



OREGON SENTINEL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

COVID-19 Joint Task Force Reassurance



Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Michelle Rodrigue of C Company (Medical) 141st Brigade Support Battalion, cleans a Hospital Bed in the Emergency Room of Sunnyside Medical Center, Clackamas, Ore. Sept. 4. Rodrigue's first day of work is part of a 1,500 National Guard Force assigned to Oregon Hospitals to help with nonclinical duties due to statewide hospital staff shortages.

National Guard photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, OMD Public Affairs

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Bangladesh host Disaster Response Exercise & Exchange

Story and Photos by
Master Sgt. John Hughe
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

DHAKA, BANGLADESH - Sitting where three tectonic plates meet, Bangladesh is one of the most active seismic regions in the world, with the Earthquake Disaster Risk Index ranking Dhaka among the 20 highest cities at risk on the planet. The 2021 Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) held here from October 26 to 28, focused on the dual disasters of earthquake management during pandemic conditions.

More than 300 representatives of 147 organizations and nearly 30 countries participated in this year's three-day conference and tabletop exercise. Attendees included representatives from government, military, and non-government agencies listening to subject matter experts address and interact with DREE participants.

"Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, and in the past cyclones and floods affected our country severely, and were many lives



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Denise Phillips, a delegate from the Oregon National Guard, discusses disaster management for Gender and Vulnerable populations with others attending the 2021 the Bangladesh Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) at Dhaka, Bangladesh on Oct. 26, 2021.

were lost," said Brigadier General Md Golam Faruque, Director, Bangladesh Military Operations Army Headquarters, during the opening of DREE 2021. "Over the years, our nation has made significant progress in the preparations in the face of disaster management and has been recognized worldwide."

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COMMAND

The Adjutant General's holiday message

As we enter the heart of the holiday season, it is important to take time to reflect on our blessings throughout the past year. We have much for which we are thankful and much for which to be proud. Chief Master Sergeant Conner and I thank you for making the Oregon Military Department, the Oregon National Guard, and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management the outstanding organizations they are, as you continually strive for excellence whether serving at home or abroad. This past year has been a busy one, with missions supporting the Covid-19 pandemic, wildfires and Afghan refugees, as well as successfully accomplishing many other training requirements. With your hard work, dedication, and selfless

sacrifice, we have been able to live up to our motto: "Always Ready, Always There!"

As you spend time with family and friends over the holidays, I would ask each of you to remember the Oregon National Guardsmen serving on federal missions stateside and overseas. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers, as we look forward to their safe return in the coming year.

We also ask that you look out for each other. Although the holidays are a time of great joy, they can also bring personal stress and challenges. We have numerous programs ready to assist with any situation, so please do not hesitate to use the resources we



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



have available. In addition, as the harsh winter weather approaches, as well as the many festivities that accompany the holiday season, please keep safety at the front of your thoughts.

Proud of our accomplishments, exciting year ahead

The past year has been dynamic to say the least. Service members of the Oregon National Guard, both Army and Air, have continued to be the force multiplier for our active components. We have mobilized in record numbers to support domestic operations and served in more unique roles than ever before. We have continued the no fail homeland defense mission and despite COVID restrictions, sustained and strengthened partnerships with our assigned state partners.

Our State and Nation depend on us like never before. We have proven to be invaluable and I expect our operational tempo to continue. Oregon service members have a lot to be proud of. The training we provide and receive has proven to be exactly what we need to serve our Nation, State and local communities. With

that said we need to encourage innovative ideas to advance this training in order to always stay ahead of any threats.

This year TAG published a Strategic Approach that was truly a collaborative effort including each component. The approach provides us with three very clear priorities that which all goals and objectives should nest. This is the exact guidance we need to continue our success. I have also published a nexus to these priorities with our Senior Enlisted Leaders that will lead to a strengthened trust in our chains of command.

We have an exciting year ahead of us with a good foundation and direction. Most importantly we have dedicated leadership teams that are ready to lead and serve. I'm incredibly proud to serve with our Oregon National Guard,



Command Chief Master Sgt. Daniel C. Conner, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Oregon National Guard



you should be too. Have a joyful holiday and a propitious passion for the New Year.

Hope for the Holidays - The State Chaplain's message

What gives you hope? Not necessarily in the wishful sense, like, "I hope I win the lottery." Or, "I hope I get a new car for Christmas, with a big bow, like those commercials." But, rather, how do you know that things will work out for good? For many of us, our hope for the future and strength for today is rooted in our spiritual and religious beliefs on the nature of the universe and how we find our place in it. (This can also be a primary driver for how we see our vocations in the military as we work for good and the welfare of others.) The holiday season, as we generally mark it from Thanksgiving to New Year's, plays a prominent role in the past and ongoing story of the way things are and the way things should and will be.

An upcoming episode of the Hope in the Trenches podcast will feature Dr. Tom Plante, who authored this short piece some

years ago: The Holidays Can Be an Opportunity for Great Hope www.scu.edu/illuminate/thought-leaders/thomas-plante/the-holidays-can-be-an-opportunity-for-great-hope.html.

He points out the fact that the winter months are characterized by colder temperatures and shorter hours of daylight. Yet during this time we celebrate Thanksgiving and other religious holidays that are marked by joy and the exchange of gifts. "The message," he writes, "seems to be: Within great darkness there is light."

My prayer for you all is that you are blessed during this season. May your work be meaningful for you and a blessing to others. And, finally, may you find hope and joy and always know that you are not alone.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jacob Scott, Sate Chaplain, Oregon National Guard

COMMAND

Director of the Air National Guard visits Oregon ANG Bases
Portland Klamath Falls

Story and Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Steph Sawyer
142nd Wing Public Affairs

The Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh visited the 142nd Wing at Portland Air National Guard Base, here Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Loh started his tour by meeting with Col. David N. Unruh, 142nd Wing commander, who briefed him on the wing's unique and dynamic mission set.

As the director of the ANG, Loh is responsible for formulating and overseeing all plans, policies, and programs for 140 Air National Guard bases, employing more than 108,000 service members across the United States and its territories.

By visiting the individual bases, Loh gains insight into the mission, capabilities and challenges each one faces.

Throughout the day, Loh visited various shops and spoke with leaders about their roles in state and local missions.

Loh, along with wing and Oregon ANG leaders, also had the opportunity to observe the new police bumper grapppler utilized by base Security Forces.

The grapppler is designed to deploy, attach to, and stop a vehicle that poses an imminent threat to safety and/or security. It offers a more controlled and therefore safer alternative to the Precision Immobilization Technique or "PIT" maneuver, which involves making contact with the side of a vehicle, causing the driver to lose control and skid to a stop. This maneuver is often employed by law enforcement to stop run-away vehicles.

PANGB is the first ANG base to obtain this device. Loh was given the opportunity to see first-hand how the mechanism functions from inside the operator's vehicle.

Loh also visited the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, one of only two STS's in the ANG. Special

Tactics Airmen showcased their Joint Terminal Attack Control simulator, vehicles, and a variety of equipment, as well as talked about the multifaceted nature of their mission.

Loh made time to sit down to lunch with 142nd Wing junior officers. The group shared their personal experiences and discussed goals and challenges unique to the ANG.

Later, Loh took some time to recognize and coin outstanding Airmen of the Wing. In an address to the Airmen, Loh expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices made by the ORANG members and their families in order to serve the state and local community, especially in difficult and challenging times.

Airmen, he acknowledged, are the driving force behind mission success.

"It's about Airmen...it's about leading great Airmen, it's about taking care of Airmen, it's about doing what we need to do because we don't accomplish the mission without them," Loh said.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Director of the Air National Guard, has lunch with Airmen with the 142nd Wing during a base tour, Portland, Ore., June 24, 2021.

It's an opportunity when leadership visits Airmen at their duty stations and in their shops because it allows leaders to get to know and understand the individuals that are carrying out the day-to-day mission, and it lets Airmen know that they are seen, heard, and appreciated for what they do.

Unruh reflected on the tour, saying, "We had a great visit with the director. It was a time where the Airmen of the 142nd Wing were able to interact face to face with national leadership."

Story and Photos by
Senior Airman Adam Smith,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

On an unusually hot Friday at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, U.S. Air Force Col. Jeff Edwards, 173rd Fighter Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, Oregon Air National Guard commander, assembled on the ramp to welcome the Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, as he stopped to visit Kingsley Field on June 25, 2021.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh (left) Director of the Air National Guard, describes a challenge coin to Master Sgt. Scott Sundseth (right) at Klamath Falls, Ore., June 25, 2021.

Loh joined senior leaders from around Kingsley Field to receive updates about the local fighter training mission, discuss issues with maintenance, and lay out his vision for the upcoming transition to the F-15EX Eagle II, slated to begin in 2023.

Among the issues discussed was the challenge of training students to fly 40-year-old jets, which present more maintenance issues as they age. According to Lt. Col. Lee Bouma, 173rd Maintenance Group commander, as more jets reach their end of life, maintainers must work harder to keep the remaining jets operational to meet the training quotas.

Following lunch, Loh toured the operations building where he spoke to pilots, presented coins, and saw the simulator setup that student pilots use to practice flight maneuvers from the ground. He also stopped through the intelligence formal training unit to meet the intelligence students and see how they learn at the 173rd Fighter Wing.

From there, the General's party stopped in the maintenance hangars to see first-hand the maintenance issues that the Airmen face with keeping the F-15 operational. Loh climbed on top of the Eagle to see how the jet is inspected for metal fatigue.

The non-destructive inspection Airmen described the microscopic cracks that develop as the jets perform high-speed maneuvers which, while invisible to the naked eye, can weaken the aircraft structure and make the jet unsafe to fly.

Loh finished the day by visiting the new Resilience Operations Center (ROC), a purpose-built location focused on reshaping the stigma around mental health and seeking guidance. The ROC includes a kitchen, discrete entrances, space for classes, and private noise-insulated meeting rooms.

As he finished his tour, Loh said he was impressed by the Kingsley Airmen, saying "The integration of Total Force between the Guard and the Active Duty and what they do for national defense has been wonderful."

He continued to praise the local guardsmen, adding, "It's the Airmen, the people that truly make it happen, and I greatly appreciate all the work that they're doing to keep these forty-year old planes flying and to keep the mission running and training our next generation of fighter pilots."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael A. Loh, Director of the Air National Guard is briefed on a simulator that students with the F-15 Formal Training Unit use to practice maneuvers, June 25, 2021 at the 173rd FW.

Change of Command marks transition in 142nd Wing leadership

Story by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Oregon Air National Guard Col. Todd A. Hafford assumed command of the 142nd Wing during a change of command ceremony held here, Dec. 5, 2021. Hafford assumed command from Colonel David N. Unruh, who will be taking a new position in A3 operations at Joint Force Headquarters, while serving as a drill status guardsman.

Presiding officer, Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, Oregon Air National Guard commander, was present to officiate the



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yuki Klein, 142nd Wing PA Col. Todd A. Hafford salutes Oregon ANG Commander Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, as he assumes command of the 142nd Wing.

ceremony. Prigmore praised outgoing commander Unruh's commitment amidst difficult circumstances.

"Your wing commander met every challenge he faced, with a steady and calm approach," said Prigmore, "whenever he spoke of successes within the wing, he relentlessly gave all the credit to you."

As Prigmore gave her remarks during the ceremony, she also mentioned her experience of working with Hafford, and praised his enthusiasm, his dedication to the Guard and to the country.

"Both Colonel Unruh and Colonel Todd Hafford have been exceptional Air Force Officers," said Prigmore, "...they are the epitome of professionalism and it's been my honor to serve alongside both of you."

As he relinquished command, Unruh took a moment to thank the Airmen he led.

"When I look at you in the eyes, I see a greatly virtuous people and I'm so glad to serve with you," said Unruh.

When the incoming commander came to the podium, he addressed the men and women of the 142nd Wing.

"I am your servant. My role is to trust and care for all that you do," said Hafford. "For every challenge, there are opportunities and together we will adjust to the major challenges facing this wing. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with you."

NEWS

Continued from Front Page

Prior to Bangladesh's independence in 1972, the Bhola Cyclone two years before still ranks as the deadliest tropical cyclone ever recorded and one of the world's deadliest natural disasters, claiming over 500,000 lives.

"The nation has made critical changes over the past 50 years with Cyclone shelters and investments in other protective infrastructure projects and preparedness measures," said Gen. Faruque.

Abdullah Al Arif, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief emphasized this point, during his presentation on the opening day, noting that the Asia and the Pacific region is globally positioned to natural disasters. "A person living in the area is 4 times more at risk than those in Africa and 25 times more than in Europe or North America to environmental adversities."

The DREE concentrated on earthquake preparedness, as Bangladesh is vulnerable to seismic activity of the Indian Plate, the Eurasian Plate, and the Burmese Plate; each able to generate a massive earthquake in the region. In his prepared summary for the DREE conference, Mr. Al Arif stated that a 7.0 earthquake or higher around Dhaka City would need international assistance in the immediate aftermath, with more than 50% of the buildings being in jeopardy of collapsing.

"The government of Bangladesh has made significant achievements in Earthquake management such as guideline regulations, risk identification, community building and engagement of volunteers," he said, "We should continue to work as a 'Whole of Society approach,' towards building an earthquake resilient nation."

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Chris Herion works with others in a cell groups as part of the table-top exercise during the second day of the Bangladesh Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange, Dakra, Bangladesh on Oct. 27.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Md Enamur Rahman, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief said that 2.4 million people were evacuated within just one day during super-cyclone Amphan in 2020 to many of these cyclone shelters while overseeing mitigation procedures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Larger scale disasters like earthquakes are due to the country's location and history of devastating events," he said, noting that nearly 50 earthquakes on a smaller scale have occurred in the region over the past six years. "This reminds us to make the necessary

enhancements for response and risk reduction."

Learning from recent disaster response efforts and sharing best practices is one of the fundamental objectives with the annual DREE meetings. With the theme of this year's conference being "Resilience Through Preparedness," Mr. Richard Ragan, the World Food Program (WFP) director for Bangladesh, addressed readiness as a key factor with the recent 7.8 Earthquake that struck neighboring Nepal in April 2015.

The WFP established a Humanitarian Staging Area just one month before the earthquake next to Kathmandu airport in Nepal. Regan said that this staging area assisted survivors to receive emergency supplies much faster, especially with Nepal being a land-locked country.

"We saw how essential this was for the movement of supplies in and out of the country," he said, noting each nation in the region has different constraints. "In creating humanitarian staging areas for earthquakes, we are doing the same thing in Bangladesh by preposition supplies near the airport."

Regan said that this allows survivors to receive emergency supplies much faster than waiting until disaster strikes. "Having that key intimate command surge capacity organized, and in-place with people and supplies is critical."

In summarizing the need for food assistance, Regan compared the total United Nations annual spending of approximately 50 Billion in U.S. Dollars for Humanitarian assistance, development and peacekeeping work.

"Nearly 9 Billion dollars a year is spent for food around the world for disaster response each year," he said. "We have an entry point into nearly every household in a crisis because we all have to eat."

This year DREE was conducted in reduced size in Dhaka city due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the 10th annual engagement between the Government of Bangladesh and the United States Army Pacific. Bangladesh is also affiliated with the Oregon National Guard under the National Guard's State Partnership Program.



Brig. Gen. (ret.) Azazul Bar Chowdhury, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, provides feedback in the media cell table-top exercise during the 2021 DREE at Dhaka, Bangladesh on Oct. 27, 2021.

Oregon Air National Guard Chief Master Sgt. Denise Phillips represented the U.S. military for the DREE, speaking on Gender and Vulnerable populations during a pandemic. She said that even with the limited size for this year's DREE, she came away from the experience motivated about the future for women in Bangladesh.

"The biggest takeaway for me were the conversations that took place with younger people after the presentation and question and answer session," she explained. "The effects of the pandemic have created economic stress in families, especially toward women, but I found that there are real pathways of change and pathways of hope with this next generation."

Being able to meet in person allows for these types of interaction during breaks or as the day's presenters conclude formal remarks. For Phillips it provided an opportunity for meaningful and in-depth conversations.

"These younger people are eager to make a difference," she said. "Helping to open that dialogue for future leaders who want to be part of effecting change was inspiring on many levels. This was a meaningful opportunity to allow them to open up and also not feel alone."

On the second day, attention shifted to experience sharing from other countries before breaking into 13 different focused groups for a table-top exercise based on a 6.8 earthquake scenario in Dhaka city. At the conclusion of the day, each group presented their reports to all the participants, helping bridge some of the major issues where each group can help support other agencies in a real natural disaster response.

On the final day of DREE 2021, Mr. Nathan Rodgers from the Institute for Security Governance in the United States led an After Action Review of many of the significant accomplishments from the presentations and table-top exercise.

"When we talk about benefits for events like the DREE we talk a great deal about building trust, or the expression we like to keep in mind is, 'You cannot surge trust' in times of an emergency, it has to be already established," he said.

The feedback session also highlighted citizen preparedness, military and civilian partnerships and learning from best practices.

"There is a common understanding among the emergency management community that being out in front of any situation is vital," Rodgers recapped. "You have to determine whether you are 'Going through it or growing through it.'"

A formal closing ceremony allowed dignitaries and guests to highlight the importance of meeting face-to-face again for this year's DREE.

"Exercises like DREE reflect real world disaster scenarios and offer valuable opportunities to improve civilian and military cooperation," said Mr. Earl R. Miller, U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh during closing remarks.

"For over five decades now, the United States has been committed to supporting Bangladesh, and I am really proud of these joint efforts, especially over the past two years because ultimately -- they help save lives."

Mr. Earl R. Miller, U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh provides remarks during the closing ceremony for the Bangladesh Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange 2021, at Dhaka, Bangladesh on Oct. 28, 2021.

NEWS

Oregon Guardsmen participate in Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Story by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd
142nd Wing Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. - Following a monumental season of wildfires, ice storms and the pandemic over the past year, emergency preparedness has become less of an afterthought and more of a necessary priority to Oregonians in particular.

Members of the Oregon National Guard have served on the fire lines during the wildfires of 2020 and are currently spread out across the state to serve the public at mass vaccination sites.

"Many of our members, being citizen-soldiers, come from many of the medical facilities around Oregon and so have been deeply impacted by Covid and taking care of Covid patients," said Lt. Col. Torree McGowan, Medical Element Commander of the Oregon CERFP. "When the Governor asked us to stand up mass vaccine sites, two-thirds of my unit volunteered to go and administer shots."

Hundreds of Guardsmen gathered the week of June 13, 2021 at Camp Rilea, Oregon on the North Coast, to step up to train during a multi-day emergency preparedness exercise to sharpen their skills in case another large-scale disaster impacts Oregonians or their neighbors.

Many participants have civilian careers which connect to their emergency-specialized service, like emergency room physicians, EMTs, firefighters, police officers and pilots. Other members are stay at home parents, marketing professionals and telecom specialists.

One common thread is a heart of service.

"It's been a tremendous opportunity to impact the health and safety of our community, because that's what we do as Guardsmen, that's why we put on this uniform," said McGowan.

Setting up for emergency operations, exercise or not, is a time-sensitive affair, a logistics puzzle with dozens of vehicles and trailers filled with specialized emergency aid equipment all required to be in place within hours of a disaster. In the first 20 minutes, dozens of vehicles assembled on base in a thoughtful pattern and got to work.

Service members donned their protective HAZMAT suits pulled out of bright red duffel bags, and went through technical decontamination procedures with instruments designed to detect harmful particles. Role-players from the community simulated various maladies to test the expertise of the emergency professionals.

Both Army and Air Guardsmen worked together to set up their respective equipment modules like tents, buckets, caution tape, litters, generators, communications equipment and more. After setup was complete, members started doing triage, search and extraction, decontamination and providing simulated medical care within the glowing lights of a temporary, purpose-driven and mobile mini-city.

The group is called the 102nd

telecom specialists.

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Oregon Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Defense Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and is a part of the Homeland Response Force, established by the Department of Defense. The CERFP is designed to deploy within 6 hours of notification using a phased deployment. They have the ability to integrate with first responder teams, as an augmentation, or can operate in a standalone capacity.



Photo by U.S. Air Nat'l Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Campbell, 142nd Wing

Guardsmen from the Oregon Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) conduct mass casualty decontamination operations on non-ambulatory casualties.

According to the National Guard Bureau, the 102nd CERFP provides incident response at the direction of the Oregon State Governor. Their mission? To save lives and mitigate human suffering during an emergency.

"This training allows you to get in a headspace where you can think about the decisions you're going to have to make and the pace at which you'll make them to ensure you're prepared mentally and physically to take on the

work and get a victim out safely," said Spc. Margaret Ward, combat engineer for the CERFP.

A CERFP is composed of drilling soldiers and airmen from existing National Guard units or organizations. Training is part of a certification and evaluation process to ensure members are ready to respond at a moment's notice.

The specialized unit has medical triage, mass-decontamination, combat-security, and specialized search-and-rescue capabilities.

"We know we have a mission that requires a lot of coordination, a lot of moving parts, so it's been nice learning from and getting to know the other branches," said Ward.

In addition to spanning multiple services, CERFPs are capable of self-deployment by ground transportation if a disaster happens nearby, or air-transportable by C-130 or larger aircraft if far away. CERFP equipment can also be transported by rail or watercraft if the situation requires a more specialized approach.

As the exercise evaluation wrapped up, specialized teams presented the group with a disaster scenario. With stopwatches in hand, the teams tested the group's ability to respond to simulated disasters in real-time.

"We come from our communities, we're drawn from our communities, we represent our communities and we want to be there for our communities on their darkest day," said Lt. Col. Evan D. Hessel, 102nd CERFP Commander.

142nd Civil Engineers Squadron get valuable training in Hawaii

Story and Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Steph Sawyer
142nd Wing Public Affairs

OAHU, Hawaii - The 142nd Civil Engineer Squadron's fire fighters and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians recently completed two weeks of annual training at various locations on the island of Oahu, Hawaii this May.

Many of our civil engineers came to the island to build cabins for the Girl Scouts of Hawaii at Camp Paumalu in Hale'iwa as part of an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) mission. The IRT program enables the military to work with eligible civilian agencies to obtain valuable training and work experience while simultaneously providing a service for a community.

Other civil engineers sought training and collaboration opportunities in various locations throughout the island. At Hickam Air Force Base, power production technicians serviced various pieces of equipment in addition to the duties performed for the IRT.

EOD technicians from the 142nd worked alongside their active duty counterparts at Hickam as well as the Asia Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center (APCFC), a military organization that provides training programs and information regarding counter-IED measures in the Pacific theater.

EOD director, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sadler said this experience has been instrumental in providing



Fire fighters from the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing conduct a live fire exercise with Marine Corps fire fighters at Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, May 14, 2021.

a realistic training scenario for EOD technicians. For Portland especially, this training is valuable because it takes members outside of what they're used to which impacts how their tasks are ultimately accomplished.

"Even things like just the environment out here- it's a different environment than what we're used to training in. The vegetation is very different and it's little things like that, that create challenges when you're detecting with mine sweepers, when you're doing ground-penetrating radar," said Sadler.

Working with the APCFC gives EOD technicians the opportunity to focus on the Pacific theater, gaining knowledge and experience on some of the differences in devices and the challenges associated with those differences.

The final aspect of this particular mission was the opportunity to work

with the EOD active duty component. Co-training is unique and highly advantageous for military members in any branch or career field. It's a chance for members to share perspectives and experience in order to enhance mission readiness and effectiveness as well as build and develop professional working relationships.

"Providing the realistic training environment and simultaneously being able to work with some of our partners out here and just being able to capitalize on some of their expertise and knowledge of this theater has been a really great opportunity to broaden our horizons a little bit," said Sadler.

In another location, our fire fighters took advantage of a training opportunity with the Marine Corps fire fighters at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) from May 9-22. During this two-week period, both Airmen and Marines trained on aircraft familiarization, gained hands-on experience, and implemented egress procedures.

One of the benefits of Portland fire fighters training at MCBH is accessibility to resources. This factor directly impacts the type and

the quality of training that can be accomplished, said 142nd Wing fire chief, Master Sgt. Alan Duval.

"They have the space, they have the air frames, they have a live aircraft trainer for live burns that we don't have so this is kind of instrumental training that we don't get all the time," said Duval.

In addition to space and equipment, co-training gives both groups a unique opportunity to share and learn from each other's experiences and backgrounds.

Throughout training, Airmen and Marines were put on the line together in order to get the most



Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians from the 142nd Wing assess a structure during field training at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, May 18, 2021.

from this training. The Marine Corps and Air Force may differ in their tactics, techniques, and procedures, but the end goal of saving lives and protecting property is the same for both branches.

Between all of their training and real-world missions in Hawaii, the 142nd CES made a sizable impact on mission capability and efficiency.

NEWS

Oregon Governor joins celebration for National Guard's 385th Birthday

By the Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

CLACKAMAS, Ore. - Oregon Governor Kate Brown visited Camp Withycombe on Dec. 13, 2021, taking part in a demobilization ceremony and recognizing Oregon National Guard members mobilized around the state that were activated to support hospitals during the COVID-19 Delta surge.

Governor Brown, along with Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, also talked with service members deployed overseas and around the U.S. during a video chat prior to the ceremony. During the video calls, they both thanked the Guardsmen for their service and wished them happy holidays.



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, OMD Public Affairs
Gov. Kate Brown takes time to meet and talk with Oregon National Guard Soldiers following a demobilization ceremony held at Camp Withycombe, Oregon, Dec. 13, 2021.

"These past two years have shown the resiliency and dedication of our Oregon National Guard members, their families, and their employers," said Governor Brown. "When Delta surged, the National Guard stepped up and went into our hospitals and our long-term care facilities when they needed help. And this was after door-to-door winter storm support, wildland firefighting, and deployments both overseas and domestic."

"I cannot overstate how much of a difference this mission has made in keeping Oregonians safe and healthy. This mission has deployed more than 1,600 Oregon National Guard members—that's our second-largest domestic response ever (only Hurricane Katrina resulted in a larger deployment). The National Guard has shown Oregonians time and time again that no matter the mission, they are ready and willing



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, OMD Public Affairs
Gov. Kate Brown and Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, talk with Oregon National Guard Soldiers deployed overseas and around the U.S. during a live video chat from Camp Withycombe, on Dec. 13, 2021.

to do extraordinary things, and be the heroes we need."

Governor Brown and Maj. Gen. Stencel took time following the ceremony to personally greet service members as part of the National Guard's 385th Birthday commemoration.

Wildland Fire training prepares Guardsmen for impending season

Story and Photos by
Master Sgt. John Hughe
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. - The 2020 wildfire season in Oregon was one of the most devastating and costly for the state while also impacted other Western states; all during a surge in the coronavirus pandemic. The fires burned more than a million acres of land, destroying homes and businesses, and claimed the lives of 11 people.

To prepare for the current season the Oregon National Guard completed initial Wildland Fire Certification training for more than 110 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to become "Red Card" certified at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center from June 21-25, 2021.

In recent years the training had been conducted at the Department of Public Safety and Standards and Training in Salem, but this year the training was held at Camp Rilea.

"In some ways, we had forgotten about coming here [Camp Rilea] and having the Oregon Military Department as a resource for this type of training," said Army Master Sgt. Chris Ross, the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-charge for the Wildland Firefighting training.

"We wanted to keep things organic to the National Guard and that everyone in our organization could be part of the training."

The five days of training culminated in a live-fire field burn, replicating the type of work that members would be called upon if activated for Wildland fire support later this summer.

"Everyone being trained this week is one of the last groups we have prepared for the season," Ross explained. "We'll have over 500 people ready to go if we get called up, so right now is just coordinating all the moving pieces -- going from the classroom stage to the final



Oregon National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen use hand tools during initial "Red Card" certification training held at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon, during five days of training from June 21-25, as they prepare for the upcoming fire season.

hands-on live burn exercise before we send everybody home."

If the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) needs people and other resources, the Oregon National Guard will quickly be able to step in and send ready-trained members to locations around the state without delays from the required training.

With refresher training already conducted for most of the Oregon National Guard members early this



Oregon National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen conduct initial Wildland firefighter "Red Card" certification training held at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 24, 2021.

season, Julia Johnson, a trainer for the Oregon Military Department (OMD) had been teaching these one-day sessions. She works full time at the Biak Training Center near Redmond and was one of the many OMD Forest Officers working with the newly trained Guardsmen.

"You never know how a fire season is going to be until you get the starts," she said, looking around the mixture of plant life at Camp Rilea. "The indicators with the fuels right now is that it's very dry, not just here but around the state."

This is the main part of the training: An overall focus to hands-on live burn exercise before we send everybody home."

prepare service members with all the factors that account for fire conditions and how to work and survive in dangerous conditions. Some of the in-class training involved topography, and weather-related issues with atmosphere stability, winds, and clouds. Risk management and radio communications are also introduced and are as important as the hand tools, fire hoses, and fire shelters that members worked with in the field training.

"A majority of the work we do is at our own sites, but we're here from all over the state to train military members," said Jennifer Laib, who works at Camp Umatilla as an OMD Forest Officer. "This is a lot of new information and it's all new to them as a group, so we make sure we go over everything in detail during this whole week of training."

Oregon Air National Guard Senior Airman Selina Rodriguez, assigned to the 142nd Wing, was one of those newly trained and certified Wildland fire fighters. As she attentively worked to roll up a fire hose, she noted that the training was thorough and challenging.

"We are getting plenty of hands-on training and everyone learns each aspect of the mission."

All of the training is fast-paced but necessary to give the Soldiers and Airmen not only the knowledge they need but the confidence to take on hazardous fires.

"These have been some really long and grueling days to get everything done in this timeline," said Ross. "With this group, there's a good balance of soldiers and airmen -- so I am sure they have learned something about themselves, each other, and the other branch of service too."

The familiarity with each other after a week an intense training will also come into play if members are activated in the future. Wildland firefighting is built on teamwork, situational knowledge, and good communication.

Prior to last year's deadly fire season, the Oregon National Guard had activated nearly 1,800 Oregon



Oregon National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are trained on a variety of tools and firefighting equipment during "Red Card" certification training held at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., June 24, 2021.

Guardsmen during a five years span from 2015 to 2020. Governor Kate Brown's emergency declaration orders during this period include; the Canyon Creek Complex in the Malheur National Forest in 2015, the Chetco Bar Fire in 2017 Kalmiopsis Wilderness, and the Garner Complex Fire near Grants Pass in 2018.

Drawing on past experience, preparing and training now is critical, said Stephen Bomar, Director, Public Affairs for the Oregon Military Department.

"As an Oregonian and moving into this hot weather, it's good to know our Guard members are trained, ready, and able to support and respond should the need arise."

NEWS

2021: Another exceptional year for the Oregon National Guard

Story by Master Sgt. John Hughe
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - As the year began, Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced the activation of the Oregon National Guard to assist with the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations. Guard members worked alongside their civilian counterparts to support mass vaccination sites around the state. By June, Oregon Citizen-Soldier and Airmen had administered approximately 400,000 vaccines.

To further expand the impact of vaccine rollout, Oregon Guardsmen also were activated to assist 211info, a local nonprofit organization helping area residents' methods to identify, navigate and connect with the local resources and questions concerning the COVID-19 vaccine.

Oregon National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, throughout the past year have been called to respond time and again for overseas deployments and homeland response missions. In doing so they have exemplified the assurance to the citizens in the state, region and nation they are, 'Always Ready, Always There!'



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, OMD Public Affairs
Oregon National Guard Airman 1st Class Yvette Rascon, assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing, administers the COVID-19 vaccine during a mass vaccination clinic at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon, April 19, 2021.

"As the combat reserve of the Army and Air Force, we are trained and equipped to fight our nation's wars, but in times of emergency, those same people, training and equipment provide us the ability to respond to our communities when they need us most," said Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

In the wake of the insurrection at the U.S. Capital, Oregon Soldiers assigned to the 1186th Military Police Company along with members from the 1-186th Infantry Battalion were mobilized to support the 59th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20, 2021. They were part of 26,000 National Guardsmen making up Joint Task Force District of Columbia, supporting local and federal officials through May 23, 2021.

During the evening of Jan. 18, Gen. Hokanson caught up with many members of the 1186th Military Police Company while they were on their security mission for the U.S. Capital near the White House.

"First of all...it's great to see you guys, when did you get here?" he said, eager to see fellow Oregonians in uniform -- and on mission. "I've been in the Oregon Guard for 25 years and worked with some amazing people, can't thank you enough for your service."



Photo by Master Sgt. John Hughe, OMD Public Affairs
Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment stand at attention as they are formally mobilized during their deployment ceremony, Albany, Oregon, April 25, 2021.

As spring approached domestic operations turned toward overseas deployments when 130 Soldiers assigned to Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment were mobilized to support the European Deterrence Initiative as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve. They were formally mobilized on April 25, during a ceremony at West Albany High School.

The Oregon service members are training alongside Poland army troops, as well as troops from the United Kingdom, Romania and Croatia. The plan is to deter aggression in Eastern Europe.

"We're going to be doing some training exercises, some live fire training exercises and mounted maneuvering exercises, as well as practicing individual soldier skills," said Capt. Cody Comerford, a member of Alpha troop, whose mission is to deter aggression in Eastern Europe.

In the late summer and early fall, additional Oregon Army Soldiers were also heading out the door for deployments abroad. The 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment mobilized 10 members in September to help support the United States European Command



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Holden, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson, chief, National Guard Bureau, takes a selfie with Soldiers from the 1186th Military Police Company, Oregon Army National Guard, before beginning their security shift near the White House in Washington, D.C., Jan. 18, 2021.

that will be working with active duty counterparts and other NATO partners.

In November approximately 75 Oregon Army National Guardsmen from Bravo Company's 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment,

and maintenance support members from the 145th Brigade Support Battalion reported to Fort Bliss, Texas.

The Oregon Soldiers combined with two companies from Montana National Guard's 168rd Infantry Regiment to Task Force GRIZ. The three combined companies will train together in Texas before departing for Qatar in early January of 2022 for a 9-month deployment to support the United States Central Command.

While these Guard members were being deployed overseas, others were being called up to support domestic operations in Oregon and elsewhere around the United States. National Guard Soldiers and

Airmen had been a major part of Operation Allies Refuge, routing American citizens through Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan by August 31.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Trinity Carter, Operation Allies Welcome
Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. and Spc. Gabrielle Wilkinson, Soldiers assigned to 224th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, gives out toy donations Team Rubicon collected during Operation Allies Welcome on Camp Atterbury, Indiana, December 19, 2021.

The Department of State-led effort transitioned into Operation Allies Welcome as Guardsmen assisted Afghans relocating to the United States.

On November 15, roughly 250 Oregon National Guard Soldiers were mobilized for Operation Allies Welcome to support operations at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, one of eight military installations set up to receive nearly 65,000 Afghan evacuees. The Soldiers assigned to the 1186th military police company and 224th Engineering Company will be deployed for the next year, and are assisting with transportation and logistical support, as well as medical care, safety, security, and other day-to-day needs.

Closure to home, massive wildfires scorched large areas of the west coast from California to Washington, to states further east in Montana and Wyoming. Here in Oregon, fires burned nearly 600,000 acres during the 2021 wildfires season. Oregon Guardsmen were activated to fight several fires around the state, including the Rough Patch Complex that had three wildland firefighting crews and Bootleg Fire in Southern Oregon.

Touring the response efforts on July 28 in Klamath County, Oregon Governor Kate Brown met with the incident command staff, local officials, firefighters and



Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Department
Oregon National Guardsmen unload from their military vehicles to begin a morning wildland firefighting shift in response to the Bootleg Fire in Jackson County, Oregon, on July 29, 2021.

National Guard members involved in supporting firefighting operations.

"The Bootleg Fire underscores the need for our state to have more boots on the ground," said Brown. "I am grateful for the hardworking fire crews on the ground, our Oregon National Guard members providing support, and all those contributing to the response efforts."

With service members coming off the fire lines, others were being mobilized by Aug. 20, to help with nonclinical work and COVID-19 testing in 20 hospitals. Initially, 500 members were mobilized, as Governor Brown authorized

more than 1,600 Oregon National Guard members to support these operations along with the Oregon State Hospital through the end of 2021. Troops working at area hospitals have helped elevate depleted staff members, especially during the spike in COVID-19 infections due to the Delta variant.

"We get a lot of thanks from both the employees, visitors and patients," said Master Sgt. Sara Wassam, a member of the 142nd Wing, and was assigned to Providence St. Vincent Hospital

in Portland. "I probably haven't been thanked so much in my career."

On Dec. 13, 2021, Oregon National Guard leadership took time to thank service members around the U.S. and those deployed overseas as part of the National Guard's 385th Birthday during a video chat from Camp Withycombe, Oregon. Governor Brown and Maj. Gen. Michael Stencel, Adjutant General, Oregon, recognized service members for their dedication to another year of conscientious work.

"You and your families have made incredible sacrifices this past year, hopefully now that the holidays are here, you can enjoy some down time together and a well-deserved break," said Stencel. "Thank you again for continually stepping up to serve your nation and communities."



Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, OMD Public Affairs
Certified nursing assistant Cheri Knott teaches room cleaning protocols to Pvt. Aaron Marton and Spc. Jeremy Roe of 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, Oregon National Guard at Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg, Oregon, August 21, 2021.

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND REGIONAL EVENTS

Oregon Guardsmen support Joint Task Force Reassurance

Story by Master Sgt. Aaron Perkins
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Over the last 20 months, the U.S. and world has been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, as millions worldwide have been impacted in one way or another from the virus. The state of Oregon was no different. This past year was one for the history books for the Oregon Air National Guard. It was one of the largest domestic activations for the Oregon Air component, as the 142nd Wing, out of the Portland Air National Guard Base, activated 323 members. An additional 50 members from the 173rd Fighter Wing at Klamath Falls were also activated.

Describing the mobilization mission of helping front line hospital workers, 1st Lt. Simpson said, "As an Airman having been assigned to a smaller clinic, I feel that my presence was appreciated by medical staff," said Oregon Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Aleec Simpson. "I was given the opportunity to learn new skills using a computer-based system called EPIC, which allowed me the ability to check



U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. N. Daniel Delgado

Oregon Air National Guard Senior Airman Brian Plank, 116th Air Control Squadron, Camp Rilea, Ore., provides temperature screening services at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in support of Joint Task Force-Reassurance. The Oregon National Guard mobilized 1,588 service members and provided over 300,000 labor hours in support of over 20 hospitals across Oregon.



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Sgt. Juan Denmark of C Company (Medical) 141st Brigade Support Battalion, Oregon National Guard moves a Hospital Bed in the Emergency Room of Sunnyside Medical Center, Clackamas, Ore. Sept. 4. Denmark's first day of work is part of a 1,500 National Guard Force assigned to Oregon Hospitals to help with nonclinical duties due to statewide hospital staff shortages.

Daniel Delgado, a Air Liaison Officer for Joint Task Force-Reassurance said, "From August to December, the peak manning of mobilized Guard-members, both Army and Air was 1588, which provided over 300,000 labor hours to more than 20 hospitals across the state."

The jobs they accomplished consisted of non-clinical patients in, and schedule appointments. This allowed medical staff to focus on their patients and other tasks with more focus."

Simpson also noted that the opportunity to be there to support the hospital staff was vital in this relief effort. "A huge take-away for me was the people. I made it my goal

to carry positive energy with me daily, and remind those I was working with both patient and medical staff that we can do hard things if we just work together."

Similar to other first responders and volunteers around the nation, mobilized Oregon Guardsmen faced challenges while on mission to help Oregon hospital's staff to decrease the COVID-19 patient infections.

"One challenge I felt I needed to overcome was the amount of emotional fatigue I experienced on a daily basis," said Simpson, describing the toll it has placed on frontline health workers. "It was one thing to see on the news the hundreds of



(Right) Oregon Army National Guard member Spc Trenton Morris holds a challenge coin he received for his exemplary work as part of the hospital relief mission during an awards ceremony at Salem Health Hospital in Salem on Dec. 7. The ceremony honored high-performing guard members for their work during the guard's Hospital Relief Mission that started in August 2021 and is ending this month (U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)



U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. N. Daniel Delgado

Oregon Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Conner Meling, 142nd Communications Flight, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore., provides temperature screening services at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in support of Joint Task Force Reassurance.

people COVID had an impact on, but then being placed in a role where I assisted medical professionals, by testing and treating hundreds of patients was a completely humbling experience."

One front-line leader of the hospital mission, Oregon Air Guard Chief Master Sgt. Kristen Miller, the Noncommissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) at Legacy Good Samaritan in Northwest Portland, expressed similar sentiments.

"In my position as NCOIC, the Volunteer Services (Main Liaisons) were incredible and we were treated so well and made part of the Good Sam Team. Their gratitude at all levels was not taken lightly," she said, reflecting on the mission.

the local Oregon hospitals that benefited from the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who served alongside them, a number of guard members made some full-time career changes as a result.

When asked specifically about if the front line guard members or leaders benefited from the mission, Chief Miller enthusiastically said, "Absolutely, to include decisive career change decisions to pursue nursing; making connections with new people and building friendships; helping patients and families through the most difficult days of their lives; clarity on the hospital worker stresses first hand; and overcoming personal fears and discomforts about hospitals."

As a senior team leader, Miller was able to see the growth and leadership skills of her members also expand during the activation.

"Watching our Airmen in action -- helping the nurses during significant medical



U.S. Air National Guard photo by 1st Lt. N. Daniel Delgado

Oregon Guardsmen performed myriad tasks including sitting and transport, environmental services, temperature screening, restocking supplies, and augmenting hospital security in support of Joint Task Force-Reassurance.

situations in the units, as well as seeing our members going above and beyond to assist distraught family members during "End of Life" visits was moving."

"All of us felt like what we were doing was very important to these exhausted providers, administrators and volunteers."



U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Maj. W. Chris Clyne, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon National Guard Sgt. Daniel Koualeff of B Company, 741 Brigade Engineer Battalion, Helps hospital staff restocking supplies at Sunnyside Medical Center, Clackamas, Ore. Sept. 4. Koualeff's first day of work is part of a 1,500 National Guard Force assigned to Oregon Hospitals to help with nonclinical duties due to hospital staff shortages statewide.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon ANG conduct air combat training with Navy counterparts

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

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing is hosting Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 37 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va. are conducting dissimilar air combat training (DACT) from August 10-21 at the Portland Air National Guard Base.

VFA-37's F-18 Super Hornets are flying in collaborative exercises with the 142nd Wing's F-15 Eagles during a two-week training event that provides realistic combat scenarios for pilots to hone advanced aerial tactics. The exercise is an essential component to ensure military readiness in support of national and state missions.

According to Col. David Unruh, 142nd Wing commander, DACT is mutually beneficial to the Navy and the Oregon Air National Guard.

"Most people see us as a small guard presence on the side of the international airport in the pacific northwest, but our competitors are always watching," Unruh said.



Col. David Unruh, Oregon Air National Guard, Portland, Ore., 142nd Wing Commander, participates in an afternoon briefing, Aug. 10, during a training exercise.

"When we train with a larger scale force, particularly that of different aircraft, we are trading roles and are able to come out as more efficient pilots on the other side."

In movies, the job of a fighter pilot is the stuff of legend, and sometimes it's easy to see why. However, Unruh puts these training exercises into a different perspective.

"This is an unforgiving environment because it's life or death in the real world," said Unruh.



F/A-18C Super Hornets assigned to the Ragin' Bulls of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 37, go through pre-flight checks before a training event at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Oregon, Aug. 10. Va.

Unruh added that the integrated training helps pilots hone their skills.

"We get up early, put in extra hours, and work on weekends because there is no such thing as a neutral outcome in our combat. The purpose of the training is to make us better and to always ask, 'how good am I, really?'" explained Unruh.

Lt. Cmdr. Richard Stolworthy, a Navy fighter pilot with Strike F i g h t e r

Squadron 37, agreed that the integration training is worthwhile.

"When we train with the same pilots in the same aircraft, at the same base every day, we don't get the same opportunity to see the strengths of our aircrafts, and to exploit the weaknesses of other aircrafts," said Stolworthy. "We also learn how other services operate so if the time comes where we need to operate in a joint environment, the transition is more seamless."

Stolworthy added that along with the sunny summer weather and natural beauty of the state, coming to Oregon is beneficial for a couple of other reasons specifically related to training.

"The over water ranges are larger here on the coast, which allows us to set up intercepts at ranges that are tactically significant. There are

miles and miles of sterile air space so we don't have to worry about anyone else flying around our pilots," Stolworthy said.

The training flights depart from, and land, at the Portland International Airport, and are conducted in approved airspace from the Oregon coastline to eastern Oregon.

Unruh emphasized that despite the need for this relevant training, it would not be possible without the willingness of everyone involved to make it happen.

"As much as I love flying, it's not about the jets or the airspace.



A F-15 Eagle with the 142nd Wing, takes off during a training event at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore., Aug. 10. The Oregon ANG 142nd Wing is hosting Strike Fighter Squadron 37 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va.

It's these military members from across the country, all walks of life and backgrounds that pull it together and do what's needed for mission readiness and accomplishment. That is what's so impressive about the military; people will get up and put on their country's cloth and think about making it better. I am very proud of everyone participating in this training and I look forward to their growth in these next two weeks."

173rd Fighter Wing leverages off-the-shelf technology to help student pilots

Story and Photos by
Master Sgt. Jeff Thompson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.- Aspiring F-15 Eagle drivers arrive at the 173rd Fighter Wing to work through what many call the most challenging course in the Air Force—the B-course.

The sole F-15C schoolhouse for the U.S. Air Force, located at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., requires a tremendous investment on the part of students who successfully navigate its syllabus and step into the slim ranks of fighter pilots.

For the instructor cadre developing these future pilots requires keeping a constant eye on technology's role in shaping the newest members of the fleet.

Lt. Col. Julius Romasanta is an F-15 instructor pilot who is also a commercial passenger airline pilot, when he's not wearing his military uniform at the wing. He explains that pilots prepare for a mission by visualizing the process from start to finish before ever stepping to the aircraft.

"We all 'chair-fly,'" he said. "It's the most important thing we do to get ready for any mission."



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Martin Sipe, an F-15C student pilot, flies the F-15 Eagle in virtual reality alongside 173rd Fighter Wing F-15 instructor pilot Lt. Col. Julius Romasanta, at Klamath Falls, Ore., Oct. 12, 2021.

He goes on to say that "chair-flying" is the process of using the imagination to mentally prepare oneself, picturing in the mind's eye each step from taxi to landing. Although this process of visualization is important, it has its drawbacks, chief among them the fact that the visualization isn't real, it's a best guess as to what a given situation will look like.

For example, imagining how it will look to approach a tanker aircraft for a student's first attempt at air-to-air refueling is usually very different than the reality.

Romasanta addresses this drawing from both his military

and civilian training.

He's bringing a new tool to student pilots at the wing he calls enhanced chair flying. With a standard laptop c o m p u t e r , joystick, throttle control and some virtual reality goggles, which are available at electronics or gaming stores can fly simulated

every student missions from their desk or at home.

"When I say 'chair-flying', I normally mean you can imagine how your mission is going to go," he said. "Well now, you can actually fly the mission and experience it, while controlling the aircraft for yourself."



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Julius Romasanta, an F-15 instructor pilot at the 173rd Fighter Wing, describes a maneuver to student pilot 1st Lt. Martin Sipe, which he will execute using a virtual reality simulator, Oct. 12, 2021 at Kingsley Field.

OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

142nd Wing Fighters conduct joint training with Navy anti-sub aircraft

Story and Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Boyd
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - Members of the U.S. Navy Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 10 joined up with the 123rd Fighter Squadron of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing to conduct ongoing familiarization training. More than seven coordinated training flights have been conducted between the two groups at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon throughout 2021.

This training allows participating aircrews to work alongside aircraft with differing capabilities to better learn how to track and counter attacks from adversarial forces in various simulated scenarios.

"It's like constantly putting a puzzle together to locate an adversary and stay with them," said Lt. Daniel Cushman, P-8A Poseidon naval flight officer from CPRW-10.

The Poseidon, the Navy's modernized patrol and reconnaissance aircraft and replacement to the P-3C Orion, is designed for a wide variety of maritime missions. Based on the Boeing 737, the P-8A is manned by three pilots, two naval flight officers and four enlisted sensor operators. Conversely, the 142nd Wing's primary airframe is the F-15 Eagle, a tactical fighter aircraft



Courtesy photo provided by the U.S. Navy

A U.S. Navy Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing (CPRW) 10 P-8A Poseidon flies next to an Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagle of the 142nd Wing to conduct ongoing familiarization training. More than seven coordinated training flights have been conducted between the two groups at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon throughout 2021.

designed to fly combat missions and maintain air superiority.

Flying missions together with CPRW-10, the fighters and reconnaissance aircraft have dissimilar capabilities, which allows the two groups to assume different roles, helping each component accomplish critical training requirements.

When playing as the adversary in a given scenario, the 123rd Fighter Squadron acts as a maritime strike platform. This allows P-8A aircrews to effectively practice dynamic defensive tactics in a realistic environment.

"Our primary mission is Anti-Submarine Warfare, we drop

sonobuoys (devices designed to detect underwater sounds and transmit them via radio) to provide position, course, and speed information," said Cushman. "We also can perform an ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) role with our sensors onboard that leverage radar, cameras onboard, and can exploit an RF (Radio Frequency) to accomplish that mission set."

For CPRW-10, the goal of the training is to become comfortable operating in a joint environment and to provide realistic situations for the aircrew that mirrors what they may experience while deployed.

"The more we can understand each other when we need to, the better," said Cushman.

Part of the training included the fighter squadron calling out specific distances between the aircraft so the aircrew could get a visual understanding of safe maneuvers versus aggressive flying procedures they may experience from adversaries while conducting a mission.

"The desired training of our work with the P-8 [is] to familiarize the P-8 aircrew to what non-dangerous fighter escort activity looks like," said Lt. Col. Joel Thesing, a pilot with the 123rd Fighter Squadron. "It's important to teach the aircrews what normal ranges and escort procedures look like so they can more positively identify non-normal or dangerous activities."

"The training is realistic; we're learning a lot ... it helps to know what we're going to see in the plane, ten miles out, [or] one mile out from an engagement," Cushman recounted.

Familiarization training with different airframes and services proves to be a critical advantage in real-world situations.

"We train like we fight. Familiarization ideally would not happen in a real-world contingency situation. A real-world mission is when we should draw upon our familiarization training and employ with what we know," said Thesing.

173rd FW show off Total Force flying training

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. - Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of Air Education and Training Command, visited here Aug. 12 for his first look at the Total Force mission and Airmen of the 173rd Fighter Wing.

Team Kingsley highlighted how they execute the important mission of training the Air Force's newest F-15 Eagle Drivers while preparing to transition to the F-15EX in the near future.

"At the end of the day, though we talk about the F-15C and the F-15EX, our nation's asymmetric advantage is our Airmen, and it is showcased in our professional NCO corps," he said. "You have examples all over this base, and I recognized a number of them today. NCOs that are leading way above their pay grade, outside their job description, and they do it with enthusiasm because they can orient on the mission. This is the key to victory."

Webb toured the maintenance facilities and had a chance to discuss the successes and challenges F-15C maintainers face when supporting the more than 40-year-old aircraft.

"It's always invigorating to see dedicated Airmen everywhere that I visit," said Webb. "Their motto 'Land of No Slack' is not just slogan, it is a culture of excellence ingrained within Team Kingsley."

After touring the maintenance facilities, Webb had lunch with



Oregon ANG Senior Airman Joseph Rodgers, explains the challenges faced by the non-destructive inspection team.

173rd leaders and Airmen. The Airmen had the chance to ask questions and share their thoughts with Webb during the break.

After lunch, the team went to the operations group, which is the heart of the F-15C schoolhouse. Webb saw the state-of-the-art facilities and classrooms, and met with student pilots and instructors.

"The number one core mission of the Air Force is air superiority and it enables the success of the rest of the joint team," said Webb. "The F-15C is fundamental to that mission, and so training and developing that foundation here is what makes this unit particularly important."

After visiting the schoolhouse, the team headed over to the 550th Fighter Squadron. It is the active duty component at Kingsley Field and the largest Total Force active association in AETC.

"The Total Force arrangement we have here seems seamless," said Webb. "Walking around today I couldn't tell who are Guard, and who are active duty Airmen. That's a mark of real integration success."

New 142nd 100 Meter firing range revealed

Story and Photo by
Airman 1st Class Yuki Klein
142nd Wing Public Affairs

PORTLAND, Ore. - The 142nd Security Forces Squadron (SFS) officially announced the opening of their new 100 meter indoor firing range during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon, Dec. 3, 2021.

This momentous occasion was celebrated with a touch of flare—

caution tape substituted the ribbon and instead of a traditional cutting of the ribbon, it was shot at by Oregon Air National Guard commander, Brig. Gen. Donna Prigmore, and 142nd SFS commander, Lt. Col. Ryan Barton.

During the event, Prigmore shed some light on the dedication of the 142nd SFS defenders.



"It's so gratifying to me to see not only this facility here, but when I look at the main gate, and the improvements that have been made there, when I look at the vehicles that you now have, that six years ago were nothing like what you see out there today— I am so glad that we're taking better care of our defenders," said Prigmore. The new range was built to replace the 25 meter outdoor

range on the southwest side of the base. The use of the outdoor range has been largely contingent on atmospheric conditions to include weather as well as available daytime and nighttime hours. When the range is in use, the west end of the base is made inaccessible for safety reasons. This often impacts other aspects of the mission as work centers, the base running path, and the gym are located in this area.

Barton introduced the new arms range, emphasizing its contribution to improving the training of the 142nd Wing members.

The indoor firing range allows defenders to train unconstrained by outdoor lighting or weather conditions. The SFS now has the ability to simulate a variety of lighting conditions to include strobes and flashing lights. Additionally, shooting can be conducted without hindrance to the mission being carried out elsewhere.

The new 100 meter range also allows shooters to train to the full capacity of their weapon systems. The primary weapons used by SFS are the M4 and M9 which have firing capacities up to and exceeding 50 meters.

The new range allows defenders to obtain high-quality shooting experience on a more consistent basis, enhancing readiness.

"You've built a more proficient defender that is prepared to operate in any environment that they may see," said Barton. "and we get that from the indoor range."

FEATURES

National Guard Best Warrior Region VI winners stem from Engineer units

Story and Photos
by Master Sgt. John Hughel
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

WARRENTON, Ore. – With nearly 20 events on the schedule to determine the top Enlisted and Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) in an eight-state district, the Region Six Best Warrior Competition for 2021 was hosted by the Oregon National Guard at Camp Rilea, May 4-7, 2021.

Army Guardsmen from Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington took on four days physically demanding and intense conceptual challenges to determine the finalist, who will represent the region at the upcoming national-level competition later this summer.

In the NCO level, North Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. Brandon Wendland, 957th Engineer Company won, and in the Enlisted Soldier category, Wyoming Army National Guard Spc. Aiden Carroll, 133rd Engineer Company took top honors.

Oregon Army Guardsmen Sgt. John Mayer, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment and Spc. Trevor Foster, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment both finished runner-up in their respective categories.

Often times the weather can play a tough competitiveness factor with temperature extremes, intense winds and rain but for the Best Warrior Region Six event, the conditions were nearly ideal thought-out the 2021 competition.



North Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. Brandon Wendland (left) and Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. John Mayer (right), take on the final event of the 2021 Region Six Best Warrior Competition.

The opening day events had the Soldiers in physical fitness gear and being tested on portions of the new Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, then changing into their Class A's for testing and appearing before formal boards.

Over the preceding days, the Soldiers were qualified on small arms weapons, Rucked Marched twice, conquer early morning land navigation routes, pushed themselves through the main obstacle course and numerous other challenges in-between on limited sleep and rest periods.

The culmination on the final day pressed the 16 competitors into the most rousing events, beginning with an early morning 12-mile final Ruck March and quickly transition to the “Mogadishu” event. For this situation, each state team worked in duo's under heavy smoke and other training ordnance, then making their way through the MOUNT training village to find simulated wounded casualties and move them to air medevac rescue.

For the final event, the Pacific Ocean and shoreline provided the perfect stage for the “Omaha Beach” event, evoking the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. Taking Omaha was to be the responsibility of United States 1st Army, 5th Corps' and was portrayed in the movie, “Saving Private Ryan.”

As the Soldiers ‘stormed the beaches,’ they quickly ran to a station where heavy ammunition canisters waited, then carried the two canisters up and over a high sand dune, and then, run the route back to the shoreline with a final sprint to the finish. “It was a blast, we're all sore and tired but I really had a great time,” said Washington Army National Guard Cpl. Iver Nitz, Medical Detachment, also joking on the climate conditions for the week. “The

Marched twice, conquer early morning land navigation routes, pushed themselves through the main obstacle course and numerous other challenges in-between on limited sleep and rest periods.

The culmination on the final day pressed the 16 competitors into the most rousing events, beginning with an early morning 12-mile final Ruck March and quickly transition to the “Mogadishu” event. For this situation, each state team worked in duo's under heavy smoke and other training ordnance, then making their way through the MOUNT training village to find simulated wounded casualties and move them to air medevac rescue.



Army National Guard Soldiers participating in the 2021 Best Warrior Competition for Region 6 gather for a group photograph and celebrate after finishing their last event, “Omaha Beach,” along the Pacific Ocean at Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Ore., May 7, 2021.



A National Guard Soldier competing in the 2021 Best Warrior Competition for Region 6, moves through a training course of smoke and other training ordnance May 7, at Camp Rilea.

weather was great too, but that's because we brought it south with us from [Washington] home.”

For winning their categories, both Wendland and Carroll were presented with the Army Commendation Medal by the Oregon Army National Guard Land Component Command team, Brig. Gen. Gregory Day and Command Sgt. Maj. Lee Smith.

“You all know, there are those Soldiers who just make it through basic training and struggle to show up on time during drill weekends, but you all characterize the best of the best, said Day. “Each of you represent the Army's core values, and are going to be our future senior leaders.”

The overall goal of the Best Warrior Competition is to recognize the top performing Soldier and NCO, but Smith said that the competition also characterizes the Army's values and the Warrior Ethos among the participants.

“Throughout the week, I was impressed and inspired by each of these competitors,” he said. “They pushed each other to bring out the very best in themselves.”



Kingsley Field Firefighters load fuel into a burning structure during a “Burn-to-Learn” event in partnership with Klamath Falls, Oregon on Dec. 8, 2021.

these initial fires at a certain point to avoid burning the entire structure.

“Practicing skills in a live-fire environment is critical to being prepared to fight a fire at Kingsley,” said Howard Owens, the Kingsley Field Fire Chief. “This also builds the partnership

with the primary agency that will support Kingsley during an emergency; we are staffed to mitigate small incidents—for a large-scale event we would need assistance through mutual-aid.”

And so this process bears directly on a real-world scenario where firefighters from District One and the base would work shoulder-to-shoulder as a team.

The final step in the “Burn-to-Learn” process was to start a number of fires throughout the structure and observe the ensuing inferno while protecting the local area, including trees and pasture land.

Owens says the value of the training runs from observing how building construction influences fire spread, radio communication between the team, to effective nozzle choice for best suppression.

In addition to furthering the partnership with the local fire district, five firefighters also met an Air Force requirement for live-fire training in a local venue, rather than traveling to Travis AFB.

FEATURES

Two Team Kingsley Airmen to represent ANG at USAF Marathon

Story by 1st Lt. Morgan Lindsay
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – On September 18, 2021, over 10,000 runners representing all 50 states and multiple foreign countries will participate in the 25th annual Air Force Marathon. Among them will be two Team Kingsley members, Capt. Kristine Raudy, 173rd Medical Group, and 1st Lt. Jared Boyer, 173rd Fighter Wing.

Raudy and Boyer will be representing the Air National Guard as part of an intra-Air Force Marathon competition pitting 10 members from each Major Command, as well as the Space Force, against each other. Called Challenge Teams, members of these teams will complete either the full or half-marathon, and results are calculated into a final score. Team ANG won first place in 2019 and second place in 2018.

Boyer, who works full-time in the 173rd Comptroller Flight, applied to be a member of the ANG team after prompting from 173rd Fighter Wing Command Chief, Dominic Ingle.

“My first reaction was no, there are younger, faster runners than me,” said Boyer. “I actually passed the opportunity to other Kingsley runners that I thought could do it.”

After considering the application process a chance to learn what's expected of a Challenge Team competitor – and assuming he wouldn't be chosen – he decided to apply. “I believe the most learning comes from trying and failing, so I thought, why not?”

Boyer received a shock in July when he was notified that he'd been selected as a team alternate runner. Less than a week later he got a second surprise – a half-marathon runner on the team had been injured and Boyer needed to fill the slot.

Boyer said his first thought about going from a team alternate to a team runner was to offer the position to the other team alternates. “If one of them was younger and faster, I thought they should be the runner,” he said. “I thought about it more, and then I thought about what my daughters would think of me doing this, and my dad. And I also thought, don't cap myself – don't fall into thinking that age 40 should look like this; so I decided I'm going to do this and do my best for my family.”

For many at Kingsley Field, Boyer is a familiar face at the gym or on the trail. His name is synonymous with activities such as the Run Doctor clinics, the Oregon National Guard's Best Warrior Competition, Kingsley's Health Education Awareness Team (HEAT), and the newly-installed base fitness trail.

“I come from a family of nurses and doctors – we're all into helping people,” he said. “When I started running I had eight years of pain and suffering trying to figure it out, so I want to help

others be better runners without going through what I did.” Programs like HEAT, and bringing the Run Doctor to coach runners to embrace better form, allow Boyer's helpfulness to shine.

When a second runner on the ANG team was injured and a female alternate wasn't available, Boyer helped fill the last-minute slot by recommending another avid Team Kingsley runner to the team. Raudy found out she'd be running the half-marathon less than five weeks before the race.

Raudy, a full-time physician's assistant in Bend, Oregon, was ready for the challenge. She competed on the elite All-Guard Marathon Team for over a decade before moving from the Alaska Air National Guard to attend college in Washington State, and then joining the Oregon Air National Guard.

When asked to join the Challenge Team, Raudy said, “Absolutely – I'd love to run.” She explains that, “I like to be physically ready at all times. I've seen how stressful it is for people to be de-conditioned. When you're ready, the PT test is nothing.”

With just a few more weeks than Raudy to prepare, Boyer said his daily regimen involves waking up by 4 a.m. and having his shoes on and laced by 5 a.m. He focuses on core strengthening, and mixes longer runs with more high-intensity workouts. Boyer also involves his daughters in evening circuit training, which allows him to stay close to his family even when taking time to prepare for competition.

Raudy also describes her children as a huge motivating factor behind her will to run and compete. “I want to be an example for my kids,” she said. “Don't shy away from a little challenge. The easy road is boring and doesn't provide opportunity. The mantra I live by is, ‘when the going gets tough, the tough get going.’”

Raudy explained that balancing both civilian and military careers with a family and training to run long distances at the same time are all challenging. “I want to show my kids that you will have bad days, but you can push on. We all have set-backs but those that persevere get ahead.” Raudy said she ran with a stroller when her children were little, and now that her children are older, her son is a faster runner than she is.

Boyer defines running as a mix of humility and pride – while the environment may throw harsh curveballs in the way of extreme heat,



U.S. Air Force Captain Kristine Raudy, 173rd Medical Group, runs the White River 50 Mile Endurance Run, July 26, 2014, near Mt. Ranier, Washington. Raudy was selected to represent the Air National Guard in the intra-Air Force Marathon in September.

cold, or altitudes, understanding what the mind and body are capable of becomes the ultimate self-discovery journey. When a run gets tough, he's able to treat it like a chess match and be in the moment, he says. “I think about my form. I think about the temperature, and hills. I think about having to leap over a skunk in the trail, or watching horses follow me down the trail. I think about when I need to hydrate and when my next food intake is.”

Reminding himself that there's a difference between muscle taxation pain and injury pain helps him, too. “I have a good friend going through cancer right now. The pain from running is nothing compared to that.”

For Raudy, running became the best, most practical way to stay fit when she was focusing on being a single-mom and completing physician's assistant school at the same time. “All you need is a pair of \$70 shoes and you're good to go,” she said.

Raudy explained that running doesn't take a huge financial investment like most other sports, and it doesn't require the time to drive to a gym to do it. “If you're low on money or time, you can still run. It's an hour a day to prevent the stress of not being ready,” she said.

With September 18th fast approaching, both Boyer and Raudy are focused on outcomes of the race. For Boyer, this experience is completely new. “I wanted to say no to doing this, in the beginning. But there's something for me to learn here. Ultimately I hope someone else will say yes to trying something new,” said Boyer.

“I'm hoping Team ANG comes in like a wrecking ball and we take state,” laughed veteran-competitor Raudy. “We're typically a decade older in the ANG than our active duty counterparts, but that extra experience counts for something.”

Resiliency Operations Center opens to 173rd Airmen and families

Story by Senior Airman Emily Copeland
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – 173rd Fighter Wing Commander, Col. Jeff Edwards, cut the grand-opening ribbon on the Resiliency Operations Center at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore. October, 17, 2021. The newly remodeled center is the home to the Kingsley Resiliency Team, made up of the Director of Psychological Health, Airman and Family Readiness, Chaplain, Health Education Awareness Team, Human Resource Advisor, Equal Opportunity, Yellow Ribbon, and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response offices.

“We are excited to have the ROC's centralized and inter-professional collaborative model to serve our Airmen and their families; where anyone can come and get assistance as needed,” said Jen Green, Director of Psychological Health. “This building allows for us to have a consolidated place for development and prevention services for our Airmen.”

Edwards says this is vital to the Kingsley mission. “Our first Wing priority is to care for our people.” “Because it's a one-stop center, this minimizes any confusion about where to go for assistance... stop in at the ROC, and the Resiliency Team will be ready to help!”

Cecily Gaudinski, 173rd Airman and Family Readiness Program manager says having all of the support teams under one roof maximizes the use of the programs and support services available.

“The greatest benefit of the ROC is the no wrong door concept and all the helping agencies being co-located together,” she adds. “It's a place that is accessible and welcoming which allows Airmen and families the opportunity to receive the best care Team Kingsley has to offer.”

The building offers discrete entrances, a kitchen, and private meeting rooms. Additionally, the ROC will offer classes that aid in the behavioral, mental, physical, and spiritual health for both Airmen and their families. The ROC concept of having a one-stop shop for all resiliency needs has been in the works for several years.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Thompson, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

“I am just amazed at the dedication of the resiliency team to make their vision of the ROC come to life!” said Edwards. “The ROC was designed by our resiliency team and our Civil Engineering team, and it goes to show how incredible Team Kingsley is—working together to transform a vision into reality. This is a huge step forward in our capability to care for our Airmen.”

FEATURES

Oregon’s 1249th recognized nationally for logistics excellence

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

SALEM, Ore. - Fully mission capable is not just a term thrown around freely with members of the 1249th Engineer Battalion. The Department of the Army recently validated the unit’s motto of “One Step Better,” again this past year recognizing the battalion with a Supply Excellence Award.

Among Army National Guard units, entered in the Quartermaster competition for Brigade and Battalion, Modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE), the 1249th Engineer Battalion received the Runner-up award for Calendar year (CY) 20/21. They were evaluated on 18 different areas after electronically uploading inventory and regulatory guidance documents to the Headquarters, Department of the Army.

These different areas are encompassed in multiple sections ranging from Budget Management, Physical Security, Maintenance Management, and the Command Supply Discipline Program to Financial Liability Investigations of Property Loss.

“To even make it through the submission process you need to have an outstanding command supply program, which is how brigades nominate their battalions for state level awards,” said Oregon Army National Guard Logistics Sgt. Maj. Christian Watts.

The step-by-step process takes the best battalion in the brigades and determines which battalion is the best in the state. That selection is submitted to a Region 6 review board, where Oregon and seven other states are evaluated. The 1249th was the overall winner of that level of the competition.

“This is all part of an annual requirement that the Brigade does an evaluation of every battalion. And each battalion does an evaluation of all of their units annually as well,” Watts said. “It’s a great program here at the 1249th, with great command support.”

With the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the electronic and virtual inspections relied on the accuracy of the records and two submitted videos for review. There are two years’ worth of records that are submitted and a detailed examination of the battalions Logistics Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

“I had to present two videos, one was a walk through the 1249th Forward Support company,

taking snap shots of supply operations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jerod Condit, Unit Supply Manager Senior Battalion Logistics Non-Commissioned Officer, explaining the process. “The second video I had to submit was of myself explaining battalion logistics practices and procedures.”

In a non-Covid year, the inspection process would have a team physically on site performing this evaluation with a hand on inspection.



Oregon Army National Guard leadership members for 1249th Engineer Battalion gather for a group photograph at the Anderson Readiness Center, Salem, Oregon on July 30, 2021. (from Left to right) Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jeremiah Beckert, Sgt. 1st Class Jerod Condit, Staff Sgt. Angela Ackland and Sgt. Maj. Christian Watts.

“I would rather have them come out here and do a physical inspection --100% for sure,” said Condit, emphasizing the hindrance with the video process. “What’s important is that the inspection team is double-checking that you are following your own SOP...it’s tough to do this virtual.”

A 16-year member of the Army National Guard, Condit began his career as an Infantry Soldier and Cannon Crewmember prior to becoming a ‘92 Yankee,’ Supply Specialist. He works closely with his team to maintain a program that has a long history of success.

They inspected me first and then brought Staff Sgt. (Angela) Ackland onto the screen and asked her questions to verify how the unit followed the SOP,” Condit said, explaining the virtual on screen inspection segment. “Supply NCO’s are not working as individuals, we are a team, if they fail, I fail... and in turn, if one fails then we all fail.”

Following the SOP is a significant part of the inspection, as well as making sure a unit is not holding onto excess property.

“Let’s say you have 10 Humvee’s (High

Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle) on the current MTOE, but you actually have 12...they want you to turn in those other 2 Humvee’s because we are no longer getting the funding to maintain those extra vehicles, said Watts.

Vehicle maintenance and maintaining an accurate inventory system is not a ‘Turn-key’ process, said Watts, explaining that it takes “personnel on the ground to make it happen so that the S-4 does not pass it on from one manger to the next.”

“Domestic Operations is a big piece of what we do in the National Guard,” he said. “Case in point, we were at work in the office when we received the call for water deliver in the Salem area in the spring of 2018.”

When the city of Salem announced officials had detected low levels of cyanotoxins in the city’s drinking water supply on May 31, 2018, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared an emergency and mobilized National Guard Soldiers. This was a textbook definition of being ‘Fully Mission Capable.’ head to the motor pool, conduct your preventive maintenance checklist (PMCS), dispatch your vehicle, and move out with a quickness!

Currently, according to Watts, the unit is “98% fully mission capable.”

“The biggest challenges during Covid-19 were getting our Soldiers here safely and then being able to do the maintenance,” said 1249th Battalion Commander. Lt. Col. Jeremiah Beckert. “We relied heavily on our full time staff when our drill status soldiers couldn’t come in during the first phases of the pandemic.”

Maintaining the vehicle readiness and keeping the Army standards unbroken has been a source of pride for the unit battalion.

“We don’t compete against each other, we compete against the standard, and as long as we are meeting or exceeding the standard we are doing the right thing,” said Beckert. “You are either meeting the standard or you’re not.”

This approach has kept the battalion as one of the best in the Oregon Army National Guard on a consistent basis. In 2018, the unit was runner up for this same award and 2015 was selected as the national winner.

“Department of the Army doesn’t share the individual evaluation scores, often it comes down to a fraction of a percentage point,” said Watts, noting the battalion’s history of excellence. “There is no way you can compete without your entire team, it takes initiative and deliberate action to make it happen.”

224th Engineers support community, enhance skills

Story and Photo Sgt. 1st Class Amy Elker,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - Many units in the Oregon Army National Guard (ORANG) utilize their two-week annual training (AT) to refresh their skills by participating in training scenarios and exercises. Soldiers with the 224th Engineer Company, however, put their skills to use, helping the community in which they live, work, and serve. From Aug. 1-14, the 224th Engineer Company balanced their time between completing their pre-mobilization tasks for a fall deployment, while also working on engineering projects for the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA in Albany and Camp Rilea in Warrenton.

Second Lt. Sascha Tudela, platoon leader, 224th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, for the Albany crew, said their mission was to help the YMCA level, cut, and fill an area of their property, so they could build a soccer and baseball field there for future use.

“It’s asking a lot of the Soldiers right now to finish this project and get ready for pre-mob,” Tudela said, “but they wanted this, so I’m happy we have Soldiers so willing to work and manage both things when it can be very taxing, not only on themselves but also their families.”

Their first three days alone were a major undertaking, as the engineers worked 12-hour

shifts, hauling 1500 cubic feet of material from the site. While some Soldiers worked the site, others worked inside the YMCA completing mandatory training and paperwork to prepare for their mobilization.

Juggling these tasks with their mission was a bit easier since the engineers arranged to stay each night inside the YMCA. They were able to use their showers and their equipment in the evening for some physical fitness training. “It’s been a great benefit to stay here,” Tudela said.

Sgt. Jordan Andrecht, team leader, 224th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, said working at the site has been a great experience.

“It gives the community eyes on what we do,” Andrecht said. “It shows the capabilities we have, not only as of the National Guard but as individual Soldiers. I would like to think the community could be inspired that the Guard isn’t just for emergency relief or natural disaster, but that we’re here to help, even one as simple as a construction project like this.”



Members of the 224th Engineer Company work on the Mid-Willamette Family YMCA to help build new sports fields in Albany, Ore.

He added that the most rewarding thing he has experienced was having a couple of community members walk up to his team and express their thanks and appreciation. “That’s always cool,” Andrecht said, “getting to see the gratitude from the community.”

Many of the Soldiers were excited about this mission because it was local, and some of the Soldiers live in the area or have been to that YMCA. “So, they get to say, ‘Hey, I was here; I built this’” Tudela said.

Another mission Soldiers from the engineering company were tasked with during their annual training was at Camp Rilea, improving a road that did not have a solid foundation. The road is well-used by range control to clear the beach of civilians, keeping them out of harm’s way when the ranges go live.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fitzpatrick, horizontal construction engineer, 224th Engineers, 1249th Engineer Battalion, said Soldiers benefitted from the annual training project.

“The morale you see from that,” Fitzpatrick said, “the camaraderie that comes from all the Soldiers interacting and completing a project together, there’s nothing else that can bind them together as much as that does.”

FEATURES

Oregon Guard’s first Dual Status commander leads Jackson County vaccination clinic

Story by Maj. Nikki Jackson
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

JACKSON COUNTY, Ore. - The goal was straightforward – deliver free COVID 19 vaccines to the people of Southern Oregon. There were already a number of COVID vaccination clinics across the state, but what made the Jackson County Vaccination Equity Project unique? The assigning of the Oregon National Guard’s first Dual Status Commander.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, the current Assistant Adjutant General for Air for the Oregon National Guard, was tasked as the Joint Task Force Oregon Dual Status Commander “To best work with our civilian partners, we established Oregon’s first dual status commander that puts all military resources under one command, working jointly with our federal friends and county leaders,” said Crosby. “This makes it easy for the county to come to one point of contact and best serve the people of southern Oregon.”

As the JTF OR DSC, Crosby was in command of approximately 120 personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces; Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard, including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve forces. Navy and Marine medical professionals provided the vaccinations, with support functions from Army and Air Force personnel. The Coast Guard supplied the Incident Management Team to work in conjunction with Jackson County Emergency Management.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Brig. Gen. Mark Crosby, Joint Task Force Oregon Duals Status Commander, takes a moment to check in with the Civil Air Patrol volunteers, during the Jackson County Vaccination Equity Project on April 21, 2021 at Central Point, Oregon.

A DSC is usually appointed when DOD personnel of multiple statuses, Active Duty (Federal) and Guard (state), are assigned to the same stateside mission. The DSC has a unique chain of command, reporting both up through US Northern Command (Federal) and the Adjutant General (state) as well as having authority for all DoD personnel, no matter their status.

Crosby is uniquely qualified for this position, having previously attended Joint Task Force Commander training and receiving Dual Status Commander Certification. In his current role as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air he is responsible for leading, organizing, training, equipping, and deploying Oregon Air National Guard forces when activated to support state and federal missions.

Oregon Air National Guard officer promoted to Two-Star General

Story by Maj. Heather Bashor
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Photos by Maj. W. Chris Clyne
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon Air National Guard Brigadier General James R. Kriesel was pro-moted to the rank of Major General Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, during a ceremony in Salem, Oregon, presided over by Major General Michael Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon.

As a newly appointed Major General, Kriesel is set to become the National Guard Assistant to the Commander of the United States Air Forces in Europe & Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA).



Oregon Air National Guard Brigadier General James R. Kriesel renders a salute during his promotion ceremony.

Kriesel was just two weeks out from his retirement date when this opportunity opened up for him. His extensive experiences in the joint and coalition world made him the right person for the job.

Kriesel began his career excited to fly a jet and serve his country. After serving tours flying both the A-10 Warthog and the F-15 Eagle, Kriesel sought after opportunities to serve in a more diversified role.

“I got to live out a dream to be an Air Force



Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel is promoted to the rank of Major General during a ceremony in Salem, Ore., Aug. 7, 2021, presided over by Maj. Gen. Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon.

fighter pilot,” stated Kriesel. “As I increased levels of responsibility and rank, I found a path of excelling in the coalition and joint environment.”

To date, Kriesel has deployed 12 times to Africa and the Middle East working with joint and coalition partners over the course of his career. These experiences have developed him as a leader and shaped his belief that trust is at the center of a successful operation or mission.

“Create lots of trusts and let go. Trust your intuition and trust your soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines,” stated Kriesel. “Share success and own failures.”

Though Kriesel has deployed multiple times, his most defining moments were those in Iraq as the Senior Forward Air Force General for 4 months and his two deployments to Africa where he leads successful response missions.

His peers have described Kriesel as an authentic leader. He believes his job is to set guidance, find the right resources, take care of the bureaucratic trivia, and let people execute the mission.

He provides direction to all elements of the ORANG for developing and executing plans, policies, and programs in the preparation of war and peacetime operations.

“The people of southern Oregon have been through a lot this last year,” said Crosby. “When Jackson County asked for help, the federal government and state of Oregon sent help.”

Jackson County Public Health had already set up a COVID vaccination clinic at the Jackson County Expo, but county officials wanted to extend vaccination efforts to underserved and marginalized populations. They requested assistance, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Defense stepped in to help.

“This FEMA vaccination center is different than other FEMA centers; this vaccination center is county lead, and supported by the federal government and the state of Oregon,” said Crosby.

The Jackson County Vaccination Equity Project completed it’s nearly two month mission having provided 26,925 total vaccinations.

Crosby attributed the success of the mission to “the willingness of everyone (county, state, federal, contractors and DoD) to work together to achieve the mission – making vaccinations available to citizens of Jackson County and the surrounding area.”

When asked if he had any advice for future DSCs Crosby stated, “Stay true to the intent of why the DSC was created – consolidate all DoD resources under your command and speak with one voice to the civilian authorities and your Title 10 and Title 32 chains of command.”

Oregon Air National Guard officer promoted to Two-Star General

“It’s a trust thing and understanding risk,” he explained. “We all make mistakes from the top down. Once this idea is put out to the force, it’s well-received and executed.”

In his promotion remarks, Kriesel highlighted his philosophy in leadership stating, “There is a misconception in leadership that the higher in rank one gets, the smarter one is – Not True. It means to speak less and listen more.”

His Special Operations experience and working with SEAL teams have reinforced Kriesel’s strong team concept. “You would be inept if you didn’t consider all input and feedback. You may go with your decision this time, but next time it might be from someone else. It’s all about the team.”

Kriesel’s career began with the dream to be a fighter pilot and to do something bigger than himself. Now, as a General Officer in an extremely dynamic environment, he continues to be driven to give back.

“There are areas you feel you can still make a difference - That’s what drives me now,” stated Kriesel. “Share my experience and give back to the next generation is a huge part of this. We only get to wear the uniform for a finite amount of time.”



Major General Michael E. Stencel, the Adjutant General, Oregon (right) congratulates newly promoted Maj. Gen. James R. Kriesel (left) Aug. 7, 2021, during a ceremony in Salem, Oregon.

AZUWUR

Nation Observes 80th Anniversary of Attack on Pearl Harbor

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OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Story by David Vergun from Defense.gov

On Dec. 7, 1941, 80 years ago, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Oahu, an island in the then-U.S. territory of Hawaii.

Some events leading up to the attack provide context to what happened that day.

By 1940, World War II had already engulfed much of Europe and the Pacific, and many Americans were beginning to realize U.S. involvement seemed inevitable.

The Defense Department, then called the War Department, began conducting exercises and ramping up war production in preparation for conflict, should it come.

The draft, known then as the Selective Training and Service Act, was instituted on Sept. 16, 1940.

Before 1940, the U.S. Pacific Fleet had been based in San Diego. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Navy to move the base to Pearl Harbor.

On Oahu, coordination between the Army and Navy was poor, James C. McNaughton, who served as command historian for Army Pacific from 2001 to 2005, said. The Army and the Navy on Hawaii had separate chains of command, and they engaged in very little coordination, at least in practical terms.

Early Sunday morning on the day of the attack, Navy Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, and counterpart Lt. Gen. Walter Short, commander of the Army Hawaiian Department, were preparing for their weekly golf game, a regular event that enabled them to “check the box” for joint coordination, McNaughton said.

“Well, you need more than that,” McNaughton said. “And that’s what they didn’t do.”

In 1946, according to the Army’s official history, “Guarding the United States and Its Outposts,” the Congressional Pearl Harbor Joint Committee concluded: “There was a complete failure in Hawaii of effective Army-Navy liaison during the critical period and no integration of Army and Navy facilities and efforts for defense. Neither of the responsible commanders really knew what the other was doing with respect to essential military activities.”

In the pre-dawn hours of the attack, a submarine periscope was spotted near Pearl Harbor, where there shouldn’t have been any submarines. At 6:37 a.m., the destroyer USS Ward dropped depth charges, destroying the submarine. The incident was then reported to the Navy chain of command.



Meanwhile, at the Opana Radar Site on the north shore of Oahu, radar operators Army Pvt. Joseph L. Lockard and Army Pvt. George Elliott detected an unusually large formation of aircraft approaching the island from the north at 7:02 a.m.

At the time, radar was experimental technology, and operators only monitored it from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., McNaughton said. Usually, the radar was shut off at 7 a.m., but the truck that took Lockard and Elliott to breakfast was late, so the radar was still on at 7:02 a.m.

McNaughton said the operators had never seen such a large number of blips, so they called Army 1st Lt. Kermit A. Tyler, an Air Corps pilot who was an observer that morning at Fort



Shafter’s Radar Information Center in Oahu.

“Don’t worry about it,” Tyler told them. He had heard that a flight of B-17 bombers was en route from Hamilton Field, California, that morning.

If the Army and Navy had been in communication, McNaughton believes, they might have recognized the signs of the coming attack: the sighting of a large aircraft formation coming in from the north and the sighting of a submarine at the mouth of Pearl Harbor.

“If you put those two together, you might want to put everyone on full alert. But they didn’t,” he said. “There was no integration of intelligence from the two services. The only warning they got was when the bombs started to fall.”

The first of two waves of some 360 Japanese fighters, bombers and torpedo planes began the attack at 7:48 a.m., having launched from six aircraft carriers north of Oahu.

While many of the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft attacked the fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, other planes attacked all the military airfields on the island, including Wheeler Field next to Schofield Barracks.

Within minutes of the attack, Navy anti-aircraft guns opened up. The guns were firing at planes in all directions. A number of stray, Navy anti-aircraft gun rounds fell in populated areas of Honolulu, killing more than a dozen civilians.

However, the Army’s anti-aircraft gunners at first struggled to engage the enemy because their guns were not in firing positions, and the ammunition was in a separate location under lock and key.

“You can imagine them looking for the ammunition sergeant who had the keys at 8 a.m. Sunday,” McNaughton said. “It took them a while, but some guns did eventually get into action.”

Short complained afterward that he had received ambiguous guidance from Washington. He said he was instructed to be prepared to defend against an attack, but he was not to alarm the civilian population, which setting the anti-aircraft guns in position might have done.

Even so, the Army, with four regiments of anti-aircraft artillery in Oahu, had rehearsed defense against air raids. “They knew it was a possibility,” McNaughton said. “But, certainly, they were caught by surprise.”

Nevertheless, soldiers found some means to counterattack. At Army installations, soldiers fired back with machine guns and other weapons at attacking enemy dive bombers and fighters, according to the Army’s official history.

The Army Air Corps flight of twelve B-17 Fortress Bombers — the aircraft that Tyler thought the radar operators had spotted — arrived in the middle of the attack. They were unarmed and almost out of fuel.

The aircraft landed at various airfields, and one landed on a golf course. One of the aircraft was destroyed by the Japanese, and three were badly damaged, according to the Army’s official history.

“Just imagine, it’s supposed to be a routine peacetime flight, and you show up in the middle of the biggest air battle the U.S. had ever seen,” McNaughton said. “Not a good situation.”

Of the 2,403 Americans killed, 2,008 were sailors; 218 were soldiers; 109 were Marines; and 68 were civilians, according to a National World War II Museum Pearl Harbor fact sheet.

Of the aircraft destroyed, 92 were Navy and 77 were Army Air Corps. Two battleships were

destroyed, and six were damaged. Three cruisers were damaged; one auxiliary vessel was destroyed, and three were damaged; and three destroyers were damaged, according to the fact sheet.

The carriers USS Enterprise, USS Saratoga and USS Lexington were out on maneuvers and were not spotted by the Japanese, which was a stroke of luck for the United States.

In fact, the Japanese never planned to invade Hawaii, McNaughton said. Rather, they wanted to cripple the U.S. Pacific fleet so it could not interfere with their plans to seize European colonies in Southeast Asia.

At the time, Army and Navy signals intelligence personnel were working hard to break the Japanese code, he said. They were intercepting communications and decrypting what they could, but the communications they intercepted gave no clear warning of the impending attack.

Senior Navy and Army leaders relieved Kimmel and Short of their commands within days after the attack.

What the Japanese misjudged was the tremendous anger of the American people, which gave Roosevelt and Congress the motivation to declare war against Japan, as well as Germany, McNaughton said.

In the aftermath of the attack, the Army immediately took over the territory of Hawaii, declaring martial law, which lasted until October 1944. In this unprecedented situation, all local police, courts and government operated under Army supervision. The Army, Navy and FBI placed the local Japanese-American population under close surveillance and placed many community leaders under arrest.



During the war, the soldiers in Hawaii — as in various places along the coasts on the U.S. mainland — never had to fire artillery guns to repel an enemy fleet, McNaughton said. The Army eventually disbanded the Coast Artillery branch; today, it uses sophisticated air and missile defense in coordination with the other services.

Among the lessons to be taken from the Pearl Harbor attack, according to McNaughton, is the crucial importance of operating as part of the joint force. Another is that of striking a fine balance between training and readiness. “You just don’t know when your unit will be called to mobilize,” he said.

The forced internment of many Japanese-Americans in 1942 was a further tragedy.

“It was really painful to the Japanese-American community at the time,” he said. “The vast majority of Japanese-Americans had been loyal citizens. Those who had the opportunity fought for America. And many of those who volunteered died for their country.”

On Feb. 1, 1943, Roosevelt announced the creation of segregated units composed of nisei, or second generation, Japanese-American soldiers.

The 100th Infantry Battalion and the 522nd Central Postal Directory Battalion, composed of Hawaiian nisei, served with great distinction in Europe.

Altogether, about 33,000 nisei served in the armed forces and approximately 800 were killed in action.

After the war ended, Japan became an important ally of the United States.

Many veterans who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor have met over the years and become friends, particularly at the annual Dec. 7 gatherings at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

Although few veterans are still alive to attend, the annual commemorations provide them with a chance for reconciliation and to remember lives lost.