The Oregon National Guard has a constant stream of deployments, redeployments, overseas operations tours and state-side missions that are met by every Service Member in this organization with professionalism, enthusiasm and sacrifice. In every combatant command across the globe – whether supporting the Global War on Terror or improving peoples' lives through infrastructure improvements or security – we have Soldiers and Airmen making a difference.

Here at home in Oregon, our ranks continue to train with the best equipment and gear we can acquire, so that when called upon in

response to natural or manmade disasters, our Soldiers and Airmen can answer the call with the utmost professionalism and expertise. Oregonians will know that when there is a challenging task at hand, Oregon Guard members are “always ready, always there.”

This is what the Oregon National Guard is all about – it's about being trained and ready so that when natural disasters befall our great state, we are there to answer the call. It's about developing our skills so that when wars break out in distant countries, we are there to answer that call. We have a tradition of being where history is made. We will continue to answer that call, so that 100 years from now, it will be our stories that are told and that inspire the next generation of Oregon National Guardsmen.

I am proud of the work each and every one of you has done. I fully expect that you will continue these accomplishments as we move forward. It is paramount that we stay ahead of challenges by continuing our training, staffing, mentoring and mission preparedness.



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

It is equally important that we uphold our core values as the foundation for all that we do, and I want to thank you for making the Oregon Military Department a proud, professional, ethical organization. I am constantly reminded by our families, supporters and the citizens of Oregon of how much they appreciate your dedication and patriotism, and I echo their sentiments.

Thank you for your service!

Fitness essential to mission and life success

Physical fitness is critical to the ability to do your job as a Soldier or Airman. It is even more important for your long-term health and how well you enjoy life. We should all exercise, eat properly, get good sleep, and deal with the things in life that help us maintain good health because it's the right and responsible thing to do. When circumstances take control and you can't eat properly, sleep enough, or exercise, try to get back to a healthy schedule as soon as you can. Look at physical fitness as one of the most essential aspects of your life. Try to get to the point where it's easy to pass the military physical fitness requirements and a height/weight screening at any time, and encourage those around you and under your supervision to adopt this thought process too. It will help them now and for the rest of their lives. It will also help your unit be better prepared for any no-notice emergency or other call up.

Leaders have additional responsibilities for inspiring top performance by modeling, living up to or exceeding the standards, administering physical fitness tests, and for ensuring subordinates comply with regulations. The Army uses the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) as a way of measuring physical fitness, the one it adopted by choice for all Soldiers across the entire U.S. Army. The Army has also recently instituted additional standards for testing physical aptitude to qualify individuals for the various military specialties, called the Occupational Physical Assessment Test (OPAT). Attendees at the Joint Senior Leaders Workshop at Camp Rilea in January had a chance to see the OPAT and test their skills.

Many factors affect the decision about when and how physical fitness training and

testing occur, but unit commanders are required to ensure compliance with policy and regulation using their own judgment and knowledge of unit requirements. This responsibility is not a light one. Efforts to ensure top physical fitness will affect people, not just during the current training cycle, but also throughout their entire lives. How they enjoy their time after military service and into their retirement years is affected by how healthy they are now and by the good patterns of behavior they develop while in the military. Unit commanders and subordinate leaders can affect unit climate and inspire good habits and a healthy approach to life.

Practical examples of what can be done include administering the fitness test frequently and in accordance with unit SOPs and training schedules, encouraging subordinate elements to plan for and schedule time for physical activities and test “for record” when it makes the best sense on the yearly training cycle. Do PT often and in small doses, incorporated into the training schedule as appropriate. Set the expectation for maintaining fitness – always! Encourage people to eat healthy foods and get enough sleep. It is more difficult for traditional Guardsmen to break unhealthy habits, but monthly drills provide a predictable interval to remind and encourage.

For the full-time Oregon National Guard members, the Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU) is administering the Oregon Military Employee Sleep and Health (MESH) Study to help provide information and action plans for improving individual health. There are numerous examples of good things to do and creative ways to incorporate



Brigadier General, Steven R. Beach Assistant Adjutant General - Army

them into the limited time available. And, as always, there are a number of creative ways to recognize and reward good behaviors and good results.

Physical fitness is a military standard and it's monitored because it's essential. We should encourage exercise because it's fun and encourage exercise because it helps you maintain your weight, makes you stronger, healthier, and more resilient. Exercise because it is good for you right now, and more importantly, it will be good for you for the rest of your life. Eating right and getting enough sleep are also important. Being physically strong and healthy helps ensure you are prepared to face life's challenges and emergencies as they arise. We are in the business of providing forces for the state and nation.

We owe it to the citizens of the state and country to be as ready as we can be, so we will be there quickly when the need is great. We also owe it to each other to strive for a long, healthy, and enjoyable life by working on those small steps we can do each day to keep ourselves healthy.

Reunion events planned for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V



Several reunion events are scheduled to take place July 1-4, 2017, for members of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Phoenix V.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the return of the 41st Infantry Brigade from Afghanistan as part of CJTF Phoenix V in 2006/2007. At the time of the mobilization, it was the largest mobilization of the 41st Infantry Brigade since WWII.

In addition to more than 1,000 Soldiers from the 41st Brigade, the Phoenix V Task Force also included Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Civilian Police from 19 different countries. While in Afghanistan, the Task Force consisted of more 7,500 people and was responsible for training the Afghan National Army and National Police.

Members of the Task Force are invited to join the Salem-Kaiser Volcanoes Baseball Team at the 10th Annual Patriotic Tribute Day on the 4th of July. Members of CJTF Phoenix V and their family members will be given complementary tickets to the game and will be

recognized during pre-game activities. A member of the Task Force will throw out the ceremonial fist pitch. The Volcanoes staff will open a special area where task force members can meet before the game. Game time will be at 7:00 p.m. Task force members are not required to wear a uniform but can if desired. In addition, the Volcanoes will be honoring 13 Oregon “Fallen Warriors” in a formal ceremony with their families present.

Several other events will take place in conjunction with the game. All Task Force members and their family are encouraged to attend any and all of the activities.

Some of the planned events include a winery tour followed by dinner on July 1. On Sunday, July 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., there will be a tour of the Oregon Coast starting in Lincoln City and ending in Newport. On July 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the group will visit Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood followed by a pizza dinner at Chuck E Cheese Pizza in Salem. A golf tournament is also being planned for July 4 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The best way for members to learn about the schedule and sign up to attend is to go to the CJTF Phoenix V Facebook page and indicate which events you are interested in attending, or members can email Master Sgt. Angel Smith at angel.m.smith22.mil@mail.mil.

COMMAND

Oregon Army National Guard colonel promoted to brigadier general

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

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, located at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Prendergast is moving on from his assignment as the brigade commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) headquartered in Clackamas, Oregon to become the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, at Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard in Salem, Oregon.

He was also recently selected, effective April 14, as the Deputy Commander and Army Reserve Component Integration Advisor, United States Army Africa (USARAF) and Southern European Task Force. His duties include responsibility for Army National Guard Affairs and the State Partnership Program, as well as helping operations and engagements that enhance defense and deployment capacity of African Land Forces in East and West Africa. Additionally, he will act as a USARAF Contingency Command Post JTF Commander when it deploys, with a special emphasis of fostering habitual, routine relations with specific regionally aligned forces in the U.S. Army National Guard. This is a dual-hatted position he will hold while remaining the Assistant Adjutant General - Army.

“His selection is a testament to the abilities and experience that he brings to the National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

In his civilian career, Prendergast works at Nike IHM Inc. as the director of manufacturing logistics and planning. He began his career with Nike in January 1989 in Freeport, Maine.

Prendergast graduated from Wilson High



Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV (center) is pinned with his new “one-star” rank by his wife, Jenifer, and Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, during a promotion ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

School in Portland, Oregon, in 1986. In 1990, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. He graduated from the resident U.S. Army War College with a Masters in Strategic Studies in 2011.

He first joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1992 as a combat engineer with the 162nd Engineer Company in Portland. He attended State Officer Candidate School at the Oregon Military Academy and received his commission in 1994.

Throughout his career in the Oregon Army National Guard, he has served as a mortar and infantry platoon leader for C Company (Roseburg) 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment; commander of D Company (Grants Pass) 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment; and commander of E Troop (Woodburn) 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment. He was the operations

officer for 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment (Forest Grove) and deployed with the battalion in 2003 in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

In 2005, he was assigned as the executive officer for the adjutant general at Joint Force Headquarters in Salem. In 2006, he became the executive officer for 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment (Bend) and took command of that squadron in 2007. He deployed the squadron to Iraq with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2009.

In 2011, he assumed command of the 82nd Rear Operations Center in Clackamas, Oregon. In October 2012, he took command of the 249th Regional Training Institute in Monmouth, Oregon, where he led the RTI’s move to Camp Umatilla near Boardman, Oregon. He then became the brigade commander of the 41st IBCT in 2014.

Prendergast thanked his family during



Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV receives a general officer “one-star” flag during his promotion ceremony, April 1, 2017, at Camp Withycombe.

the promotion ceremony, “Everything we do really is based on the strength we have at home. For me, the support of my wife, Jeni, and our children has really helped me to be successful both at Nike and in my role within the Guard over the last 25 years.”

He also thanked the many mentors he had throughout his life; his grandfather, friends, neighbors, fellow military officers and noncommissioned officers he served with, and his boss and coworkers at Nike.

“It really takes a village of supporters to enable us and it’s through that mentorship that we can accomplish what we set out to do,” he said.

Prendergast shared stories with the audience from memorable times throughout his career, including his two deployments and training maneuvers at Yakima Training Center where he learned to appreciate “the power of non-commissioned officers” to accomplish the mission.

“I’ve learned from all of you,” he told the audience. “Seniors, peers, subordinates, everyone I’ve worked with I’ve learned from because they all bring something different. If we treat every personal contact we have as either a teaching moment or a learning opportunity, we will unlock the potential of the Oregon Army National Guard to no end. If we know ourselves and seek self-improvement there’s nowhere we can go but up.”

Transgender policy changes continue to shape U.S. Military

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

PORTLAND, Oregon — At the conclusion of WWII, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Orders 9980 and 9981, ending discrimination in the federal work force and the armed forces. Nearly 70 years later, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced the military will lift the ban on transgender troops openly serving, eliminating one of the last barriers of equal opportunity in the U.S. military since President Truman’s historic affirmation.

The policy issues have a deadline of July 1, 2017 to be fully implemented, yet during the September Regularly Scheduled Drill (RSD) at the Portland Air National Guard Base, members of the 142nd Fighter Wing were able to engage the changes as part of the monthly Diversity and Inclusion Counsel meeting.

As the Executive Director for the TransActive Gender Center in Portland, Jenn Burleton led an engaging presentation titled “In Service to Our Country” that specifically focused on Transgendered Americans currently serving in the military. With policy changes, the setting allowed those attending to first begin to understand how gender is assigned by gender role compared to experience.

“It is first important to understand the term transgender and how individuals who do not experience an essential match between being male or female with their assigned gender role,” Burleton said.

Statistically, 95 percent of Americans are cisgender, meaning they identify with the sex they were assigned at birth.

For them, it can be a challenge to try and understand how a person born and raised as a man can identify as a woman. Raising the visibility of gender identity has been the issue of gender assigned public restrooms and locker rooms. In March, the State of North Carolina passed a wide-ranging bill excluding transgendered individuals from using bathrooms that do not match the gender established on their birth certificates.

“This is something we all do, each of us just wants to be able to use a facility when we need to do the most basic of human functions,” she said.

Burleton pointed out there are zero reported U.S. cases of a transgender person exposing or assaulting someone in a restroom or locker room.

In describing some of the policy and cultural changes in the military, Burleton spoke from experience. Having enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp in 1970, she had to confront her gender identity during her enlistment.

“I probably was one of the first cases of someone being open about being a transwoman,” she explained. “I received an honorable discharge but I wanted to serve my country even though I had a high draft number and probably would have never been drafted anyway.”

In announcing the immediate changes to the policy on June 30, 2016, Secretary Carter described why the Defense Department changed the policy now.

“Our mission is to defend this country,” he said. “We don’t want barriers unrelated to a person’s qualifications to serve preventing us from recruiting or retaining the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine who can best accomplish the mission.”

The new DoD policies will be



Answering questions from Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing, Jenn Burleton (right), executive director for TransActive Gender Center, Portland, discussed some of the changes regarding transgendered service members with recent DoD policies during the monthly Wing Diversity and Inclusion Counsel meeting, Sept. 11, 2016, at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

implemented in stages over the next 12 months. With an estimated 7,000 active and reserve transgender service members, the new policy allows for guidance and clarity in the coming year. The policies and procedures set forth flexibility to the different services and commanders but it begins with members notifying their commander to start the necessary medical care and treatment.

As more guidance from the DoD takes place, training the entire force will factor in how to start accessing new service members who are transgender. By October 1, 2016, the DoD will publish the Commander’s Training Handbook

along with medical guidance, policies and procedures. By July 1, 2017, all training should be complete with full compliance for recruiting and policies in place.

At the conclusion of the Diversity Council meeting, 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Roper thanked Burleton for the presentation and engaging the Airmen in attendance.

“There are going to be several modifications this next year but by beginning the conversation and addressing the policy changes like we did today, I really see us all moving forward in a positive direction.”

NEWS

Oregon Soldiers proud to contribute to Inauguration team

Continued from Front Page

There,” said Stephen Bomar, director of public affairs for the Oregon Military Department.

Civilian law enforcement officers were responsible for the safety and security of all personnel during the inaugural events. The National Guardsmen provided assistance to local civilian authorities as needed. All National Guard forces supporting the Inauguration were sworn-in as Special Police by the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. However, the National



Photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick Evenson, JTF-DC Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Tianna Waite, public affairs specialist with 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, photographs inauguration events from a UH-72 Lakota helicopter providing security over Washington D.C. during the 58th Presidential Inauguration.

Guardsmen were not armed. “We have a purpose, we’ve trained for this for a number of months - some of us for a number of years,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Wright, a platoon sergeant with the 1186th MP’s.

In total, more than 7,500 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, from 44 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, served with the joint task force. The District of Columbia National Guard specifically created JTF - DC in response to requests for assistance from local and federal agencies in the National Capital Region. The National Guard task force supplemented security, communication, medical evacuation, logistics and other support capabilities. Their support ensured that the hundreds of thousands of expected spectators were able to move around smoothly and safely before, during and after the Inauguration events.

An estimated crowd of 800,000 to 1-million attended the national event.

“It’s a huge event,” said Staff Sgt. Shawn May, squad leader with the 1186th MP Company. “That you really can’t understand until you’re here. How big it really is. And how special it is to be a part of it.”

Pvt. Gerod Martin agreed, saying it is one the best experiences he has had being in the National Guard. “It’s a big deal



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1186th Military Police Company pose for a group photo at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 18, prior to in-processing for National Guard support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. More than 7,500 Soldiers and Airmen from 44 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia provided support to local and federal authorities for the inauguration events.

considering not many people get to do it,” he said.

National Guard support to presidential inaugurations dates to April 30, 1789, when local militia members (today’s National Guard) joined the U.S. Army and Revolutionary War veterans to form an honor detail and escort Gen. George Washington during the procession from

Mount Vernon, Va., to his inauguration ceremony in New York City. The National Guard has continued this tradition of inaugural support ever since. Over the years, National Guard involvement has grown and is designated to honor the commander-in-chief, recognize civilian control of the military, and celebrate democracy.

1-82nd Cavalry troopers gain experience on new Stryker vehicles

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

YAKIMA, Washington – Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, tested out one of its newest assets, the Stryker, during New Equipment Training (NET) and fielding in March 2017.

The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The Oregon Army National Guard is expected to receive approximately 80 Strykers in multiple variations for different missions.

Units in the squadron spent 28 days in the high desert of Yakima Training Center in central Washington getting familiar with their new equipment. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Troops are qualifying on the Reconnaissance variant, and Delta Troop is qualifying on the Mobile Gun System.

Cpl. Tyler Charleboix, with Alpha Troop, 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, who use to operate Strykers during his time as an active duty Soldier, detailed his reunion, “This is our first time rolling out with these trucks and shooting with them, so we’re out here to get a little



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, prepare to set out on a convoy in M1126 Stryker Combat Vehicles during New Equipment Training, March 22, 2017, at Yakima Training Center, near Yakima, Washington. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron is converting into a Stryker Reconnaissance Squadron under the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team and spent 28 days training in central Washington with their new equipment.

experience and a feel for it. It’s a perfect day out here and it looks like the guys are doing pretty good.”

1st Lt. Cody Comerford, also with Alpha Troop, has been impressed with the Stryker’s versatility and capabilities.

“Currently this is a whole new animal for us. It can go pretty much anywhere, we haven’t got it stuck yet,” he said.

Comerford said that although they’ve run into some issues, their future with these vehicles looks bright.

“They [Soldiers] are liking it, the maintenance is a little rough, but I think once we get it all dialed in it will be a good asset,” he said.

The maintenance section of the squadron’s Forward Support Company spent a much longer time, since January, doing their NET training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to familiarize themselves with maintaining and repairing the new vehicles.

At the tail end of the NET fielding, the

Soldiers said they were feeling pretty confident with their new rigs.

“Its been fun, a fun ride, I’m looking forward to the future with these things,” said Charleboix.

The Stryker is named in honor of Pvt. 1st Class Stuart S. Stryker, a native of Portland, Oregon, who died in World War II, as well as Specialist-4 Robert S. Stryker (no relation) who died in the Vietnam War. Both were Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.



Photos by Sgt. Tyler Meister, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers with Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, based out of Bend, Oregon, prepare their new M1126 Stryker Combat Vehicles with help from contractors of General Dynamics Land Systems, March 4, 2017, at the Yakima Training Center in Yakima, Washington. The 1-82nd Cavalry Squadron, is upgrading from the High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) to the Strykers that will provide enhanced capabilities both domestic and abroad.

NEWS

1-189th Aviation honored as they deploy for Middle East mission

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s aeromedical helicopter unit was honored in a mobilization ceremony, January 27, in Salem, Oregon.

Approximately 70 Soldiers with Company G (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, are scheduled to deploy to the Middle East. The company will provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region using Blackhawk helicopters. The unit is scheduled to complete pre-deployment training at Fort Hood, Texas, before deploying overseas.

In attendance at the ceremony was Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, on behalf of Oregon Governor Kate Brown; U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR 5th District); Oregon Representatives Greg Barreto (HD-58, Cove), Paul Evans (HD-20, Monmouth), Teresa Alonso Leon (HD-22, Woodburn), Mark Meek (HD-40, Oregon City), Ron Noble (HD-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, OMD Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Edwards with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, holds his son, Grant, following his mobilization ceremony, January 27, in Salem, Oregon.

24, McMinnville); Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander; among other community and military leaders.

Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, has a long tradition of answering the call to duty. The unit conducts medical evacuations (medevac), search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression operations utilizing HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters. The unit previously deployed to Bosnia for Operation Joint Forge 7, three times to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

Aviation assets here in Oregon will continue to backfill to support civil authorities throughout the State of Oregon. Units such as Detachment 1, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation, with their UH-72A Lakotas based in Salem; and elements of 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, with their CH-47F Chinooks based out of Pendleton are prepared to assist the state when needed.



Photo by Christopher Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Crews from G Company, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, take off in HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters, Feb. 2, 2017, at the Deibert Flight Facility in Salem, Oregon. Family and friends gathered near the flight line to wish them well and wave goodbye. Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit headed to Fort Hood, Texas, where they completed training before deploying to the Middle East. The unit is scheduled to provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region.



Photo by Christopher Ingersoll, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Family and friends of G Company, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, see their loved ones off as they depart in HH-60M Blackhawk helicopters, Feb. 2, 2017, at the Deibert Flight Facility in Salem, Oregon. Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit headed to Fort Hood, Texas, where they completed training before deploying to the Middle East. The unit is scheduled to provide aeromedical support throughout the Persian Gulf region.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, OMD Public Affairs

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, accepts a framed guidon from Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Brady Phillips (right), company commander with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, during a mobilization ceremony, January 27, in Salem, Oregon. The guidon will hang in the governor’s office during the deployment and will be returned to the unit upon their return to Oregon.

Soldiers deploy to Europe to provide critical equipment repair capabilities



Photo by Spc. Michael Germundson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Members of the 3670th Component Repair Company’s Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment (TMDE) section, Chief Warrant Officer-2 Ross Rappe, Staff Sgt. Shawn Flynn, Staff Sgt. Michael Resner, Spc. Omar Gallardoamor, Spc. Dominic Trujillo, Spc. Johanus Flores and Spc. Bryan May, stand on stage to be recognized during a deployment ceremony, Feb. 24, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

These seven Soldiers will augment the 742nd Support Maintenance Company, South Carolina Army National Guard, during a nine-month deployment to Eastern Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. They will help provide theater-level calibration and repair of critical weapons systems, communications equipment, tactical vehicles and other equipment.

This is the third time that members of the 3670th Component Repair Company have deployed to Europe. In December 2015, the unit sent a Technical Inspection (TI) team to inspect equipment sets based in Romania, Bulgaria and Lithuania. A follow-on team of Soldiers deployed in March 2016 to install parts and complete the maintenance actions that were identified by their TI team.

Airmen assist search for missing skier

Story and photo by Maj. Chris Bernard,
304th Rescue Squadron

MOUNT HOOD, Oregon – Amidst avalanche warnings and whiteout conditions, Oregon Air National Guard Airmen with the 125th Special Tactics Squadron (STS) and Air Force Reserve Guardian Angel Airmen with the 304th Rescue Squadron (RQS), both based in Portland, Oregon, combined forces with two dozen other searchers to help find a missing skier on Mount Hood, March 9, 2017.

According to the Hood River County Sherriff (HRCS), Steve Leavitt, 57, was reported missing Tuesday, March 6, when he did not return home from skiing at Mount Hood Meadows. The search began on March 7 and resumed again Thursday, March 9, at first light, according to the HRCS. Despite search efforts, Leavitt was still missing.

HRCS put in a call for assistance, March 8, for specialized rescuers with adverse terrain mobility, avalanche Level-1 Certification, technical rope rescue capability and advanced medical care.

Snow machines, alpine mobility gear, technical rope equipment and cold weather survival gear was among some of the special equipment utilized by 304th RQS and 125th STS rescuers.

In addition to the Air Force Reserve and Oregon Air National Guard, multiple agencies, including the Hood River County Sheriff’s Office, Portland Mountain Rescue, Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Patrol and the Crag Rats, were also looking for Leavitt. The incident commander requested Oregon Army National Guard air assets and a UH-72 Lakota helicopter was launched from Salem, Oregon, to assist in the search.

Leavitt’s body was discovered on March 16. Investigators said he appeared to have died after hitting a tree and was buried in



Airmen from the the 304th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, and the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, join the search for a missing skier on Mount Hood, March 9, 2017.

deep snow inside a tree well. AFR Guardian Angel Airmen are the only specialized and equipped personnel recovery specialists in the Department of Defense. As special operators, they are highly trained combat trauma specialists with specialized skills in mountain climbing, among many others technical proficiencies, which allows them to perform complex rescues anywhere in the world in any type of environment.

The Oregon Air National Guard’s 125th STS is an integral part of the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). The unit is comprised of more than 75 special tactics combat controllers, special operations weather team and combat support team personnel. Their goal is to be the foremost special operations force poised for full spectrum rapid response to all crises and contingencies at home or abroad.

NEWS

OEM teams up with Dark Horse Comics to teach preparedness

Story by Paula Fasano Negele,
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management and Dark Horse Comics teamed up to release a new comic book touting tsunami preparedness, ‘Without Warning: Tsunami.’

The 16-page comic strip sequence chronicles a mother/daughter camping trip on the Oregon coast when an earthquake and resulting tsunami strike. The duo stays safe and helps others in danger.



“Without Warning: Tsunami” is the second time that OEM and Dark Horse Comics have come together to collaborate on bringing preparedness messaging to youth. In 2013, OEM’s Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator Althea Rizzo approached Dark Horse with a proposal. An avid comic book fan herself, Rizzo knew that it was a good way to reach a new target audience. In August 2014, “Without Warning” was released, telling a story of an Oregon teen who reunites with her family after a major Cascadia Earthquake. “The events in Tohoku, Japan in 2011 brought new awareness to the reality of what could happen in Oregon in the aftermath of a Cascadia quake,” said Rizzo.

“The first ‘Without Warning’ comic helped to educate young people about what to do in the aftermath of a high-magnitude earthquake. This second comic about tsunamis is a logical follow up and story continuation,” she said.

Rizzo came up with both stories. Dark Horse Editor Shantel LaRocque then worked with writer Jeremy Barlow and artist David Hahn to have them scripted and illustrated.

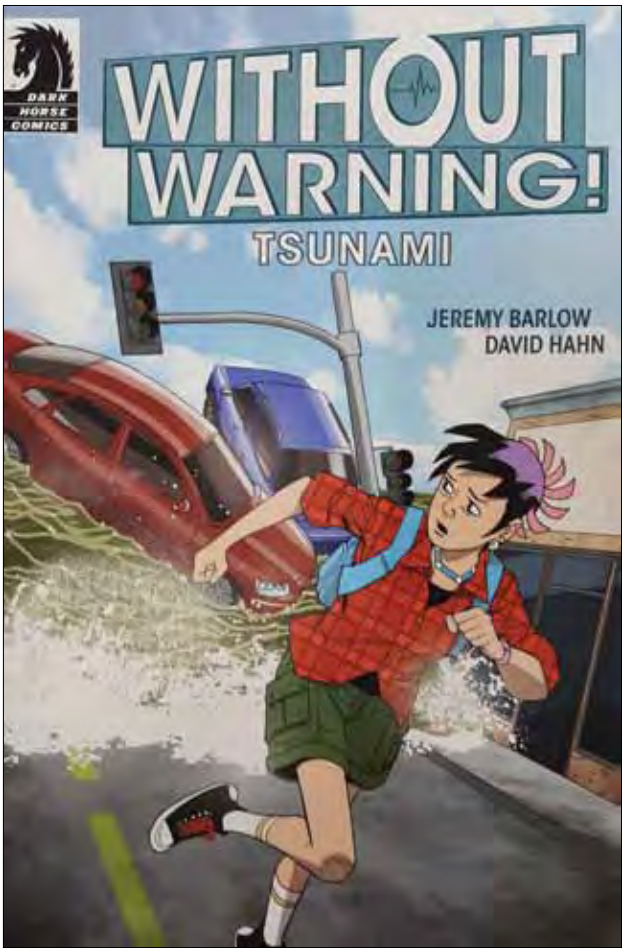
Oregon is located in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a 600-hundred mile earthquake fault stretching from offshore

Northern California to Southern British Columbia. According to scientists and other experts, a large 9.0 or higher earthquake could strike Oregon at any time, which could result in a follow-on tsunami.

“Dark Horse is proud to support emergency preparedness and Oregon Emergency Management with the Without Warning: Tsunami comic,” said Mike Richardson, Dark Horse Comics president.

“We enjoy partnering with an organization dedicated to making Oregon’s residents safe and prepared for a natural disaster, and are proud to contribute our talent and resources to the cause,” he added.

Without Warning: Tsunami is available online at <http://bit.ly/2dWuS0G>. Printed copies can be obtained through local county emergency management offices.



OEM helps counties respond to and recover from severe weather

Story and photo by
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - Severe weather raged across the state this winter prompting the governor to declare a state of emergency. Communities were pummeled with freezing rain, ice, high winds and blowing snow.

Some counties faced flooding and mudslides. Meanwhile, central Oregon received historic levels of snowfall.

Blizzard-like conditions closed Interstate 84 between Pendleton and Ontario, and between Troutdale and Hood River due to ice storms in the Columbia River Gorge. In addition, wind gusts in the Grande Ronde Valley and foothills of the Northern Blue Mountains reached 75-85 miles per hour.

Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management activated the state Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). OEM staff and state emergency support representatives gathered to assist with resource requests.

State ECC Manager Kelly Jo Craigmiles said that the ECC facilitated resources for affected counties. Ice, flooding concerns, sandbags and snow removal were the

biggest needs, although power outages, landslides and avalanches were also a concern.

Governor Kate Brown’s request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration is helping to provide much needed financial assistance to counties that were hardest hit by severe weather. Federal funding is available to state, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by severe storms.

“We will also receive mitigation grant funds to reduce the impacts of hazards statewide,” said Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps.

Damage assessment teams determined more than 16 million dollars in damage met local and state thresholds for the declaration. Ice and debris knocked trees and limbs into power lines in Lane County taking out hundreds of miles of publicly owned power lines. In Josephine County heavy snow, mudslides, landslides and flooding caused substantial damage.

“We look forward to working with our local, state, and federal partners throughout this recovery process,” said Phelps.



Representatives from the Oregon Department of Human Services and the American Red Cross help to staff the State Emergency Coordination Center as winter weather raged across Oregon.

Oregon Army Guard Soldiers assist first responders during winter storms

Story by
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon - The Oregon Army National Guard assisted emergency responders in The Dalles, January 18-20, during the snow and ice storms which closed Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge.

“The recent winter storm event strained resources statewide, including within the Columbia River Gorge,” said Kristy Beachamp, a public health emergency preparedness liaison with Oregon Health Authority. “Deep snow cut off many residences from access via ambulance.”

She said Wasco County Search and Rescue (SAR) volunteers provided snowmobilers and cross country skiers to assist with medical responses countywide, but with all neighboring partners also dealing with the storm, the system eventually became overwhelmed. Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency, which made the National Guard and other state resources available

during the winter storms.

“The need for additional resources raised to the level that Wasco County Emergency Management reached out to the Oregon Office of Emergency Management for support,” said Beachamp. “The request was filled through a joint effort by Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Health Authority and the National Guard.”

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers based in Portland, with the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, and The Dalles, with 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, answered the call. The Soldiers operated a Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) M997 Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), providing emergency medical service (EMS) agencies with transportation to access snow-bound residences, and assisted in patient transport. They also used another HMMWV equipped with a snowplow to help clear the parking lot for Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue.

“Wasco County expressed their deep appreciation for the support of the Soldiers and vehicles,” said Beachamp.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assist first responders with an emergency call, Jan. 20, 2017, in The Dalles, Oregon. The Soldiers operated a Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) M997 Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), providing emergency medical service (EMS) agencies with transportation to access snow-bound residences, and assisted in patient transport.

NEWS

Domestic operations a priority for Oregon National Guard future

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

SALEM, Oregon - The National Guard responds to requests from civilian authorities during emergencies within our country because saving lives and protecting property in the U.S. is part of what the National Guard does. That mission is called domestic operations and it is a big reason why the Oregon National Guard is working closely with state partners to ensure a coordinated response when it comes to all-hazard threats.

Maj. Cory Jones, joint deputy director of military support for the Oregon Military Department's Joint Operations Center (JOC), provides oversight for domestic operations to evaluate all-hazard threats and coordinate plans and programs to meet those threats.

"The JOC is the focal point for dealing with domestic operations that assist local governments and citizens of Oregon during emergencies," Jones said.

More than 8,000 Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are available to support the state during emergencies. The Guard can bring a variety of specialized functions to bear, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) response, mobile medical teams, engineering, aviation assets, and personnel, along with many other capabilities.

"We have resources like the 102nd Civil Support Team (CST) that can go in and support local police and fire departments, as well as the National Guard Response Force that can respond with capabilities like riot control, and the explosive ordinance disposal units, along with many other capabilities," Jones said.

The 102nd CST remains on active status to respond quickly when CBRNE events occur. The next step up in that response is the Oregon National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP). This unit activates during large-scale contamination incidents to locate and extract victims, perform mass casualty decontamination, and stabilize patients for evacuation.

The Oregon Army National Guard has HH-60M Blackhawk, UH-72 Lakota and CH-47 Chinook helicopters to provide air mobility. The Blackhawks are medical evacuation air ambulances with flight medics and hoist capability. The Oregon Guard often uses Blackhawks to assist local authorities with search and rescues. The Lakota helicopters are used to assist with search and rescues as well, due to their specialized infrared optics that help pilots see in dark or low-visibility situations. Chinook helicopters are used to transport personnel and equipment, to include sling-load capabilities for heavy-lifting. All three of these airframes have been used to help state authorities battle wildfires over the years.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason van Mourik, OMD Public Affairs

An Oregon Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter navigates through smoke on the way to drop water in support of firefighting ground crews, Aug. 5, 2015, at the Stouts Fire near Canyonville, Oregon.



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

Members of the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) from the Oregon and Kentucky National Guard train on various equipment used as part of search and recovery operations during the Cascadia Rising exercise at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon, June 9, 2016. The Cascadia Rising scenario simulated a 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) resulting in a tsunami, testing first responders, emergency management and public safety officials in the Pacific Northwest.

Nearly 600 Soldiers and Airmen supported the 2015 wildfire season in Oregon, helping fire crews with mopping up hot spots throughout the state. That is why Oregon National Guard leadership has made a commitment to the future of domestic operations. One example can be seen with the reorganization of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Col. (promotable) William Prendergast, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander, said that the brigade has the ability to conduct transportation operations, moving people and material in support of the adjutant general, Oregon, and the governor during an emergency. He said the brigade can also provide leadership and highly trained Soldiers within the maneuver battalions to be a part of the emergency response capabilities the Oregon National Guard brings to the table in support of domestic operations.

Prendergast added that the reorganization of the brigade increases their capability and capacity for both federal and state missions. The growth within the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion increases the number of combat engineers in Oregon, and the addition of a forward support company for the battalion creates another self-supporting task force.

"Our brigade engineer battalion can provide engineer operations to clear roads and lines of communication during most domestic operations," said Prendergast. "They can be used for many different engineer operations like clearing roads and increasing mobility anywhere in Oregon. The battalion can also provide a communication network that gives state leadership the ability to communicate with each region of the state."

The Oregon National Guard recently participated in one of Oregon's largest-ever emergency response exercises called Cascadia Rising with many other local, state, federal and private emergency response entities to simulate the first four days following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami. Jones said the exercise included interaction with Oregon National Guard units that support domestic operations in coordination with state agencies that lead other Emergency

Support Functions (ESFs) in Oregon. Oregon has 18 ESFs ranging from transportation to communication to mass care and public information.

"It is great to know that we have trained together to become one team when it



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, OMD Public Affairs

Soldiers with 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, place chains on Field Litter Ambulances (FLA) M997 Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) in preparation to assist with emergency medical ground transportation during the snow and ice storm in Portland, Oregon, January 7, 2017. Multnomah County requested Oregon National Guard ambulances to transport patients up the steep slope to Oregon Health Science University (OHSU).

comes to protecting lives and property in Oregon," said Jones. "As we continue with exercises, training events and workshops as a combined team, we will continue to improve our capabilities to support local communities in Oregon."

Jones added that a big part of why the Oregon National Guard is ready to support

during any type of emergency is because of its close relationship with Oregon's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM is a part of the Oregon Military Department and is located in the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem near the JOC.

"In a natural disaster or a catastrophic event, we would go next door to the state Emergency Coordination Center at OEM to work directly with leaders from all of the Emergency Support Functions in Oregon," explained Jones. "The Joint Operation Center, the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management work shoulder to shoulder during emergencies as one team to determine what resources to provide local communities that are in need."

Andrew Phelps, director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, said the Oregon National Guard plays a pivotal and vital role for emergency response in Oregon.

"There are a few reasons why they are important for the processes and resources we rely on upon during whatever bad day Oregon faces," Phelps said. "First and foremost they are part of the fabric of the community for which they live and work, and having that familiarity with what community expectations are, and what needs exist in the community, is invaluable during any disaster."

Phelps mentioned that the high level of training, competence and equipment that can be provided by the National Guard provides a unique and important resource not available anywhere else in the state.

"During emergencies, the National Guard brings a whole suite of capabilities from communications capabilities, to transportation solutions, to highly technical expertise like their Civil Support Team," he said. "They can also provide support for basic emergency response issues we face like health and medical response, traffic control and site access control. If there is a deficiency that we have during emergency response in Oregon, we know that the National Guard is ready to support quickly with a high level of professionalism."

Phelps explained that making sure that OEM is plugged into the resources that the Oregon Military Department has to offer is a top priority.

"Emergency response is all about relationships, ensuring that we have strong relationships and level of familiarity with the resources and personnel within the National Guard is important to us," Phelps said. "We know that the National Guard is a response force that is forward leaning and always there to support us and Oregonians when we are in a time of need."

He said the Oregon Military Department and the Oregon National Guard are the largest state resource that Oregonians can expect to come to their aid during a major emergency in Oregon.



Photo by Spc. Michael Germundson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brig. Gen. Mark A. Crosby, commander of Joint Domestic Operations, briefs Governor Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Michael E Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, during the Cascadia Rising earthquake response exercise, June 7, 2016, at the Joint Operations Center in Salem, Oregon.

FEATURES

Story by Sgt. Cory Grogan,
41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs
and
Sgt. 1st Class April Davis,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

By early 1917, Europe was in the middle of World War I and President Woodrow Wilson began calling National Guard units into federal service on March 15. Oregon's Third Infantry Regiment was the first in the nation to assemble and be ready for service. National Guard troops of the 41st Division were federalized on April 1, 1917, just days before the U.S. officially declared war on April 6.

One hundred years later, the Oregon Army National Guard honored its lineage with the historic 41st Division during a ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The event recognized the 100th anniversary of the division's formation and participation in the "Great War." The 41st Division anniversary event was one of many that took place across the nation on April 6, 2017, to mark the official centennial of U.S. participation in World War I.

Some of the last remaining 41st Division Veterans of World War II attended the ceremony. The Veterans received a standing ovation from all those in attendance during the ceremony.

"We are honored with your presence here as we celebrate this extraordinary division, and the many stories all of you have to share," said Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, The Adjutant General, Oregon, as he welcomed the World War II Veterans.

Guest speakers included Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Raymond F. Rees, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) for Training, Readiness and Mobilization; Brig. Gen. William J. Edwards Oregon National Guard Land Component Commander; and Col. (promotable) William J. Prendergast, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Commander. Representatives of local, state and federal elected officials were also in attendance.

"The 41st has a rich and distinguished history, marked by numerous monumental achievements," said Rees as he addressed the audience during the ceremony. "From the trenches of the Meuse-Argonne, to the jungles of the South Pacific, from the mountains of Afghanistan, to the desert sands of Iraq, and domestically from wildfires to floods, the 41st has repeatedly answered their call to service, always accomplishing its mission to a high standard, achieving excellence, and serving as a model unit for others to follow."



Raymond F. Rees, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) for Training, Readiness and Mobilization, addresses the audience during the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary ceremony, April 1, 2017. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team wore this commemorative shoulder sleeve insignia patch during a ceremony, April 1, 2017, honoring the centennial of the 41st "Sunset" Division.

The origins of the 41st Division began July 18, 1917, with the release of War Department General Order No. 95, combining the regiments and associated units of geographic regions across the U.S. into divisions. The 41st was comprised of units from Oregon, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho. Although earlier proposed arrangements did not include North Dakota as part of the division, it was added to the force structure along with smaller District of Columbia, Colorado, South Dakota, and New Mexico units. It was nicknamed the "Sunset Division" due to its close association with northwest states, where the sun sets on the Pacific Ocean.

"This important nickname acts as a symbol of the tremendous loyalty and devotion displayed by Citizen-Soldiers proud of their Pacific Northwest roots," said Rees, a former Oregon adjutant general and Vietnam Veteran.

The 41st was one of the first divisions activated for World War I. Elements of the 41st were already serving on federal active duty and were slated to train at Camp Fremont, in California. Instead, the division was ordered to assemble at Camp Greene in Charlotte, North Carolina, where the formal organization of the division took place on September 18, 1917. After three months of intense training maneuvers at Camp Greene, Soldiers of the 41st were on their way to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force commanded by General "Black Jack" Pershing. It was the fifth U.S. division to completely arrive in France.

The division was stationed at Saint-Aignan where it was re-designated the 1st Depot Division. The War Department decided that the 41st would become a replacement division for I Corps to replace field casualties. The men were forwarded to units on the front lines as individual or small unit replacements. While the 41st never fought as a consolidated division under their own flag, Soldiers of the 41st were involved in some of the most significant battles of World War I.



Charles Cripps, of Gig Harbor, Wash., stands among other World War II Veterans as members of the Oregon National Guard applaud their service at the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary ceremony, April 1, 2017. Cripps served with L Company, 186th Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



41st Division 1917-2017 41st Brigade

The 41st Division was one of the first divisions activated for World War I, federalized on April 1, 1917, just days before the U.S. officially declared war on April 6. The division was sent to Saint-Aignan, France, where it provided replacement troops for field casualties. One hundred years later, the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, honored its centennial anniversary during a ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

In addition to providing replacements, the 41st Division was tasked to train and process U.S. service members before they were sent to the frontlines. The division trained and processed more than 260,000 Soldiers from February 1918 to December 1918 before World War I ended. The 41st Division demobilized February 22, 1919, at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

"Consider the change that these Soldiers were part of; weapons such as machine guns, tanks and even airplanes were the stuff of fiction at the outset of war," Edwards said as he addressed the audience during the ceremony. "The constant was our Soldiers' adaptability to these new weapons, new ways to wage war, and new scale of warfare with our country taking the first steps toward global power."

In the 1920's, the Sunset Division was assigned to the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. The division responded to forest fires and civil unrest when needed. In the late 1930's, the 41st participated in a large-scale training exercise at Vancouver Barracks where they defeated future Army Chief of Staff George Marshall's troops when they forded the Nisqually River, near Camp

Lewis, Washington, in a daring night crossing.

A second world war was looming on the Pacific horizon in September 1940 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt called four National Guard divisions, including the 41st, into federal service for one year of training. The Sunset Division trained at Camp Murray on the north side of Fort Lewis, Washington, and engaged in maneuvers at Fort Hunter Liggett, California. In September 1941, the division's service was extended. Following the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, the division was assigned to defend the Oregon and Washington coastline.

In February 1942, the re-designated 41st Infantry Division began preparations for deployment as one of the first American divisions to be sent overseas following the Pearl Harbor attack. The 41st completed jungle and amphibious training in northern Australia before heading into combat. It was the first American division trained in jungle warfare, and was also the first to confront Japanese Imperial Forces in an offensive operation.

"Fighting bitter battles against a fanatical and determined foe while enduring the cruel realities of malaria, dengue fever, and other dangers of the jungle's added flavor, the Soldiers of this

division adapted and endured to defeat the enemy," said Edwards.

Their victories in the Pacific Theater earned the Sunset Division a new nickname; "Jungleers." The 41st Infantry Division fought the Japanese in New Guinea where they endured some of the most vicious jungle warfare of any allied force during the war. In the summer of 1943, they spent 76 consecutive days in combat during the Battle of Salamaua. In the summer of 1944, the Jungleers expelled the Japanese from New Guinea in the bloody Battle of Biak. The division then participated in final campaigns on the Philippine Islands before transitioning to occupation duties in Japan. The Sunset Division was inactivated in Japan on December 31, 1945. Having spent 45 months away from U.S. soil, the 41st holds the distinction of having the longest overseas service than any other U.S. division.

"Their successes were clearly evident by their accomplishments," said Rees. "These were ordinary Citizen-Soldiers from the Pacific Northwest who had accomplished extraordinary achievements and outcomes, not just for America, but indeed, throughout the free world."

Over the next fifty years, the 41st saw more changes to the organizational structure of the division including the



Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Division aboard a DUKW amphibious truck head for the beaches of Biak Island off the northwest coast of New Guinea, June 8, 1944.

reduction of the division to a brigade-sized unit. In 1968, the division was inactivated and became the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade of the Oregon Army National Guard. In 1972, it became the 41st Infantry Brigade and was later transformed into a Brigade Combat Team during the Global War on Terrorism in 2008. The 41st Division's successor, the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), carries on the lineage, honors and "Sunset" insignia of the 41st Division today.

"As the Cold War began and persisted over the next several decades, the enduring question was how would the 41st Brigade fulfill the larger strategic plan," said Edwards, who commanded the 41st IBCT before becoming the Oregon Army National Guard Land Component Commander. "With phrases like strategic reserve, war-trace, round out and enhanced brigade, the structure and anticipated mission of our organization continued to change but again, our Soldiers kept pace with these changes and adapted their training and continued the legacy of the division."

Following in the boot-steps of their forefathers, Soldiers of the 41st IBCT



Veterans of World War II joined current Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team to celebrate the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary, April 1, 2017. (Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)



Re-enactors and artifacts provided by the Oregon Military Museum displayed the history from World War I to present day during the 41st Division Centennial Anniversary ceremony, April 1, 2017, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The ceremony honored the 41st Division's 100-year history and generations of service from World War I to the Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team today. (Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

continue to answer the call of duty whenever needed by their state and nation. The 41st Brigade has deployed overseas in support of peacekeeping missions, multinational training exercises, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

"The world changed again on September 11, 2001. It wasn't long after that fateful day that units from the 41st got busy. And frankly, we haven't stopped being busy," said Edwards. "Deployments of Jungleer units to Afghanistan and Iraq have been dominating our attention for the past 14 years; each deployment has been different, each mission has been different. Change has been constant and has accelerated in the past decade much as it has since 1917."

Elements of the 41st Infantry Brigade saw combat action in Iraq and Afghanistan during multiple deployments, with one unit receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for their gallantry in the Battle of Fallujah. In 2006-2007, the 41st had its first large-scale deployment since World War II to Afghanistan where nearly 1,000 Oregon National Guard members helped train the Afghanistan National Army and Police. Then in 2009-2010, the entire brigade was deployed again, this time to Iraq where they earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation. The most recent deployment of the 41st sent three battalion-sized elements to Afghanistan in 2014-2015.

"Our Soldiers have adapted with every change placed before them and they've succeeded with the same determined grit of their predecessors for the past 100

years," said Edwards.

Meanwhile, the brigade has continued to support domestic missions on the home front fighting natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, winter storms, and other emergencies. In September 2005, nearly 1,400 Soldiers in the brigade were activated to provide relief and security near the French Quarter in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A month later, Oregon Guardsmen were put in charge of the Hurricane Rita Joint Task Force in Louisiana and Texas.

"As the sun sets on the first 100 years of the 41st, we know that the next 100 years and beyond will be even more promising, more fulfilling, and will continue to be defined by proud and dedicated Citizen-Soldiers of the Pacific Northwest making a difference every single day in service to their nation and the great State of Oregon!" said Rees.

U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Sen. Jeff Merkley sponsored Resolution 105 recognizing 2017 as the 100th anniversary of the Oregon-based 41st Division.

"The 41st Infantry Division and its successor units have distinguished themselves for their bravery and heroism from World War I right up until today," said U.S. Senator Ron Wyden. "I'm so proud to be able to honor these men and women whose tremendous legacy remains an inspiration for future generations to build upon in the years to come."

The resolution expresses gratitude to all those in the 41st who have served and honors the memory of those who have fallen in the line of duty throughout the century of service to the United States.

"For a century – from fighting on the Western Front to providing support on American soil after major natural disasters – the men and women of Oregon's 41st have bravely served our country," Merkley said. "I am honored to thank the 41st Infantry Division for their unyielding courage and service."



Lt. Col. (promotable) Eric Riley, incoming commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, greets World War II Veteran Earl Rose, of Beaverton, Oregon, April 1. (Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs)

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

173rd Fighter Wing travels to Arizona for DACT training with F-16s

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

TUCSON, Arizona – Airmen from the 173rd Fighter Wing and five F-15 Eagles packed up and left the snow and below freezing weather of Klamath Falls, Oregon, and spent two weeks in January training in the temperate Arizona desert. The 162nd Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, hosted the Oregon Air National Guard and spent that time flying dissimilar air combat training (DACT).

“The 162nd and 173rd have been flying together for years and years,” said Col. Jeff Smith, commander of the 173rd FW. “In many cases, they come up to train with us in the summer when it is really hot here ... and in the winter we tend to try and get away from the snow and ice ... so we come down here and get training for our instructor pilots.”

The F-15 pilots flew as adversary air,



Oregon Air National Guard Col. Jeff Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, preflights an F-15 Eagle in preparation for a training flight in Tucson, Arizona, January 10, 2017.

freeing up the F-16 student and instructor pilots to accomplish the training needed and allow them to continue graduating F-16 pilots.

“While at home we aren’t really able to train much due to the snow and ice, so this is an opportunity for us to trade that student training and continue to produce as many fighter pilots for America as we can,” said Smith.

This training not only benefits the 162nd, but the 173rd pilots, maintainers, and support personnel as well. For the F-15 pilots, dissimilar air combat training shakes up the routine and challenges their basic piloting and fighting skills. For the maintainers and support personnel, packing up their equipment and performing their skill sets away from home station presents challenges and opportunities for growth.

“It’s something a little different then we do on a daily basis,” said Senior Airman Tyler Stanford, 173rd FW F-15 crew chief. “It helps us train to fight against our adversaries and gives a better mission capability.” Stanford also pointed out that training opportunities such as this facilitate a broader range of learning.

Additionally, observing another



An F-15 Eagle from the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, taxis to the runway in preparation for a training flight in Tucson, Arizona, January 12, 2017. The 173rd Fighter Wing spent two weeks training with F-16s from the 162nd Wing, Airzona Air National Guard, flying dissimilar air combat training.

unit’s operation and daily processes can encourage Airmen to bring back different processes and ideas to improve productivity and efficiencies within their own unit.

“I think we have great examples of how innovation can be sparked by going TDY or deploying; so many little things are different that you can learn from and figure out how we can adapt them to what we do and improve our processes,” said Smith.

Senior Airman Seena Barleen, 173rd

Logistics Readiness Squadron, said she experienced this first hand. “I met with their transportation office, and it was fantastic to see how they do business every day and how it differs from what we do. I am taking back their continuity book and a few ideas to share with my supervisor.”

After a few weeks of training and expanding innovative thinking in the Arizona sunshine, the 173rd FW packed up their equipment and headed back home to snowy Southern Oregon.

173rd assists Fresno neighbors



Photo by James Haseltine, used with permission

The 173rd and 144th Wings fly F-15 Eagles together. The two units collaborate regularly.

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – The 173rd Fighter Wing avionics integrated systems shop assisted their counterparts at the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno, California. Over a week in February two Fresno Airmen made the seven-hour drive to Klamath Falls and brought several pieces of equipment with them.

“I brought radar transmitter parts here because our test station back home is broken and waiting on parts so there is a backlog,” said Staff Sgt. Amandeep Singh, 144th AIS technician.

Without the option to bring the parts here his shop would be forced to send the parts out for depot maintenance, which would most likely take weeks to turn them around.

“It is very helpful,” he said. “It saves a lot of money and we are able to produce three good LRUs in three days,” he said.

Essentially, the Kingsley Airmen provide a test station during both day and swing shift and Singh and his coworker use it to produce parts that help eliminate a bottle neck in their wings’ flying operation. He went on to say that the use of the station is a big help, but that having the 173rd FW’s experienced Airmen around is possibly more beneficial.

“Their expertise is a bigger support than just being able to use the test station,” he said. “This F-15 airframe is new to us; we are still learning and when we come here we gain a lot of information that is very

helpful.”

Master Sgt. Jesus Rodriguez, the avionics backshop supervisor, says they are primarily loaning a test station to the visitors, but when the need arises they can explain the how’s and why’s of tests and procedures, provide guidance, and essentially do some spot training for the Fresno unit as they make the transition to the F-15 airframe. He’s also quick to point out that this working relationship goes both ways.

“We’ve had to borrow equipment from them before,” said Rodriguez, detailing how the strenuous calibration requirements have sidelined components required to satisfy demands of the flying schedule in the past.

“It’s a nice give and take because parts are getting harder to get a hold of and some of the test equipment is getting kind of sparse,” he said. All the avionics members within earshot nodded their agreement to this sentiment.

These members paint a landscape that increasingly relies on collaboration between all of the F-15 flying units to keep operations running smoothly. The Kingsley Field and Fresno units have a history of working together, in late 2013 the California unit brought jets and personnel to Klamath Falls for more than six months as a way to increase student production when they transitioned from the F-16 to the F-15 Eagle. The relationships developed then continue today as both units collaborate, sharing expertise, lessons learned and even tools to keep the fleet airworthy.

Security Forces train in Combatives

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon – Regardless of age or gender, when an individual joins the ranks of Air Force Security Forces they will spend some time on a mat learning how to protect themselves from an assailant with just their hands – using leverage to mitigate the advantage a larger and stronger attacker may have.

It’s called combatives, and all security forces members receive this training. Tech. Sgt. Brandon Stroh, the lead instructor for the recent training, points out that it’s not designed to help someone mount an attack on an assailant, and so there is not striking or counter striking. Its purpose is to quickly subdue an attacker without harming them but with the possibility of pain compliance.

“For those of us in law enforcement, it allows us to survive a fight,” said Stroh. “It’s not about starting one or ending one, it’s important for us to be able to defend ourselves in the fastest way possible.”

Judging from the red faces and the fact that each drill starts with everyone putting in a mouth guard, one can guess that the training is strenuous. There are a lot of choke-holds to cut off both the wind and the blood flow to the brain.

There is also a lot of tapping — the accepted method of communicating, “Yeah, you got that just right, and it’s really starting to smart.”

“Combatives can possibly a be life or death situation, so we strive to be the best we can, work as hard as we can, even if it means we are a little tired at the end,” said Airman 1st Class Dallas Schoggins, a recent graduate of security force technical training.

One member of the day’s session is very new to security forces, but he’s not new to this type of training.

“The big majority of it, most of the controlling positions, weapons defense, and apprehension is Jiu Jitsu,” said Senior Airman Anthony Morehead, a blue belt in Jiu Jitsu and a recent security forces augmentee. “The thing that I think is the most valuable is it teaches controlling an individual, not going out of your way to cause damage, but to control and apprehend them.”

He went on to say that its application goes beyond law enforcement and he encourages people outside of security forces to practice it whether for “self-defense, humility, or just good exercise.”

In any case, if any of these members find themselves in a situation where they need to defend themselves, there’s little doubt that training like this will help do so, as quickly and with as little harm done to themselves or their attacker.



Staff Sgt. Cody Broussard and Master Sgt. Ross Hawkins, both with the 173rd Security Forces Squadron, practice escaping from a choke-hold during hand-to-hand Combatives training, Jan. 13, 2017, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Fighter Wing joins largest air-to-air fighter training

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

SAVANNAH, Georgia—Approximately 140 Airmen and eight F-15C Eagles from the 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, participated in the Sentry Savannah 17-2 exercise January and February 2017 at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia.



Maintainers from the 142nd Maintenance Group, prepare the F-15 Eagle for a training mission from the Air Dominance Center in Savannah Ga., Jan. 28, 2017.

Sentry Savannah is a joint active and reserve aerial combat training exercise hosted by the Georgia Air National Guard and is the Air National Guard's largest fighter integration, air-to-air training exercise encompassing fourth and fifth generation aircraft.

On the ramp, the Oregon F-15C Eagles sat alongside F-18 Hornets, T-38 Aggressors, and F-22 Raptors, all with the same goal - to fly, fight, and win.

Airmen from operations, maintenance, logistics readiness, and security forces took part in the exercise.

"Having members from multiple units, who don't normally work together on a daily basis, all working in a close environment, not only shows how well we work as a team to complete the mission, but also allows our members to get to know each other on a personal level," said Master Sgt. Kevin Stone, the first sergeant for the exercise.

Each area focused on their roles, ensuring the overall mission is accomplished.

"Our job is to do everything we can to maintain a 100 percent effective rate, to make sure that our pilots get the training they need," said Lt. Col. Todd Hofford, 142nd Maintenance Squadron commander.

For the F-15 pilots of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, "Sentry Savannah provides invaluable combat-like training not found in home station training missions," said Lt. Col. Aaron Mathena, 123rd FS commander. "For our new pilots, this is their first experience in this kind of environment, with multiple aircraft and scenarios."

Being in a deployed location presents



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing prepare to participate in the Sentry Savannah 17-2 exercise in Savannah, Ga., Jan. 28, 2017. Sentry Savannah is a joint aerial combat training exercise hosted by the Georgia Air National Guard, and the Air National Guard's largest Fighter Integration, air-to-air training exercise encompassing fourth and fifth generation aircraft.

challenges and opportunities for learning not faced at home, which made it an optimal training environment. It was an opportunity to demonstrate the 142nd Fighter Wing's ability to deploy anytime, anywhere.

Mathena said with the expertise, dedication and professionalism of the entire team, they easily overcame any challenges they faced.

The mission of the 142nd Fighter Wing is to provide unequalled, mission-ready units to sustain combat aerospace superiority and peacetime tasking any time, any place in service to our nation, state and community.



Pilots from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, prepare for a training mission from the Air Dominance Center, Savannah Ga., Jan. 28.

142nd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle gets a new wing in record time

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

PORTLAND, Oregon – For members of the 142nd Maintenance Group's Non-Destructive Laboratory (NDI) shop, performing Individual Aircraft Tracking (IAT) inspections keeps the F-15C fleet at the top of their game.

Depending on the determined life expectancy of specific parts, inspections are scheduled on an hourly and/or calendar basis. When an IAT inspection is performed, it is tracked, documented, and a determination is made regarding the next inspection period. If a crack is discovered, the location and orientation is determined, the information is then sent to Robins Air Force Base engineering to provide a disposition regarding repairs that might be required.

In some cases engineers recommend monitoring the defect rather than repairing. This was not the case for the 142nd Fighter Wing's F-15C Eagle, Aircraft 78-0482, she required a new wing.

"NDI discovered a crack about a month ago while performing the scheduled IAT

inspection. After receiving a disposition back, we contacted depot immediately," said Col. Christopher Lantagne, 142nd Maintenance Group commander. "We were happy to hear that a wing and the Depot Field Team (DFT) were coming between the holidays, something that from my experience is difficult to get."

Immediately the 142nd Maintenance Squadron Structural shop worked with the engineering disposition and with Robins Air Force Base engineers to come up with a replacement plan. Several members of the 142nd Maintenance Group including crew chiefs and back shop specialists immediately got to work, and prepared the wing to be removed prior to the arrival of the DFT, who would be performing the swap.

The DFT from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., arrived in record time with the new wing and seven mechanics, consisting of crew chiefs, aircraft sheet metal, aircraft fuel system, and aircraft electrical/environmental system specialists.

The mission of the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group is to provide Programmed Depot Maintenance and



The Depot Field Team from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group move the new wing into place during the wing replacement of F-15C Eagle 78-482, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Dec. 6, 2016.

unscheduled repair activities on F-15, C-130, C-5 and C-17 aircraft. They are responsible for the repair, modification, reclamation and rework of more than 200 aircraft worldwide. In addition, they prepare and deploy combat Aircraft Battle Damage Repair, crash recovery, supply and transportation teams worldwide.

"It was remarkable how quickly depot was able to get a replacement wing and DFT to us, especially considering the holiday season. On the first day of the team arrival, the wing was off and on the second day the new wing was on," Lantagne stated.

A normal F-15C wing change can take 10 to 12 workdays. The DFT performed this change in seven days, cutting the aircraft downtime by at least three days and reducing man-hours from 672 hours to 528 hours.

Lantagne also remarked, "With aircraft availability always being a limiting factor in production, structural fatigue is a major concern. Our maintainers identified a crack in the wing, which immediately grounded the jet. Normally it would take six to nine months of downtime to get it repaired. Because of the professional

Airmen of the 142nd Maintenance Group, who were responsible for identifying and communicating our immediate needs, and the cooperation and teamwork of the DFT, this jet was only down about a month."

Thanks to the dedication of the 142nd Maintenance Group, and the 402nd Depot Field Team, F-15 Eagle 78-0482, started the New Year in flight from the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., on Jan. 3, 2017.



The Depot Field Team attaches a new wing to F-15C Eagle 78-482, assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Dec. 6, 2016.



The Depot Field Team from the 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., remove the wing from an F-15C Eagle assigned to the 142nd Fighter Wing, Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Dec. 6, 2016.

FEATURES

249th Regional Training Institute helps Soldiers transition to infantry MOS

Story by
Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal

HERMISTON, Oregon – Out in the rolling hills of north-central Oregon, far from the crowded cities near the coast, Soldiers train to join the U.S. Army infantry. Camp Umatilla, near Hermiston, Oregon, lacks the forested landscape and waterfalls usually associated with the Pacific Northwest. Instead, Soldiers who want to change their military occupational specialty learn infantry skills while rucking past tumbleweeds and eerie-looking symmetrical mounds.

Camp Umatilla is home to the Oregon National Guard’s 1st Infantry Training Battalion of the 249th Regional Training Institute and the only certified Army infantry training academy west of the Mississippi River in the continental United States. The camp was originally built during World War II to serve as a munitions storage area. Exactly 1,001 munitions storage bunkers — now mostly empty — still dot the landscape, visible to travelers on the nearby interstate highway.

Though the history is interesting, infantry course instructors of the 249th RTI are more worried about the future and preparing Soldiers for the demands of service in the infantry.

For those already in or transitioning to an infantry MOS, three courses are taught at Camp Umatilla. Junior enlisted Soldiers who want to join the infantry go through the MOS-Transition course. NCOs who want to transition to infantry go through the Infantry Transition Course. And those NCOs who are already in the infantry and seek to be promoted can go through the Advanced Leader Course.

Though active-duty and reserve



Photo by Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal

Soldiers in the MOS-Transition course of Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute train on infantry tactics at Yakima Training Center, Washington. The 249th RTI conducts Infantry Transition courses for Soldiers transitioning to the Infantry Military Occupational Specialty.

Soldiers from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and other duty stations train at Camp Umatilla, recently the two transition courses were crowded with National Guard Soldiers from Washington and California, said Staff Sgt. Henry Snyder, a primary instructor for the RTI.

“This year is kind of different than traditional years because there are National Guard units in California and Washington transitioning into a Stryker Infantry Brigade,” Snyder said. “So a lot of these Soldiers are being told they need to change their MOS or look elsewhere. We get Soldiers from a variety of MOSs and backgrounds, but by the end of the course, everyone is on the same page.”

Though some must transition to infantry to keep their Army careers on the right paths, others volunteer to join the infantry because they are looking for something different than their current job, said Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Austin, course manager for the RTI’s infantry courses.

“A lot of people transition because they like the job better,” Austin said. “They want

to be one of the ground-pounders who carry the guns and do the shooting. They like to lead the way. It’s usually pretty aggressive, type-A personalities.”

When asked what Soldiers transitioning to infantry are most surprised by or have the hardest time with, there are different answers, but Snyder said it was the overall stress of infantry life.

“I think a lot of them coming into this feel that the infantry is just a bunch of mindless people who will run into a fire instead of run away from it,” Snyder said. “But there is a culture shock of what really goes into everything. From mission planning, to execution, to recovery, there are a lot of meticulous things that happen. It’s a very difficult school that we run, but real-life situations are way more difficult than what we have here. We can add a little bit of stress — time management stuff, or carry heavy things for long distances — but, at the end of the day, nobody is shooting at them and nobody is getting blown up. We can’t paint that picture of that stress and being able to think on that level, but we try as hard as we can to create a stress factor and also have the thought process that goes with it.”

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Black, MOS-T infantry instructor, said the physical difficulty of the job can surprise people, especially when they have to complete the 12-mile ruck march with more than 70 pounds of equipment.

“The number one question — by far — is, ‘We have to carry this much weight on our backs?’” Black said. “It shocks people. Even people who think they have been training for this, they’ve been carrying, like, 35 pounds for six miles. That ain’t training. 35 pounds? I carry more than that in beer when I go camping. The first ruck march

wakes them up.” Black said the top lesson he tries to impress upon Soldiers transitioning into infantry is that the workout routine they had before probably isn’t going to cut it anymore. Both the frequency and intensity of their exercise will need to increase.

“A lot of people go to the gym and it’s like, ‘Let’s do an arm curl. Let’s do a bench press,’” Black said. “That’s not working out. I’m talking about high intensity workouts. When is the last time you worked out and you ended laying down on a filthy floor, thankful for the opportunity to lay down? That’s a workout, and that’s what I show the students.”

The 12-mile ruck march is just one of the items on the Infantry High Physical Demands Task List. The items on the list need to be checked off before a Soldier can join the infantry. But despite the difficulty of the ruck march, carrying 45-pound ammo boxes, or dragging a 268-pound person 15 meters, it is a much simpler task that is causing the most problems for the newest generation of Soldiers: throwing a grenade.

It turns out that, in an era when youth play on smartphones instead of throwing a ball around with friends, the seemingly simple task of throwing a one-pound grenade 35 meters is causing the most failures, Snyder said.

“In this computer generation, there are a lot of people who come through who have never thrown before; they’ve never thrown a one-pound anything,” Snyder said. “So a lot of people struggle with that. We take a lot of time to help them just with the basic mechanics of how to throw something. Some of them grasp it, and some of them don’t. That one is our biggest thing that knocks people out.”



Photo by Jonathan (Jay) Koester, NCO Journal

Soldiers in the MOS-Transition course of Oregon National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute train on infantry tactics at Yakima Training Center, Washington.

Combat medics test their skills during RTI refresher course



Oregon Army National Guard combat medics guard a simulated casualty during their 68W refresher training, Jan. 10, 2017, at Camp Najaf near Monmouth, Oregon. The training included a simulated attack where Soldiers had to treat and evacuate casualties.

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

MONMOUTH, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s (ORARNG) combat medics conducted their annual 68W refresher training at Camp Najaf, near Monmouth, Oregon, ending with a capstone exercise that put their skills to test, Jan. 10, 2017.

During the capstone exercise, Oregon Guardsmen armed with paintball guns and masks, were attacked by opposing forces during a foot patrol. In the scenario, two Soldiers were wounded and required evacuation. The combat medics had to respond to the threat, treat the wounded, call in a medical evacuation nine-line report, and then load the casualties onto ambulances. The trainees later simulated loading the injured onto a Blackhawk helicopter that landed at Camp Najaf to

assist with the training. “The main benefit is building some of that muscle memory,” said Master Sgt. William Welborn, chief instructor, 249th Regional Training Institute. “They do tough realistic training. It’s distracting. There’s artillery simulators, it’s a stressful environment that gets them to work hard and think hard.”

The combat scenarios while providing medical evacuation were a memorable way to prepare medics.

“I think when these guys get into a real life scenario, they’re going to have the mental toughness to push through anything,” Welborn added.

The Pacific Northwest’s weather helped add an element of realism and environmental obstacles.

“This year we have been especially challenged by the rain,” Welborn said, with a smile on his face. “But the Soldiers have really powered through and stayed highly motivated. They just don’t quit.”

FEATURES

Oregon Air Guardsmen join funeral honors team in Portland

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

PORTLAND, Oregon – A trio of Oregon National Guardsmen stand motionless at attention holding M-14 rifles. Then seamlessly upon command, they fire three crisp volleys in succession, breaking the morning silence as the gunfire’s refrain resonates over the Mt. Scott hillsides and valley at Willamette National Cemetery.

The custom of firing three volleys is one of the oldest military traditions. It indicates the cease in hostilities between two warring sides to properly clear their dead from the battlefield. In a military funeral, it signifies that the member’s weapons are no longer used for battle, but rather to honor their sacrifice and service.

The firing party is just one element of the ceremony bestowing full military funeral honors. The ceremony also includes the respectful transfer of remains, the playing of Taps, and it culminates in the folding and presentation of the American Flag to the Veteran’s family.

For many years the Oregon Army National Guard and the U.S. Navy Reserves from Swan Island Reserve Center, Portland, have designated specially trained ceremonial honor guard members to perform multiple funerals each day at Willamette National Cemetery. For Airmen funerals, the U.S. Air Force active duty honor guard from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, sent members on Temporary Duty Orders (TDY) to conduct specified services. Yet, beginning in October 2016, Tech. Sgt. Justin Meininger and Tech. Sgt. John Hughel began full-time duties at Willamette National Cemetery, representing the U.S. Air Force as members of the Oregon Air National Guard.

“Our honor guard team has been increasing in members and color guard events exponentially almost each year since I joined seven years ago,” said Meininger, Portland Air National Guard (PANG) Base Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). “In the past year, we did nearly 80 events from [Portland] Trailblazer games, to Timbers and Thorns’ soccer matches, as well as elementary school presentations, parades, and Veteran association events.”

For several years, the PANG Team of nearly two-dozen specially trained Airmen had requested to augment the JBLM members for local funerals. Finally, with a working plan drafted and later implemented by Meininger and Master Sgt. Amy Schmidt, 142nd Fighter Wing Force Support Squadron superintendent, this program was executed with two full-time ceremonial Airmen on duty.

“When calculating lodging, per diem, and other logistical factors, we estimated a savings of over \$114,000 a year,” Meininger noted. “This was a plan put into motion in early 2015, but it was not until this fiscal year [2017] that we were able to begin keeping two full-time service members in

place here at Willamette National Cemetery.”

A memo of agreement needed to be drafted between all parties, and then everything went to the National Guard Bureau for approval before given the green light in October. The financial benefit is just one element of having Air Guardsmen perform the funeral services locally. Beyond the money aspect, the dividends are far ranging. In fact, the impression of ceremonial honor guard members on the residential community has been instantaneous.

An overwhelming percentage of those attending a military funeral are civilians with little association with the military. As military ambassadors, the honor guard’s role represents the pride of the Air Force locally, yet its role also reflects the overall professionalism of the armed forces with a joint force service team during funeral honors ceremonies.

A significant first step was Airmen integrating into the mix of Soldiers and Sailors as there is a recognizable esprit de’ corps fostered in the joint team at Willamette National Cemetery, something sacrosanct, embodying every aspect of honoring Veterans with dignity. For many years, the Army and Navy have been providing support to Air Force services with casket and firing party details. It was crucial for PANG members to integrate into the mix with the right tone and temperament.

Having been part of the funeral honor program for the Navy over the past dozen years, Electrical Technician Chief Petty Officer James Cameron recalled how the administration at Willamette National Cemetery had been trying for several years to get PANG Airmen involved.

“There were various bureaucratic hurdles and it never worked out, but from day one when you guys arrived, everyone could see you wanted be involved in every part of the funeral honors and set a positive tone right away,” Cameron said.

A standard funeral has anywhere from seven to ten honor guardsmen participating in a service. On the busiest of days, 11-14 funerals are scheduled. With funerals set on the half hour, adding two new permanent individuals made an immediate impact.

Willamette National Cemetery opened in 1950. The 307-acre cemetery in the bluffs of Mt. Scott is one of the most active national cemeteries in the United States as well as one of the most picturesque. It overlooks the city of Portland, and the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Most notably, are the Cascade mountain range marvels of Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens. In July 2016, the cemetery was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Unlike Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C., and many other national cemeteries with vertical standing stone markers, the low profile granite markers by design at Willamette National Cemetery emphasize and support the natural rolling landscape



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

Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Justin Meininger (right) along with Army National Guard Pvt. 1st Class Chris Bourgo (center) and U.S. Navy Electronics Technician Chief Petty Office Jim Cameron (left) perform military funeral honors during a memorial service at Willamette National Cemetery, Jan. 13, 2017.

of the site.

In January 2000, the Department of Defense (DoD) established Public Law 106-65, which allows, upon family request, every eligible Veteran to receive a military funeral honor ceremony. The law defines that a detail should “consist of two or more uniformed military persons, with at least one being a member of the Veteran’s parent service.”

Each branch of the military has unique aspects to their funeral services. For the Air Force, a traditional flag presentation sequence is a two-man folding team. The Army and Navy encompass three members for folding and presenting. For those memorials, which include service members killed in action or on active duty, a six-man flag folding presentation deepens the ceremonial ritual. Subtleties abound in other areas with firing party and casket transfer teams. To streamline and build in uniformity, Army service rituals are incorporated and form a succinct presentation.

“This can be a very stressful environment,” Cameron said. “When not directly participating in a funeral service, the rehearsal and training between services is a critical component to building a complete team.”

One of most remarkable distinctions about the assignments is the autonomy. The innate reliability of team members is extraordinary and include being in place for services, having their uniform spotless and being trained and prepared on a daily basis.

As the senior NCO for the Oregon Army National Guard team, Staff Sgt. Greg Lindstrom sets a proficient yet calm atmosphere that allows junior members to contribute to the mission’s success.

“There really is not any friction here [among members], and I’ll refer to those with different expertise or training like Specialist (Everett) Mayers and Corporal (Tom) Hoy to add their input to the team success,” Lindstrom said.

Both Mayers and Hoy have attended several honor guard courses and have been part of the Army’s Willamette National Cemetery team for several years. Their ‘leading by example’ approach facilitates an up-tempo, high-standard atmosphere within all team members.

“I like coming to work every day and the people we have in place,” Lindstrom added. “I love the overall atmosphere here, but more importantly, the job has real meaning.”

This environment sets the stage for becoming part of the total joint team. The ability to jump in was also a creative opportunity to develop undefined responsibilities. From building Airmanship

skills of leadership, self-responsibility, attention to detail or working in a joint environment, the range of opportunities to grow is limitless.

“We found right away that, to be part of the team, it just made sense to use what was already working,” Meininger said.

Now nearly half-way through this initial six-month assignment, Meininger remarked on how the Willamette National Cemetery responsibilities have been a long sought-after professional goal.

“Everyone who joins the honor guard does so with the desire to get to this place at some point in their career; to perform military funeral honors,” he said. “This is what it’s all about: the extra and off-duty hours of training, the detailing of the uniform and building comradery along the way.”

“My father is buried here, so in many ways this is a special assignment,” Cameron noted. “It is an honor on many levels to be part of this place.”

The spirit of cooperation within the larger group is contagious. Everyone wants to contribute and be part of all the services no matter the branch of service, which shelter site of the property, or weather elements of the day.

“There is a sense of pride in the actual job, but on another level there is a deeper sense of belonging to a team,” Meininger said. “You cannot help but broaden and appreciate every detail of life when working so close to a group that wants to give their best effort for every funeral service.”

There is repetition and ritual to many aspects of military life. When performing funeral honors, each detail is rehearsed over and over and then performed to the highest level during each service. Focusing on the Veteran and his or her family is the vital attribute.

Touching on the significance of the role honor guardsmen strive to attain, Lindstrom summarized the nature of the mission, “We don’t try to become emotionally attached to the family, but rather, we try and be that pillar of strength for them. Hopefully, what we give back helps support the family and reflects in some way the years of military sacrifice their loved one provided to this nation.”

This sense of support and pride each member brings to the funeral honors detail is distinct to the responsibility. “The passion, precision and expertise I have found with this assignment are like none other in my military career,” said Hughel. “Echoing a portion of The Airmen’s Creed, of being ‘faithful to a proud heritage, a tradition of honor, and a legacy of valor,’ it’s a measure of devotion I also hope to carry with me in subsequent stations in life.”



Photo by Master Sgt. (Ret.) Jonathan Dyer, 142nd Fighter Wing

A Firing Party team made up of Oregon Air and Army National Guard members assigned at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Ore., performs military funeral honors, Jan. 16, 2017.

FEATURES

Guard terminal attack controllers train on new simulators

Story and photos by
Senior Master Sgt. Michael White,
194th Wing, Washington National Guard

CAMP MURRAY, Washington — More than 100 Soldiers and Airmen from three states participated in a training exercise at Camp Murray in November to demonstrate the value of new joint terminal attack control simulators. Airmen from the Washington Air National Guard’s 194th Air Support Operations Group (ASOG), based at Camp Murray, were joined by Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard’s 41st Brigade Combat Team, the California Army National Guard’s 40th Infantry Division, and the Washington Army National Guard’s 81st Brigade Combat Team for exercise ‘Cascade Warrior.’

“This is the realization of a seven-year dream to figure out how to do joint virtual and constructive training that accurately emulates what Airmen and Soldiers need to prosecute the joint fight,” said Col. Jeremy Horn, commander of the 194th Wing that includes the 194th ASOG. “Active duty leaders were there looking at this as a model for the total force.”

The exercise incorporated various integrated systems and simulators including the Air National Guard Advanced Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training System (AAJTS) which is a high-fidelity, fully-immersive domed simulator designed to support Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) and Combat Controller squadron-level rehearsal training.

“This system provides capabilities and simulator training that you could otherwise only get at a major field training event,” said Senior Master Sgt. Greg Kassa, simulations noncommissioned officer for the 194th ASOG. “We’ve just touched the surface of the capabilities of this system. This exercise integrated capabilities of Army staff, joint fires observers, and the ASOG. The simulation capabilities are instrumental in bridging any gaps between Army and Air during missions.”

Kassa said the simulation builds on lessons learned dating back over a decade, “We deployed in 2004 and we weren’t as good as we thought we were. When we came back the commander tasked us to come up with a way to train on what we learned on deployment. So a guy from 168th ASOS, Illinois Air National Guard [and I] started working on an integrated simulator training system, and have been continually developing and improving it since.”

Horn praised Kassa for his ongoing



A Joint Terminal Attack Controller with the Washington Air National Guard simulates calling-in close air support for Army National Guard units, Nov. 5, 2016. The virtual exercise included elements from three states, including Oregon’s 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

work to perfect this system, “Nowhere else but in the Guard can someone basically have the same job for ten years, developing relationships with all of the players that bring this technology together,” said Horn.

When Horn first knew Kassa, “he was already taking the Air Force system that industry provided and figuring out how to take yesterday’s air tasking orders and use them to train for today,” said Horn. “He cut the close air support response time to two minutes. He’s taken that same innovation and expanded to Army fire systems.”

One Airman who trained in the AAJTS simulator was Master Sgt. Justin Murner, JTAC for the 194th ASOG.

“Our JTAC’s can train in this simulator as much as they want, and as much as time permits,” said Murner. “I’ve been in it a few times since we opened it around September. I love it compared to what we used to have. The simulator used to be a simple white screen with a laptop, but now it’s this. This simulator has 270 degree coverage so a JTAC can have planes coming in from behind, over their shoulder,” said Murner.

When asked about the most significant



Master Sgt. Justin Murner of the 194th Air Support Operations Group, Washington Air National Guard, inside a battlefield simulation dome, Nov. 5, 2016.

benefits of the simulator Murner explained, “If we have JTAC trainees bomb their own position while in here, it’s a bad thing, but we can debrief it and learn from it, [and] nobody gets hurt. The

likeness of the downloaded maps is one of the coolest things. Additionally the number of aircraft assets on injects you can use are limitless. This system is very flexible,” said Murner.

Liberty Truck first vehicle to cross new bridge in Clackamas



Left: Elected officials from Clackamas County and Happy Valley, Oregon, pose for a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the Oregon Military Museum’s Standard B Liberty Truck during the opening of the Tolbert Bridge, Nov. 21, 2016, in Clackamas, Oregon. The bridge is replacing the existing at-grade crossing at Lawnfield Road and also includes the reconstruction of 93rd Avenue and 94th Avenue from Tolbert Street south to Clackamas Road and Church Street from 82nd Drive to 94th Avenue.



Right: The Oregon Military Museum’s Standard B Liberty Truck crosses the newly opened Tolbert Bridge during a dedication ceremony. The Liberty Truck was the first vehicle to cross the new bridge, which is located in front of Camp Withycombe where the Oregon Military Museum resides.

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

SPORTS

Oregon Guard biathletes compete in Western Regionals

Story and photos by Sgt. Ashley Smith,
197th Public Affairs Detachment,
Wyoming National Guard

CASPER, Wyoming – Despite the fierce terrain, high altitude and wind gusts of up to 54 mph, approximately 75 Guard members from nine western states skied and shot their way through the National Guard’s 2017 Western Regional Biathlon at the Casper Mountain Biathlon Center in Casper, Wyoming, Jan 10-14.

Biathlon is a winter sport that combines cross-country skiing and precision rifle marksmanship. The regional competition included biathletes from Alaska, California, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

“It combines these two very separate disciplines,” said Maj. Rebecca Walsh, Wyoming National Guard biathlon coach. “You have the endurance, speed and stamina of cross-country skiing with the precision of rifle marksmanship.”

Participants alternated between skiing three trail loops to elevate their heart rates. Competitors were allowed to utilize all cross-country skiing techniques in the biathlon. Skis and ski poles are the only equipment that may be used to move along the designated course. Each biathlete carries a specialized .22-caliber rifle on their back for the marksmanship portion of the competition. A snow guard on the end of the barrel prevents snow from entering



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Rebecca Jenness, departs the firing line as she competes in the sprint race at the 2017 Western Regional Biathlon in Casper Wyoming. Four Oregon National Guard service members competed in two races against National Guard teams from eight other states, as well as professional biathletes from the Casper Mountain Biathlon Center, January 10-14, 2017.

the rifle while the competitor is skiing. In between circuits, which wound through the surrounding tree-lined hills, they transitioned to the shooting range, where they shot at targets 50 meters away, while struggling to control their breathing.

“It’s a very complex sport of moving and shooting with a high, high heart rate,” said Tech Sgt. Travis Voyer, National Guard Biathlon trainer. “Most of the Soldier athletes will be shooting at approximately 180 beats when they hit the mat.”

The key to finishing well is to do well at two very different sports. As a competitor and coach, Walsh said that is the most difficult part, “Being able to put them together, get it to sync and have a good day shooting and have a good day skiing it’s just the hardest thing,” she said. “But when it comes together and you have that perfect race, nothing is better.”

Service members from the nine states competed in two races. The first race was the sprint race, a 10-kilometer ski for men and 7.5 kilometers for women. Skiers complete the distance by lapping the course three times with a rifle marksmanship section between each lap. The biathlete shoots five targets in the prone position by lying on the ground after the first loop, and then five shots in a standing position after the second loop. For each target missed, competitors must ski a penalty loop of 150 meters before continuing.

“This course compared to any other course in the United States is by far the hardest,” said Voyer. “Not only is the terrain very difficult but we are also at 7,500 feet.

Both of those together easily make for the hardest course in North America.”

Starting times for the second race, the pursuit race, were determined by their finishing time in the sprint race. The fastest competitor from the previous race started first with the second fastest finisher starting five-seconds after and so on through the rest of the field. The distance is 12.5 kilometers for men and 10 kilometers for women. Competitors ski five laps around the course with four stops to shoot. Again, five rounds per shoot, with two shoots in the prone position and the other two fired while standing. Each missed target again resulted in a penalty loop of 150 meters.

“You have the potential to ski up to 20 penalty loops in a pursuit race,” said Walsh.

Despite the pressure of competition, the biathletes said they just enjoyed the experience of being able to participate.

“Being out there on the course, I feel pretty free,” said Alaska National Guard’s Pfc. Travis Cooper. “Just being able to do what I love and doing what I am good at.”

Cooper has been competing in biathlon for more than a year. He originally enlisted in the National Guard to compete for Alaska and realize his dream of cross-country skiing, with his sights set on competing for the United States in the next Winter Olympics.

In the women’s division, the Oregon National Guard’s Sgt. Rebecca Jenness competed in her first biathlon event after being on skis for only three days. She advised other beginners to fight through the pain and the frustration.

“I would say just keep going,” Jenness said. “Each day gets a little bit easier. Again, I don’t have a lot of experience or practice, so, the more I do it, the better I will get.”

Competitors, both novices and veterans appreciate the camaraderie that comes with being a biathlete.

“National Guard Biathlon is a tight knit family,” Cooper said. “We really care for each other, and really look after each other. Having the support group is really encouraging.”

The top-four finishers for both males and females from each state competing advanced to the Chief, National Guard Biathlon Competition in Jericho, Vermont. The highest finishers at that match will be selected for the All-Guard Biathlon Team and the development team, with potential to qualify for international races. Through this program, members have gone on to represent the nation in various international competitions, including the Biathlon World Cup and the Winter Olympics.

According to Capt. Kevin Elmer, the National Guard biathlon coordinator, the history of the biathlon dates back to the Winter War between the Soviet Union and Finland in 1939. Finnish soldiers, who used the mobility of skiing in the snow-covered forests of Finland to engage Soviet troops with precise marksmanship, left Finland after the war and joined the United States Army.

“They watched how the 10th Mountain Division was doing in snow mobility combat and told them they were doing it all wrong,” said Elmer. “They began teaching them the skiing techniques and better marksmanship techniques.”

After that, the skiing and rifle marksmanship developed into more specialized events with the first World Biathlon Championships held in 1958. Soldiers from the 10th Mountain represented their country in the event. The U.S. then introduced the modern form of biathlon into the Olympics at Squaw Valley in 1960. All the while, the U.S. Army maintained the Biathlon Training Center for military athletes at Fort Richardson, Alaska, from 1958 until 1973, before turning the biathlon mission over to the Vermont Army National Guard.

Oregon National Guard service members who competed include Jenness (11th place in both the women’s sprint race and pursuit race); 1st Lt. Kyle Roe (18th place in the men’s sprint race, 14th place in the men’s pursuit race); Maj. Joseph Bessman (21st in the men’s sprint race, 20th place in the men’s pursuit race); and 1st Lt. Ryan Stapleton (33rd place in the men’s sprint race, 30th place in the men’s pursuit race).



Oregon Army National Guard 1st Lt. Ryan Stapleton competes in the sprint race at the 2017 Western Regional Biathlon in Casper Wyoming.

Journey to ‘President’s 100’ begins with TAG Match marksmanship competition

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon National Guard is looking for a few good shooters to compete in the annual, statewide marksmanship competition known as The Adjutant General (TAG) Match. Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the state will gather at Camp Umatilla in Hermiston, Oregon, September 8-10, 2017, to compete as individuals and as teams for a chance to move on to regional and national level competitions. The TAG Match will be organized by the Small Arms Readiness Section (SARTS) and includes pistol, rifle and machine gun marksmanship.

“Marksmanship skills are fundamental to being in the military. It is the one thing that we should be good at; the one thing that defines us as a profession of arms,” said 1st Sgt. Marcus Merrick, of HHC 1249th Engineer Battalion. He is an active member of the ‘All Guard Team’ since 2006 and a recipient of the ‘The President’s Hundred Tab.’

Merrick said Oregon has a long tradition of marksmanship competitors, having at

least one member of the Oregon National Guard on the All Guard Team since it’s inception in 1968. The All Guard Team is a joint team of Soldiers and Airmen from across all 54 states and territories who compete with various service rifles and pistols at the highest levels.

Winners from the Oregon TAG Match can go on to compete in The Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) Postal Match Championship. The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC) sponsors the competition to promote basic individual rifle and pistol marksmanship skills at the unit level by allowing participation by as many competitors as possible. The CNGB Postal Matches have three phases of competition: a Postal phase, a Marksmanship Area Council (MAC) Region phase, and a National Championship Shoulder-to-Shoulder phase.

The MAC Region matches provide a combat focused marksmanship-sustainment training event in each of the seven MAC Regions, designed to validate and sustain perishable marksmanship skills essential to mobilization readiness and success.

The Shoulder-to-Shoulder phase

is a three-day rifle and pistol live fire competition conducted at the NGMTC at Robinson Maneuver Training Center (RMTC), North Little Rock, Arkansas. The top four competitors per MAC Region in Phase II will receive automatic invitations to compete. The individual winner of Phase III is the competitor earning the highest aggregate score, and is the overall CNGB Postal Match champion.

To join the All Guard Team, competitors must complete their state TAG Match, the CNGB Phase III and the Winston P. Wilson (WPW) Championship. The WPW involves rifle, pistol, machine gun and combined arms disciplines at Robinson Maneuver Training Center. While basic marksmanship techniques are integral parts of the WPW training, particular emphasis is devoted to combat realism, physical exertion, as well as close individual and team coordination.

The top 20-50 competitors from state TAG Matches, Phase III of CNGB and WPW will be invited to participate in the annual All Guard Team tryouts. Team members participate in national competitions against all service branches, including the chance to earn The President’s Hundred Tab awarded



An Oregon Army National Guard Soldier checks his target during the 2016 MAC VI Regional Marksmanship Championship at Camp Guernsey in Wyoming.

by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) to the 100 top-scoring military and civilian shooters in the President’s Pistol and President’s Rifle Matches.

Soldiers and Airmen should ask their chain of command about participating in the Oregon TAG Match. A Memorandum of Instruction will be disseminated to units in May detailing entry requirements. In the meantime, units may direct questions to Sgt. Maj. Geoffrey Miotke, with G3 operations, at (503) 584-3616.

AZUWUR



Story by

Staff Sgt. Armondo Borboa,
HHC 3-116th Cavalry Battalion

PENDLETON, Oregon - Early on a warm and pleasant Sunday morning many years ago, the American people awoke to find themselves on the losing side of the most devastating attack in modern military history. A dawn raid on the forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, had crippled the U.S. Navy's Pacific fleet. Nineteen fighting ships, including eight Battleships, were damaged or sunk, along with 347 aircraft damaged or destroyed, and 2,403 Americans killed with another 1,178 wounded.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan," said President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in one of the single most famous addresses to Congress and the nation.

However, rather than lose hope as was intended, the American people decided this insult simply could not go unanswered. Less than five months later on April 18, 1942, a handpicked group of volunteers from the Pendleton, Oregon, area were the ones to deliver their nation's answer.

"Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer," said Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle.

Known as the "Doolittle Raiders" and flying sixteen B-25B Mitchell medium bombers, the 80 men of the Army Air Corps' 17th Bombardment Squadron were given a mission to drop payloads on targets in Japan and continue on to land

Event honors 75th Anniversary of famous WWII air units that trained in Pendleton, OR

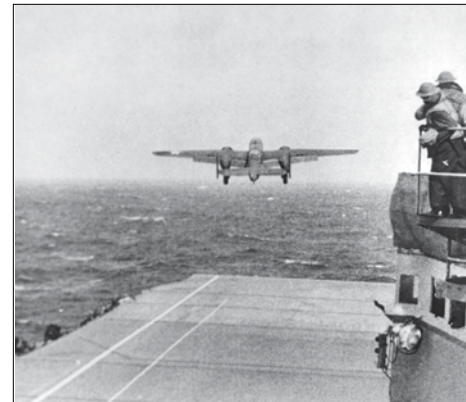


On April 18, 1942, Airmen of the U.S. Army Air Forces, led by Lt. Col. James H. (Jimmy) Doolittle, carried the Battle of the Pacific to the heart of the Japanese empire with a surprising and daring raid on military targets at Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagoya, and Kobe. This heroic attack against these major cities was the result of coordination between the Army Air Forces and the U.S. Navy, which carried the sixteen North American B-25 medium bombers aboard the carrier USS Hornet to within take-off distance of the Japanese Islands.

in China.

Unfortunately, because of discovery by an enemy picket boat that radioed in their location, the Raiders were forced to launch early. Hurling their machines from the rolling deck of an aircraft carrier sailing in the Pacific Ocean, the Raiders took off from a platform originally designed

to only accommodate fighters barely half their size. More than 200 miles short of their planned departure point, these men launched into the air on a one-way mission, knowing they did not have enough fuel to reach safety. After successfully hitting their targets, all but one of the Bombers eventually crash landed in China or were



A B-25 Mitchell takes off from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet for the Doolittle Raid of Japan, April 18, 1942.

ditched into the sea. Nonetheless, by completing their assignment, the Doolittle Raiders managed to beat the odds and flew into the pages of history.

Since then, their original training facilities in Pendleton have been turned over to the Oregon Army National Guard. While the WWII hanger of the 17th Bombardment Squadron still exists, a newer hangar was built after the war in order to accommodate more modern aircraft such as the Chinook CH-47 heavy lift helicopter. Now home to Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, the one characteristic both buildings share is a dedication to keeping the nation's aircraft flying.

In addition to the aviation group, Pendleton Armory also boasts a proud history of ground pounders as well. The "new" Pendleton Armory has served for decades as the home of medics, mortarmen, scouts and snipers of Detachment 1, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment. During World War II, the "old" armory (now the Pendleton convention center) hosted the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, an all-black Airborne unit of the United States Army. These were the early smokejumpers, charged with defending the Pacific Northwest against the approximately 9,000 incendiary fire balloons sent by the forces of Japan.

Now 75 years later, the American people have not forgotten the courage of the men who once called Pendleton home, risking it all to deliver their nation's response.

On April 29, 2017, the Pendleton Air Museum (PAM), along with representatives of the 3-116th Cavalry Battalion, and Det. 1 Bravo Company, 1-168th Aviation Battalion, will gather at the renowned Army Airfield hangar and Armory in Pendleton, Oregon, to honor their shared historic ties to the 17th Bombardment Squadron and the 555th Parachute Infantry units.

In addition to the USO-style formal dinner and dancing that evening, the day will also include a car show, family friendly games, living history displays, an authentic B-25 Mitchell Bomber, a wreath laying and flyover by various aircraft.

Working with the leadership of the Oregon American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, along with numerous other public and private groups, hundreds of people have pledged time and resources to making this day of remembrance a success. Both the Legion and the VFW have vowed to fill 100 seats at the gala, either with members of their own organizations or by sponsoring currently serving junior enlisted Soldiers to appear in their stead. Others have promised to bring their own memorabilia to display, everything from a grandfather's old uniform and equipment found in an old footlocker, all the way up to the "Heavenly Body" an authentic, still flying WWII B25 Mitchell Bomber which will function as the centerpiece of the day.

For more information, visit the "Doolittle Raiders Gala" on the Facebook events page.

The history of Pendleton Field military training site

Story by Susan Badger Doyle,
Historian and Author

On November 29, 1940, the War Department announced that Pendleton, Oregon, had been selected as a site for an Army Air Corps station for training combat crews in the Northwest Air District, under the jurisdiction of the 2nd Air Force. Pendleton had a municipal airport with United Air Lines service and was strategically located along major railways and highways.

The War Department allocated nearly \$1.6 million for construction of the airbase. The city acquired the land by December, and leases were signed with the War Department in the spring. In March, the state agreed to build a new roadway to the base. W.C. Smith & Co. of Duluth, Minnesota, was awarded the contract for the construction of 122 structures, and E.C. Gerber of Oregon City was contracted to expand and build the runways.

Construction, supervised by the Corps of Engineers, began soon after the groundbreaking ceremony on February 16, 1941. Col. Frank Wright arrived in early March to assume command and begin preparing for the three thousand officers and enlisted personnel who would be stationed at the base. The first enlisted men, a unit of the 254th Quartermaster Corps, arrived on April 15. With the arrival in June of over five hundred men of the 19th Air Base Group and units of the 17th Bombardment Group and the 89th Reconnaissance Squadron, the base reached its authorized strength of 303 officers and 2,218 enlisted men.

In July, the War Department designated the airbase Pendleton Field in honor of Senator George Hunt Pendleton (1825-1889) of Ohio, for whom the City of Pendleton had also been named. Most of the buildings on the base were finished by August. The Pendleton Housing

Corporation, a group of Pendleton citizens, raised \$100,000 to build a hundred houses for officers, and the federal government provided \$400,000 to build eighty-five housing units for noncommissioned officers and civilian employees.

In November 1941, fourteen North American B-25 bombers arrived at Pendleton Field. In December, planes from Pendleton Field flew antisubmarine patrols along coastal areas as part of the 2nd Air Force air defense for the Northwest Pacific coastline. In January 1942, the 2nd Air Force was relieved from the defense of the coast, and Pendleton Field was assigned the task of providing heavy bombardment unit training. Pendleton Field was assigned because it was one of four bases with runways long enough to fulfill the training requirements. In February, the B-25-equipped 17th Bombardment Group at Pendleton Field was reassigned to Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina, where Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle formed volunteer crews to train for the Doolittle Raid against Japan on April 18. Of the eighty Raiders, all but Doolittle had trained at Pendleton Field.

In February, Colonel Wright announced that a hundred civilian workers would be enlisted for Air Corps duty. Within a month, planes were flying around the clock in the training program. In September 1942, Pendleton Field was placed under the 4th Air Service Command, with headquarters in Sacramento. The 330th Service Group, which engaged in supply and maintenance training on aircraft, was assigned to Pendleton Field.

Over a hundred planes that flew from Pendleton Field crashed during the war. In the summer of 1943, four B-17 heavy bombers, known as the Flying Fortress, crashed; twenty-seven crewmembers died and six survived. By late 1943, the

Army Air Corps, now called the Army Air Forces, reached the peak of its activity in the continental United States with the highest number of separate installations during the war.

In January 1944, the work of military airbases switched from training and equipping the air forces to supply and maintenance operations, resulting in dramatic cutbacks. Pendleton Field was among sixty-nine bases placed on standby status during this reorganization. In March, Pendleton Field was reactivated as a sub-base of Walla Walla Field under the 4th Air Force, which provided final training for P-38 and Night Fighter Squadrons and B-24 heavy bomber units. In mid-April, six A-23 tow planes arrived with a Tow-Target Squadron. By December 1944, active units at Pendleton Field had been transferred and the airfield was designated inactive.

Pendleton Field was reactivated in May 1945, and from May to October, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, known as the Triple Nickles, was stationed at the airfield to fight forest fires, particularly those ignited by Japanese balloons carrying incendiary bombs. Known as Smoke Jumpers, the Triple Nickles was an all-black infantry unit comprised of the nation's first military airborne firefighters. During fire operations, the battalion suffered numerous injuries but only one fatality.

In November 1945, Pendleton Field was one of the eleven military airfields in Oregon declared surplus property. The Instrument of Transfer of the base to the City of Pendleton was signed July 13, 1948, and the buildings and hangar that remain are managed by the city. The Pendleton Field runways are now part of the Eastern Oregon Regional Airport, which is also the location of the Pendleton Army Aviation Support Facility, home station for Chinook helicopter units of the Oregon Army National Guard.