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# Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

## Oregon National Guard provides drinking water to citizens

**SALEM, Oregon** – The Oregon National Guard was activated by Governor Kate Brown with an emergency declaration in support of Marion County and the City of Salem following the drinking water contamination advisory due to the presence of blue-green algae in Detroit Lake water sources.

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, were called up to provide Load Handling System trucks (M1120A4) compatible with 2,000-gallon water tank racks known as ‘Hippos’ to help deliver more than 60,000 gallons of clean drinking water to Salem-area citizens.



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Lena, 115th MPAD

Spc. Joshua White, with A Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, distributes clean water to citizens in Salem, Oregon, June 2, 2018. The operation was a joint effort between Marion County, City of Salem, Oregon Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Military Department.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Lucas Thomas (above) and Master Sgt. Christian Watts (below), use water from a fire hydrant in Keizer, Oregon, May 31, 2018, to fill a Load Handling System truck (M1120A4) compatible with 2,000-gallon water tank racks known as ‘Hippos.’ The trucks delivered clean water to several distribution sites in the Salem, Oregon, area following Governor Kate Brown’s emergency declaration regarding the drinking water contamination advisory.

## New state tuition assistance approved for Oregon Guard

Story by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** – With the passage of Oregon House Bill 4035, the State of Oregon has taken a historic step toward assuring significant investments in service members of the Oregon National Guard with a new educational tuition assistance program signed by Governor Kate Brown, April 3, 2018.

“I’m proud to sign a bill into law that deepens Oregon’s commitment to our National Guard service members,” said Governor Brown. “Whether they’re fighting on the frontlines, fighting wildfires, or helping prepare our state for the influx of eclipse viewers, our Oregon Guard members are always ready to answer the call to help Oregonians in times of need. Extending tuition assistance to Guard members is one important way to show our appreciation for their service by investing in their education and future.”

The bill was first introduced by House Minority Leader and Oregon Air Guardsman Rep. Mike McLane and passed with wide bi-partisan support throughout the Oregon Legislature. Gov. Brown also championed the bill, as it supports her education agenda to enhance education programs in Oregon.

“This new law specifically bridges the federal tuition assistance shortfall and enables our Guard men and women to complete their associate or bachelor degrees,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Stencil,



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

Oregon Governor Kate Brown ceremoniously signs House Bill 4035 June 16, 2018, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. House Bill 4035 authorizes state tuition assistance for service members in the Oregon National Guard.

Adjutant General, Oregon. “It aligns with the Governor’s education focused agenda and will not only serve as a huge recruitment and retention tool, but it will also provide us with the breadth of knowledge we need to think like leaders and succeed in an increasingly technologically complex world.”

The bill provides full tuition assistance for members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard at all Oregon state public universities and community colleges beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year.

“This is an incredible investment in Oregonians and the Oregon National

Guard,” said Col. Verl Miller, Recruiting commander for the Oregon Army National Guard. “This will help our force access their educational needs, while producing a better educated citizen of our state.”

Oregon Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are often the first responders when natural disasters impact local communities at home and around the nation. In 2017, Oregon Guardsmen supported relief efforts when Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria ravaged Texas, Florida and islands in the Caribbean.

Story continued on Page 5

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

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Oregon National Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit articles and story ideas. Stories and letters to the editor from any source, military or civilian, are accepted. All submissions must include the author's name, mailing address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication, and the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to print or reprint submissions at any time. The Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office and Oregon Sentinel staff are not accountable for factual errors presented by contributing authors or photographers.

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Story files must be submitted in Microsoft Word format, with no formatting. Photos must be high-resolution color JPEG files, accompanied by caption information containing the following: full name, rank, and unit of person(s) depicted in the photo, and a short description of what is happening in the photo. All hard-copies submitted to the Oregon Sentinel become the property of the Oregon Military Department unless prior arrangements are made with the Public Affairs staff.

Send electronic submissions, story ideas or questions to: [Sentinel-Editor@mail.state.or.us](mailto:Sentinel-Editor@mail.state.or.us). Hard copy submissions can be sent via U.S. Mail to: Oregon Sentinel Editor, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR, 97309.



COMMAND

Oregon Guard uniquely suited for domestic response

Summer is here! As we wade into the 101 days of summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day, safety should be at the front of our thoughts. Our missions and training carry inherent risk, but risk can be mitigated. If you see something unsafe, don't let it slide by – take the time to address it!

Last summer, the Oregon National Guard set records for domestic support. It was one of the largest call-ups for domestic response since Hurricane Katrina, and we are already preparing firefighting teams in the event we are needed this year. This is what we do. We are uniquely suited to serve our local community, state and nation for short notice operations.

Along these lines, we need to continue pushing our narrative of the value the Oregon National Guard brings to the State of Oregon. The dual use nature of the National

Guard provides a ready force of Soldiers, Airmen, and equipment to support the Governor and the citizens of Oregon built on the skills and training we perform under our federal authorities. We want Oregonian's to know that their Service Members are available to respond within Oregon because of the federal missions and funding of the Oregon National Guard.

We cannot fulfill our missions without your effort. It requires a personal and organizational commitment to the Oregon National Guard, often requiring our Soldiers and Airmen to support operations with little notice. It means working towards the best force structure for Oregon. It means strengthening our community relationships, all while taking care of our Employees and Families.



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

Working together, our Oregon National Guard contribution will be felt and recognized across the state. Thank you for your service and the sacrifices of you and your families. Oregon Soldiers and Airmen...Always Ready, Always There!

Army Warrant Officer Corps celebrates 100 years

Story by CW5 Scott Brundidge, State Command Chief Warrant Officer

Their numbers are few, but warrant officers are a mighty workforce, comprised of men and women driven by a thirst for excellence in their field of specialty. Warrant officers contribute significantly to the Army National Guard's mission; they are experts, leaders, trainers and advisors. In Oregon, as is the case nationally, warrant officers comprise, on average, less than three-percent of the total force. In other words, fewer than three individuals in a formation of 100 Soldiers can be found wearing the silver and black bar (WO1-CW5 ranks). Many units have no warrant officers at all. The Oregon Army National Guard is authorized 157 warrant officer positions spanning a dozen functional branches, with more than a dozen specialized job fields. A small, but close-knit, group of individuals know that a career as an Army warrant officer is a distinctly unique and deeply satisfying journey of service in the Armed Forces.

The history of the Warrant Officer Corps is fascinating, with more than a few unexpected twists and turns, but even a novice historian could correctly assume the Army's Warrant Officer Corps arose out of deliberate intent on some far-flung past date in the dusty chronicles of military history. However, you may be surprised to learn that the Corps officially began exactly 100 years ago with some seafaring artillerymen and their boats.

In the 1880's, President Arthur urged



Congress to give attention to the defenses of the nation's harbors. It wasn't until July 9, 1918, that Congress finally authorized the Army's Warrant Officer Corps, appointing forty "Coast Artillery" warrant officers of the Army Mine Planter Service (AMPS) to defend vital ports. These individuals stepped into long-term roles deemed too specialized and therefore unfitting for typical officer careers with changing positions and ever-broadening experiences. These pioneering warrant officers wove their rank from strands of burlap bags common to their workplace, thus establishing brown as the original Corps color.

Over the course of 100 years, the Army Warrant Officer Corps steadily grew. Some notable moments in Corps history include: adoption of the Eagle Rising as distinctive branch insignia (1921); first two female warrant officers appointed in managerial

roles (1928); first female aviation warrant officer appointed (1973); establishment of the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 (1991); coining of the motto "Quiet Professionals" (1993); creation of the position of Command Chief Warrant Officer (1999); the Chief of Staff of the Army's first Warrant Officer Advisor (2002); warrant officer integration into the Army's functional branches; and dissolution of the warrant officer "branch" (2004).

In 2015, in recognition of the increasingly complex global environment, the Army inaugurated warrant officers into the new Cyber Branch. Today, the Army is leaning hard into the task of modernizing the education and roles of all warrant officers to support the future force. Immense national security challenges loom ahead – challenges that the Warrant Officer Corps will confront head-on. With one foot firmly planted in military doctrine, and the other standing on the bleeding edge of innovation within their specialized field, warrant officers bring a special perspective to the table in training and operations, both at home and abroad.

The Oregon Army National Guard diligently seeks highly-qualified individuals interested in serving their state and nation in the extraordinary role of warrant officer. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities available, contact your unit leadership. Better yet, have a conversation with a warrant officer, and remember to wish them a happy 100th Warrant Officer Corps birthday.

Minuteman Awards honor CSM Conley and CMSgt Hotaling



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) James W. Hotaling (left) and Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Brunk W. Conley (right) pause for a photograph with their replica 'Minuteman Statues' during the Order of the Minuteman ceremony held in both of their honors, April 21, 2018, in Eugene, Oregon. Prior to his retirement on May 20, 2016, Hotaling was the 11th command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, and Conley, who retired on Sept. 22, 2017, was the 10th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard.

TAG visits 142FW Airmen in Bulgaria



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Above: Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, speaks with Airmen during a trip to Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria, May 31, 2018.

Nearly 260 Airmen from the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing are deployed to Bulgaria as part of a Theater Security Package which teams U.S. Air Force wings with NATO nations to train and build interoperability.



Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, meets with Bulgarian Air Force members during a trip to Graf Ignatievo, Bulgaria, May 30, 2018.



COMMAND

Brig. Gen. Bush promoted, takes new assignment in Korea

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Eric C. Bush was promoted to the rank of major general in a ceremony, June 2, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

Bush is currently assigned as the Deputy Combined Rear Area Coordinator, United States Forces Korea (USFK) at the 2nd Operational Command Headquarters, Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, Daegu, Republic of Korea. He assumed this current assignment on February 1, 2018. In this role, Bush is the senior U.S. military representative of the USFK Commander, to the 2nd ROK Army and serves as the Joint Security Officer for USFK.

Bush holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and Communications from Corban University, a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College and has completed numerous graduate level courses at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Eric C. Bush is pinned with his new rank by his wife, Kim (right), and mother, Marla (left), during a promotion ceremony, June 2, at the 41st Infantry Division Armed Forces Reserve Center, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. Bush is currently assigned as the Deputy Combined Rear Area Coordinator, United States Forces Korea (USFK) at the 2nd Operational Command Headquarters, Republic of Korea (ROK) Army, Daegu, Republic of Korea.

and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

He first joined the Oregon Army National Guard in 1984 as a cavalry

scout and was commissioned in 1988 through the Officer Candidate School at the Oregon Military Academy. He has served in a variety of command and staff

positions in armor, cavalry and infantry units. He deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as the deputy commander of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

Throughout his career in the Oregon Army National Guard, he has served as infantry platoon leader, company executive officer, company commander, cavalry troop commander, squadron intelligence officer, squadron logistics officer, and squadron operations officer. He commanded the 821st Troop Command Battalion; 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment; the 82nd Rear Operations Center, Theater Support Command; the 41st IBCT, and the 82nd Brigade (Troop Command). He also served as the Assistant Adjutant General – Army and the Land Component Commander for Joint Force Headquarters, Oregon National Guard.

Prior to his current assignment, Bush was the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff J3, USFK, and Mobilization Assistant to the Director for Logistics, Engineering and Security Cooperation, United States Pacific Command.

Bush owns and operates a family ranch in Central Oregon where he raises cattle and Arabian horses. He is a retired Chief of Police for the city of Prineville, Oregon.

CSEL talks NCO development with international partners

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

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Oregon National Guard’s Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch, teamed up with other senior enlisted personnel from across the U.S. Pacific Command area to discuss the importance of noncommissioned officer (NCO) development throughout the Pacific region.

Foesch was part of a panel to discuss global partnerships through enlisted development and professionalism as part of the Association of the United States Army’s (AUSA) annual Land Forces Pacific (LANPAC) Symposium, May 22, 2018, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Foesch highlighted the Oregon National Guard’s personnel exchanges during his remarks, specifically with the State Partnership Program (SPP). He stressed that

these training opportunities provide Service Members from both countries familiarity with each other’s military, joint experiences, and “makes us all better prepared.”

“In today’s world, the reality is that we are never going to fight alone,” said Foesch. “We will fight together as a coalition and it is through these experiences and understanding that we create even better relationships.”

The Oregon National Guard is partnered with both Bangladesh, since 2008, and with Vietnam’s National Committee for Incident, Disaster Response, and Search and Rescue (VINASARCOM), since 2012. Foesch said SPP events, particularly those regarding partner countries’ NCO corps, “allow us to come together, as professionals, to discuss relevant, current issues. We have a lot to offer.”

The six-member LANPAC panel, chaired by Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Jones, Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Army Pacific, also included senior

enlisted leaders from both the New Zealand Land Forces, the Japanese Self-Defense Force and Australian Army. These leaders reiterated the importance of readiness and continued education.

Once opening remarks concluded, the panel opened the floor up to questions from the audience. Foesch emphasized that to make NCO exchanges successful it is important to select the right people for the job; specifically those NCOs who lead by example and take care of the junior enlisted Soldiers under their charge.

Foesch, was the only National Guard member to participate as a panel member. Other U.S. personnel on the panel included Jones and Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Spadaro, Command Senior Enlisted Leader for



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert C. Foesch, Oregon National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader, participates in a panel discussion on May 22, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

U.S. Pacific Command. The panel was moderated by Sgt. Maj. of the Army (Ret.) Kenneth O. Preston, who currently serves as the Vice President, Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier Programs, Association of the United States Army.

Oregon Guard officer to receive MacArthur Leadership Award

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

SALEM, Oregon – Oregon Army National Guard Capt. Mark C. Timmons was recently announced as a recipient of the Department of the Army’s General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. Timmons will meet with the Chief of Staff of the Army in June for an award ceremony in Washington D.C.

The national award recognizes company grade officers and warrant officers who demonstrate the ideals for which General MacArthur stood: duty, honor, and country. The purpose of the award is to promote and sustain effective junior officer leadership in the Army. The Chief of Staff of the Army selected six National Guard officers to receive the award for military duties, accomplishments, and contributions to their community performed within calendar year 2017.

“Captain Timmons’ ideals not only reflect well upon himself, but the entire Oregon National Guard and we congratulate him on this prestigious achievement,” said Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon.

Timmons currently works full time as the personnel officer (S1) for Headquarters



and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), based in Springfield, Oregon.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Oregon State University and began his military service in 2006 with basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 2007, he entered Officer Candidate School and commissioned in 2008. After completing Infantry Officer Basic Course in 2009, he became a platoon leader with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion,

186th Infantry Regiment, 41st IBCT, and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009-2010. Upon return from deployment, he became a mortar platoon leader with Company D, 1-186th Infantry Battalion before taking command of Company B, 1-186th.

Timmons also became the program manager of a joint endeavor between the National Guard and the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) to bring new technology to the National Guard’s homeland security/homeland defense mission. In 2012, he was appointed as the battle captain for the Oregon National Guard’s Joint Operation Center, Joint Force Headquarters. In 2013, he entered full time employment with the Oregon National Guard as an Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) officer. He was assigned as the officer-in-charge (OIC) for the Oregon National Guard CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and took the unit on two Vigilant Guard homeland security exercises to Alaska and Hawaii.

Later in 2015, he was reassigned as the S1 for 2-162 Infantry Battalion where he continues to work. In the middle of this assignment, he volunteered for a six-month deployment to Vietnam in support of the Oregon National Guard’s State Partnership

Program. Timmons worked out of the Office of Defense Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi where he directed numerous bilateral and multilateral initiatives supporting Vietnam’s peacekeeping, CBRNE, maritime law enforcement, humanitarian mine action and military education programs. Since returning from Vietnam, he resumed his role as S1 for the 2-162 Infantry Battalion and has been recently selected to become the professor of military science at Southern Oregon University.

He is active in his community through volunteer work with the local youth soccer program. He also mentors young adults in a college men’s organization and hosts foreign exchange students for yearlong home stays. He volunteers his time with the National Guard Company Grade Committee for the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) where he organizes the national officer professional development program for 300 Army and Air Force company grade officers.

Timmons resides in Brownsville, Oregon, with his wife of 20 years, Heather, and three children Aydin (16), Blaise (14) and Marie (11). His fourth child, Christiana, is grown and lives in Los Angeles, Calif.



NEWS

Oregon National Guard Soldier named NCO of the Year for Region VI

Story by Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Despite thick rain and looming clouds, 15 Soldiers from across eight states battled it out here to determine the top non-commissioned officer and junior enlisted Soldier for Region VI May 14-17.

At the end of the grueling four-day competition, South Dakota Army National Guard Spc. Bailey Ruff was named Soldier of the Year and Oregon ARNG Sgt. Dane Moorehead was named NCO of the Year. Second place honors went to Wyoming ARNG Sgt. Wyatt Schiermeyer and North Dakota ARNG Sgt. Timothy Sybryant.

The regional competition, hosted by the Alaska Army National Guard, turned up the intensity level from the unit and state competitions. The competitors were tested physically and mentally as their knowledge and abilities were tried under immense pressure in a competitive environment.

“I wanted each competitor to be tested up to their breaking point without breaking any one,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Marc Petersen, Alaska Army National Guard state command sergeant major, who also wanted to add an Alaskan flavor to the events when possible. “I wanted safety first and foremost and also for the event to be memorable for the competitors.”

From an aerial platform shoot from an Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to a canoe race across Otter Lake with reflections of the Chugach Mountain



Photo by Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Dane Moorehead (front) and Idaho Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Chet Bergeson canoe across Otter Lake before carrying items including ammo, water and a tire to their next event during the National Guard Best Warrior Region VI 2018 competition on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, May 15. To make it to the regional level, the Soldiers already out performed their peers at the unit and state level.



Photo by Alejandro Pena, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Dane Moorehead pulls a patient litter while competing in the National Guard Best Warrior Region VI 2018 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, May 15, 2018.

Range in the water and a summer cross country biathlon range complete with a fat tire bike ride coasting at approximately 2,800 feet in elevation down Arctic Valley Road, the competitors were left with several opportunities to reminiscence.

The Soldiers’ physical strength and endurance were tried through a series of events requiring technical and tactical expertise, including combat-life saving skills, urban tactics, weapons proficiency, road march, land navigation, obstacle course, drill and ceremonies, uniform inspections, and a modified Army physical fitness test encompassing pull ups and a 5-mile run. Competitors’ knowledge was tested on the Army and current events during an essay, exam, on-camera interview and the command sergeant major oral board.

“The competitors had little opportunity to sleep while pushing through multiple events calculated to test the total Soldier concept of shoot, move and communicate,” said Sgt. Major Justin Shaffer, the AKARNG NCO in charge of the competition. “We hope that the winners will take away training value from here that will help them to better compete at the national level.”

“I hope that experiences gained, friendships formed and possible injuries incurred will help the competitors to become a more complete and resilient leader,” added Petersen. “Whether they became the Region VI Best Warrior or not, I hope the competitors always maintain the warrior spirit they demonstrated and spread that spirit within their squad and beyond.”

The Region VI Best Warrior Competition states included Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Balinda O'Neal Dresel, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Winners of the National Guard Best Warrior Region VI 2018 competition proudly display their plaques during an awards ceremony at the Arctic Warrior Event Center on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, May 17, 2018. Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Dane Moorehead (second from right) was named NCO of the Year and South Dakota Army National Guard Spc. Bailey Ruff (second from left) was named Soldier of the Year after battling through a four-day competition designed to test Soldiers’ mental and physical toughness.



Photo by Alejandro Pena, Alaska National Guard Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Michael Norris fires the M136E1 AT4-CS confined light anti-armor weapon while competing in the National Guard Best Warrior Region VI 2018 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, May 15, 2018. Norris competed against other top junior-enlisted Soldiers from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming in the four-day competition designed to test technical and tactical proficiency.

South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

Ruff and Moorhead will advance to the national-level competition this July at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., where they will compete against winners from other regions that comprise the 54 states and territories. In the event they are not able to compete, Schiermeyer and Sybryant will be ready if called.

Portland Joint Reserve Intelligence Center opens

Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel (left), Adjutant General, Oregon, and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Harry E. Miller jr. (right), Mobilization Assistant to the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, shake hands after cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Portland Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (Portland JRIC), June 2, 2018, at the Portland Air National Guard Base, in Portland, Oregon. The Portland JRIC supports more than 225 Reserve and active duty personnel as well as government civilians providing IT and network capabilities.

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

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NEWS

3670th CRC Soldiers return from Eastern Europe deployment

Story and photo by  
Spc. Timothy Jackson,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – Six Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 3670th Component Repair Company (CRC) were welcomed home in a demobilization ceremony, April 8, 2018, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The six Soldiers returned from a deployment to Eastern Europe where they conducted TMDE (Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment) missions.

During this period, the TMDE established a calibration lab in Powidz, Poland, with the mission of supporting the entire Eastern European theater. The Soldiers also established a concept of support, which included transportation of equipment to carry out maintenance, as well as transporting equipment to Kaiserslautern, Germany, for higher-level maintenance. The TMDE was also given the opportunity to send contact teams to Baumholder, Germany, to support active duty elements in completing their respective missions.

This was the first TMDE presence in Eastern Europe, and the team was responsible for starting from the ground up to get the mission rolling.

“It wasn’t just the exercises, its been a long time since we had major formations in Eastern Europe, so a big part of the task



Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander, shakes hands with Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 3670th Component Repair Company during a demobilization ceremony at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon, April 8

that these Soldiers achieved was to help set the theater for sustained presence as part of Atlantic Resolve and the European Reassurance Initiative,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) Ross Rappe, a repairman with 3670th Component Repair Company.

In attendance at the ceremony to welcome the Soldiers home was Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon; the 234 Army Band, and other members of the Oregon National Guard, as well as family and friends.

“What these Soldiers did was more than just a tour of Eastern Europe, they participated in a strategic stage-setting event for our national security strategy,” said Brig. Gen. William Edwards, Land Component Commander, Oregon Army National Guard.

From arrival in February 2017 to departure in December 2017, the TMDE accomplished approximately 357 calibrations for eight different units, combining more than 9,400 man hours, spanning 1,100 miles from as far south as Bulgaria to as far north as

Lithuania, and maintained a 100 percent availability rate throughout their European tour (versus a standard 95 percent).

“We worked them out and set it up well enough for the next unit to not struggle,” Rappe said.

Oregon Army National Guard Col. Stephen Schmidt, commander of the 82nd Troop Command Brigade, said that in the past this job has been contracted out, so this deployment gets the National Guard and U.S. Army more involved in getting Soldiers doing their job, and it’s highly visible and appreciated.

“We understand you were the first out of the pipe to deploy here, you had to set up the processes and labs, but we appreciate the fact that you took the task head-on and drove forward with the mission, despite your setbacks in the beginning,” Schmidt said.

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Dominic Trujillo, a repairman with 3670th Component Repair Company, said the deployment was different from prior deployments the Oregon National Guard has made to places such as the Middle East because it was not a war zone and the Polish have a very peaceful society with great food and hospitality.

“Polish Soldiers were motivated and had a great sense of national pride, their excitement to work with U.S. forces was extra motivation,” said Trujillo.

International instructors teach counter IED training in Bangladesh

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Adam Montera,  
U.S. Pacific Command

BANGLADESH - The field training event for the Counter IED and EOD training at Exercise Shanti Doot 4 ended March 11, 2018, at the Ordnance Centre and School, Rajendrapur Cantonment, Bangladesh. Shanti Doot 4 was an international United Nations peacekeeping training exercise with more than 1,000 participants from more than 30 countries. The exercise is designed to provide pre-deployment training to partner nations in preparation for real-world peacekeeping operations.

The two-day final field training event covered counter IED and EOD training during foot patrols and when mounted in convoys. This event followed approximately two weeks of classes for the trainees under the tutelage of a group of international subject matter experts, including EOD technicians from the Oregon Air National Guard. The Oregon National Guard has been state partners with Bangladesh since 2008 through the National Guard’s State Partnership Program.

“The IED threat is a prevailing issue around the world. U.N. service members are being attacked by them now,” said Tech. Sgt. Mathew Volker, an EOD technician with the Oregon Air National Guard. “Most recently, Bangladesh lost four of their men in an IED strike on a U.N. convoy in Mali on February 28.”

Volker was one of the instructors in charge of the single day training sessions and has experience training with troops from multiple nations. He also talked about the benefits of sharing experiences with instructors from other countries.

The group of international instructors from Canada, Australia and the U.S. taught day-long courses to international training platoons, as well as the two-week long specialized EOD course to a group of Bangladesh, Sri Lankan, Cambodian and Nepalese service members.

“Working in an international setting is always good,” said a Canadian EOD operator who was in charge of the multinational team. “The information shared by chatting about the differences or nuances of each country’s tactics, techniques and procedures is always enlightening, and

shared experiences most often come up. Hence a tight bond is formed between EOD teams who work in this dangerous field.”

He went on to say that dealing with explosive threats is very important for military personnel and peacekeepers to understand.

“Training soldiers to be able to understand what an IED looks like or indicators such as ground signs is quite beneficial. This knowledge will help keep them alive on the battlefield or give them a better understanding of the threats being employed against them,” said the Canadian EOD operator.

All the instructors involved said they hope the training instilled some basic, yet important skills and lessons for all the troops they had the opportunity to train. They dealt with different students from multiple countries and varying levels of experience.

Volker noted that sometimes the students had something to offer as well. For example, one of his students from Cambodia had years of experience dealing with de-mining



A U.N. peacekeeper from the Bangladesh Army uses a metal detector to look for IEDs during a foot patrol as part of a field training exercise Counter IED and EOD techniques as part of Exercise Shanti Doot 4.

and helped bring the lessons Volker was teaching to life for the other students.

Whether it was an introductory, single-day class or the more in-depth classes, all the instructors agreed that multinational training like this for U.N. peacekeepers is crucial for saving lives and furthering peacekeeping capabilities in future operations.

State tuition assistance will help Oregon Guardsmen earn degrees



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

Oregon Governor Kate Brown presents the signed copies of House Bill 4035 during a ceremony June 16, 2018, at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The bill authorizes state tuition assistance for service members in the Oregon National Guard.

Continued from Front Page

With massive wild fires in the past two years, Oregon Guardsmen have been instrumental in providing disaster support throughout the state. Last year nearly 15 percent of the Oregon National Guard was called into activation for emergencies, disasters, and crisis planning.

Service to the community is an import aspect to why many Oregonians choose to join and serve part-time in their communities, and education benefits are another key facet to joining the National Guard.

“People join the National Guard for a variety of reasons, but paying for education and building work life skills are continually at the top of those lists,” Miller explained. “When we look at some of our junior enlisted members who might be challenged with pressing home life expenses, tuition assistance can immediately help cover those demands.”

Oregon Guardsmen who may live across the Columbia River or elsewhere out of state, are also covered under the bill. To

receive the tuition assistance they must be in good standing with their Oregon National Guard commitments and can begin the assistance upon completion of basic military training.

Service members who already have federal educational benefits such as the Montgomery G.I. Bill or the Post 9/11 Bill will need to use those benefits prior to using the new tuition assistance funding. Qualified students can use up to 90 credit hours at an Oregon Community College and up to 180 credit hours at a public university.

“This bill will have an immediate impact on recruitment and retention within the Oregon National Guard,” Miller said. “When we look at a state like Minnesota that has a full 4-year tuition assistance program for their Guardsmen, their recruiting rates are near 100 percent.”

The benefits also support ever changing educational needs of Guardsmen. For senior enlisted members of the Air National Guard, promotions to the ranks of senior master sergeant (E-8) and chief master sergeant (E-9) are required to hold a Community College of the Air Force Degree (CCAF).

“The Air Force has set the requirement that for our senior enlisted leaders to continue to serve and be eligible for promotions, they must have their CCAF degrees,” explained Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Keith Townsend. “By attending classes in Oregon colleges, their coursework is in accordance with the degree program.”

The changing educational landscape has fostered in the need for new areas of readiness for the Oregon National Guard mission. Oregon’s commitment to the National Guard comes at a time when the National Guard Bureau is looking to realign end strength and award a cyber battalion.

“With the concentration of high tech and cyber talent in Oregon, a state of the art Joint Reserve Intelligence Center coming on line to support the nation and Pacific Command, the nation’s cheapest power supply to some of the largest data centers in the country, an entry point to major trans-Pacific data cables, our strong State support calls for the National Guard Bureau to give strong consideration to placing cyber forces in joint proposal by Oregon, Washington, and Idaho,” said Maj. Gen. Stencel.



NEWS

# 41st Brigade Headquarters prepares for upcoming XCTC

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

CORVALLIS, Oregon – Brigade staff from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company set up a field Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at Camp Najaf outside of Corvallis, Oregon, April 13-15, 2018, to become proficient in preparation for an upcoming combat training certification this summer.

The brigade is scheduled for the Army National Guard’s eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program, a brigade field training exercise designed to certify combat readiness in coordination with First Army. The XCTC provides a training experience to Army National Guard brigades at home station, or at a regional training center, that is similar to a Combat Training Center, minimizing cost and time away from Soldiers’ home and jobs.

Capt. George Bowyer said the training is especially important to him as a battle captain with the brigade operations section. Bowyer is in charge of receiving information from units in the field, as well as higher headquarters, and distributing that information to help ensure mission success.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 41st IBCT Public Affairs

Sgt. David Kingsbury, a geospatial engineer with the 41st IBCT’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, monitors his computer as he works with the intelligence section inside the brigade Tactical Operation Center at Camp Najaf near Corvallis, Oregon, April 14, 2018.

“The battle captain is in charge of current operations and deciding who needs to know what,” Bowyer explained. “Personally, it’s important to me because in real-world operations, when things are happening and subordinate units or Soldiers on the ground need assistance, the battle captain and the battle staff are the ones who are getting them the help they need on the ground so that they can succeed in their mission.”

He said the TOC, whether it is at the battalion or brigade level, is the hub for command and control where information



Photo by Maj. Wayne Clyne, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Capt. George Bowyer (left), a battle captain with the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company, discusses operations with Warrant Officer Shiketha Riley, assistant property book officer with 41 IBCT, outside the brigade Tactical Operation Center at Camp Najaf near Corvallis, Oregon, April 14, 2018.

and operations are centralized and distributed out to other units.

For Sgt. David Kingsbury, a geospatial engineer, whose role in the TOC is with the brigade intelligence section, working in the TOC and doing his job gives him a sense of purpose. Kingsbury says he makes maps in the TOC and provides topographic support to the brigade.

“You can’t really get anywhere without

knowing how to get there; knowing how to move through the terrain and being able to help with the plan,” he said. “I ‘dig’ what I do. It’s kind of odd and technical, but for me it’s great.”

Kingsbury and Bowyer will be working alongside the many other Soldiers in the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team as they put in extra duty hours moving towards the XCTC goal.

# 41st Infantry Brigade Soldiers train at Yakima Training Center

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

YAKIMA, Wash. - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team traveled to the Yakima Training Center (YTC) in Washington for a comprehensive weekend of training, April 12-15, 2018. The extended drill period was a chance for Guardsmen to travel out of state and train in a larger location to support the myriad of units and their equipment.

The YTC’s impact area is surrounded by a combination of sage brush and rolling hills, with wide-open spaces and little interference to block the wind. Many of the weapon systems used during this drill period required expanded space and distances, as the YTC ranges provided the extra uncluttered areas needed to conduct training outside of Oregon.

“The wind is a challenge, it affects the ballistics”, said Pvt. Damien Tieke, an infantryman with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment. “It’s an environmental challenge; the wind and trying to sleep are rough.”

The Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS) is a recently issued, vehicle-mounted system that requires a long range for firing the chosen mounted weapon. During the weekend, the system was put the test by many of the Soldiers from 2-162nd Infantry Battalion.

“We’re here at Yakima [Training Center]

to boresight and shoot our .50 cal. mounted to the CROWS system,” said Jason Hester, from Hillsboro, Oregon, a truck commander with Company D Co, 2-162nd Inf. Bn. “The CROWS system keeps the gunner inside the truck (while firing) it’s good for their safety.”

The most authentic training ensues when a service member with real-world experience is able to connect to a training audience while visually relating proper techniques. Flying in for the class on casualty evacuation, Oregon Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Patrick Casha, a flight engineer with Company G, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation medevac unit, led an hour long talk on the capabilities of the HH-60M Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopter. Recently demobilized from a four-country tour overseas, Casha taught seasoned medics, as well as new Soldiers in the medical field, proper techniques and practices when caring for and preparing a patient for medevac.

The YTC’s rotor wing helipad was an ideal location for the training taught by Casha, as the site sustained 25 medics and support staff with Company C, 141st Brigade Support Battalion.

“This training teaches the medics a timeline, how to get a patient to the next level of care,” said Master Sgt. Matt Crowley, the Operations Non-commissioned officer for the 141st Brigade Support Battalion.

The initial phase of training had members from Company C, secure a casualty on a stretcher before a team of four could



Infantrymen, Pvt. Damien Tieke, Pfc. Antony Kilbourne and Pvt. Scott Lazott, with company D, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, prepare an M2 .50-caliber machine gun for weapon qualification at Yakima Training Center in Washington, April 13, 2018.

carry off the simulated patient across the field and load them into a waiting Black Hawk. The training became essential when the final phase involved loading a patient while the Blackhawk rotors spun overhead.

“This training is important because it could be your battle buddy you’re saving,” said Spc. Erobong Archbong, a medical supply specialist with Company C, 141st Brigade Support Battalion.

“We’re training for a real-life situation. We train now in a controlled environment so it becomes muscle memory in a real life situation,” said 1st Lt. Christopher Desert, medical service officer.

Deep into Yakima Training Center’s impact area was a group of infantry mortar men that were able to use their training on the expansive range to fire 60mm mortars into the air before hitting their target.

“This is a good opportunity,” said Sgt. Trinity Scott, a squad leader with A Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, “The firing was good and I had five different missions to calculate while working with forward observers;

each mission meant relocating and recalculating.”

According to Spc. Eric Crawford, the newest member of A Company, 1-186th Inf. Bn., the drill weekend provided an excellent training environment.

“We set up as quick as possible and waited for a fire mission,” said Crawford. “Speed is important, but accurate information is the most important; you could be off by a few millimeters and put troops in danger.”

Experienced and junior Soldiers alike were able to test their bivouac skills, basic Soldier skills and test their weapon accuracy while preparing for longer training opportunities coming up next summer.

As he summarized the long weekend of training at the YTC location, Spc. Daniel Andersen, an infantryman with Company C, 1-186th Inf. Bn., reflected on the conditions and overall conclusions.

“It’s cold and miserable, but when we shoot, then go home, I miss it; the training, the comradie and hanging out with the guys are all highlights of a drill weekend.”



Soldiers of Company C, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (Charlie Med), carry a simulated patient to an HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter during medevac training at Yakima Training Center, April 13. The training was part of the 41st IBCT’s four day field training exercise.



NEWS

Chinook helicopter unit prepares for homeland missions

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

**PENDLETON, Oregon** - Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, continue to diversify their skills and add capabilities to their repertoire, becoming one of the most versatile aviation assets in the state. Soldiers in the Pendleton, Oregon, based unit have been busy this spring, training and preparing their CH-47D Chinook helicopters for a variety of domestic missions that could come their way at any time.

Five members from the unit had the opportunity, in April, to attend a one-week training course at the High Altitude Aviation Training (HAATs) Center near Eagle, Colorado. The training taught crews techniques like reading the environment and power management for high altitude landing zones above 12,000 feet. These skills can be directly implemented for search and rescue missions here in Oregon, though crews in unpressurized aircraft do have oxygen restrictions above 10,000 feet.

Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Nathan Edgecombe, maintenance officer, Army Aviation Support Facility #1, says nearly 80-percent of the rescues Oregon Army National Guard Black Hawks (HH-60M) perform on Mt. Hood happen near the 10,000 foot mark near the areas known as Devil’s Kitchen and Hogsback. Chinook helicopters do not have the hoist capabilities that the Black Hawks have. However, Chinooks can be used as a sighting platform to update and potentially prepare other first responders on any given situation.

Soldiers also learned about the physiological effects in high elevations, like hypoxia, when there is a deficiency in the amount of adequate oxygen, which can lead to altitude sickness, and can even be fatal given certain complications.

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Maddox, a flight instructor with B Company, 1-168th Aviation Battalion, previously had the opportunity to attend the training in 2013.

“While technically it is a pilot based course, HAATs instructors also focus on the back-seaters as well,” said Maddox. “It helps us understand the pilots better, when it comes to numbers and power margins.”

The course, in addition to the Oregon Chinook and its crew, had multiple airframes in attendance, to include Black Hawks, Apaches and Lakota helicopters. Soldiers completed a mix of both classroom and flight time with a standardization pilot (i.e. instructor) who gave feedback, pointers and evaluations.

Maddox recalls that the instructor complimented the Oregon crew saying, they had “some of the best crew coordination he had ever seen when it came to spotting hazards and identifying wind directions.”

The unit also tackled their annual fire certifications, in May, under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service. Air crews and support personnel completed a “red card” classroom refresher and then practiced the deployment of fire shelters, similar to the training Oregon Guard Soldiers and Airmen conducted last year on state active duty (SAD) in support of Operation Plan Smokey. The aviators then took to the skies with their Chinooks and the infamous 30-foot, orange Bambi buckets.

During the water bucket certification, the airframe has a full crew consisting of two pilots and three flight crewmembers. However, the unit’s standardization instructor pilot (SIP) Chief Warrant Officer-4, Don Ford, was technically the only person who was evaluated by demonstrating proficiency with both line and spot water drops.

“It is absolutely critical that the crew works together as a team while conducting bucket operations,” said Ford. “We spend man hours practicing and refining our techniques to ensure all of our crews are at their best.”

“Standardization pilots are responsible for ensuring that our flight program is complete, that it’s a finished package,” articulated Capt. Breanna Westman-Evans, commander of B Company, 1-168th Aviation Battalion. “He (Ford) makes sure that everyone has the same training all across the board. So, a lot of liability lies in his hands. Those check rides that he gets, and those evaluations do lie with him.”

Logan F. Harris, a helicopter inspector pilot, with the U.S. Forest Service, provided oversight and was looking for 75-percent of the bucket’s 2,000-gallons to hit the target. Harris oversees all special-use mission certifications for the region, outside of normal day-to-day operations. Based



Logan Harris, a helicopter inspector pilot, with the U.S. Forest Service’s Alaska and Pacific Northwest Aviation Group, conducts a radio check with Oregon Army National Guard aviators in a CH-47 Chinook helicopter on May 5, 2018, near Pendleton, Oregon. Harris evaluated the performance of Chief Warrant Officer-4 Don Ford, standardization instructor pilot (SIP) on his ability to conduct water drops on specified targets, in preparation for the upcoming fire season. Harris certifies firefighting cooperators across both U.S. Forest Service Region 6 and 10, which includes Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

out of Redmond, Oregon, Harris is a part of the U.S. Forest Service’s Regional Aviation Group that includes Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

Pending positive results, Harris then accredited Chief Warrant Officer-4 Ford with an immediate grade slip, with a more formal letter sent after. Ford will then be able to train and certify other members of Bravo Company, similar to the Army’s ‘Train-the-Trainer’ type programs.

Ford said that while it is true that he is the one being graded and evaluated, it truly is an evaluation on the entire program. This was the first time that the unit had worked with Harris and they wanted to put their best foot forward.

“I wanted him to know that we are just as skilled as the civilian crews that he evaluates,” said Ford.

Westman-Evans said that even though the unit has people who have fought fires for the last four seasons, they still requalify each year, to ensure all of their personnel are good to go.

“Typically the unit aims for four-to-five crews each fire season that are qualified, so, two pilots, a flight engineer and a crew chief,” said Westman-Evans. “Right now our numbers look good and we have a few more weeks to get everybody ready, about 16-20 personnel.”

The Soldiers utilize a drop site, through previous coordination with local land owners, they lovingly refer to as “Juniper.” The site is adjacent to the Columbia River, allowing the crew to dip the 2,000-gallon capacity Bambi bucket relatively close to where they complete the water drops on specified targets. They have used the same area to test Bambi bucket drops since 2013.

Chief Warrant Officer-3 Anson Smith, a pilot with Bravo Company, says “Juniper” works well as a training area (for the water bucket operations) because of its diverse topography.



Staff Sgt. Steven A. Kirkpatrick, a facility standardization instructor with 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, surveys the area near state Highway 730 during a CH-47 Chinook helicopter Bambi Bucket certification with the U.S. Forest Service on May 5, 2018, near Pendleton, Oregon. They were the first unit in the Oregon National Guard to be certified this year in preparation for the upcoming summer fire season.

“The changing terrain exposes both pilots and the crew to the different types of water drops we can encounter while out on a fire and the necessary coordination to deliver the water,” said Smith.

The close proximity to the Pendleton flight facility, just a short 10-minute flight away, also allows the unit the flexibility to swap out or provide maintenance to the bucket if needed.

The Pendleton Chinooks are the first Oregon Army National Guard airframe that Harris has certified this year.



Logan Harris, a helicopter inspector pilot, with the U.S. Forest Service, observes a Bambi Bucket 150-feet below an Oregon Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter, during the crew’s annual certification on May 5, 2018, near Pendleton, Oregon.



Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer-4 Don Ford, standardization instructor pilot (SIP) with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, navigational screen displays where water bucket drop targets are along the Columbia River, near Pendleton, Oregon. The CH-47 Chinook helicopter crew must successfully demonstrate their abilities to conduct a line and spot drop on pre-determined targets, with at least 75-percent of the 2,000-pound bucket of water hitting the target.

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FEATURES

Oregon National Guardsmen train with civil law enforcement

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Zachary Holden,  
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**PORTLAND, Oregon** - When disaster strikes and civil authorities are stretched thin, local governments have another resource for assistance. The National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF) is a specialized group of Army and Air National Guardsmen designed to reinforce state and U.S. territory agencies during natural disasters and civil unrest. The Oregon NGRF is made up of Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police Company and Oregon Air National Guard Airmen of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron (SFS), 142nd Fighter Wing, and the 173rd SFS, 173rd Fighter Wing.

In the event that extra assistance is needed or anticipated, the Oregon NGRF can be activated to backfill the requesting agency. However, when these crisis situations occur, communication and cooperation between civil agencies and the National Guard need to be seamless. That's why the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training facilitates an annual rapid response training event that allows multiple civil and military law enforcement agencies to train together and familiarize themselves with each other's techniques and procedures.

"If we're unfamiliar with their tactics and procedures and they're unfamiliar with how we operate, then it's just going to create a lot of confusion on the line when they actually need us, and those are stressful moments where we don't have

time to figure it out," said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Rich, administrations superintendent with the 142nd SFS.

Lieutenant Ryan Lee, Executive Officer, Portland Police Bureau's Rapid Response Unit, said there is tremendous value in having integrated training with civilian law enforcement and National Guard members.

"Ensuring we are working with a common operating language and expectations is huge during an emergency of scope and scale significant enough to call upon the assets that the National Guard can bring to bear," Lee said.

The Oregon State Police (OSP) and the PPB primarily lead the training. Soldiers and Airmen of the Oregon NGRF, along with 15 other civil agencies from as far away as Miami-Dade County, Florida, participated in this year's training event held April 3-6, 2018, at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Oregon.

"We try and rotate people through it at least every three years to keep them up-to-date on the latest and greatest riot response



Master Sgt. William Mayberry, with the Oregon National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), gives orders to his team during an interagency rapid response training exercise, April 5, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon. The NGRF is a specialized group of Army and Air National Guardsmen designed to reinforce state and U.S. territory civil agencies during natural disasters and civil unrest.

training so that we can embed with the civilians a little bit better," added Rich. "That way, when we go in, it's not as much of a shock and it develops trust and rapport with civilian agencies."

The NGRF can respond to a wide variety of situations including event security, food supply protection, and crowd control. The group is designed to deliver an initial force of 75-125 personnel within eight hours of a request and an additional 375 personnel within 24 hours. With each state, territory, and the District of Columbia operating their own NGRF, creating one standard can be challenging.

Rich expressed that one of his goals with the Oregon NGRF is to establish themselves as a "go to unit" for training standards.

"If we're able to establish this and become the national trendsetter for the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard, we can help train other units," he said. "We can help field test the equipment; we can participate in joint national exercises and set a national standard."

Recently, the Oregon NGRF took a big step in reaching that goal. Rich said his team has been given more opportunity to step into leadership roles within the group, showing a higher level of trust between the agencies.

"We haven't had military [instructors] in this particular training, we've always been the students or administrative facilitator. This year, Tech. Sgt. Nate Page is the first military [instructor] to be accepted by [PPB] and OSP to help assist in the

instruction and evaluation of students, and that's a huge first step for us," said Rich.

Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Nathan Page, unit training manager with 142nd SFS, has been a liaison between the civil authorities and his NGRF unit for several years, ensuring both sides get connected to train successfully. He believes that his assignment as an instructor will help strengthen the relationship.

"It makes it a different animal for them to have to work with people they've never worked with before," said Page, adding that this training will make it "a lot easier for [us] to mesh with the civilian officers and help them out when they need it."

Lee added, "Having face-to-face connections and side-by-side training helps to alleviate uncertainty and discomfort. The time for us to get to know each other and what we each bring to the table is not in the middle of an emergency but before it. This program helps to span that gap and make the communities of our state safer for it."

The National Guard Reaction Force has unique capabilities and equipment to assist civil law enforcement in times of need. Additionally, as Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, the Oregon NGRF service members are also members of the community where they serve, and have connections within the communities where they live.

Rich emphasized that in times of major crisis the civil authorities take the lead, "We're just here to assist until they can get back on both feet and take it themselves."



Soldiers and Airmen, with the Oregon National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), form a line with civil law enforcement to deter a simulated group of protesters during an interagency rapid response training exercise, April 5, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.



Soldiers and Airmen, with the Oregon National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), react to a simulated gas attack during an interagency rapid response training exercise, April 5, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.



Soldiers and Airmen, with the Oregon National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), train with civil law enforcement during an interagency rapid response training exercise, April 5, at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon.



FEATURES

Oregon infantrymen embed with Canadian Reservists to enhance joint readiness

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

**JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.** – Soldiers from the U.S. and the 39th Canadian Brigade Group (CBG) took part in a multi-day exercise, allowing a unique opportunity to integrate support and skills while improving long-term readiness for both nations during Exercise Cougar Rage 18, April 26-29, 2018 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

Oregon Army National Guardsmen with the scout platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, attached with several Canadian Light Infantry platoons, providing gap-capabilities to enhance mission essential task lists (METL) for future evaluations later this year.

The Soldiers spent the first two days working on weapons qualification and rappelling prior to the “exercise-intensive” culmination, where the fully integrated teams undertook an advance on the mock village of ‘Leschi Town.’



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Paul Mannelly describes equipment used by his team to Soldiers of the 39th Canadian Brigade Group prior to the start of Exercise Cougar Rage 18, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., April 27, 2018.

“For our guys, this really is a great rehearsal before our own evaluations later this summer (at Camp Roberts, California),” explained Sgt. 1st Class Tyson Bumgardner, the platoon sergeant with the 2-162nd Infantry Battalion. “Our mission during this exercise is to get out ahead of the Canadians; to get eyes on the site, collect intelligence and report it back to their company commanders prior to the attack on the village.”

As the Canadian forces began their early dawn advancement along the western side of the village, the snipers from the 2-162nd scout platoon provided real-time intelligence and suppressive firing protection. After the initial attack, the combined forces established secure positions inside several buildings, as the exercise posture shifted from offensive to defensive scenarios. Once established, the forces held the far end of the village



A Soldier with the 39th Canadian Brigade Group holds a forward position during training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, April 28, 2018.

as several waves of well-planned attacks transpired throughout the day and into the night.

“This is an intensive event for us; integrating with a different country’s army is exciting and they operate differently, but at its core, what we undertook during this exercise is something we have been practicing for well over 18 months with this group,” said Bumgardner.

For the 39th CBG, the planning for the exercise began months in advance as many of the Group’s leaders visited Oregon to meet and build the exercise plan with the scout platoon.

“When planning for the exercise, we traveled down to Oregon to invite them into the integration process of the MPC (Mission Planning Center) and other aspects of the exercise,” explained Maj. Pawel Dudek, Canadian Plans and Policy (G5) for the 39th CBG. “In the past, we have trained many times with the U.S. military but this is the first time a scout formation has joined our actual formation out in the field.”

The weeks of planning and accumulated training prior to the exercise were quickly put to the test as the exercise developed. Several team members of the 2-162nd established a clear vantage point inside a crucial building in Leschi Town, two Canadian Soldiers were assigned to work side-by-side with the scout platoon.

“They tasked us the night before the raid, attaching us to the sniper teams,” explained Pvt.



Canadian Army Reservists, with to the 39th Brigade Group, Vancouver, British Columbia, listen to an after-action report as Exercise Cougar Rage 18 concludes at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, April 29, 2018.

Chakkathon Duangkaew, an infantryman with the 39th CBG. “This was my first time to work with American Soldiers, and

learned a lot in the experience, from how the snipers prepare their camouflage in the field, to how they hide their depths inside the buildings. It was really worthwhile.”

This type of learning and trying new tasks was a central theme of the training by both the U.S. and Canadian Soldiers was echoed by 39th Brigade Group Commander Colonel David Awalt during the conclusion of the training.

“Hopefully, during the week you were able to learn something; whether it was a Soldier skill or leadership skill,” he said, during the after action report. “I know that training like this can often be uncomfortable, but that’s really the best way to learn and it made for a great exercise.”



Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jon Paul Hanson, with 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, moves into ‘Leshi Town’ during Exercise Cougar Rage 18, April 28, 2018.



Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. Jarred Hansen (left) and Spc. Alex Beglau (right) establish a sniper position inside one of several buildings at ‘Leschi Town’ at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, April 28, 2018.



Canadian Army Reservists, with 39th Brigade Group, Vancouver, British Columbia, move a simulated wounded Soldier during the final phase of training, April 29, 2018, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.



OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Artist bestows distinct artwork to 123rd Fighter Squadron

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

**PORTLAND, Oregon** – George Smolcic, realized what he wanted to do with his life from a young age growing up in Zagreb, Croatia. Working in his father’s workshop at age 12, the fascination of creating one of kind engravings and art pieces captivated his devotion to the family’s craft.

Now more than 65 years later, Smolcic took the time to donate his latest, and probably his final, handcrafted pieces to the Oregon Air National Guard Airmen of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing. At age 78, the physical demands needed for such precise work, added with other health issues, are cause to finally conclude and reflect on a remarkable career.

“My family started (this work) in 1896, and as a third generation craftsman, I also studied under several German masters, learning how to work in metals, glass or other various materials to develop my skills.”

Smolcic credits the ability to work for so many years at such a high level to the joy and passion it still brings him. The years of apprenticing, both with his father and other master craftsmen, ingrained a persistency that still drives his perfectionism.

“The pieces I have created for my military friends are some of my favorite,” Smolcic elaborated. “It began working



George Smolcic, a third generation engraver and master craftsman, displays a new glass engraving he created and presented for the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing, May 8, 2018, at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

with (U.S. Navy) Blue Angles and evolved to creating glass work for the (U.S. Air Force) Thunderbirds, and over many-many years, here for the 142nd.”

The scope and range of his work goes beyond members of the aviation community, all the way to the residency of those who called 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington D.C. their home.

“I created a 5-panel piece that depicted President George H.W. Bush’s career in the Navy during World War II,” Smolcic described. “One panel showed his rescue after being shot down, to other historical

milestones he achieved.”

The thank you call almost didn’t transpire, Smolcic recalled, telling the story in vivid detail, “I had my wife answer this 6:00 a.m. call from some number I have never seen,” he laughed. “She told me I better take THIS call, ... it’s from the President of the United States!”

Other U.S. Presidents, to include Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, also have artwork created by Smolcic but for the last 32 years he has been a frequent guest of the Air Base, creating artwork and making friends along the way.

“George [Smolcic] is as much a ‘Redhawk’ as those that wear the uniform,” said Col. (ret.) Michael Bieniewicz, following the artwork presentation given to the command post. “His work is visible on a daily basis around the operations building or around the base and each is unique.”

With the assistance of Master Sgt. Robert Butler, Smolcic carefully opened

the brown wrapped package before those attending his presentation, pausing to describe how he designed and created his latest piece.

“This was a challenge because I wanted to bring three different elements into one overall design,” Smolcic said.

The etched glass design is based on a compilation of images representing the ‘Ever Vigilant’ motto of a United States Air Force command post, and the mission that the 142nd Fighter Wing undertakes for North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The clock-like design also presents the “Alert, Direct and Report,” at the top with an American eagle in the center.

“I almost gave up a couple of times but then I finally pushed to get it done because I know how much everyone wanted to see the final piece,” said Smolcic.

After the formal presentation, Smolcic elaborated on his fascination with his artwork and U.S. Military aircraft in general.

“Working with the Blue Angels allowed me to work with the Thunderbirds, and I’ve lived here (in Portland) since 1967, so I eventually made friends with many people (with 142nd Fighter Wing) who work here too.”

Like many of his other masterpieces, the new command post glass logo will be on display in the main operations area to visitors for years to come. It is a testament to both his passion in his craft as well as for the men and women ardently supporting the NORAD mission in the Pacific Northwest.

Family Readiness teams with STARBASE to honor Kingsley Kids

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - The 173rd Fighter Wing Airman and Family Readiness Center, State Youth Outreach Program, and the Kingsley STARBASE program provided children of Kingsley Field Airmen an afternoon of hands-on learning designed to be interactive and fun. More than 30 children took part in the second Kingsley Kids’ Day April 7, 2018.

April was designated by former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger in 1986 as the Month of the Military Child. With that in mind, Airman and Family Readiness for the second year in a row chose to honor the sacrifices children of Kingsley Airmen make in support of their parents.

“The impetus behind Kingsley Kid’s Day is to recognize that these kids directly support their parents in mission readiness,” said Joe Scriven, the program manager. “It is an opportunity for them to see what mom and dad are doing every day. It is



STARBASE Teacher Laura Gibson helps children of Kingsley Airmen conduct an experiment with a carnation flower and color dye during Kingsley Kid’s Day, April 7, 2018, at Kingsley Field. The event was part of April’s Month of the Military Child.

also a chance for the wing to say thank you for the sacrifices they often make.”

The children spent the afternoon at STARBASE where they did experiments, painted key chains, and visited the maintenance phase shop. One experiment involved capillary action where a white carnation flower was placed in water with dye, and in under an hour the petals began to take on the color of the dye. STARBASE Teacher Laura Gibson facilitated that experiment and said she loves events for the families of Kingsley service members.



During Kingsley Kid’s Day at STARBASE children of Kingsley Airmen painted 3D printed “rockets” stenciled with “#1 DAD”, and other projects, April 7, 2018.

“I feel that bringing the kids of our families out here is a good way to get to know them over the years and form a relationship, which is something that we don’t get to do with the STARBASE curriculum alone, when we only see a student for a total of five days,” she said.

The Kingsley STARBASE Program Manager Alesha Earnest said the partnership with Airman and Family Readiness, “is a natural fit because Kingsley Kid’s Day is an extension of the DoD STARBASE Kingsley mission and our way to thank the generous, professional service members that serve at Kingsley Field ANG Base.”

The day ended with an award ceremony for the children where they were coined by 173rd FW Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel and took a photo with him.

McDaniel asked the children, “When your parents have to leave for deployments or TDY’s who stay’s home?” After a few scattered responses he said, “You guys are right. It’s all of you, and today we want to say ‘thank you’ to you guys for supporting mom and dad.”



A young participant conducts a chemistry experiment as part of Kid’s Day, April 7, 2018.



Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel, 173rd Fighter Wing Command Chief, pauses for a photo with Nate and Abby Gibson during Kingsley Kid’s Day, April 7, 2018.



Claire Earnest helps set up supplies for Kingsley Kid’s Day at STARBASE where children of base Airmen gathered for a day of fun and experiments, April 7, 2018.



OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

# 116th Air Control Squadron transitions to new equipment module

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

**WARRENTON, Oregon** - The 116th Air Control Squadron (ACS), Oregon Air National Guard, recently transitioned to a new weapons system called the AN/TYQ-23A Tactical Air Operations Module (TAOM), which replaced decades-old operations modules.

The system is designed to help members of the 116th ACS track and control air traffic in a variety of conditions at a moment's notice. Air battle managers and weapons directors are trained to maintain the sovereignty of the skies wherever and

whenever the Air Force deploys. "It's really bringing us into the 21st century as far as the tactical command and control that we perform for our daily operations here as well as downrange," said Maj. Colin Edward Wyatt, director of operations for the 116th Air Control Squadron.

The new system will aid the flow of aircraft for a variety of potential missions to include air strikes, interdiction, airborne refueling, reconnaissance, search and rescue, transport, and dogfights.

"This provides us a lot more situational awareness for the battle space that we control, so basically we bring calm to chaos. We have hundreds of aircraft under our control with millions of square miles of airspace at any given time for our downrange mission," said Wyatt.

The new tent-based module replaces old metal boxes that had a number of inherent limitations in terms of mobility.

"I think the new system is much more flexible and scalable. We were really constrained in the number of operators we could bring to each individual

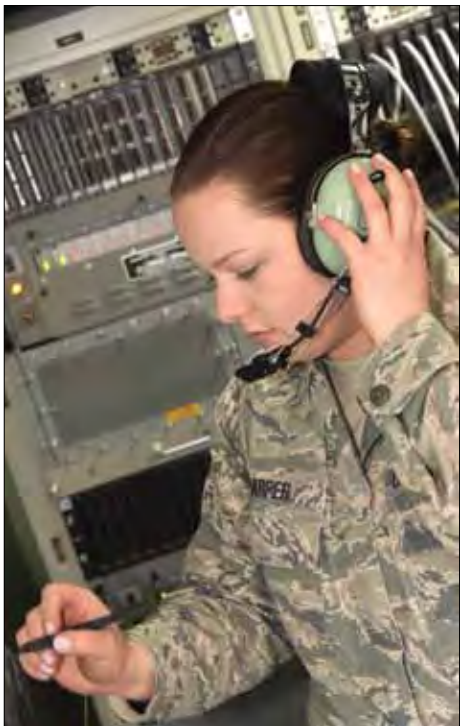
tasking and now we're scalable from 1 to 18 operators in whatever sized facility we can find," said Lt. Col. Victoria Habas, commander of the 116th Air Control Squadron.

As a desktop computer-based system, the AN/TYQ-23A brings in a number of radar feeds and provides a picture on where aircraft are, what altitude they're at and what direction that they're heading, so Air National Guardsmen can relay that information to pilots so they can execute their portion of the mission.

"This technology is really important because it's enabling a new open architecture and a COTS (Commercial-Off-The-Shelf) way of life where we can now pull in faster technologies, we're more agile, we can keep up with the pace of technology, where as we were really hindered in doing that with the architecture we had before," said Habas.

Although the equipment is new to the 116th, many squadron personnel have trained on the AN/TYQ-23A in deployed environments. With the equipment now available at the home station, members of the 116th will have better real-world training opportunities while in garrison.

"We're going to say a bittersweet farewell to the O.M.s because we all have fond memories of toughing it out in there, if you will. It made us tougher, it made us better, we had to forge through challenges the technology brought to us. But we have different challenges now and I think we're entering into a brave new world of network-centric operations," said Habas.



Senior Airman Stacie Harper, a radio frequency transmission systems specialist, inspects instrumentation systems during the unit's drill training, April 7, 2018.



Airman 1st Class Jeff Clark, a ground radar specialist, assigned to the 116th ACS pauses for a photo as he works on a radar system during the unit's Regular Scheduled Drill, April 7, 2018.

# Community partnerships bolster 173rd Fighter Wing mission

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - When American forces needed to train fledgling pilots during WWII, Kingsley Field was born in the Klamath Basin, a small, rural community in Southern Oregon.

Over the next 70 years the base transitioned from an active Navy base, to an active Air Force Base, and then to an Air National Guard base. Over those years, its members lived in town, raised their children, fished, hunted and generally enjoyed living in a small community surrounded by mountains and forests.

Those years have forged a partnership between Kingsley Field and the local community. The 173rd Fighter Wing is the third largest employer in the city of Klamath Falls and it infuses an estimated 80-million dollars into the local economy.

It is vital for the wing's mission as well. Today, the 173rd FW is the sole provider for F-15 Eagle air superiority, bolstered by the largest flying ranges in the Air National Guard, excellent flying weather, and an unparalleled level of support from the local community.

"I think it's probably one of our top three strengths," said Col. Jeff Smith, the 173rd Fighter Wing commander. "Our community literally asks us 'how can we do more to help you', they want to shore



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
A mural by artist, Chris Young in downtown Klamath Falls, Ore., depicting the mission at the 173rd Fighter Wing and its namesake, Lt. David R. Kingsley, a Medal of Honor recipient.

us up ensure that we have a future because we are so intertwined with them inside the local area."

Recently, they did just that. The base's lease was approaching 25 years to expiration. It was important to extend it, because the Department of Defense requires more than 25 years to fund construction projects, and Kingsley Field has ongoing construction projects that support its expanding capacity.

"When they asked us to extend the lease, the first question we had was 'how long can we extend it?' and the Air Force said 50 years," said Klamath Falls City Manager Nathan Cherpeski. He went on to say that they were able to add that time to the existing lease, pushing the expiration

out to 2095.

That relationship helped secure the longest lease of any base in the Air National Guard.

"The partnership is one that works well," said Klamath Falls Mayor Carol Westfall, during a signing ceremony, "We believe it will make our community one of the best places to live and work and be

part of."

There are other advantages to the close relationship with the community. Smith mentioned recent meetings between active duty stakeholders for the active association, including the National Guard Bureau, Luke Air Force Base, and Air Education and Training Command. The meetings served to address concerns, primarily with housing and healthcare arising from the arrival of the active duty Airmen, and how to best move forward. With a week's notice, the mayor, city manager, the city council, and county commissioners all attended the meeting.

"All we had to do is say 'we do need some help' and they came to this meeting with solutions already underway," said Smith.

Among the solutions are plans to develop additional rental properties, as well as programs to increase the number of available primary care providers — all initiatives the city and other agencies have undertaken to support the wing, as well as the community.

"They truly are committed, they truly care. We have a bright future based on that relationship and the willingness to work together going forward," said Smith.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Penny Snoozy, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
U.S. Air Force Col. Jeffrey Smith, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, presents framed F-15 photos to Klamath Falls Mayor Carol Westfall and Klamath Falls City Councilmen, to celebrate the 50 year lease extension, Feb. 19, 2018, Kingsley Field, Ore.

# New 173rd Security Forces vehicles roll out, hit the road

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - 173rd Security Forces Squadron recently rolled out four new law enforcement patrol trucks which came in fully equipped and fit for service.

To strengthen an aging fleet, the 173rd SFS received four new 2017 Ford F150 trucks that came upgraded to the specifications required for security forces to perform their mission upon delivery. The vehicles also include enhanced technology meant to increase safety and efficiency for



officers.

"Typically in the past, they did not come that way," said Senior Master Sgt. Levi Clarey, 173rd SFS operations manager. "We would have to go find the money and have the all of the lights and sirens installed."

Constant maintenance and costly repairs

were needed to keep the dated vehicles mission ready for the demanding daily operations required of the trucks.

"Before the new vehicles came, security forces had five authorizations and every one of their trucks had more than 100,000 miles on them," said Master Sgt. Jimbo Childs, 173rd Logistics Readiness Squadron fleet management and analysis.

"We have had to replace transmissions, and a couple of them were on their second and third motors. Getting these new trucks is going to take a work load off of us."

The first three trucks arrived in December 2017 and the most recent in April 2018. The old SFS trucks have been reassigned and

utilized by other units across the wing.

"We have reliable vehicles and it raises morale," said Clarey. "When you have something nice and new, the guys are happy and take care of it."

"It feels good to come to work and be in a new vehicle," said Gary McCool, 173rd SFS force protection officer.

In addition to the technology, the trucks also feature identifying graphics comparable to civilian law enforcement vehicles.

"The old ones didn't have the police decals on them," said McCool. "A lot of people just see us as security, but we do execute some law enforcement aspects."



FEATURES

ORANG seminar highlights accomplishments and development

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

EUGENE, Oregon – With the arrival of spring, many Airmen of the Oregon Air National Guard took advantage of the improved weather by getting out of town, taking part in a variety of professional development events during a jam-packed, three-day weekend, April 19-21, in the ‘Emerald City’ of Eugene, Oregon.

The confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers made for a natural midpoint and mid-state get-together site for the 142nd and 173rd Fighter Wings, based at opposite ends of the State of Oregon, located in Portland and Klamath Falls respectfully.

“This is an excellent opportunity for both wing’s members to meet and take advantage of a variety of activities and yet,

Topics important to the enlisted force ranged from Enlisted Performance Reports (EPRs) to joint training opportunities and a wide variety of base related issues were discussed. Chief Hotaling, who helped develop the first EPR’s for Air National Guardsmen, offered first-hand feedback during the CAC session.

“The EPR is important for a number of reasons but first and foremost it’s letting your Airman know where they stand currently, while getting that critical feedback as they grow within the ‘Profession of Arms,’” Hotaling said.

Another key topic was enlisted Primary Military Education (PME). The debate over distance learning and academy schools was a pertinent topic, with the recent announcement ending the distance learning prerequisite for in-residency attendance at the Airman Leadership School (ALS) and with the likelihood of other changes

“All of you are here because you’re doing the job and enjoying it,” said Hotaling. “It’s having the right attitude as a leader; it’s looking at the half-full glass, and being a ‘Victor not a Victim’ when overcoming challenges.”

As the morning seminars ended, the attention shifted to the 23rd Annual Oregon Air National Guard Awards Banquet. In past years, the event was held in the evening but taking a break from tradition, it was hosted as a luncheon. The awards banquet allowed all service members to interact with each other over lunch and reflect on the morning’s highpoints. It also set aside an opportunity to acknowledge significant achievements and honors by Oregon Airmen over the past year in a variety of categories.

“Just being able to get away from home ... from some of the normal work situations and day-to-day surroundings, helps to absorb what is being offered this weekend,” remarked Master Sgt. Hannah Mosebach, quality assurance manager with the 142nd Comptroller Flight. “I like the atmosphere, both with the training and meeting new people (from other units) is always worthwhile.”

By Saturday, the workshops focused on leadership imperatives and inspiring trust. The sessions were presented by the 550th Fighter Squadron staff from Luke Air Force Base, assigned at Kingsley Field, Oregon.

Emphasizing the importance of team building, Master Sgt. Colette Roe defined some of the key characteristics that make up success groups, “To be part of a highly functioning team, it begins with getting to know each other. This is where trust begins and is critical to every relationship.”

In describing a variety of themes on trust, such as “Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs,” Roe noted that engagement is essential and constant, especially as people enter and develop in an organization.

“We see this in the military; as new members, that first step of being seen and accepted into the group is central, and as they grow over time in their careers, inclusion and empowerment take shape as they become trusted leaders.”

As the workshops concluded by mid-day, the final events of the weekend turned to the evening’s ceremonies; the “Order of



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Steven Conklin, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. James Kriesel, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (left) along with Chief Master Sgt. Elaina Cole, Oregon Air National Guard state command chief (right) pause for a photo with Staff Sgt. Jennifer Anderson (center) as she receives her award as the Oregon Air National Guard’s Recruiter of the Year, during the 23rd annual awards banquet.

the Minuteman” ceremony and the annual Oregon National Guard Military Ball.

The “Order of the Minuteman” ceremony distinguished two Oregon National Guardsmen that held the top enlisted positions in the Air and Army National Guard, nearly at the same time. Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) James Hotaling and Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Brunk Conely, respectfully were honored for their service to Oregon and the nation. Putting back on the uniform one last time, both top senior leaders were given one final acknowledgment for their long, distinguished careers.

Reflecting on the weekend’s activities and being esteemed for the award, Chief Hotaling emphasized the unique honor it has been to serve in the military, “I miss it nearly every day. I tell people who serve now; if you’re going to wear the nation’s uniform, earn it every day, because you’ll miss it too when you finally leave or retire.”



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

Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel, Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 173rd Fighter Wing, participates in a group discussion during the Chief’s Advisory Council meeting, April 19, 2018, as part of a three-day Enlisted Professional Development workshop.



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

Brig. Gen. James Kriesel, commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, interacts with enlisted Airmen and other senior leaders attending a series of professional development courses, held in Eugene, Oregon, April 20, 2018. The three-day Enlisted Development seminars highlighted Airmen responsibilities, teamwork and management proficiencies.

not be too far from home at the same time,” noted Chief Master Sgt. Mark McDaniel, 173rd Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant, during the Chief’s Advisory Council (CAC) meeting on the first day of the weekend gathering.

McDaniel and other associate Oregon Air National Guard chief master sergeants had the opportunity to interact and discuss a wide range of topics with Command Sgt. Maj. Robert C. Foesch, the current Oregon National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL), and with retired Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) James W. Hotaling, the former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard.



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

Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) James W. Hotaling (left) and Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Brunk W. Conley (right) pause for a final photograph together following the conclusion of the “Order of the Minuteman” ceremony held in both of their honors, April 21, 2018, in Eugene, Oregon. Prior to his retirement from the Air National Guard on May 20, 2016, Hotaling was the 11th command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard.

forthcoming with the Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) and Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA). The news regarding NCOA and SNCOA was made official by Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright on April 26, 2018.

As the senior enlisted leader for the Oregon Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Ulana M. Cole stressed to the group that having the opportunity for all the chief master sergeants in the state to assemble at the same time and place is important.

“As senior members of our organization, we need to set the example,” she remarked to her fellow peers. “It’s critical with changes in the Air National Guard and within our state, like the new tuition assistance bill, that issues affecting our Airmen and their families remains our highest priority.”

The chief’s meetings, completed on day one, helped set the tone and momentum for the balance of the weekend. The agenda for Friday and Saturday featured a series of Enlisted Professional Development workshops with Oregon Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel giving the opening address.

“Let me ask you...what’s the toughest job in the U.S. Military?” a question Kriesel promptly asked to the room of Airmen, just settling down in their seats with hot coffee in hand. “It’s a drill-status senior leader, no doubt about it. And that’s why you’re here, because most of you already know that being a leader means always doing more and leaning forward.”

Programs like the Enlisted Professional Development workshops and other non-drill weekend training periods take an added effort and extra time to prioritize for Guardsmen. As quickly as Kriesel gave his remarks, Chief Hotaling imparted some of his personal observations, dating back to his time with the Oregon Air Guard, all the way forward to his last assignment as the Command Chief Master Sergeant to the Director of the Air National Guard.



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

Members of the Oregon Air Guard’s Chief’s Advisory Council along with Oregon Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Foesch, Oregon National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader, gather for a group photo during their yearly conference held in Eugene, Oregon, April 19, 2018. Members of the Oregon Air National Guard spent a 3-day weekend attending management courses to enhance professional development skills.



FEATURES

Why we serve: The advantages of an Army National Guard career

Story by John Hughel,  
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

**SALEM, Oregon** – A fleet of HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters are positioned at the Salem Army Aviation Support Facility, ready to respond to any number of contingencies throughout the state. Whether it is fighting fires or responding to missing hikers or preparing for overseas missions, Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Pickett knows first hand that readiness is essential to the mission.

For more than 18 years, Pickett has held a number of jobs working full time with the Oregon Army National Guard, starting first with the 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation Regiment, flying in a Black Hawk as a medic. Along the way, he has worked in finance at Joint Force Headquarters and currently as a readiness noncommissioned officer assigned to Alpha Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion.

“It’s kept me prepared as a leader, to manage different programs and people,” he said, detailing some of the diverse positions he has held. “The experiences have allowed me to take on new challenges, grow in my military career, yet also reinforced my desire to finish my college degree.”

With the challenges of military life and off-duty activities like coaching his kids’ sports teams, Pickett is almost finished with his health care administration and management degree online from Colorado State University-Global Campus. His methodical approach, often taking one class at a time, has gotten him close to the finish line.

“I have about 10 more classes or about 18 months left to complete my degree,” he said. “It’s not been easy at times but I have great support at home and I’ve been able to hold a 3.8 GPA (grade point average) with this approach.”

Part of Pickett’s education plan is to combine and build on his military skill sets with his education goals, while also keeping an eye toward life after he retires from the National Guard. With years of experience in the field, his education strategy will reinforce his marketability when he’s ready to hang up his boots.

I’ve watched my peers leave the military and having the education to fall back on became apparent,” he said and credited the savings with the Federal Tuition Assistance Program while being a member of the Army National Guard. “It is an amazing benefit, where a class that might cost \$1,000; I am paying only \$195.00 of that (total).”

Describing some of the takeaways from the coursework, Pickett noted how going to school over this past four years has already made an impact, “It has definitely helped with management of personnel, defining leadership styles, and how to communicate effectively.”

He also credits Ann Browning, the Oregon National Guard’s education services specialist. The resources and experience she provided from day one ‘got the ball rolling,’ he said.

“She is by far, an expert in helping Soldiers navigate their options with programs and education benefits,” he said. “Every question I had, she was able to assist and point me in the right direction.”

Inspired to learn, giving back

Navigating all the education options can be a big hurdle when getting started. With years of experience first as a full-time human resources (42A) Soldier, and using her own benefits concurrently, Browning’s role now as a federal civilian technician is to assist Oregon Guardsmen in implementing the benefits they have earned.

“...Good ole Uncle Sam, and using my G.I. Bill with tuition assistance paid for my education,” said Browning, enthusiastically describing her own experience using education assistance. “I got my bachelors degree (from Corban University) and turned around and finished my master’s

degree in teaching from Willamette University... and left debt-free!”

By approaching education as a key benefit with military service, Browning is a passionate advocate for helping Soldiers use their financial assistance. She estimates that 300 to 400 Oregon Soldiers use tuition assistance each year going part or full time to school.

“Whether someone is an M-Day (drill status guardsman) or AGR (Active Guard-Reserve) Soldier, they can get up to 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours a year paid for with tuition assistance,” she explained.

However, for Air Guardsmen, she said only AGR’s received this benefit, prior to the brand new state tuition assistance program passed by the Oregon legislature this year. With the new state tuition assistance program, all Oregon National Guard members can start targeting their education plans almost immediately this fall. There are plenty of questions service members are asking about the new program but finally, all Oregon National Guardsmen will have a means to funding tuition if they have not qualified for federal benefits.

“It’s a state-run program, so depending on the Soldier and what federal programs they have already qualified for will factor into state assistance,” she said. “But that’s why I want to help everyone take advantage of these benefits because some of them are only available while the member is still serving.”

With retention being a fundamental factor for mission readiness, education benefits are the biggest part of the equation for keeping most Soldiers in uniform. Leadership plays a significant role as well, from encouraging a member to grow with education goals, to applying for commissioning opportunities or simply changing military occupational specialty (MOS).

“You can throw all the money you want at someone but when they get disgruntled - whether it is with their unit or job - they end up getting out,” Browning elaborated. “Members want some type of flexibility in their careers, it could be changing units or picking up a new MOS, but just like choosing a college major - Soldiers want choices.”



Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Pickett, currently assigned to Alpha Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, pauses for a photograph at the Anderson Readiness Center motor pool, Salem, Oregon, May 31, 2018.

Shifting gears, moving forward

Sometimes having an option makes all the difference between staying in the Guard and getting out. When Spc. Tori Bazurto began her military career, it was through the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program at the University of Oregon.

“When I joined the ROTC program, I was a sophomore, so there weren’t any more scholarships available,” Bazurto said, recalling how she was able to pay for college while serving simultaneously in the Guard. “I really wanted to be medic but that was when women couldn’t serve in infantry units, so I took one of the few jobs available: a cook.”

Enrolled in the heavy demands of pre-medical studies, working part time and keeping up with Guard commitments, Bazurto eventually decided to take a break from being a full-time student. She remained committed to her Guard decision and even though being a cook was not her first or even second choice, Bazurto served nearly six years with Company G, 141st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB). She sought opportunities to transfer to other job positions but her unit needed trained cooks.

“I got shut down at every turn,” she said. “I was ready to walk until this new MOS opened up, and I am the only one in the state that has this job!”

When her enlistment contract was coming to an end, instead of getting out, she became a vision technician with Medical Command, Joint Force Headquarters.

“I absolutely love my job and my unit,” she said. “Also, it helped me score my current job as an ophthalmic technician on the civilian side.”

Finding that right niche not only keeps people motivated to serve but, for overall retention and readiness, it keeps trained Soldiers in uniform. In Bazurto’s case, she was able to keep the big picture in sight during her first enlistment while she pursued her overall long-term goals. She is back in college part-time through the American Military University online.

“I stuck it out, and it does get better,” she said revisiting her decision to reenlist. “There were so many benefits; the medical, dental, and with all the education assistance along the way, I haven’t paid a dime (for college) and I’m almost done with my bachelor’s degree.”

A sense of service, higher calling

As much as education benefits or finding the right job are crucial factors in pursuing and staying in a military career, ‘being part of something bigger than oneself’ resonates with many career Soldiers. Often this sense of service develops over the course of a career as training exercises, deployments, and unique missions mark a Soldier’s life.

With more than 15 years of military service as a medic, Sgt. 1st Class Angel Payne, can attest to the journey and challenges of a seasoned military career: from hurricane response operations to deploying to combat environments abroad.

“In 2005, I deployed in response to Hurricane Katrina with Charlie Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, and found myself in the middle of the 9th Ward of New Orleans,” Payne said, recalling her atypical experience as a medic. “It’s still hard to put into words the devastation we encountered.”

Her team relied on their training and readiness that was put in place years before they arrived in the ‘Big Easy.’ The search and rescue operations were only part of the undertakings. Payne said that side missions also kept them extremely involved in the overall recovery effort.

“We helped in restoring a local hospital, assisting in the early ongoing recovery efforts, then helped rescue abandoned animals that were left in shelters,” she said.



Photo by Sgt. John Hughel, OMD Public Affairs

Oregon Army National Guard medic Sgt. 1st Class Angel Payne, pauses for a photo at the Anderson Readiness Center motor pool, Salem, Oregon, May 31, 2018.

Without missing a beat, three weeks later she was responding to Hurricane Rita, another Category 5 storm that hit the Texas coast. The two late summer Gulf of Mexico hurricanes claimed nearly 2,000 lives and tested the entire National Guard’s ability to respond to major domestic disasters.

The lessons learned by Payne and other Oregon National Guardsmen would be called upon to support future Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). In 2006, Payne was deployed for the first of her two assignments in Afghanistan. Working as a medical trainer with the Afghan Ministry of Defense, she was able to connect and aid hundreds of local women and children.

“We were out in the community, helping train the Afghan military,” Payne said. “The work was really tough but I felt like we made a difference on so many levels.”

For her valiant efforts, she was awarded the Bronze Star and was the first female recipient of the Combat Medic Badge in the State of Oregon since the Vietnam War. She is quick to credit others for the opportunities, yet she reflects on a higher ethos for her years of commitment to the Oregon Army National Guard.

“My husband is also a member of the (Oregon Army National) Guard; it’s our life,” describing her approach regarding her military career. “I just couldn’t imagine doing anything else and it simply comes down to a sense of service, pride and just wanting to help our fellow Soldiers.”



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

Ann Browning (left) and Oregon Army National Guard 2nd Lt. Elena Miron, with the Oregon National Guard Education Services Office, pause for a photo at their booth providing information to military families about education benefits during the “Run to Remember” 5-kilometer run/walk event at Salem Riverfront Park, May 19, 2018, in Salem, Oregon.



FEATURES

Dual-military couple finds balance between service and home life

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

**KLAMATH FALLS, Oregon** - Across the United States units prepare to support Air Force missions across the globe. Amidst this dizzying array of logistics, of planning, of communications lies the one key to making all of these missions successful — the people.

Senior leadership recognizes that without the individual servicemembers’ commitment, these missions will not be accomplished. With that commitment often comes sacrifice.

One family at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, is very familiar with those sacrifices. Erin and Daniel Waller are a unique dual-military couple.

Master Sgt. Daniel Waller is an active-duty Airman who was stationed at Kingsley Field with the 550th Fighter Squadron as part of the Total Force Integration. Tech. Sgt. Erin Waller is a traditional Air National Guardsman assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing. Both of them came to Klamath Falls when Daniel was reassigned from Mountain Home Air Force Base to Kingsley Field. Erin then transferred from the Idaho Air National Guard to the Oregon ANG after moving to the state.

The couple has spent the last three years in Klamath Falls, after Erin returned from Turkey. This is the longest stretch they have experienced without a deployment



Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Erin Waller

Master Sgt. Daniel Waller, 550th Fighter Squadron, and his wife, Tech. Sgt. Erin Waller, 173rd Fighter Wing, both serve at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

since they married six years ago.

“That man has been deployed every other summer since we’ve been together, with the exception of the time we’ve spent here,” said Erin, who has deployed overseas three times herself, and attended two separate technical training schools. At their six-year anniversary, they tallied up how many days they have been called away for military duty of some kind.

“He calculated he’s been gone 495 days and that doesn’t include 300-plus of mine,” Erin said.

Ironically, Master Sgt. Daniel Waller is currently assigned on a remote overseas tour that will guarantee one more follow-

on assignment for his family before he reaches retirement eligibility.

Their blended family includes two children, Chase and Gwendelyn, and each of the four are well versed in adjusting to the toll a deployment takes on a family.

Erin summed up what these years have taught her with one word; “flexibility.”

“You have to know when to push, and when to ‘hurry up and wait,’ and when to just be still. Know that it is not in your control, and roll with the punches,” said Erin.

Daniel said he knew in the eighth grade he wanted to serve in the military and he says the last 18 years of service have provided him with rich experiences he can talk about when he’s “an old man.” He went on to say that the time away from family comes at a cost but that he hopes his military experience helps him embrace the time when he is home by being, “truly present and invested in their lives.”

The couple stays connected during these times away through technology, even using Skype to

conduct the interview together.

During the conversation, he listed his previous deployments, which sounded like a laundry list of odd-numbered years, “2005, 2007, 2011, 2013 ...”

Daniel said this last assignment is part of a master plan as he approaches his 20-year mark in service to his country.

“The idea is, I’m at eighteen years. So a year here, and then I can take my family on a three-year tour to Europe for kind of a last hurrah before I hang the uniform up — that seems pretty cool.”

He does note that that his last assignment will likely include another final deployment.

And following that he intends to earn a teaching certificate back in Idaho and become a high school teacher. In the meantime, Erin remains here with their two children and is planning their next moves, even now.



Photo courtesy Tech. Sgt. Erin Waller

Master Sgt. Daniel Waller with his kids, Chase and Gwendelyn, at Crater Lake, Oregon.

Oregon National Guard participates in community events



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers with A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, perform a howitzer salute at the commissioning ceremony of the USS Portland (LPD 27). The USS Portland is the 11th San Antonio class amphibious transport ship and is the second ship to honor the City of Portland, Oregon, and is the third U.S. Navy ship to bear the name Portland. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Zach Holden, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Gary Lewis, a retired Oregon National Guardsman from Portland, Oregon, works on horseshoes and other projects as a blacksmith during Living History Day held at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, May 19, 2018. The Oregon Military Museum held the 22nd Annual Living History Day as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations throughout the country. (Photo by John Hughel, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Fighter Jets fly over Autzen Stadium prior to the University of Oregon Ducks Football Spring Game, April 21, in Eugene, Oregon. Veterans from every branch of service participated in Military Appreciation Day activities during the game. (Photo by 1st Lt Jessica Clarke, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, commander of the Joint Domestic Operations Command, addresses attendees at the annual Memorial Day observance, May 28, 2018, at the Veterans Memorial Park in Beaverton, Oregon. Crosby spoke on the importance of serving fellow citizens, the history of the Oregon Air National Guard and current missions being undertaken by units in the Oregon National Guard. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



FEATURES

Kingsley Field Fire Department triumphs at Seattle Stair Climb

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



Photo courtesy of the Kingsley Field Fire Department

Kingsley Field firefighter Nathan Markee poses in front of the Columbia building prior to his climb up the 69 stories for the Seattle Stair Climb, March 11, 2018.

SEATTLE, Wash. - On March 11, 2018, firefighters from the Kingsley Field Fire Department placed third in the 27th Annual Seattle Stair Climb to raise money for leukemia and lymphoma research. Additionally, Derek Sherrell, assistant fire chief of training placed second in the event with a time of 10:58, three seconds behind the first place climber.

This highly competitive event features more than 2,000 professional, trained firefighters who compete on more than 200 individual teams. Many spend years training for this specific event in the Pacific Northwest.

“The competition is fierce and the goal is to raise money for cancer research, and



Photo courtesy of the Kingsley Field Fire Department

(From left to right) Captain Dan Bigham and firefighters Ryan Barnes and Matthew Knitter, of the Kingsley Field Fire Department, wait their turn to climb up the Columbia building in Seattle, Wash., March 11, 2018.

be the top dog...or top fire dawg!” said Howard Owens, Kingsley Field deputy fire chief.

The event is a 69-story stair climb wearing full firefighting gear and breathing from an oxygen tank. Only the top competitors climb 1,356 steps — 788 vertical feet, without changing oxygen tanks.

This is Sherrell’s 10th year participating in this event.

“He trains daily and encourages and motivates his Kingsley brothers to do the same,” said Owens.

When asked about his accomplishment, Sherrell shrugs it off and tries to shift the focus off himself.

“To me this event means community,” said Sherrell. “It is a way for us, as a fire service family, to come together as one team to raise money and awareness to blood cancers.”

He points to a statistic showing the two leading causes of firefighter fatalities on and off duty are cancer and cardiac related incidents.

“By training for this event and raising money for research, we combat both of these issues,” added Sherrell.

This event also has a personal significance for the Kingsley firefighters. One of their very own firefighters,

Tim Van Leeuwen, was diagnosed with a blood cancer in 2016.

Van Leeuwen has been returned to full duty status, and was even able to participate in the event for the second year in a row as a survivor battalion climber.

“I am inspired to raise money and push my physical limits to show support for Tim, as well as all people who have lost their battles to blood cancers, those fighting the battle today, and all who will be diagnosed in the future,” says Sherrell.

This year’s stair climb was successful in raising approximately \$2.4 million. The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which organizes the event, has raised approximately one billion dollars total for

cancer research.

The individuals that participated with Sherrell in this year’s event included: Captain’s Vince Lombardo, Derrick Laughlin, and Dan Bigham, and firefighters Tim Van Leeuwen, Fred Heavilin, Ryan Barnes, Mathew Knitter, Nathan Markee, and Jesse Mullaney.

“This was a true team event from our fire and emergency services,” added Owens. “Even the members that were not able to make the trip to support the climbers, volunteered to work backfill at home and support the 173rd Fighter Wing mission.”

The Kingsley Field Fire Department is responsible for delivering fire services to the flying mission of the 173rd Fighter Wing, as well as providing mutual aid for the Klamath County community.



Kingsley Field Assistant Fire Chief of Training Derek Sherrell poses for a photo at the top of the Columbia building in Seattle, Wash., after completing the Seattle Stair Climb, March 11, 2018. Sherrell took second place in the event.

142nd Airmen enjoy EOD 5K Challenge



Members of the 142nd Fighter Wing took part in the 2nd annual Portland Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Memorial 5-kilometer Walk/Run on May 5, 2018, at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Oregon Guard hosts Skills USA



Spc. Jeff Hamilton (center), with A Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, observes high school students competing in the robotics competition during the Skills USA state conference, April 20, at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon.

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

CLACKAMAS, Oregon – The Oregon Army National Guard hosted the annual Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Conference at Camp Withycombe, in Clackamas, Oregon, April 20-21, 2018.

Skills USA is a national nonprofit organization partnership of students, teachers and industries working together to prepare youth for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.

“Skills USA gives students an opportunity to experience various skilled trades so they can be on the path to earning a livable family wage after graduating high school,” said Teresa Mankin, Skills USA state director.

More than 700 students from high schools throughout the state tested their skills in job-related competitions. Nearly 65 competitive events were offered, including everything from delivering speeches, technical drafting, digital photography and video production, to robotics, automotive service technology, culinary arts, and even physical tests for firefighting careers.

“We are proud to partner with the Oregon National Guard and very appreciative of their hospitality,” said Mankin. “This is a great opportunity to introduce students to

the careers the National Guard has to offer.”

Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers served as observers and judges for several of the competitions related to their job skills in the Army.

“All of the Soldiers participating are volunteering their extra time to be here mentoring students,” said Oregon Army National Guard Maj. Kristy Harrison, project officer for hosting and supporting the event. “These are all really great kids who are interested in technical careers and chose to spend their weekend here competing. We hope to continue working with Skills USA in the future.”

The Oregon Army National Guard’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion provided a rock wall and inflatable pugil stick arena for the youth to take advantage of during breaks between events. Several recruiters spoke with the high school students about the different types of careers available in the National Guard.

“This event gives recruiters the chance to talk to interested students one-on-one and make personal connections,” said Master Sgt. Adam Griggs, an Oregon Army National Guard recruiter. “We feel really confident about the leads we’re getting. The students seem very interested in how the Guard can help them achieve their goals with job training and education benefits.”



AZUWUR

Oregon’s 41st recognized at National Infantry Museum



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

**FT. BENNING, Ga.** - The hallowed grounds surrounding the National Infantry Museum, near Fort Benning, Georgia, is an honored space in military circles, and Oregon’s most historic unit will forever connect its past, present and future Veterans there with a monument dedicated, April 28, 2018, at the museum’s Walk of Honor.

The former 41st Infantry Division, and the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oregon Army National Guard that now carries its lineage, have many historic achievements to be proud of, including the

longest deployment of any unit in the South Pacific during World War II, and a unit that received the highest award bestowed upon a military unit for heroic actions in Iraq.

“Our patch joins those of historic infantry units and organizations that have made lasting contributions to the United States Army, the U.S. military, and our nation,” said Oregon Army National Guard Brig. Gen. William J. Prendergast IV during the dedication ceremony.

Prendergast commanded the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) before becoming the Oregon National Guard’s Assistant Adjutant General-Army and the U.S. Army Africa deputy commander. He has spent the vast majority of his military career serving with the 41st.

“The monument will provide a place where young members of the 41st can visit to remember the traditions of service and sacrifice they are joining, and all the brave Soldiers who came before them,” he said.

The symbol of the 41st is a sunset patch that past and present Soldiers of the 41st wear on their left shoulder. The unit was nicknamed the “Sunset Division” in 1917 due to its close association with northwest states, where the sun sets on the Pacific Ocean.

Some of the 41st Division’s proudest accomplishments were earned during World War II, where it was the first American division sent overseas after Pearl Harbor, and the first American division trained in jungle warfare. The division spent 45 months fighting overseas, where it was also the first division to confront Japanese Imperial forces in an offensive operation in New Guinea, earning them the nickname “Jungleers.” The tour was the longest of any division in World War II.



Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

World War II Veterans Bud Lewis and Dan Sokol (center), president of the 41st Infantry Division Association, pose for a photo with past, present and future Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team during a monument dedication ceremony at the National Infantry Museum near Fort Benning, Georgia, April 28, 2018.

In 2004-05, a 41st unit received the highest award a unit can receive for their actions in Iraq. Thirty members of the Corvallis, Oregon, based 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, were honored with the Presidential Unit Citation in 2011.

Soldiers from the 41st Division and its successor, the 41st IBCT, have deployed overseas in support of World War I, World War II, peace-keeping missions, multinational training exercises, Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Freedom’s Sentinel. The unit has also provided much needed emergency response and recovery assistance following the devastation of such natural disasters as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“Today is the culmination of almost five years of hard work and dedication to install the 41st Infantry Division’s Sunset Patch on the National Infantry Museum’s Walk of Honor,” Prendergast said.

The current 41st IBCT commander, Col. Eric Riley, was in attendance with others who have helped shape the history of the 41st, including World War II Veterans from the 41st Infantry Division Association

who were able to attend. Riley said he was honored and humbled to have the opportunity to say a few words at the event.

“As we dedicate this amazing monument today, we have among us, the past, the present, and the future of the legendary 41st,” Riley said at the ceremony. “These men here, men from the Greatest Generation, were lethal warriors. They are heroes who understand sacrifice and selfless service. While our composition has changed over years, we carry on the same honored tradition as the first divisional units. We are proud of our history. We train hard and are eager to answer the call when we are needed.”

Several Soldiers currently serving in the brigade were in attendance to represent the future of the 41st.

“They are eager to carry the torch and continue the proud history of the 41st,” said Riley.

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center opened in 2009 with one guiding mission: to honor the legacy and valor of the U.S. Army Infantryman. For more information, visit the website at <http://nationalinfantrymuseum.org>.



Photo by Maj. Stephen Bomar, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

A monument is emplaced at the National Infantry Museum’s Walk of Honor, Section H, to honor the history of the 41st. Elements of the 41st Division were deployed throughout WWI, and the 41st Infantry “Sunset” Division was the longest deployed division in WWII. The 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team draws its lineage from the division. The 41st IBCT mobilized post 9-11 for multiple deployments around the world including Afghanistan and Iraq with the largest mobilization from 2009-2010 to Iraq.

Coast Guard cutter named for WWII hero, 41st history



U.S. Coast Guard photo/video by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Lally

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Snyder received its name from a World War II hero known for his brave actions in defending 41st Infantry Division troops coming to shore on the Island of Biak at the western edge of Papua New Guinea.

Story courtesy Lt. Amanda Faulkner,  
U.S. Coast Guard Mid-Atlantic

**ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C.** - The U.S. Coast Guard commissioned its 27th Fast Response Cutter, April 20, 2018, in a ceremony at Atlantic Beach, North Carolina. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Snyder received its name from Richard “Dick” T. Snyder, of Clyde, Ohio, a name that may be familiar to Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team and Veterans of the 41st Infantry Division.

Dick Snyder is recognized as a Coast Guard hero due to his actions in the Pacific Campaign of WWII. Shipping out as a boatswain’s mate and crewman, he spent the majority of his time on landing craft as they assaulted enemy strongholds and liberated islands across the Pacific.

On May 24, 1944, U.S. forces laid their crosshairs on an island called Biak near Papua-New Guinea, which was to be reclaimed by the 41st Infantry Division. Petty Officer Snyder was assigned to the Navy’s Beach Party #6, the first unit on the beach. He and his shipmates planted a foothold and directed the flow of thousands of troops, tons of supplies, and a multitude of vehicles.

In the opening hours of the landing, American troops were pinned down on the beach by Japanese forces. Petty Officer Snyder demonstrated forceful initiative, cool courage, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave danger as he grabbed grenades, and under fire, neutralized the enemy.

Snyder was awarded the Silver Star, and was entitled to six bronze stars on his campaign ribbons, which included the

Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

“As much as we are here today to celebrate our new cutter, we are here to celebrate the life of a very special man,” said Lt. Andrew Norberg, commanding officer of Cutter Richard Snyder. “There is no telling how many lives Richard Snyder saved through his brave actions during World War II, but we hope many more will be saved by crews aboard the new cutter named in his honor.”

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Snyder was taken from the Bollinger Shipyard in the bayous of Louisiana to sea trials in Key West, Florida, to her new hometown in North Carolina’s Crystal Coast town of Atlantic Beach.

Fast Response Cutters feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment that allow their crews to more effectively conduct the Coast Guard’s statutory missions.

The 154-foot patrol craft will be used to conduct fisheries enforcement, search and rescue, and port security missions from Charleston, South Carolina, to New York City. A diverse crew from Florida to Michigan, to Alaska and even Guam mans the cutter.

“As the vessel’s first commanding officer, I am honored to lead the vessel’s plank owner crew and to breathe life into the machinery and steel frame of her hull,”



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nate Littlejohn, U.S. Coast Guard District 5

Coast Guard Lt. Andrew Norberg, commanding officer of Cutter Richard Snyder, presents a commemorative gift to Danielle Snyder during the commissioning ceremony for the cutter in Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, April 20, 2018. Danielle Snyder is the granddaughter of the WWII hero Richard Snyder for whom the new cutter is named.

said Norberg. “For the past seven months, the crew and I have been training at various schools across the country to learn about how to operate and maintain the ship’s advanced systems.”

Snyder’s children, Dane, Doug and Dee Smith, joined the commissioning ceremony. His granddaughter, Danielle, is the ship’s official sponsor.

“My crew and I are proud to pay homage to his legacy in our work and our missions; U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Snyder will be a living acknowledgment of his service,” said Norberg. “Your unit [the 41st] is an important part of that legacy, too.”