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Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Company G, 1-189th Aviation returns from Middle East



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 demobilization ceremony honoring their return from overseas deployment, March 4, in Salem, Oregon. Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit returned from deployment to the Middle East, where they provided aeromedical support using HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters. See the full story on Page 5.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

173rd Fighter Wing granted 50-year lease in Klamath Falls

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - The City of Klamath Falls demonstrated an unprecedented level of community support for the 173rd Fighter Wing by extending the current lease on the airfield property until 2095 - the longest lease in the U.S. Air Force.

In a ceremony at Kingsley Field, city officials expressed their appreciation for the unique mission of the wing and expressed the desire for its continued success into the next century.

"The partnership is one that works well," said Klamath Falls Mayor Carol Westfall, "and we believe it will make our community one of the best places to live and work and be part of."

U.S. Representative Greg Walden added that the lease benefits both the community and the Oregon Air National Guard.

"The signing of this lease extension exemplifies how our community in the basin has embraced the Guard's mission, supports our men and women in uniform, and benefits from the base's investment back into the community."

This lease extension adds a capstone to recent improvements including a new airspace expansion which brings the total area to 11,300 square miles, making it among the largest test and training ranges in the U.S. Air Force.

This airspace expansion allows the opportunity for a fairly new concept in training - use of a contracted adversary air (ADAIR) squadron which will serve to increase the number of sorties directly related to student training. This new ADAIR squadron of about six aircraft would simulate enemy aircraft during training sorties rather than requiring some of the F-15Cs to fill the adversary role. This will free up more of the F-15Cs for student training and allow the unit to graduate a larger number of new F-15C pilots for the Combat Air Forces.

The extended lease also helps solidify over \$80M in planned construction projects in response to growth requirements such as the addition of nearly 100 active duty troops in an Active Association and the proposed addition of contract aircraft on the ramp. A new fire station is currently under construction and planned projects include a new fuel offloading and on-loading station, a new corrosion control facility, ramp improvement construction, and many others.

During the ceremony speakers noted the litany of recent accomplishments that have paved the way for both this unprecedented



Photo by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Col. Jeffrey Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, presents framed F-15 photos to Klamath Falls Mayor Carol Westfall (left) and Klamath Falls City Councilmen, Feb. 19, at Kingsley Field, to celebrate the 173rd Fighter Wing's enduring 50-year lease extension.

lease extension, and positioned Kingsley Field for the future.

"With its over 50,000 square-yards of ramp space, unrivaled support from the community, and four decades of fighter training culture, Kingsley Field is clearly a perfect home for the F-35, or any future training missions for that matter," added Walden.

The 173rd Fighter Wing is home to the sole F-15C formal training schoolhouse for the United States Air Force.



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COMMAND

Every Soldier/Airman is a leader in our core values

The beginning of the calendar year rolled in with historic events for the Oregon National Guard: The 173rd Fighter Wing signed a 50-year lease taking the lease for Kingsley Field out to 2095; We celebrated the homecoming of Golf Company 1-189 Aviation from the Middle East; Our CERFP participated in Montana's Vigilant Guard exercise; the 142nd Fighter Wing mobilized for an overseas mission; and Army National Guard 4.0 changes rolled out to enhance readiness.

This list only names a few significant events that happened this quarter. As we head into the spring, operations across the agency are only going to become more demanding. I know each and every one of you is up to the challenges.

Our organization is comprised of outstanding individuals from across Oregon and our region, and your hard work does not go unnoticed. If you have recently joined our ranks, I want to welcome you to the team. For those who are continuing to serve, thank you for your dedication and demonstrating

our core values to our new teammates.

Our core values are Character, Competence, Courage and Commitment. We are all a part of something amazing, an exceptional group of people with a higher calling to serve. When people in our communities see the uniform we wear, they expect that we embody the core values it represents.

You may have heard the phrase, "Every Soldier and Airman a leader." What does this really mean? Quite simply, it means be an example to others. Whether you're an officer, senior enlisted or a brand new Soldier or Airman, you are entrusted with making decisions that affect others, our organization, our state and our nation. No matter the rank or capacity in which you serve, as a leader it is paramount that your decisions align with our core values. Take time to evaluate the potential outcomes of your decisions and how they will be perceived.

We are all leaders in our areas of assigned responsibility. Be a decision maker. If a decision or action brought a negative



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

outcome, acknowledge it and learn from it! If you perceive a potential decision or action of others as brining a negative outcome, say something! This is being a leader. We have a responsibility to not only uphold the traditions of our organization, but to make it better.

Thank you for your service to our state and nation. Continue to retain, train, teach, and mentor our team. Every Soldier and Airman a leader!

Oregonian to become senior National Guard JAG

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. W. Dan Bunch has been selected as the Air National Guard (ANG) Assistant to The Judge Advocate General (JAG), U.S. Air Force. He is scheduled to move to this major general position effective July 2018 as the senior Judge Advocate in the National Guard.

Serving part time in the Pentagon, Bunch will be the ANG advisor to The Judge Advocate General of the Air Force. In addition to giving counsel on projects of national significance, he will provide leadership, strategic planning and management of the ANG Judge Advocate program, encompassing more than 440 judge advocates and paralegals at Air National Guard legal offices throughout the nation.

"It's an honor to congratulate one of our own and celebrate Dan's selection for this prestigious position," said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. "His character, professional skills, and proven leadership are a credit to him, and to us all."

Bunch has most recently been serving as the ANG Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Air Force and a senior member of the Judge Advocate General's ANG Council.



He began his military career in 1990 with the U.S. Navy, serving on the island of Guam and then onboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), an operational aircraft carrier supporting operations in the first Gulf War and in Bosnia. In 1994, he transferred to the U.S. Air Force where he served as a fighter wing chief of military justice and later as a regional circuit prosecutor handling complex and high profile cases. In 1997, he was named the top junior judge advocate of 11th Air Force.

In 1998, he transferred to the Air Force

Reserve and then transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard in 2000 as the Staff Judge Advocate of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. In 2007, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of the Law and Order Task Force in which he commanded a joint force of military and civilian legal specialists in an effort to establish an Iraqi judicial system. Returning home, Bunch was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and named as the nation's outstanding Judge Advocate in the Air Reserve component. His career continued with his competitive selection to perform national level duties as the ANG Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate for Air Force Space Command and Air Combat Command.

Bunch received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1987 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Virginia in 1990.

In his civilian career, Bunch has worked as a prosecuting attorney, a partner in a law firm, and as county counsel of Klamath County, Oregon. During 2010, Oregon's governor appointed Bunch to the state court's 13th Judicial District in Klamath County, where he is judge having general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases.

Bunch is married to Mary Liz Hamilton. He and his wife reside in Klamath Falls and have three adult children: Ali, Faison, and Pierce.

Special guests in joint Color Guard



Special Olympics Oregon athletes participated in a joint color guard alongside Oregon National Guard Airmen and Soldiers prior to the State of the State Address in the House Chamber at the Oregon Capitol, February 5, 2018. Ryan Phelps (pictured above) posted the U.S. flag and Steven Jones (pictured right) posted the Oregon flag. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class April Davis, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



MPs protect VIPs in Afghanistan



Photo courtesy 1186th Military Police Company

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1186th Military Police Company provided a protective detail to escort Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, vice chief of the National Guard Bureau, during his recent trip to Afghanistan. Pictured with the vice chief are Capt. Richard Smith (right), 1186th MP detachment commander, and Staff Sgt. Shawn May (left). Approximately 30 Soldiers are currently deployed with the unit, providing Personal Security Details.

COMMAND

Oregon Air National Guard welcomes a new commander

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel assumed command of the Oregon National Guard's Air Component in a ceremony, Jan. 6, 2018, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

As the Air Component Commander, Kriesel will be responsible for mission readiness and operational effectiveness of two fighter wings (173rd and 142nd Fighter Wings), special tactics and air control squadrons, and more than 2,400 military and civilian personnel.

In this role, Kriesel will oversee development of operationally trained, equipped and mission-ready forces in support of federal mission requirements to include North American Aerospace Defense Command with 24/7 immediate response in defense of North America and state missions of emergency response, relief and recovery operations throughout Oregon.

The presiding officer for the assumption of command ceremony was Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon. During the ceremony, Kriesel thanked Stencel.

"General Stencel, thank you for the

opportunity to command this national treasure," said Kriesel. "Thank you, those of you who wear the uniform and those of you who have previously worn the uniform, for the enduring sacrifices that you and your families make for America and the coalition."

Prior to this new assignment, Kriesel most recently served as the director of Intelligence (A2); Air, Space and Information Operations (A3); Communications (A6); and Strategic Plans and Programs (A5/A8) for the Air Component Command, Joint Force Headquarters, in Salem, Oregon. He was responsible for directly synchronizing the Oregon Air National Guard's state and federal missions.

Kriesel graduated from the University of Washington in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. He received his commission in 1989 after graduating from U.S. Air Force Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He is also a graduate of the United States Navy War College and attended Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

He is a command pilot with more than 2,600 hours in the A-10 and F-15. He has fought in operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Freedom's

Sentinel. He has commanded a deployed Alert Detachment, Fighter Group, and was senior leader of a Combined Joint Task Force.

He served in various key operational and staff assignments throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa. He shaped strategies procuring combat force multipliers that are used today in worldwide contingencies and NORAD's mission of defending North America. Kriesel enhanced Coalition support against violent extremist organizations with France, United Kingdom and Special Operations Command-Africa. He contributed to Department of State China-Africa strategy and Somalia counter-piracy with United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and South Korea.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, outgoing commander, Oregon Air National Guard, gave his parting remarks during the



Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel (right), incoming commander, Oregon Air National Guard, receives his one-star general officer flag from outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver, during a promotion and change of command ceremony at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon, Jan. 6, 2018.

ceremony. During his remarks, he praised the men and women of the Oregon Air National Guard for executing the mission and allowing him to be successful in his prior role as commander.

Bringing it all back home: Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Silver retires

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

SALEM, Oregon - Reflecting back on a wide-ranging, 33-year military career, Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. "Hi-Ho" Silver said, "It was fun the whole way through, and I'm especially grateful I got to experience so many challenges along the way."

The former Air Component Commander for the Oregon National Guard officially retired during a ceremony held in his honor, Feb. 10, 2018, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon. As he spoke to colleagues, family, and others in attendance, Silver described how the excitement of flying fighter jets provided a pathway to many unforeseen transformations in his storied career.

"The thrill of flying and just a sense of speed is where it all began and I loved every minute of my 28-years flying fighters," as he recalled his love of flying. "As my career evolved, it was especially gratifying working with senior leaders, and mentoring others while watching them grow within this organization."

After graduating from Oregon State University in 1984, Silver entered the Oregon Air National Guard, eventually attended undergraduate navigator training at Mather Air Force Base (AFB), California. Upon finishing his initial rounds of aviation training, he was assigned as a Weapons System Officer (WSO) with the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG). As a WSO (pronounced "wizzo") flying in the back seat of the F-4 Phantom II, Silver began working at the Portland Air National Guard Base, a place he was literally born at in 1961.

"My dad, who was on active duty with the Air Force, was recovering from an aircraft crash in Japan - spent two years in military hospitals stateside recuperating. While recovering here in Portland, I was born at the hospital on the (then active duty base) Portland Air Force Base," said Silver.

As part of a group of young officers, Silver recalled how many of the more seasoned pilots shared their vast knowledge from flying the F-4's in Vietnam.

"There was a core group of us that started with the F-4, before later transitioning to the F-15 Eagles, and had long careers here, like (ret. Lt. Col.) Bud Jones, (ret. Brig. Gen.) Steven Gregg and Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (current Oregon Adjutant



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

Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, awards Brig. Gen. Jeffrey M. Silver the Oregon Distinguished Service Award for 33 years of dedicated service to the Oregon Air National Guard during his retirement ceremony, Feb. 10, 2018, at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Oregon.

General)," Silver said to the attendees.

A unifying moment for this group came in 1988 at the William-Tell Weapons System Meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida. The 142nd FIG Team of 12 Airmen that entered the completion that year was primarily made up of young lieutenants, as they took aim at the rest of the Air Force for top honors.

"Our leadership got together and said, 'Hey this is the last hurrah for F-4; instead of sending our most experienced guys, let's train and send our 1st and 2nd lieutenants to compete,'" Silver remembered. "It was almost like a social experiment, we trained under the tutelage of our most experienced pilots for nearly a year prior to the meet, studying the profiles and absorbing as much as we could for our first - and last - chance in this airframe."

The 142nd team was seeking back-to-back honors at the William Tell Meet, having sent a veteran squad, led by the duo of Capt. Larry Kemp and Maj. Tom Tutt to the 1986 event where they won the overall event.

The long hours of training for the 1988 team paid off in similar overall distinctions for the young guys too, as 1st Lieutenants, Dave McKinney and Gary Thompson took the 'Top Gun' honors.

"We competed toe-to-toe against these stacked teams who flew F-18's and

F-15's," said Silver. "In the end, it really underlined that theory that the man was more important than the machine."

In less than two years, the 142nd FIG was transitioning from the Phantom II to the Eagle and Silver was ready to move from the WSO position to the pilot seat. As he was finishing his upgrade training in 1990, the 142nd began to make the conversion to the Eagle fighters.

Though the F-4 was still a very lethal and capable aircraft, it was no longer a frontline fighter.

"Going to the F-15 Eagle with the advance armaments, a helmet mounted Q-ing System, which shoots an AIM-9X that can gimbal itself off over 100 degrees, was such a fantastic upgrade," said Silver.

It was also during this time there was a cultural shift taking place in the Air National Guard, said Silver.

"The culture of the Oregon Air Guard changed from the traditional Guardsman of a 'weekend-a-month' as a strategic reservist, to our current day operational force, going shoulder-to-shoulder with the active duty force."

The total force concept was taking shape in the U.S. military as a whole, as the shadow of the post-Vietnam era gave way to this more interrelated vision within the U.S. Air Force.

"When you grow up with an organization

in a synergistic way, it perpetuates and grows a culture of excellence," said Silver. "This happens when our senior leaders mentor our younger folks in a tradition of always trying to improve the function of the organization."

With each new leadership assignment within the 142nd, Silver soon found a new challenge in 2011 as the wing commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Kingsley Field, in Klamath Falls, Ore. In early 2013, Silver deployed to Afghanistan, returning in August 2013 and assuming the duties as the Assistant Adjutant General, pinning on his brigadier general star in the process.

"We are incredibly fortunate that we have two of the best Air National Guard units in the nation within our own state borders," Silver exuberantly proclaimed. "Though the missions are much different, with the 142nd Aerospace Control Alert and the 173rd pilot training missions, both wings are in the hunt for a Fifth Generation fighter."

This long-range potential was acknowledged by 173rd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Jeff Smith, during Silver's formal retirement ceremony.

"The future is bright in a large part because of what you (Brig. Gen. Silver) have done over the past 10 years and the work of getting our airspace expanded with the Oregon Air Space Initiative."

Smith emphasized that space now is almost as big as the Nellis AFB ranges, calling the expanded airspace for daily training operations for both wings "a national treasure."

As the presiding officer for the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel highlighted his long professional and personal relationship with Silver over their three-decade association. Stencel described, through a variety of stories, Silver's unique, light-hearted attitude toward his military service, yet always remaining the ultimate professional.

"When Jeff and I attended AMS (The Academy of Military Science) together, he completed the course as the distinguished graduate - a clear testament to his intellect, athletic ability and (jokingly) attentiveness," said Stencel.

Yet pausing from the laughter, Stencel reaffirmed to everyone in attendance, in a more solemn reminder, "If you ever needed him, in the dead of night - he would be there - a true friend for anybody and always completely committed to the mission."

NEWS

142nd FW Airmen deploy to support European partners

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

PORTLAND, Oregon – More than 250 Airmen and supporting F-15 Eagle fighter jets deployed in March from the Oregon Air National Guard’s 142nd Fighter Wing in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve (OAR).

The deployment is part of the Theater Support Package (TSP), positioning the 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (EFS) to three European nations: The United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Bulgaria. Along with the Oregon Airmen, the deployment is augmented by Eagles and personnel from the Massachusetts Air National Guards’ 131st Fighter Squadron, and approximately 40 Airmen from the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

During a mobilization ceremony held on base prior to deployment, Col. Duke Pirak, 142nd Fighter Wing commander, stressed to those in attendance, the United States continued the commitment to the security and stability in Europe.

“Congratulations on this historic opportunity to strengthen

the NATO Alliance and demonstrate American resolve and dedication to its European friends both old and new,” said Pirak.

With the deployment of these three NATO counties, the Airmen will conduct readiness training, highlighting the United States’ ability to deploy fighter aircraft to support allied partners.

As the presiding officer at the mobilization ceremony, Brig. Gen. James A. Kriesel, Oregon Air National Guard commander, acknowledged the ongoing security of the European region and it’s “important vitally in today’s events.”

“When we deploy and bring America somewhere, we bring confidence to our partners and the rest of the world,” said Kriesel, reminding the Airmen of their roles as ambassadors for the Air Force and country.

Echoing Kriesel call to action, Lt. Col. Aaron J. Mathena, 123rd EFS detachment commander, described the preparation for the mission.

“Our support to the Operation Atlantic Resolve mission is to underscore the commitment we have for our NATO allies, building partnerships as we train with of our host nations.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Perkins, 142nd Fighter Wing

Members of the 123rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, of the 142nd Fighter Wing, stand in formation during a ceremony, March 3, honoring their mobilization in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.



Photo by Senior Airman Luke Milano, 100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

A Royal Netherlands Air Force F-16 and U.S. Air Force F-15C Eagle fly in formation together behind a U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker during an aerial refueling training mission, March 21, 2018, over the Netherlands. Nearly 260 Airmen from the 142nd Fighter Wing deployed with F-15Cs to Leeuwarden Air Base, Netherlands, as part of a Theater Security Package in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The Frisian Flag 2018 exercise in the Netherlands, as well as training in the airspace in Bulgaria, and the United Kingdom will allow the 123rd EFS to gain valuable training with their collation partners.

“We’re here participating with a number of countries all which have different aircraft, which subsequently bring different capabilities,” Mathena explained. “Ultimately, this collations’ capabilities will enhance our skills, as we practice and rehearse various situations during our deployment.”

The Squadron has sharpened their skills with two recent training periods at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, in the past year. Last summer over 120 Airman and six Eagles spent three weeks supporting the Weapons Instructor Course. Early this year

another large wave of Redhawk Airmen were back at Nellis, polishing their skills as part of Exercise Red Flag 18-1, from Jan. 26 to Feb. 16.

“The 123rd Air Expeditionary Fighter Squadron has never been more ready than they are today to handle the nations’ business,” said Mathena, having been the commander during those two temporary duty assignments.

“Heading into training environment of Frisian Flag and Thracian Eagle, our readiness for every Airman is as high as it could be, whether they are deploying or still serving in their home station duty roles.”

The challenges continue for many of the members deploying for this TSP assignment. For Tech. Sgt. Davina Mitchell, a security manager, and her husband Staff Sgt. Michael, an aircraft technician, the OAR mission has the couple deploying at the same time but not to the same location.

“It will be tough at times but I am really ready for this deployment,” Michael Mitchell elaborated. “I know this is a very important mission, so I am just ready to get there and get started.”

“We will find ways to stay in touch,” explained Davina Mitchell, as she described using the internet and mobile device communication during their separation. “(Like Michael) I am really excited about this opportunity, as I get to be part of this mission while going with our unit.”

U.S. Army Central flies on the wings of Guard and Reserve aviation

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Isolda Reyes,
29th Combat Aviation Brigade

ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE, Kuwait

- Transporting distinguished visitors, command teams and supplies across multiple locations are key missions for the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade’s (CAB) fixed-wing detachments.

Tucked away on Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, is the UC-35 jet detachment operated by U.S. Army Reservists from Fort Dix, New Jersey, and Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the C-12 detachment operated by Army National Guardsmen from Maine and Oregon.

“There is constant change with this job,” explained Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Destiny Pence, C-12 detachment operations non-commissioned officer with Company A, 641st Aviation Regiment. “It keeps us busy and makes time go fast.”

Although the 29th CAB has many aircraft to support their wide array of missions, they only have a few fixed-wing aircraft for passenger transportation over great distances. The UC-35 jets and C-12 airplanes fly at faster airspeeds and at higher altitudes than Army helicopters, so they are preferred for moving service members, including senior leaders.

“We fly throughout the whole region,” said UC-35 commander Maj. Wesley Davison. “You name it, we go there.”

Although they are separate organizations with slightly different missions, the two collocated flight detachments have learned to coordinate with each other and operate as a team. Passengers appreciate



A C-12 is guided as it lands at Taji Military Complex, Iraq, Nov. 8, 2017. Stationed throughout the region, elements of the 29th CAB provide intra-theater airlift capabilities for people and cargo in support of overseas operations for U.S. Army Central.

this coordination, especially when it gets them to their destinations in a timely manner.

“If he [Davison] has any last-minute issues, his first call is to us,” said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. William Townsend, C-12 detachment commander.

Each flight requires significant planning and coordination. For an international flight, the pilots and flight operations specialists must obtain proper diplomatic clearances. Prior to takeoff, aircrews must ensure passengers, cargo and baggage don’t exceed the aircraft’s maximum allowable weight.

“Fixed-wing is a small community,” said Davison. “We share the same struggles, so it is easy to help each other out.”

“Our operations sergeants work with their [UC-35] operation sergeants to de-conflict schedules and passenger movement,” explained Maine Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Shawn



From left to right, Lt. Col. David Paolucci, 29th Combat Aviation Brigade executive officer; Oregon Army National Guard Maj. William Townsend, C-12 detachment commander; Col. Mark Beckler, 29th CAB commander; 29th CAB Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McKenna; and Maj. Wesley Davison, UC-35 detachment commander, pose for a photo in front of the Regional Flight Center at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, Nov. 1, 2017. Stationed throughout the region, elements of the 29th CAB provide intra-theater airlift capabilities in support of overseas operations for U.S. Army Central.

McMoarn, the C-12 detachment’s operations non-commissioned officer in charge. “Schedule changes are constant, so we have to rely on each other and remain flexible.”

“We enjoy what we do here,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Purvis, a UC-35 pilot from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, who recently surpassed 10,000 flight hours. “We fly lots of distinguished visitors, they are always on time and pleasant to work with.”

The 29th CAB’s fixed-wing detachments fly approximately 500

hours a month, for approximately 350 customers, including many flag officers and distinguished visitors.

“We add to the fight by getting the decision makers to decision points,” said Davison.

Throughout the region, logistics can be challenging. It is not uncommon for UC-35 and C-12 flights to deliver high-priority cargo, including mission-critical parts and equipment to U.S. Army and other coalition forces.

“We keep other units mission ready,” said Townsend.

NEWS

Medevac Soldiers put their lives on hold to save others

Continued from Front Page

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

SALEM, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard’s aeromedical helicopter unit was welcomed home in a demobilization ceremony, March 4, 2018, at the Army Aviation Support Facility, in Salem, Oregon. Nearly 70 Soldiers with Company G (Golf), 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, returned from a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

The unit conducted 24/7 medical evacuation (medevac) using HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters, providing critical lifesaving care to coalition forces supporting the fight to defeat ISIS in the Middle East.

In attendance at the ceremony to welcome the Soldiers home was Oregon Senator James Manning (SD-7, Eugene), on behalf of Governor Kate Brown; Oregon Representatives Rick Lewis (HD-18, Silverton), Mark Meek (HD-40, Oregon City), Ron Noble (HD-24, McMinnville); Sheronne Blasi, Acting Director of Statewide Veterans Services, ODVA; Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander; among other community and military leaders.

“Oregon has a lot to be thankful for and should be proud of each and every individual that was deployed,” said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Brady Phillips, company commander, G Company, 1-189th Aviation.

Oregon’s G Company deployed an Area Support Medevac Platoon (ASMP), two Forward Support Medevac Platoons (FSMP) and nine Black Hawk helicopters. The company was augmented by an FSMP from the Montana Army National Guard’s C Company, 1-189th Aviation, and an FSMP from the Massachusetts Army National Guard’s C Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment. These units combined to make up one medevac company under 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), 149th Aviation Regiment, from the Texas Army National Guard.

In total, G Company employed more than 100 Soldiers to operate 15 Black Hawk helicopters across six different locations spread throughout Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait.

“It was a unique deployment in the fact that we were operating at six different locations as a unit that is designed to be at four,” said Phillips.

The unit flew more than 2,300 combat hours while executing more than 180 combat medevac missions, transporting more than 200 patients.

“Our flight hours were not as high as they have been on past deployments, however the missions were dynamic due to the length of flights we had to go on and the seriousness of the injuries for the people we



Oregon Senator James Manning (SD-7, Eugene), speaks to Soldiers of G Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, to welcome them home during a demobilization ceremony, March 4, in Salem, Oregon.

treated,” said Phillips. Phillips said being National Guardsmen was advantageous to the unit’s mission, as many of the flight medics have civilian careers as paramedics, nurses and other lifesaving experience that increased the survivability of their patients. Civilian-acquired skills also enabled their success while operating in remote locations.

“The key challenge was having to be self-reliant for a lot of the support functions, so when you weren’t flying or performing medevac duties, you were teaming up to help make the overall camp work,” said Phillips. “Our people were not only fliers, medics and maintainers, but also had other skills they put to use, such as IT, carpenter or electrician skills. They helped with setting up communications networks, building living quarters, running wire, or serving chow and helping out in the kitchen. It made the deployment go by really fast.”

Meanwhile, another unique aspect of this deployment was happening on the home front as four Soldiers anxiously anticipated the arrival of their newborn babies back in Oregon. Chief Warrant Officer-2 Steven Huson’s fifth child and Sgt. Peter Buffa’s second child were born, and Chief Warrant Officer-2 Logan Bass and 1st Lt. David Sous became first-time fathers during the deployment.

Huson, a maintenance test pilot with G Company, already knew what to expect for both the deployment and the birth of his daughter, eight-month-old Eden Joy. This was the third deployment for the father of five (four girls and a boy) and his wife, Heather. He previously deployed to Iraq in 2003 as an engineer and to Kosovo with this medevac unit. He was able to come home for Eden’s birth and spent a short visit with his family before heading back overseas for the duration of the deployment.

“It was a lot of work for my wife because she homeschools our kids, but we have pretty awesome kids who help her out a lot,” said Huson. “Lots of prayer and open communication helped us get through it. And lots of grace.”

Huson said the reason he stays in the



Maj. Brady Phillips (center), commander of G Company, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, leads his unit formation in saluting the National Anthem during a demobilization ceremony, March 4, in Salem, Oregon. Approximately 70 Soldiers in the unit returned from deployment to the Middle East, where they provided aeromedical support using HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

Guard and continues to deploy is because he believes in the medevac mission.

“There’s nothing better than to be able to save lives and help people out,” Huson said.

Bass, a pilot with G Company, 1-189th Aviation, deployed when his wife, Carolyn, was three-months pregnant. He was unable to make it home in time for the birth because his daughter, Veda, came three weeks early with an emergency C-section.

“It’s definitely something I wish he could’ve been there for, but I understand what he was doing over there,” said Carolyn. “I was really lucky to have strong family support here at home to help me through it.”

Bass was able to come home five days later to join his wife for a visit while Veda was still in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Carolyn and now seven-month-old Veda are both healthy.

“It was pretty difficult, we had our series of challenges in the beginning,” said Carolyn. “Logan’s strength helped me get through it. His presence alone was enough. He kept up his strength for all of us, not just his family but also for his unit. I’m so proud of him. I feel lucky to have him.”

Sous and his wife, Shelby, had a parallel experience to the Bass family, with the birth of their son, Isaac, two months later. Shelby was on bed rest and was admitted to the hospital several times before Isaac’s birthday came. She gave Sous the play-by-play through messages and phone calls, struggling to find the right words so he could concentrate on his job and wouldn’t worry too much.

“I knew that, no matter what,

the baby and I would be taken care of and we would be fine,” said Shelby. “It was harder for me thinking about him missing it and how sad that would be. And we didn’t know the gender yet, so I wanted him to be there to announce if it was a boy or girl.”

Sous was able to make it home in time – just barely. Isaac was seven weeks early, so the timeline they planned for his trip home had to change in the last minute.

“It was a rush to get back home, it was a little scary,” Sous said. “It was a long two days of traveling because all I could think about was that I wanted to be there.”

After a few weeks in the NICU, now five-month-old Isaac and mom, Shelby, are both healthy.

“It was hard doing it by myself for a couple months, but I would’ve much rather been in my position than his,” she said.

Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, has a long tradition of answering the call to duty for both state and federal missions. The unit conducts medical evacuations (medevac), search and rescues, as well as wild land fire suppression operations throughout the state of Oregon.

This was the sixth deployment of Oregon Army National Guard medevac unit since 2002, and was the first deployment of G Company, 1st Battalion 189th Aviation since it re-flagged and changed it’s name in September 2016. The unit has 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.

Another platoon from this unit with Detachment 3, Golf Company, 1-189th Aviation, deployed in September 2017 for another one-year deployment to the Middle East.



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, stand in formation during a demobilization ceremony honoring their return from overseas deployment, March 4, in Salem, Oregon.



Chief Warrant Officer-2 Logan Bass, pilot with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, poses for a photo with his 7-month-old daughter, Veda, following a demobilization ceremony, March 4, in Salem, Oregon. Veda was born while Bass was deployed to the Middle East.



1st Lt. David Sous, with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, poses for a photo with his wife, Shelby, and their 5-month-old son, Isaac, following a demobilization ceremony, March 4, in Salem, Oregon.

NEWS

Emergency managers plan for coordinated disaster response

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd,
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon - Airmen of the Oregon National Guard's emergency response team met with civilian authorities from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) today in order to exchange information regarding capabilities and coordinating resources during an emergency.

Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Detachment-1 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response Enterprise (CRE) work with civilian authorities to respond to man-made and natural disasters.

In the meeting between the two groups, OEM officials were briefed on the emergency response team's mission capabilities in terms of emergency equipment and personnel so the civilian officials could understand the best way to employ those resources in the case of an emergency situation. The OEM team also shared how their office coordinates resources around the state during past and future emergency situations.

"We know that the military brings tremendous resources to bear so we want to make sure we have visibility and knowledge of those resources so we can leverage those resources and direct them to support our civilian population during a disaster response," said Andrew Phelps, Director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The mission of the OEM is to lead statewide efforts to develop and enhance preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation capabilities to protect the lives, property and environment of the whole community.



Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd CBRNE Response Element (CRE) meet with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to discuss interoperability during a meeting at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Feb. 9.

Andrew Phelps, Director of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management shared his takeaways from this familiarization event.

"It's a capability that we don't get to see very often here in Oregon during real-world incidents, so being able to get an overview and a tour and see some of the equipment and meet some of the folks who are responsible for managing and using the equipment was really very impressive. It's important to know this capability exists in our backyard to support Oregonians regardless of what kind of 'bad day' we may have," said Phelps.

Following the presentation by both teams on mission capabilities, there was an open question and answer period. Participants then walked through a static display showing some of the equipment the CRE is trained to use in rescue, triage and recovery situations in case of a disaster.

"I think folks would be surprised to know what the military can bring to bear during a response. I think we all see the overseas peacekeeping mission but I don't think we are as familiar all the time with the defense support of civil authorities and the mission



Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd CBRNE Response Element (CRE) meet with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management to discuss interoperability during a meeting at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon, Feb. 9, 2018.

that the Oregon National Guard, in particular provides right here at home," said Phelps.

Within the structure of the Oregon National Guard's CRE, the unit is a joint mission, with the Soldiers and Airmen taking on different roles to create the team. The command and control structure is a blend of both forces.

"This is all about streamlined coordination and collaboration: understanding the assets they have to be able to most appropriately respond to some kind of event and for us to communicate our needs," said Lt. Col. Oliver J. Wisco, commander, 142nd Fighter Wing Detachment-1, CRE.

In terms of future outcomes, many from the Oregon National Guard's CRE expressed optimism in getting plugged in to the statewide community of emergency

managers in order to impact the community in a positive way.

"I'm excited to see where these meetings will push us forward and evolve our mission and hopefully we will be able to have a bigger impact in the community," said Capt. Daniel Vawter, Support Flight Commander, 142nd Detachment-1 CRE.

One thing is for certain, the members of the Oregon Air National Guard stand ready, alert and poised to assist if any disaster comes to pass.

"We look up into the sky and see the F-15s flying over sometimes and it's pretty cool but to know that our citizen-soldiers are right here in our backyard, ready to protect us from wildfires and floods or a Cascadia earthquake...it's a good feeling," said Phelps.

142nd Civil Engineers train to fight fire



142nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters took part in a fire training exercise at Lee Broadbent Training Center in St. Helens, Oregon, March 3-4, 2018. The training is designed to sharpen a wide range of skills needed for domestic response and operations in deployed environments. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Kingsley Field Fire Department safeguards the local community



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

Story by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon - The Kingsley Field Fire Department plays double duty serving the needs of the 173rd Fighter Wing and the needs of its community in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Throughout 2017, Kingsley's Fire Department responded to 239 community calls as a part of their mutual aid agreement.

Although their primary purpose is to provide fire prevention and fire protection services for structural and aircraft responses, they also have the chance to save lives.

On Feb. 17, 2018, the Kingsley Fire Department responded to assist an unresponsive local citizen during a mutual aid call. Once on scene, the fighter fighters implemented their Basic Life Support capability. As trained professionals, the members executed continuous CPR, assisted ventilations, and drug administration from the first moment

on the scene through the transport to the hospital.

"These folks were at the right place at the right time and willing to do the job," said Col James Mitchell, 173rd Mission Support Group commander.

After calling the hospital for an update, they found the patient to be recovering in the Intensive Care Unit after experiencing what was identified as cardiac arrest.

"They literally saved the life of a local citizen," said Mitchell. "If it was another shift, another day, there would be three or four other people [being recognized] because every single one of you is stepping up to take care of people," he said while speaking to the fire fighters.

The Kingsley Field Fire Department was recently recognized for these efforts by Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon.

"We never want an event like this to happen, but this highlights the ultimate reason that we do what we do," added Mitchell.

NEWS

Army National Guard 4.0 increases training, readiness

Story by Tech. Sgt. Erich B. Smith,
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Army National Guard has undergone a shift in its training approach and many Army Guard Soldiers in certain critical units have seen an increase in yearly training days and requirements.

That increase is part of Army National Guard 4.0, an initiative based on changing Army needs and designed to allow the Army Guard to respond quicker and more effectively to a variety of missions worldwide, said Army Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, the director of the Army Guard.

“Army National Guard 4.0 [means] being ready [to deploy] without notification of a specific, potentially upcoming mission,” he said. “We are implementing this transformation because our country needs us to do so. This is due to the current size of the Total Army and the multiple threats that our country faces from potential adversaries. The Army National Guard must shorten post-mobilization times in order to respond more quickly and effectively to answer the nation’s call.”

The change in training tempo is primarily focused on armored and Stryker brigade combat teams, as well as attack-reconnaissance aviation battalions, said Kadavy.

“Our high-priority units – such as armored brigade combat teams, Stryker brigade combat teams, attack-reconnaissance battalions and critical enablers — must be ready on short notice for unspecified missions,” he said. “We have to maintain the readiness of these units in order to respond to emerging demands.”

Under the previous model, units would be alerted for deployment roughly 18-months in advance and then train for the specific mission, including training time at the mobilization station prior to heading overseas.

With Army Guard 4.0, a multi-year training cycle is used that builds on collective unit tasks to maintain high readiness and prepare units to deploy quickly in response to contingency operations, said Kadavy.

It also means a 30 percent reduction in post-mobilization training time he said, adding that for those high-priority units, the Army Guard 4.0 model culminates in a brigade rotation to either the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, or the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana in the fourth year of the training cycle. Large-scale training at those locations every four years is new for many Army Guard brigades, which under



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amy Elker, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, conducted combined tactical training exercises, March 2-4, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. Members of brigade combat teams can expect to see additional training days and requirements as part of the new Army National Guard 4.0 initiative, a multi-year training cycle that builds on collective unit tasks to maintain high readiness and prepare units to deploy quickly in response to contingency operations.

the earlier model may have done a rotation there 10, 15 or in some cases 20 years ago, said Kadavy.

Increased training days will be needed to prepare for and execute those larger training plans, said Army Col. Jesse J. Kirchmeier, chief of strategic plans and policy for the Army National Guard.

“Two of those years in that training cycle will have more than 39 days of training per year,” said Kirchmeier, adding that 39 days represents the long-standing training requirements of one weekend per month and two weeks in the summer.

The total number of additional training days varies based on unit type and the training year, he said, stressing that Army Guard units will maintain a higher level of collective training and proficiency following the fourth year of training.

“If you go to a [Fort Polk or Fort Irwin] rotation and then you go do a follow-on-mission, you are better trained to go do it,” said Kirchmeier. “If you don’t go to a [planned] follow-on-mission, we give Soldiers more [training] days to maintain that higher level of training that year [after going to Forts Polk or Irwin] so if you are needed [for a short-notice requirement], you don’t have to train as much after you

are mobilized and before we can send you overseas.”

Additionally, the number of Army Guard brigades slated for rotations to Fort Irwin or Fort Polk has increased from two to four brigades each year.

“We’ll send two of our light [infantry] brigades to Fort Polk and we’ll send two of our heavy [armored or Stryker] brigades to Fort Irwin,” said Kirchmeier.

The new training plan is proof the Army Guard is continuing to adapt to an “ever-evolving military landscape,” said Army Col. Robert D. Ferguson, commander of the Mississippi Army National Guard’s 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which completed a rotation at Fort Irwin last summer as part of the Army Guard 4.0 model.

“The robust training schedule we have now allows us a greater opportunity to hone our warfighting skills, as well as set expectations and shared understanding at every echelon throughout the brigade,” he said.

That translates to better-prepared individual Army Guard Soldiers, Ferguson said.

“The training and skill-set required to maintain the readiness that Army National

Guard 4.0 demands will make you a better Soldier, better leader and better person in every facet of your life,” he said.

Army Guard 4.0 represents the fourth major evolution of the Army Guard since the establishment of the all-volunteer force in the early-1970s, said Kadavy. The 1980s saw the Army Guard evolve further as part of the Total Army concept, he said, followed by its transition to an operational reserve and larger, more frequent deployments after 9/11.

The new training plan focuses on future Defense Department and Army requirements, rather than past standards, said Kadavy.

“We are shaping the Army National Guard based on what we will have to do over the next 20 to 30 years, not based on what we did in the past 100 years,” he said.

While the plan represents a shift in training for certain units, many Army Guard members will not see additional training above the 39-day requirement, said Kadavy. However, he added, Soldiers still need to be in the mindset that they could soon deploy.

“Regardless of whether or not Soldiers will have additional training days, unit readiness begins with individual readiness,” he said. “In fact, individual Soldier readiness is more critical than ever and Army National Guard members need to be mentally and physically strong, up to date with their job requirements, proficient with their individual weapons and cleared of any dental or medical problems.”

That also includes ensuring family readiness as well.

“It’s not only a matter of [Army Guard Soldiers] being tactically and technically proficient, but also ensuring families have a smooth transition through train-up, mobilization and deployment periods,” said Ferguson, the commander of the 155th ABCT, adding that family readiness events and outreach services are set up to help prepare families for the challenges that may come with deployments.

While Army Guard 4.0 represents a large change from previous training cycles, Kadavy said Soldiers are prepared for it.

“Morale and enthusiasm are high because our leaders are straightforward about the operational tempo and about what we are asking of our Soldiers, their families and their employers,” he said, adding that many Army Guard Soldiers enlisted or re-enlisted knowing a deployment would be likely.

“They want to train and they want to deploy,” said Kadavy. “That’s why they joined.”

41st Infantry Brigade units train Soldiers for readiness

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Amy Elker,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WARRENTON, Oregon - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers must utilize every possible moment for training opportunities, so that when a state or national emergency or threat occurs, they will be ready. During their monthly drill weekend, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers with the 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion and 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, engaged in tactical training with the 249th Regional Training Institute (RTI), at Camp Rilea, March 2-4, 2018, to practice setting up and using new equipment and to sharpen their skills.

Sgt. Charles Domina, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer with C Company, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, trained to set up a 15-meter High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) radio system terminal. The purpose of this system is to provide line of sight communication between other HCLOS terminals, which are capable of passing data to each other without needing to interface with a satellite system.

“A typical drill weekend for us usually is



Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, conduct combined tactical training exercises, March 3, at Camp Rilea.

maintaining our equipment because where we’re at, we don’t necessarily have the space needed to train on our equipment,” Domina said. “Coming out here really allows us the opportunity to get pretty widespread; we have another HCLOS antennae that’s going up about two miles from here that we’re going to be communicating with.”

Other training that took place over the weekend included route clearance, using the Buffalo Mine-Protected Clearance Vehicle and the Husky Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector, and learning how to use High Mobility Engineering Excavators at dig sites.

“This is my favorite part of drill — scaling out a dig site and training to do our job,” said Spc. Kevin Winterfield, with B Company, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion.

Staff Sgt. Hubbard Howe, with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, spent the weekend conducting infantry battle drills, including movement to contact, ultimately resulting in a raid on a mock village.

“This is why I joined,” Howe said. “There’s something just really exciting about getting together as a platoon, building your skills, going out and tackling these complex missions, and preparing for the ultimate annual training that we get to do each year.”



Sgt. Todd Williams and Sgt. Chris Brant, network operators with C Company, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, raise a 15 meter High Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS) Terminal at Camp Rilea, March 3. The training gave Soldiers an opportunity to become familiar with this new equipment that transmits radio signals.

FEATURES

Oregon CERFP answers Montana’s call for help during Vigilant Guard 18

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

GREAT FALLS, Montana – Whether its sunshine and clear skies or high winds in arctic temperatures, natural disasters can occur anytime with little to no warning. The most important aspect of natural disasters is being able to respond to and mitigate any loss of lives or property damage. That is the goal of the numerous Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) teams strategically spread throughout the country.

The Oregon National Guard’s CERFP recently teamed up with the Montana National Guard to practice and enhance their skills during exercise Vigilant Guard 18 in Great Falls, Montana, March 3-9, 2018.

Vigilant Guard is a United States Northern Command and National Guard Bureau sponsored exercise program. Exercises are held in a different state each year. These exercises help National Guard personnel refine their response for domestic operations and build a closer relationship with community and state disaster response departments.

Vigilant Guard provided Oregon Guardsmen with many scenario and real-world training opportunities as they were placed in a new climate and environment. The exercise required Oregon and Montana National Guardsmen to respond to a simulated earthquake and mass flooding which led to contamination.

“We do not get a lot of opportunities to train in cold climates like this, so this opportunity has allowed our team to develop and broaden their skill sets,” said Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Joseph Johnson, ambulatory decontamination team leader with Oregon’s CERFP.

The Oregon CERFP team is made up of both Army and Air National Guardsmen, from the Army Guard’s



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

Army National Guard Soldiers with the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), assess and decontaminate a simulated patient during Exercise Vigilant Guard, March 6, 2018, at Great Falls, Montana.

3670th Component Repair Company and Air Guard’s 142nd Medical Group, 142nd Fighter Wing, who specialize in disaster response. Combined, the CERFP’s capabilities include decontamination, search and extraction, mass casualty triage, medical response and overall command and control.

“We have done CERFP long enough with the Army that we are truly one

service and one fight,” said Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Chris Webb, deputy commander of the Oregon CERFP. “Our teams no longer see each other as green or blue and instead as one singular CERFP family and team.”

In December the Oregon Army National Guard’s 821st Troop Command Battalion took over the entire mission of CERFP except for the medical response

portion.

“Some of our new personnel were not fully trained yet, so this exercise has been a fantastic opportunity to get our new guys trained and up to the level they need to be,” said Lt. Col. Cary Gilman, battalion commander of 821st Troop Command. “Our CERFP team’s training is well ahead of where we should be and I am highly motivated that we are going to be one of the best teams in the nation soon.”

Oregon brought a total of 187 personnel to the exercise and was able to setup multiple response operation areas in different regions of Montana. Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Tony Bagnall, the exercise battle captain for the tactical operations center, said the integration and facilitation with the Montana National Guardsmen was practically seamless.

“As the exercise played out, our ability to communicate and handle any emergency recovery situations greatly improved,” said



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

Oregon Army and Air National Guardsmen with the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) setup their mass casualty decontamination response stations during Exercise Vigilant Guard, March 6, 2018, at Great Falls, Montana. Vigilant Guard is a United States Northern Command and National Guard Bureau sponsored exercise program. Exercises are held in a different state each year. These exercises help National Guard personnel refine their response for domestic operations and build a closer relationship with community and state departments.



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

Army National Guard Soldiers with the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), assess and treat a simulated contaminated patient during Exercise Vigilant Guard, March 6, 2018, at Great Falls, Montana.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Army National Guard Spc. Isabella Williams, a member of the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) helps her partner don a chemical suit during Exercise Vigilant Guard, March 6, 2018, at Helena, Montana.



Photo by Spc. Timothy Jackson, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Air National Guardsmen with the Oregon National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), assess and treat a simulated contaminated patient during Exercise Vigilant Guard, March 6, 2018, at Great Falls, Montana.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

New Oregon Air National Guard commander meets Airmen during base tour

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



Oregon Air National Guard Airman Brig. Gen. James A. Kriesel, Oregon Air National Guard commander, takes a moment to listen to Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing provide feedback during a question and answer session during a tour of the air base.

PORTLAND, Ore. – As the new commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. James A. Kriesel used the opportunity of the three-day, March 2-4, regularly scheduled drill (RSD) to brief and interact with Airmen of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

As he made his way around base and stepped into one of several briefing rooms full of wing members, Kriesel emphasized many of the current Department of Defense (DoD) policy principles and offered direct feedback to members in attendance.

“I wanted to take this opportunity to interact directly and listen to your concerns,” he said, during his first stop with the Maintenance Support Group. “I want you all to know, that there is no group or organization that is as universally well-respected and trusted by a majority of Americans right now, than members of the U.S. military.”

Making multiple stops and meetings around the base gave Kriesel a chance to emphasize new deployment policies, readiness issues and larger global operational concerns. Citing a new Pentagon policy, service members who have been in a non-deployable status for more than 12 months or more, will be in most cases, separated from military service.

“Right now, somewhere about 10-12 percent of the total DoD force is non-deployable,” Kriesel described. “It’s really not fair or sustainable, seeing the same people again and again deploy because many of our service members cannot deploy.”

During his career, Kriesel said that he has deployed nine times prior to his current assignment and highlighted some of those missions abroad during the question and answer forums.

“When we show up (United State Armed Forces), whether it is in Asia, Europe or Africa, others around the world and our host nations instantly notice,” he said. “They know and expect the leadership role the U.S. takes on.”

This led many attending the meetings to ask a variety of questions regarding issues such as recruiting, retention, and more importantly, mission tempo and overall readiness.

“Within the Air National Guard, our numbers are pretty good right now,” Kriesel explained.

During the planned morning meetings, Col. Jenifer Parry, Director of Staff – Air, and State Command Chief Master Sgt. Ulana Cole accompanied Kriesel, getting a sense of questions and concerns of many members from the direct feedback sessions.

As she addressed many of the Airmen during the base-wide tour, Cole talked about two important issues with enlisted service members: civilian education benefits and Professional Military Education (PME).

“I can’t emphasize and stress the



Oregon Air National Guard Airman Brig. Gen. James A. Kriesel, Oregon Air National Guard commander, discusses changes in Department of Defense readiness policies and other Air Force recruiting topics with members of the 142nd Fighter Wing Medical Group during a tour of the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., March 2, 2018.

importance of working on PME and other career advancement opportunities,” Cole said. “You don’t want to miss out on a promotion or being able to take that next step in your career when applying for a job.”

Both Cole and Kriesel discussed the current Oregon House Bill 4035, which would provide for tuition assistance for Oregon National Guard members.

“We are just one of only two states in the country that don’t provide any tuition assistance for our members,” Cole said. “It’s important because the Air Force has mandated that promotions to Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) and Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) require a CCFA (Community College of the Air Force) degree.”

For members in the U.S. Air Force to complete their CCAF degrees, whether it is active, Reserve or Guard, partnering with public and private civilian education

institutions is necessary for completing Associate Degree level coursework.

“The backbone of the military are our senior NCO’s (Non Commissioned Officers),” said Kriesel. “I cannot stress enough how important the senior enlisted force is when it comes to training and mentoring junior members, but just as importantly, providing that critical feedback to the officer corps as well.”

To emphasize this point, Kriesel acknowledged key enlisted Airmen at each stop, as he presented his commander’s coin to a select handful of Airmen, highlighting their outstanding effort and teamwork.

“Being a good wingman means being a good teammate,” Kriesel concluded. “Our (Oregon National Guard) state motto stresses that, ‘Every Airman is a leader,’ but what sets us apart in Oregon is not just that we are all leaders, it’s that we’re a leadership factory for the nation as a whole.”

173rd flies Hometown Heroes program

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing inducted two local civic leaders into the Hometown Heroes program Jan. 3, 2018 with a flight in the backseat of an F-15 Eagle at Kingsley Field, Oregon.

The Klamath Falls Police Department officer of the year, Beads Yahwee, and Oregon Institute of Technology adjunct professor and veterans advocate, A.J. Davila, were both selected as the first participants in this program.

“We enjoy strong community support here in Klamath Falls,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Welch, the director of operations for the 114th Fighter Squadron. “It’s also a small enough community where we can reach out to leaders like these two and give them a personal view of what we do.”

The Hometown Heroes program is a newly realized civic relations program that benefits the wing in two ways.

Davila and Yahwee saw firsthand the exacting preparation and professionalism required to fly in these aircraft as they did preflight briefings and accomplished all the required training before taking flight in the F-15. They will then be able



A.J. Davila straps into an F-15D Eagle jet.

to communicate this among their circles of influence. Secondly, they develop connections to the Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing and relationships like that grow community support.

“Honestly the best part was getting a better perspective on what these pilots do,” said Davila. “I’ve lived here for eight years since 2009, I hear the jets all the time, but don’t really know what they are doing—it was really interesting to see that first-hand and frankly it was a huge honor and very humbling.”

Yahwee said following her flight that, “this a really great interaction for people from the community to come out to the base and see a side of things we never see.”

This outreach is not an anomaly but a continuous tradition at the wing, whether it be conducting open houses, flyovers for patriotic holidays throughout the region, or bringing interested groups out for base tours. The wing seeks to foster goodwill with the Klamath Basin community.

“We have unrivaled community support from the Klamath Basin and we hope this further solidifies the great relationships and partnerships we have,” said Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander.

The 173rd Fighter Wing is located in southern Oregon in Klamath Falls and is home to the sole F-15C training base for the United States Air Force.

173rd hosts Oregon Institute of Technology

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing hosted the senior staff, to include the president, of Oregon Institute of Technology, Jan. 3, 2017.

This tour was a chance for 173rd FW and OIT leadership to build rapport and share ideas on how they can enhance their community partnerships with one another.

The 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Jeff Smith, led the tour beginning in the aircrew flight equipment shop. There he showed them the various pieces of gear worn while flying while giving them a brief overview of the mission to train new air superiority pilots.

Following that, a bus took the group onto the active airfield to watch eight F-15 Eagles leave for afternoon sorties. After the last jet took to the skies, the group headed to the wing conference room to continue their conversation.

The group discussed various opportunities to partner across the two organizations in

the future. A prominent topic involved a geothermal power generation project that the wing is analyzing as a possibility to help the base become independent of the power grid.

Considering that OIT has pioneered much of the research into harnessing geothermal energy for heat and power generation, something they currently do on their campus, it is natural to discuss the project with them as the wing analyzes its feasibility.

Other topics of discussion included an internship program for students whereby they could garner practical experience at the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Additionally, OIT president, Dr. Nagi Naganathan, stated that he would also like to see the possibility of a Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment starting the school, potentially making it the first ROTC program in the Klamath Basin.

Ultimately the meeting underscored the mutual benefit both parties may reap from a partnership going forward and it illustrated once again why the 173rd Fighter Wing works hard to grow and maintain the support of the local community.



Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander, explains parts of the wing’s mission to Dr. Nagi Naganathan, the Oregon Institute of Technology president.



Klamath Falls Police Officer Beads Yahwee with her sons before her flight.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Local Klamath Falls high school hosts military appreciation night



Col. Jeff Edwards, presents a picture of a 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 Eagle to Mr. Jack Lee, the Henley High School principal.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Photos by Staff Sgt. Riley Johnson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Henley High School hosted a military appreciation night, Feb. 6, 2018, and the 173rd Fighter Wing supported the event with displays from security forces, weapons and the engine shop. The event was held during a basketball game against another local high school, Klamath Union High School. Col. Jeff Edwards, the 173rd Fighter Wing



The Henley High School Junior ROTC members unfurl the American Flag during a military appreciation night basketball game Feb. 6, 2018, in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Vice Commander, spoke to the audience during half-time thanking them for their strong support of the base and its mission as the sole provider of F-15C formal training to aspiring Eagle drivers. "I had an experience about two weeks ago that was probably the highlight of my flying career," said the instructor pilot with a flying career spanning more than 20 years. As he took off from Kingsley Field's runway

he said, "I looked down and on the highway somebody had pulled over and was waving a giant American flag. Things like that happen every day in Klamath Falls and we are so thankful for your support; this community is absolutely fantastic!" Henley High School conducts a military appreciation night annually and the school works with recruiters at Kingsley Field to coordinate the event.



Col. Jeff Edwards speaks to the audience during military appreciation night basketball game at Henley High School, Feb. 6, 2018.

Henley's principal, Jack Lee, works hard to make this event special and loves to honor veterans in the community, his ROTC program, and the relationship with the 173d Fighter Wing," said Tech. Sgt. Darren Bennett, a 173rd FW recruiter who worked with the high school principal to plan the event. "I'd be surprised if this isn't the best event like this in the country!" This year the security forces squadron, the air traffic control squadron, the maintenance group, aircrew flight equipment and the weapons shop brought displays for the students and audience members to view before and during the game. The school always provides free admission to military members and veterans for this event.

Promotion ceremony marks pinnacle moment for married Chiefs

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - The 173rd Fighter Wing hosted a unique moment for its members when two married Airmen were both promoted to chief master sergeant at the same ceremony, Feb. 11, 2018, at Kingsley Field. Joedy and Tina Wilson both donned service dress jackets adorned with the distinctive chief stripes with the help of their two daughters. "I actually didn't think that I would be in a position to make chief much less pin-on the same day as Joedy," said Chief Master Sgt. Tina Wilson, 173rd Communications Flight. For Chief Master Sgt. Joedy Wilson, 173rd Operations Support Squadron, it presented a

unique opportunity —to at last out-rank his wife... "I said to Tina, 'after 18 years of being out-ranked at work as well as at home, I now out-rank you by two months and two days!' That lasted about two minutes and two seconds before I was told to go wash the dishes," he joked with smile on his face. Tina Wilson said the best part was having the whole family be a part of the ceremony. "It was especially meaningful to me," she added. "Our oldest is graduating high school this year and our youngest will be graduating in two years. As a Mom, knowing that they will be leaving our home and beginning their futures so soon, made our pinning so much more emotional for me. Our girls have been so supportive of us throughout their young lives, it was a blessing to have them be able to help us at the pinnacle of our careers."



Two married Airmen, Joedy and Tina Wilson, were both promoted to chief master sergeant in a ceremony at Kingsley Field, Feb. 11, 2018.

142nd Airmen train at Red Flag Exercise



Photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew D. Sarver, 99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

An F-15C Eagle fighter jet assigned to the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, approaches an in-flight refueling boom over the Nevada Test and Training Range, Feb. 7, 2018. Airmen with the 142nd Fighter Wing participated in the Red Flag 18-1 exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, Jan. 26 to Feb. 16, 2018. Red Flag is the U.S. Air Force's largest premier air-to-air combat training exercise. Participants often include both United States and allied nations' combat air forces. Units from across the country along with members from the Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force participated as Blue Forces in this year's first Red Flag exercise. The exercise provides aircrews the experience of multiple, intensive air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment.

Airman earns "Thunderbolt" honors

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - A Team Kingsley Airmen from the 550th Fighter Squadron, the active duty tenant unit assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing, was recognized for his superior performance. Senior Airman Bobby "Wayne" Steptoe earned "Thunderbolt of the Week" from the 56th Operations Group at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The award originated at Luke AFB and is used to recognize outstanding performance of individual Airmen. The recipients of the "Thunderbolt of the Week" recognition are then put it to compete for the Airman of the Quarter. Steptoe is the 550th FS Airman of the Quarter for the 4th quarter and will compete with the group at large for the 56th Operations Group Airman of the Quarter. Originally hailing from Statesboro, Georgia Steptoe came to Kingsley Field, Oregon from RAF Lakenheath northwest of London, England. He was chosen for the recognition due in part to an inspection where he discovered a crack on an aircraft inlet, which averted further structural damage. He has also discovered chafing on hydraulic lines for which he coordinated remanufacture and



replacement. "He has a big personality and has integrated seamlessly, not only with the 550th Airmen, but also with our host unit Airmen of the Oregon ANG," said his commander Lt. Col. Brad Orgeron. "He is proving to be a talented asset in building the future of airpower." Steptoe says his hobbies include helping coach local high school football and hunting, two prominent activities found in the Klamath Basin. Additionally he is married with a two-year-old and another on the way. Congratulations to both Steptoe and his family!

FEATURES

DOD, Oregon Guard help set scene for Clint Eastwood movie

Story by Katie Lange, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – Every year, there are a few blockbuster movies based on true stories of U.S. service members, and the upcoming “15:17 to Paris,” directed by the legendary Clint Eastwood, is no exception.

What makes this one unique, though, is that all three men who were the real-life heroes play themselves in the movie.

“15:17 to Paris” is about Spencer Stone, Aleksander Skarlatos and Anthony Sadler - three childhood friends who stopped a gunman on a Paris-bound train in August 2015, preventing the loss of innocent lives. The trio was internationally praised for their heroics.

Since Stone was an Air Force Airman and Skarlatos was an Oregon Army National Guard specialist at the time, their military training helped guide them in their actions. That gets depicted in the movie too, so naturally, the Defense Department helped provide as much accuracy as possible.

The bulk of the scenes involving Stone in his Air Force uniform were filmed at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, even though the movie depicts his time at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The filming at Robins only lasted one day, but it took nearly two weeks to build the sets and dress the base up to look like Fort Sam Houston.

The DOD also contributed Humvees and work trucks to depict life on the military base.



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

From left: Alek Skarlatos, Spencer Stone; Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast, Assistant Adjutant General – Army; and Anthony Sadler pose for a photo outside the pre-screening of the movie “15:17 to Paris” at Century Arden 14 in Sacramento, California, Jan. 20, 2018.

Other military-specific scenes were shot at various locations in Georgia with on-set consultation by a DOD project officer, who was either on set or was verbally consulted for all scenes depicting Stone in uniform.

Some current Airmen also got to join Stone in the film as extras. They were mostly used to do marching drills around base.

While the Air Force took the lead

on most of the production, the Oregon Army National Guard also contributed. Capt. Leslie Reed, who was stationed in Afghanistan with Skarlatos prior to the August 2015 incident, helped fact-check and provided photos and other guidance for producers so they could accurately recreate scenes.

As for the finished product? DOD officials said Eastwood did a good job with it.

“This film entertains and highlights a moment in time when ordinary people did an extraordinary action, potentially saving hundreds of lives. That’s the message of the film, and the film accomplishes this very well,” said Develyn Watson, the deputy director of the Air Force Entertainment Liaison Office.

She said the movie helps further the DOD mission, which is to educate and inform civilians about all of the incredible people in the U.S. military.

“An Air Force Airman took control of a situation with no regard for his personal safety. This epitomizes service before self, one of our core values,” Watson said. “This film does a very good job of showing the selflessness of who we are as a military and what we represent.”

Stone received a Purple Heart and the Airman’s Medal, while Skarlatos received the Soldier’s Medal. Both medals are considered their respective branch’s highest noncombat awards. All three men were bestowed with France’s highest award, the Legion of Honor.

Stone continued on in the Air Force to the rank of staff sergeant until 2016, when he left to pursue a career in international relations.

Skarlatos re-enlisted for two more years with the Oregon Army National Guard a month before the train attack. He has since left the Guard to pursue other things, following a stint on the 2015 season of “Dancing with the Stars.”

Students get technical UAS lesson from the Oregon Army Guard

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Command (RRC) provided speakers for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) class at the Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in northeast Salem, Oregon.

The CTEC prepares high school students for high-skill, high-wage, high-demand careers while developing the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience to assure their success upon graduation.

The Mountain West Career Technical Institute (MWCTI) in partnership with the Salem-Keizer School District develops the curriculum and operates the CTEC. Together, they ensure students are joining the workforce with the skills and training employers are seeking. CTEC programs align with high school graduation requirements, as well as industry certifications and standards.

This is the first year that CTEC has offered the UAS class. Students learn advanced aspects of programming, designing, assembling and operating unmanned autonomous systems throughout the

semester, along with obtaining a Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Certificate.

“The administrators had reached out to our local recruiters to give us the opportunity to brief our particular branch of service and how it relates to their class,” said Master Sgt. Scott Dickey, with RRC.

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-4 Mark Braeme, UAS platoon commander of Detachment 1, Company D, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, gave a presentation to four different groups that were taking the UAS class this semester.

“I had the opportunity to sit through the first class, and this was a perfect presentation for this audience,” said Dickey. “The students were intrigued as to the capabilities of our assigned aircraft and the fact that they could serve part-time in this career field.”

The UAS platoon operates the RQ-7 Shadow to provide reconnaissance, surveillance, and battlefield assessment in a deployed environment for overseas contingency operations.

Dickey said recruiters spoke to the students about how to join the National Guard and the education benefits available.



Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Scott Dickey, Recruiting and Retention Command

Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-4 Mark Braeme, UAS platoon commander of Det. 1, Company D, 741st Brigade Engineer Battalion, gives a presentation to high school students at the Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Salem, Oregon.

Soldiers re-enlist, meet Governor



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 3670th Component Repair Company pose for a group photo with Oregon Governor Kate Brown following a re-enlistment ceremony at the Oregon State Capital, March 2, in Salem, Oregon. The ceremony recognized sixteen Soldiers of varying backgrounds who volunteered to continue serving the state and nation. The ceremony concluded with a tour of the Capital building and a chance to view the Oregon Legislature in action. The Retention Operation Center (ROC) arranged this and other re-enlistment ceremonies across the state in an effort to honor Soldiers for their continued commitment. Since January 1, more than 115 Soldiers from all across the state have re-enlisted in the Oregon Army National Guard. For more information about re-enlistment bonuses and incentives contact the ROC at (503) 584-2909.

BONU\$! BONU\$! BONU\$!



Reenlistment/Extention Bonuses:
2-Year Extention \$4K
6-Year Extention \$15K

Other Incentives:
Student Loan Repayment up to \$50K
MOS Conversion Bonus \$4K
Montgomery G.I. Bill \$375
Montgomery G.I. Bill Kicker \$350

For more information contact:
Retention Operation Center (ROC)
Office: (503) 584-2909
Cell: (503) 932-7519

FEATURES

Sergeant Major Jacques awarded by Hollywood filmmaker

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

Taking care of Soldiers has always been a priority for Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques, whose 28-year career includes an inspiring comeback after he was severely wounded in combat.

He deployed with one of the most highly decorated units in Oregon National Guard history, the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment (2-162). The 2-162nd Infantry Battalion saw some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq War in the Sunni Triangle, where Jacques was wounded in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack, suffering injuries that included a broken neck, third-degree burns, a broken femur and shrapnel wounds on the majority of his body. The attack took the life of his vehicle driver, Kenny Leisten, and severely wounded the gunner, Benjamin Ring.

On that fateful day, retired Sgt. Marty Theurer, a firefighter and paramedic currently living in Prineville, Oregon, was in the three-vehicle element with Jacques doing reconnaissance and sector patrol. Theurer said he was in the first vehicle, and that his vehicle had driven over the same IED that detonated violently two vehicles later.

“We were headed to the FOB [Forward Operating Base] when I heard a loud explosion and immediately knew they were hit,” Theurer said. “I slammed on the breaks, did a U-turn and saw things falling out of the sky. It was very surreal, like nothing I could even imagine in a movie as we pulled up to them.”

While Jacques said he feared he may lose his life, Theurer said his spirit never



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

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques (right), Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Joint Domestic Operations Commander, shakes hands with Maj. Lynette Jones while Suzanne DeLaurentiis looks on during the gala event sponsored by Suzanne DeLaurentiis Productions at the InterContinental Hotel in Burbank, California, March 3, 2018. The event recognized Veterans, including Jacques and Jones, with a Hero Award.

broke during the attack, or the comeback he would go on to make afterward.

“We knew it was bad but immediately we knew what to do thanks to Vince holding us to a higher standard and all the training we had done. We learned a lot from Vince and he expects a lot from his Soldiers,” Theurer added.

He said it was not long before Black Hawk helicopters came to the aid of the wounded Soldiers, and those responding who used the training Jacques had engrained in them to help him and the other Soldiers who were wounded. Jacques refused to dwell in his own pain, selflessly thinking of his Soldiers who were also wounded, and his family according to Theurer.

Theurer said Jacques grabbed him by his collar almost pulling him nose to nose and said, “tell my boy I love him.” With emotion Theurer said that he responded, “you’re going to tell him yourself.” The next thing Theurer said Jacques told him was, “make sure everyone gets on the bird before me.”

“That’s the Vinnie I know and love. Even

lying there in pain he was thinking about others. That’s at the heart of who Vinnie is and what he has always been about,” Theurer said.

After being loaded on the helicopter last and barely surviving, Jacques made a miraculous comeback. Jacques followed a yearlong recovery, that he describes as very difficult in many ways, by deploying with his unit to provide relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the same day he was cleared to leave the hospital.

Jacques went on to become the chief instructor combat arms battalion for the Oregon Army National Guard’s 249th Regional Training Institute, to support the training of 25,000 troops for the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI); to graduate Mountain Warfare School on the Commandants List; became one of the first three E-9’s selected from the military to attend the Joint Commanders Training Course conducted at NORTHCOM; received a four-year degree; and created the first and only Joint Reintegration program in the United States consisting of all branches of military service.

For Jacques, the idea of having a joint service reintegration program started during his recovery, when Jacques noticed how hard it was for Ring to receive the proper treatment for a badly wounded hand. Jacques added that he also noticed other Soldiers were having trouble getting the help they needed. So in 2005, Jacques worked with others to see what could be done at home, and started to shape a program called the Oregon National Guard Joint Transition Assistance Program (ORNG JTAP).

The ORNG JTAP served service members and their families who demobilized back to Oregon after deployment. In Oregon, there is no military base with the resources active duty service members and families normally have access to. The ORNG JTAP became a national model for helping service members and their families with employment, health care and education in a similar way to the nationwide Yellow Ribbon Program it helped to inspire.

Along his journey, Jacques met Suzanne DeLaurentiis, a Hollywood film



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st IBCT Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques pauses for a photo with Suzanne DeLaurentiis, a Hollywood film producer and Veteran advocate, at a gala event sponsored by Suzanne DeLaurentiis Productions at the InterContinental Hotel in Burbank, California, March 3, 2018.

producer and advocate for Veterans. DeLaurentiis received the Oregon National Guard Commendation Medal in 2010 for giving countless hours of support to the mental and financial well being of Veterans. The award is rarely given to civilians who are recognized for their significant and meritorious achievement.

“My interest in these Soldiers has always been about the job they do and how they put their lives on the line for freedom and democracy,” DeLaurentiis said when she received the award. “It’s all about brave men and women in uniform and that included firefighters, police officers and others who do what they do to serve others.”

DeLaurentiis said that while receiving the medal is one of her greatest achievements, that it is more important to recognize Veterans for the work they do.

“I make movies, and the men and women of our military make it possible for me to do what I do for a living, so it is important to support them and recognize their sacrifice,” she said.

Jacques received the “Hero Award” along with three other Veterans at a gala event sponsored by Suzanne DeLaurentiis Productions at the InterContinental Hotel in Burbank, California, that focused on recognizing Veterans. Other well deserving recipients of the award were Vietnam Veteran Clyde “George” Lines, who took heroic action to help others while wounded; Maj. Lynette Jones, who has helped develop programs in support of female Veterans; and Staff Sgt. Paul Supp, who risked his life to save another in Afghanistan.

Jacques insisted he would not accept the award on behalf of himself, but rather those who support Veterans, families of Veterans, and those he has served with who (in some cases) paid the ultimate sacrifice.

“This award is for you. Thanks for supporting us,” Jacques said to the audience. “I am also accepting it on behalf of my brothers and sisters – this award is not about me, it’s about them.”



Photo by Sgt. Cory Grogan, 41st IBCT Public Affairs

Veterans were recognized with the Hero Award at a gala event sponsored by Suzanne DeLaurentiis Productions at the InterContinental Hotel in Burbank, California, March 3, 2018. From left: Staff Sgt. Paul Supp; Maj. Lynette Jones; Vietnam Veteran Clyde “George” Lines; and Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques (right), Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Joint Domestic Operations Commander.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques

A photo taken in 2004 shows the vehicle Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques was riding in during an improvised explosive device (IED) attack that severely wounded him and his gunner, Benjamin Ring, and took the life of his driver, Kenny Leisten. Jacques was a former platoon sergeant with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment.



Photo courtesy Sgt. Maj. Vinnie Jacques

Soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard, pose for a photo in 2003 while serving in Iraq. The unit received the Presidential Unit Citation for their heroic efforts during some of the heaviest fighting of the Iraq War in the Sunni Triangle.

FEATURES

‘Rosie the Riveter Day’ recognizes service and sacrifice during WWII

Story and photos by John Hughel,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Oregon – At the height of WWII, as hundreds of thousands of men headed off to war, almost as many women volunteered on the home front. They worked in factories and shipyards to produce planes, tanks, ships, and armaments to keep up with the war effort. Leaving behind their traditional roles in the home, these women forged new skills while helping ensure victory and peace around the world, and in the process, became forever known as “Rosie the Riveter.”

On March 21, 2018, as part of a nationwide campaign designated by Congress, Portland and seven other sites throughout Oregon, celebrated “Rosie the Riveter Day,” as nearly 100 members of the Portland community paused to honor their spirit of service and sacrifice at the Portland International Rose Test Garden.

“It’s only fitting that on the first day of spring, as we plant the Rosie the Riveter rose,” that we can recognize the courage, shared-sacrifice, and can-do attitude of those women,” said Barbara Jensen, chairwoman and founder Oregon Spirit of ‘45.

The Rose the Riveter Rose strain was specifically created to honor these hard-working WWII women. When it blooms, this flower has a vibrant coloring of orange-gold with pink and gold accents.

Flanked by Jensen and members of the Portland Royal Rosarians [the official greeters and ambassadors of Goodwill for the City of Portland], two honorary Rosies, dressed in traditional attire, planted the new rose, creating a living memorial to all those Rosies.



Adeena Rose Wade (center left) and Ada Wyn Parker (center right) share a laugh after planting the “Rosie the Riveter” ceremonial rose, marking ‘Rosie the Riveter Day,’ March 21, 2018, at the Portland International Rose Test Garden in Portland, Ore. Ada Wyn Parker was one of the original Rosie’s working on aircraft production at the Alameda Air/Navy Base, in California, supporting the war effort in the 1940’s.

“By creating this memorial with today’s ceremonial planting, we honor not only those women who served our nation more than 75 years ago, but all those who follow in their footsteps,” said Jensen.

There are few public records that document the labor contribution to the war effort by an estimated 15 million women during the 1940’s, as women

took on the work in factories and assembly lines; all the while, redefining the roles that many women had prior to the war.

The iconic Rosie the Riveter poster and other images of women at work, ‘pinning up their hair and rolling up their sleeves’ while supporting the war effort, became the symbol of American feminism as



Dignitaries and special honorees gather for a photograph with the Portland Royal Rosarians during the closing of ‘Rosie the Riveter Day,’ ceremony at the Portland International Rose Test Garden, Portland, Ore. The Portland event was one of eight held in Oregon, as 21 other states also paid honor the legacy of women who made history on our Home Front during WWII with their ‘Can-do’ spirit, unity and service.

women gaining economic power.

As part of National Women’s History Month, the ceremony paid honor to this lineage of women who broke those traditional working roles while serving their country at a critical time in history.

The honorary chairwoman for the Garden project, Elinor Marie Ott, age 98, worked as a riveter from 1942 to her 95th birthday. In a press statement prior to the nationwide ceremonies, she stated, “we hope that our example will inspire a new generation of 21st century Rosies who can succeed in the high technology workplace of the future.”

Although she was dressed in vintage Rosie attire for the ceremony, Ada Wyn Parker was the first woman to be hired at the Alameda Air/Navy base at the age of 17, and soon she convinced her sister Naomi Parker Fraley to apply. When not building aircraft, they participated in recruiting projects, promoting recruiting and safety at the base.

On behalf of that next generation of Rosies was Adeena Rose Wade from

Battle Ground, Washington, who helped Ada Wyn Parker plant the ceremonial rose. Over the past two years, Wade has represented the Rosie the Riveter “Yes We Can” attitude at events around the region, evoking WWII history and the history of Vanport, Oregon. Vanport was a wartime housing development, also known as Kaiserville, where shipyard workers lived. It was Oregon’s second largest city when it flooded in 1948.

“I’ve been able to talk to various groups about our unique history from the war years with nearly 30,000 Rosies working in the Kaiser shipyards, to the devastation and displacement of the Vanport floods that later followed,” said Wade.

But one doesn’t have to go too far (from the International Rose Test Garden) in Portland to find other enthusiastic Rosie devotees. A group of Portland Thorns Football Club (FTFC) devotees proudly proclaim the name, Rose City Riveters, honoring those shipyard workers from the past, while emulating their tenacious spirit that still lives on today.



The “Rose the Riveter Rose,” named in honor the hardworking women during WWII, after it has been planted at the Portland International Rose Test Garden, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon National Guard recognizes women’s history milestones

Story by Mr. Rey Agullana,
State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM),
Oregon National Guard

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, as National Women’s History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women’s History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March. Throughout history, women have broken barriers, through legitimate channels and otherwise, to serve in the military and defend our nation. However, women were not integrated into the military until 1948, when President Harry Truman signed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act.

Women continue to challenge gender roles and pave the road for future generations. In 2011, Lt. Col. Christine Mau was part of the first all-female combat sortie over Afghanistan. In 2015, she became the first female pilot of an F-35 jet. In 2015, Capt. Kristen Griest was one of the first three women to earn the Ranger tab. In 2016, she became the U.S. Army’s first female infantry officer. Sgt Cristina Fuentes Montenegro was one of the first three women to earn her U.S. Marine Corps infantry qualifications in 2013.

On December 3, 2015, Defense Secretary Ash Carter

announced to lift all gender-based restrictions on military service starting January 2016. The Oregon Army National Guard has qualified Staff Sgt. Lindsey Wells as the first woman in the Oregon Army National Guard to earn her infantry qualifications. She is currently assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry. Staff Sgt. Nicollette Kennemer and Staff Sgt. Christina McCarty are qualified as 19K, armor crewmembers. They will serve as M1A2 Abrams SEP gunners during Exportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) this summer and will be tank commanders at National Training Center next summer. 1st Lt. Alysa Price and 2nd Lt. Caitlyn Newkirk are currently attending Armor Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) at Fort Benning, Georgia, to be qualified as 19A, armor officers, and become armor platoon leaders in A Company and B Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

The 142nd Maintenance Group’s Senior Master Sgt. Angela Helin is the unit’s deployment manager, and responsible for more than 450 personnel. She ensures they are deployable and maintains unit readiness for the largest squadron at the 142nd Fighter Wing. She also handles deployment preparation of cargo, which is the largest cargo footprint on base. She is the go-to person in her squadron for large and small events.

Chief Master Sgt. Christine McKenzie is assigned as

the Logistics Readiness Squadron chief of supply and Distribution for the 173d FW at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls. She held key positions in maintenance, readiness, and logistics throughout her career spanning 27 years. One of her many notable accomplishments was in May of 2013 when she accepted a position as the Logistics Readiness Squadron operations and compliance flight chief/quality assurance manager. During this time, she successfully instituted a new Quality Assurance Program and built up the training and resource management sections, contributing to a highly effective rating during the 2014 Unit Effectiveness Inspection. In May 2016, McKenzie was selected and currently serves as the 173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron chief of supply and distribution.

In 2011, Maj. Gen. Julie A. Bentz became the first female general officer in the Oregon National Guard. She currently serves as the vice director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency. Other significant female leader firsts in the Oregon National Guard include Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole, State Command Chief; Col. Jenifer E. Pardy, Director of Staff for the Oregon Air National Guard; and Col. Leah R. Sundquist the first woman to become Chief of Staff for the Oregon Army National Guard.

We recognize all of the accomplishments of these women, nationally and in the Oregon National Guard, as we observed Women’s History Month in March.

NEWS BRIEFS

2-641st Aviation readiness focus

Story by 1st Lt. Jessica Clarke,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

SALEM, Oregon – The 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, is one of two Oregon Army National Guard battalions selected as Focus Readiness Units (FRU); a standard set for sustainable readiness in personnel, equipment and training.

“We were notified of FRU status in October. We quickly planned and executed a four-day MDMP [Military Decision Making Process] training and execution event for December IDT [drill], where we published an OPORD [operations order],” said Lt. Col. Geoffrey Vallee, battalion commander, 2-641st Aviation Regiment.

In four months, 2-641st Aviation Regiment went from institutionally trained individuals to a fully functional staff, capable of supporting the battalion in a combat situation. Leaders and Soldiers worked together to research, draft and publish a Planning Standard Operating Procedure (PSOP) and Tactical Standard Operating Procedure (TACSOP) along with a multitude of additional products.

The hard work and extensive preparation was put to the test when the simulated exercise, held at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton, Oregon, kicked off on Jan. 31. This was the first evaluated collective staff training since 2005. Many Soldiers said they were delighted to conduct a training that strengthened their capabilities and allowed them to expand their knowledge on the hands-on aspect of being a staff member.

The training resulted in multiple Soldiers receiving acknowledgments, including five impact awards, three Command Sergeant Major coins, two Army Achievement Medals, and one Army Commendation Medal.

The unit’s training was supported by multiple organizations, including Mission Command Training Support Program (MCTSP); Oregon Army National Guard Land Component Command; State Army Aviation Office; the Directors of Intelligence (G2) and Information Management (G6); 82nd Troop Command Brigade staff; the 1249th Engineer Battalion; and the command of A Company, 1st Battalion, 112th Aviation Regiment.

2-162 Infantry Soldiers clean up park in Hillsboro



Photos courtesy Master Sgt. Scott Stimpson, Recruiting and Retention Battalion

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, participated in a park cleanup project, March 4, in conjunction with the city of Hillsboro Department of Public Works. The Soldiers teamed with a few students from Hillsboro High School to complete the project. This is the third community outreach project the unit has recently performed in an effort to build its community outreach. They have previously conducted cleanup projects at Jackson Bottom Wetlands and Fairgrounds Sports Complex.

234th Army Band hosts high school honor band concert



Photos by Spc. Alisha Grezlik, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with the 234th Army Band hosted the 2018 High School Honor Band. Students from local high schools gathered for a weekend of band instruction culminating in a concert performance at Clackamas High School, in Clackamas, Oregon, Feb. 18, 2018.

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123rd Weather Flight conducts avalanche training



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emily Thompson, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 123rd Weather Flight participate in avalanche assessment training February 10, 2018, at Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon. Avalanche training helps the weather flight members assess whether conditions are safe for military movement in austere conditions.

AZUWUR

WWII battle streamers added to 142nd Fighter Wing flag



Story by

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Terrence G. Popravak, Jr.,
142nd Fighter Wing Historian

PORTLAND, Oregon – Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing (FW) honored their World War II heritage with a Battle Honors ceremony, March 3, 2018, at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Six campaign streamers and a streamer for the highest-level unit award in the U.S. armed forces were pinned to the 142nd FW unit flag.

In WWII, all 29 of America's pre-war National Guard aviation squadrons, including Oregon's 123rd Observation Squadron, were mobilized for war. With the hard-fought victory in Europe and the Pacific achieved in 1945, the U.S. no longer needed so many combat groups, and most were inactivated. Air planners, however, soon implemented post-war plans for increasing the air reserve forces in order to ensure future readiness for crisis or war. The War Department issued Adjutant General Order 322 of 1946, in which the National Guard was allotted group-level air units; many came from inactivated combat groups with significant records of achievement. These groups were re-numbered into the Air National Guard 100-series of unit identifiers, retaining the lineage and honors of their predecessors.

Effective May 24, 1946, the 371st Fighter Group (FG), which flew combat with the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighter in Northwest Europe in 1944-1945, was re-numbered as the 142nd Fighter Group and allotted to Oregon (Became Wing in 1992).

The 371st FG was activated in Richmond, Virginia, on July 15, 1943, making 2018 the 75th anniversary year of the unit's founding. Three fighter squadrons were assigned to the group during WWII, the 404th (today the 186th Airlift Squadron of the Montana ANG), the 405th (today the 190th Fighter Squadron of the Idaho ANG) and the 406th. The group flew air combat missions against Nazi Germany from April 1944 to May 1945 from eight expeditionary airfields across Great Britain, France and into Germany itself.

In the group's wartime service, its Thunderbolt pilots flew 1,749 combat missions and nearly 18,000 sorties. In air-to-air combat, the group received credit for 69 aerial victories.

This record of achievement was also costly. More than 100 P-47s were lost in action in operations or were written off and salvaged due to battle damage. Fifty-five group members were killed or went missing, including six enlisted men. Another 20 pilots were shot down and became prisoners of war, although three escaped and evaded back to friendly lines. Some of the group's missing were found dead years after the war, and today five remain missing, as well as six more men associated with the 123rd Squadron during its wartime service. These sacrifices remind us that freedom isn't free.

The 371st earned campaign participation credit for six of the 19 named military campaigns in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater. It was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation, known as the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest-level unit award in the U.S. armed forces, for actions in Germany in March 1945. The 371st was also included in the Belgian Army Order of the Day.

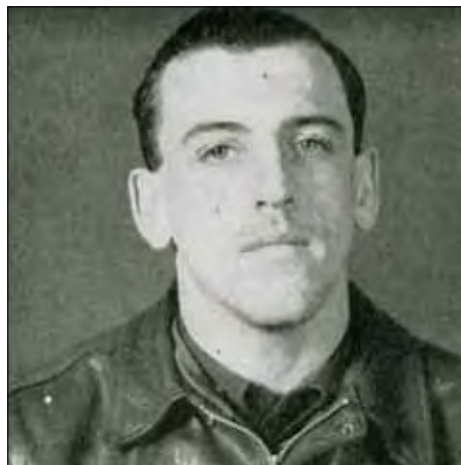
The streamers pinned to the wing's colors, and some examples of the service and sacrifice of members of the unit were as follows:

1. By War Department General Orders 85, Oct. 10, 1945, the 371st FG was awarded campaign participation credit for the Air Offensive, Europe, which took place between July 4, 1942 and June 5, 1944, although the first American raid actually

took place in June 1942 against the Romanian oil fields at Ploiesti. In 1942, American airpower joined that of the Royal Air Force in bombing raids against Nazi-occupied Europe. At the Casablanca Conference of 1943, America and Britain devised the "bombing around the clock" strategy with the U.S. striking by day and the British at night.

The lack of long-range escort fighters hampered American efforts in 1943, but by early 1944 this was reversed and Allied airpower began to wrest control of the skies over Europe from the Luftwaffe. By April 1944, when the 371st FG joined the battle, the campaign was producing positive results, to which the group contributed, especially gaining control of the skies over Europe in time for the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944.

A local resident, Mr. Gene Madore, personally played a part in five of the group's six campaigns in Europe. On a fighter sweep over France before D-Day, he pressed home his attack on a railroad train at minimum altitude to evade accurate light flak from the train, though he came home with tree parts beneath his wing and fuselage. Gene flew a total of 103 combat missions and shot down four enemy aircraft, and probably downed more.



P-47 Thunderbolt pilot Francis E. Madore flew 103 combat missions in WWII.

2. By War Department General Orders 102, November 9, 1945, the 371st FG was awarded credit for participation in the Normandy campaign, which transpired between June 6 (D-Day) and July 24, 1944. The buildup for the Normandy invasion, the largest single amphibious operation of the war, began in 1942. As dawn broke on June 6, 1944, some 6,500 Allied ships stood off the coast of Normandy as 39 divisions of Allied troops prepared to land on the continent. Within hours, 152,000 men swept ashore, the first of millions to follow, and 9,000 Allied troops became casualties that day.

The 371st FG counted among the 8,000 Allied aircraft available on that day and flew two combat missions with a total of 112 sorties. One P-47 was lost to anti-aircraft fire and the pilot was captured, becoming the group's first Prisoner of War. He would be the first of some 20 group members to be detained against their will, though a handful managed to escape and return to friendly lines.

On June 14, the group moved from Britain to Normandy, one of the first flying units to do so, to A-6 airfield, variously known as La Londe or Beuzzeville, just outside the village of Sainte-Mère-Église, of the famed Longest Day. There it continued support of the landings and the push beyond the beaches against stiffening German resistance. The 371st FG flew many more combat missions before American troops were ready for their breakout from Normandy as the campaign



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

Chief Master Sgt. Nikese Swift (left), 142nd Fighter Wing command chief, attaches WWII campaign streamers to the unit flag during the Battle Honors ceremony, Mar. 3, 2018.

concluded on July 24.

3. By War Department General Orders 103, Nov. 13, 1945, the 371st FG was awarded campaign credit for participation in Northern France, which occurred from July 25 to Sept. 14, 1944. In this period, the group flew in support of General George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army as it made its spectacular sweep from Normandy across northern France to the German border. The group's combat power not only cleared the way ahead of Third Army but proved essential in defending the flanks for the army as it raced forward. On Sept. 16, a German Army of 20,000 soldiers surrendered after being battered from the air by the 371st and other groups in the XIX Tactical Air Command.

The successful conclusion of this campaign brought the group a new tasking, as the group was shifted from XIX TAC of Ninth Air Force and to the south to join the 1st Tactical Air Force (Provisional) of Twelfth Air Force in support of the Franco-American 6th Army Group moving up from southern France to the German border.

4. By War Department General Orders 40, May 21, 1945, the 371st FG was awarded credit for participation in the Ardennes-Alsace campaign, which took place between Dec. 16, 1944 and Jan. 28, 1945. On Dec. 16, German panzer, paratroop and infantry units commenced a surprise counter-offensive against American troops in the Ardennes, a region of northern France, Belgium and Luxembourg. Known as the Battle of the Bulge, this six-week campaign was the largest land battle fought by U.S. armed forces in World War II.

The battlefield expanded on New Year's Day 1945, when eight more German divisions conducted a supporting attack to their Ardennes counter-offensive called Operation Northwind in the Alsace region of France to the south of the Bulge. Although the Alsace part of the campaign didn't match the Ardennes in size, it was the last major German counter offensive effort of the war and did use up the last of Hitler's reserves, thus exhausting his capability to exercise initiative anywhere.

The 371st FG played an important role in interdicting the lines of communication supporting the Ardennes assault and in repulsing the supporting Northwind attack, and German forces in the Ardennes-Alsace region were defeated by Jan. 28, 1945.

One of the 371st's pilots in this campaign was a Portland, Oregon, native, 2nd Lt. Wayne L. Holm. On Jan. 2, 1945, he flew a mission against rail lines east of Saarbrücken, Germany. After hitting his target, and providing top cover for other pilots strafing trains below, Holm's flight was engaged by Luftwaffe Me-109 fighters and his aircraft was hit. He managed to belly land his damaged P-47 near Reifenberg, Germany, scrambled out and evaded capture. However, he was killed in trying to cross the Franco-German border about 15 miles across the winter landscape from where he crash-landed, possibly by inadvertently triggering a landmine near Breidenbach, France. His remains were found in 1946 and buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery at St. Avold, France.

5. By War Department General Orders 118, December 12, 1945, the 371st FG is awarded battle participation credit in the Rhineland campaign, which occurred between September 15, 1944 and March 21, 1945, when Allied forces battled from France and the Low Countries to the Rhine River in Germany.

In late Oct. 1944, during the Rhineland campaign, the group was assigned to help get Franco-American ground forces up from southern France to the German border after the landings in southern France in August 1944. The 371st played a vital role in the successful rescue of the American "Lost Battalion" in the Vosges Mountains of France in Oct., 1944.

As the Rhineland campaign continued outside the area and timeframe of the Ardennes-Alsace battles, the 371st FG rejoined Ninth Air Force and XIX TAC in February 1945. The group again supported General Patton's Third Army as it battered its way through the Siegfried Line and reached the Rhine River by inflicting the maximum damage possible on enemy units trying to get across the Rhine River into the interior of Germany.

6. By War Department General Orders 106, December 11, 1945, the 371st FG was awarded battle participation credit in the Central Europe campaign, which took place between March 22 and May 11, 1945.

In this time, the 371st leaped across the Rhine River to an airfield near Frankfurt and was one of the first American groups to be stationed on German soil. As the front lines of Third Army moved toward southern Germany and Czechoslovakia, the group relocated to Furth Airfield near Nuremberg, where it was based when Victory in Europe Day was proclaimed on May 8, 1945. The group flew "show of force" missions over Germany and western Czechoslovakia and later advanced to Austria (Horsching Airfield) to complete its service in World War II. There the group concluded its operational service, across the waters of the Danube River from Soviet occupation forces, before the start of the Cold War.

7. By Headquarters Ninth Air Force General Orders No. 117, June 27, 1945, and War Department General Orders No. 84, October 5, 1945, the 371st FG is awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for intense air-to-ground combat actions over Germany, March 15-21, 1945. The DUC, now designated as the Presidential Unit Citation, is the highest-level unit award in the U.S. armed forces. It was awarded to the group on July 10, 1945, citing extraordinary heroism as pilots launched a series of air attacks that smashed the enemy's attempts to organize a holding defense. Although frequently engulfed by intense concentrations of fire from mobile artillery and small arms, they descended to treetop level to attack the motor transports, troop concentrations, and strong points of the retreating enemy. During this six-day period the Airmen of the 371st destroyed a total of 1,702 transport vehicles, 180 factories and buildings, 57 railroad cars, 20 tanks and 7 gun emplacements.

Though the last battle honor was not rendered in a streamer, it was in a formal order. Confirmed by Department of the Army General Orders 43, Dec. 19, 1950, the 371st FG is cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army by Decree Number 1392, Nov. 20, 1945, by Charles, Prince of Belgium, Regent of the Kingdom. The 371st, assigned to the IX Tactical Air Command, was cited with exceptional heroism during the period of June 6 to Sept. 30, 1944, while aiding Allied land units with the rout of enemy forces in Belgium.

Though the unit was renumbered in 1946, the lineage and honors the 371st Fighter Group warriors earned in the war-torn skies over Europe during WWII is now carried on by the 142nd FW of today. The streamers on the wing's colors represent the service and sacrifice of the 371st FG, an incredible heritage that current Airmen of the 142nd can take pride in and honor.