



Oregon Guard recognized for going "green": Page 4



Oregon Airmen raise money for needy families: Page 6

Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Return home marks first time 1249 Engineers fly directly into Salem Municipal Airport Engineer Battalion comes home



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

A chartered flight is framed by the U.S. Flag, held aloft by ladder trucks from the Salem Fire Department, following the Dec. 12 arrival of the second group of Soldiers from the Oregon Army National Guard's 1249 Engineer Battalion following their 400-day deployment to Afghanistan. The flight landed at the Salem Municipal Airport where family and friends waited to greet them. To see the complete story and additional photos, go to Page 5.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Julie Young, of the 1249 Engineer Battalion, holds her nephew Nicholas on her shoulders, shortly after her unit's return to the Salem Municipal Airport, in Salem, Ore., Dec. 12. Young, of Rockaway Beach, Ore., and approximately 175 of her fellow Soldiers returned to Oregon following a 400-day deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit's primary role during their 400-day deployment to Afghanistan was command and control, while providing support for Task Force Gridley.

See Salem homecoming on page 5

Counterdrug personnel recognized by Portland Police

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore.—Personnel from the Oregon National Guard's Counterdrug Support Program were recognized by officers with the Portland Police Bureau Dec. 6 for their part in a multi-agency drug investigation.

Three individuals with Oregon's Counterdrug Support Program were given commendation letters for their participation in a nation-wide investigation dubbed "Operation Trick or Treat".

The three analysts provided case support throughout the investigation.

Eric A. Hendricks, Assistant Chief of Police for the Portland Police Bureau's Investigations Branch, and Captain Ed Hamann, of the Portland Police Bureau's Drugs and Vice Division, presented commendation letters to two Soldiers and one Airman during the morning ceremony in Salem.

The identities of the individuals recognized were not made public due to the ongoing investigation.

Hendricks, who has been with the Drugs and Vice Division for eight years, said the work of the Counterdrug's analysts was invaluable.

"Their support provides something to the Police Bureau that we just don't have," Hendricks said. "Their skills of robust intelligence analysis is absolutely necessary in drug investigation cases. It



Eric A. Hendricks, Assistant Chief of Police, Investigations Branch, of the Portland Police Bureau, reads a citation recognizing three individuals with the Oregon National Guard's Counterdrug Support Program, during a ceremony held in Salem, Ore., Dec. 6.

helped us make a good case even better." On March 17, 2011, investigators from various federal, state and local agencies executed approximately 20 search warrants at numerous locations in New York, Las Vegas, Miami, Dallas, Portland and Vancouver, Wash., related to the ongoing federal Oxycontin and

Oxycodone operation dubbed "Operation Trick or Treat".

Oregon Air National Guard Col. Steven Deptula, Coordinator for the Oregon Guard's Counterdrug Support Program, said law enforcement officers collected

See Counterdrug story on page 5

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #605
Salem, OR

OFFICE OF THE STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD OF OREGON
P.O. BOX 14350
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Oregon Military Department

State Commander in Chief
Governor John A. Kitzhaber

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees

Deputy Director Oregon Military Dept.
Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, OSDF

Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Eric Bush

Asst. Adjutant General, Air
Brig. Gen. Bruce W. Prunk

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley

State Command Chief
Chief Master Sgt. Mark Russell

State Command Chief Warrant
Chief Warrant-5 Terry Swartwout

Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

State Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Stephen S. Bomar
stephen.s.bomar@mil.state.or.us

Editor-in-Chief
Social Media Manager
Master Sgt. Nick Choy
nick.r.choy@mil.state.or.us

Visual Information Manager
Master Sgt. Thomas L. Hovie
thomas.hovie@us.army.mil

Assistant Editor
Sgt. Jason van Mourik
jason.vanmourik@us.army.mil

Contributing Writer, Editor
Kim L. Lippert
kimberly.l.lippert@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Writer
Cory Grogan
cory.grogan@mil.state.or.us

Contributors
41 Inf. Brig. Combat Team Public Affairs
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Editorial Offices
c/o Oregon Military Department
Attn: Editor, Oregon Sentinel
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309
503-584-3917

The Oregon Sentinel is the official publication of the Oregon Military Department, authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is designed and published by the Oregon Military Department's Public Affairs Office. The views and opinions expressed in the Oregon Sentinel are not necessarily those of the Departments of the Army and Air Force, the Department of Defense or the National Guard Bureau.

The Oregon Sentinel is distributed to members of the Oregon Army and Air National Guard, and other interested persons by request, free of charge. Circulation: 13,500. The Oregon Sentinel is published by Eagle Web Press, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, Departments of the Army or Air Force, or the State of Oregon, and is under exclusive written contract with the Oregon Military Department. The Oregon Sentinel is also distributed electronically, and can be found online at www.oregon.gov/OMD/AGPA/publications.shtml.

Paid advertising is prohibited in the Oregon Sentinel by AR 360-1. However, announcements which benefit Oregon Guard members and their families is allowed, at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Oregon National Guard members and their families are encouraged to submit articles and story ideas. Stories from any source, military or civilian, are accepted. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All submissions must include the author's name, mailing address and daytime phone number. Names may be withheld in print upon request. All submissions are subject to editing prior to publication, and the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to print or reprint submissions at any time.

The Oregon Sentinel adheres to guidance found in DoD Instruction 5120.4, "Department of Defense Newspapers and Civilian Enterprise Publications."

Story files must be submitted in Microsoft Word format, with all formatting turned off. Photos must be high-resolution color JPEG files, and must be accompanied by caption information containing the following: full name, rank, and unit of person(s) depicted in the photo, along with a short description of what is happening in the photo. This caption can be a part of the overall story file. All hard-copy files submitted to the Oregon Sentinel become the property of the Oregon Military Department unless prior arrangements are made with the Public Affairs staff. Stories and photos appearing in the Oregon Sentinel may be reprinted with permission.

Electronic submissions, story ideas or questions to: Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us. Hard copy submissions can be sent via U.S. Mail to: Oregon Sentinel Editor, P.O. Box 14350, Salem, OR, 97309.

2011 Oregon Military Department
All Rights Reserved

COMMAND

Congressional vote marks turning point for National Guard



Maj. Gen.
Raymond F. Rees,
The Adjutant
General,
Oregon

This month we welcomed home the 1249 Engineers from Afghanistan, just in time for the holidays. They arrived home at the Salem Airport and were greeted by family, friends, loved ones and a rare sunny day during an Oregon winter.

The battalion was in charge of more than 800 Soldiers and conducted every facet of the engineer mission. From construction to convoy security, our Soldiers accomplished their mission with great success. The lasting effects of their efforts will be recognized in Afghanistan for years to come. Job well done!

The Soldiers of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon were also able to make it home for the holidays. This unit had their deployment shortened due to the historic drawdown of troops from Iraq. Their sky patrols allowed for a successful transition.

With their return, the Oregon National Guard no longer has any of our Citizen-Soldiers or Citizen-Airmen deployed in Iraq. To both units, welcome home and thank you for making Oregon proud.

Within the last 10 years Oregon's

Soldiers and Airmen have responded to federal deployments around the globe, serving in locations such as the Sinai, Haiti, Bangladesh, Cuba, and Iraq and Afghanistan. As we transition to fewer federal overseas mobilizations, I'd like to highlight that here at home we have continued to serve our state and nation every day.

The 142nd Fighter Wing has continued to protect Oregon and the entire Pacific Northwest 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 173rd Fighter Wing has become the only F-15 fighter training facility in the United States.

The Oregon Army Aviation conducted 28 percent of all search and rescues conducted in the nation last year. I credit this to the great relationships we have built with our local first responders. Incident commanders know that they can rely on the assets of the Oregon National Guard to assist CERFP federal missions.

We have truly demonstrated, when we are needed, we are there! We will continue to build these relationships and work to spread the word on many of the new capabilities available to our first responders throughout the state. This ability to simultaneously meet both federal and state missions has been able to be accomplished at a fraction of the cost.

As we move into lean budget years, the National Guard just makes good sense. It is estimated to cost \$1.8 million a year to maintain the current operational effectiveness of the entire Army National Guard and Army Reserve, totaling 580,000 Citizen-Soldiers.

For the active component it is estimated to cost \$1 billion for every 10,000 Soldiers.

That equals 25 Citizen-Soldiers for every one active component. This is an amazing statistic, which needs to be shared throughout our communities.

Especially as we, the National Guard, have the honor and Constitutional privilege to serve both our state and our nation. This is a historic opportunity to re-think and transform our military's force structure. We can create a flexible structure that is better able to meet both international contingencies and emergencies here at home, while providing jobs and an overall positive economic impact for our state. Despite this undisputed value from the National Guard, the make up of our military will likely require strong advocacy in the U.S. Congress.

As we close the historic calendar year of 2011, we must remember the sacrifices of all our service members and their families. This past decade 132 Oregonian's from all services were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of them and their sacrifice has changed not only our lives here in Oregon and in our nation, but also the entire world we in which we live.

This year, we celebrated the National Guard's 375th Birthday, the Iraq war officially ended, and we also commemorated ten years since the horrific attacks on 9/11. As a nation we have become stronger. We pray and hope the people of Iraq will flourish towards a brighter future. Let us not ever forget the ones who have died. Let us not forget the ones who are serving overseas today. Let us rejoice that we have each other and protection here at home. I wish all of you a Happy Holidays.

Always Ready! Always There!

Resiliency Training helps Soldiers, units cope with stressors

By Sgt. 1st Class Damon Morrow,
Resilience Office Administrative NCO

In this fast pace time in everyone's life, resiliency is becoming more and more important.

To answer this call there is a program developed by the U.S. Army in 2007 but it's fairly new to Oregon.

After testing and implantation the Resilience Program Office is in its second year of operation here in the state. Within the guidelines of NGB the Oregon Army National Guard will send around 31 Soldiers to complete the Master Resilience Training (MRT) course at Guard/Reserve University (GRU) in Wisconsin or Victory University (VU) at Fort Jackson. MRTs can then teach Oregon Soldiers as Resilience Trainer Assistants (RTA) to further help units in this program.

The very definition of resilience is "the ability to recover quickly from setbacks". Setbacks can be from anywhere as having to stop and get gas after a long day at the office or it could be a big as trying to find job. In today's economy and in everyday life we all suffer in one way or another from setbacks. It is in this ability that we can overcome those setbacks and "bounce" back even stronger than before.

The MRT/RTA course is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the University of Pennsylvania. The mission of the resilience course is to provide Soldiers with an opportunity to enhance their effectiveness and well-being and to develop the leadership skills. In a high paced heavy deployment cycle Soldiers and families are placed under numerous stressors.

This program is designed for Soldiers and family members to learn critical skills that will assist them during these difficult times.

MRT's and RTA's are the forefront trainers and advisors within their commands. They will train Soldiers and family the essential skills to better communicate, identify at-risk behaviors and guide command on proper steps to assist when needed.

The program is designed to maximize overall performance, well-being of Soldiers and develop leadership potential in every

Soldier on resiliency. Soldiers as well as Family Assistant Specialists members will learn to master the following skills throughout the course.

- Six MRT competencies: Self-awareness, Self-regulation, Optimism, Mental Agility, Strengths of Character, and Connection.

- Build mental toughness. These skills will also develop the ability to understand the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of themselves and others.

- Identify top strengths in themselves and in others, and learn to use these strengths to overcome challenges and build effective teams.

- Master skills to strengthen relationships through communication strategies.

- Learn how to respond constructively to positive experiences, praise effectively, and discuss problems effectively.

The program is not designed to intervene if a Soldier is in crisis or having trouble and is at-risk. MRTs and RTAs train Soldiers within their commands to have mental agility. They are not trained as counselors if a Soldier should have suicidal ideations.

The end-state of TY12 is to have one MRT per Brigade and Battalion and at least one RTA per company. Information regarding classes can be directed to your unit. There are several prerequisites that a Soldier must meet before he or she can be sent to the MRT/RTA course.

Candidates need to demonstrate personal and emotional commitment to training. Soldiers selected as MRTs or RTAs should have retainability of at least three years within the unit. Units in the "ready phase" of deployment will have higher priority for training. The primary grades of service members to attend the MRT/RTA course are: Non-Commissioned Officers in the grade of E6 to E8; Warrant Officers in the grade of WO1 to WO3; and Commissioned Officers in the grade of O1 to O4. (Non prior service O-1 and O-2s who have not deployed and have less than two years military experience are not recommended as MRTs/RTAs).

For more information, visit www.csf.army.mil, or the U.S. Army Medical Department website: www.resilience.army.mil/index.html.

State Defense Force trains at Camp Rilea



Photo by Sgt. Paul Rushing, Oregon Military Department

Members of the Oregon State Defense Force met at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Ore., Oct. 22, to train on emergency management communications and response. The group, comprised of retired military members, meets twice a year for group training, and provides support to state and local officials in the event of an emergency. Many members hold Ham Radio licenses, and utilize their personal equipment for training and real-world response.

NEWS BRIEFS

Details released for wearing campaign stars

The Army has spelled out policy details for the wear and display of campaign stars authorized for Soldiers awarded the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign medals.

As announced Nov. 2, the Defense Department has approved a new campaign for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, which in turn means qualified Soldiers can add a campaign star to the ACM.

The new campaign, designated Transition I, began Sept. 1, 2010, and will end on a date to be determining. It is one of the five campaigns designated for operations in Afghanistan.

Seven campaigns have been authorized for operations in Iraq, including New Dawn, which began Sept. 1, 2010, and will end on a date to be determined.

To qualify for the award of the ACM, Soldiers must have served in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which began Oct. 24, 2001, and will remain in effect until officially ended by the Defense Department.

To qualify for the award of the Iraq Campaign Medal, soldiers must have served in direct support of land, air or sea (out to 12 miles) operations in Iraq, which began March, 19, 2003.

Expeditionary Medal by reason of service in Afghanistan or Iraq during March 19, 2003-April 30, 2005 remain qualified for that medal.

However, such Soldier may be awarded the ACM or ICM in lieu of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for such service. Soldiers cannot be awarded both medals for the same period.

Army and Pentagon regulations authorize one bronze star to be worn on the suspension and campaign ribbon of the ACM or ICM for one or more days of participation in each of the designated campaigns.

If a Soldier's initial period of deployment overlaps one or more of the campaign phases, the Soldier is credited for participation in each of the applicable phases, and is entitled to the appropriate number of bronze service stars, according to guidance issued Nov. 3, 2011 by Human Resources Command.

Obama administration signs Veterans' tax credits

In August, President Obama called on Congress to enact tax credits that will help get veterans back to work. The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides businesses that hire unemployed veterans with a maximum credit of \$5,600 per veteran, and the Wounded Warriors Tax Credit offers businesses that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities with a maximum credit of \$9,600 per veteran.

These tax credits were included in the American Jobs Act and were signed into law by President Obama on November 21, 2011.

Under the Recovery Act, employers who hired certain unemployed veterans were eligible for a tax credit of up to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages, for a maximum credit of \$2,400. This credit expired at the end of 2010.

On November 21, 2011, the President signed into law two new tax credits:

- The Returning Heroes Tax Credit is a new hiring tax credit that will provide an incentive for businesses to hire unemployed veterans.

- Short-term unemployed: A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages (up to \$2,400) for employers who hire veterans who have been unemployed at least 4 weeks.

- Long-term unemployed: A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$14,000 of wages (up to \$5,600) for employers who hire veterans who have been unemployed longer than six months.

The Wounded Warrior Tax Credit will double the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Maintain the existing Work Opportunity Tax Credit for veterans with service-connected disabilities (currently the maximum is \$4,800).

Oregon Guard celebrates 375th birthday of NG

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber; Pfc. Jonathan Berkley, Oregon Army National Guard Medical Command; and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, make the ceremonial first cut into the birthday cake as the Oregon National Guard celebrates the 375th birthday of the National Guard, held at the Anderson Readiness Center, in Salem, Ore., Dec. 13. Berkley is one of the newest members of the Oregon Army National Guard.

A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$24,000 of wages (up to \$9,600) for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed longer than six months.

Winter driving tips released by NTSB

It's that time of the year again so here are some reminders of how to drive in Snow and Ice.

According to the National Safety Council, the best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination. If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

Driving safely on icy roads: Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists. Keep your lights and windshield clean. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills. Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges. Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid: Take your foot off the accelerator. Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right. If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control. If you have standard brakes, pump them gently. If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

If your front wheels skid: Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release

the clutch, and accelerate gently.

If you get stuck: Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper. Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way. Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out. Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.

Dream Maker's Grant available to veterans

If you are a veteran and looking to buy a new home, a Dream Maker grant may be just what you need. The Dream Maker grant is a down payment of up to \$5,000 available to veterans who make less than \$55,000 a year in gross household income. You can apply for The Dream Maker grant at any financial institution. You must meet the following qualifications:

- You're Military (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard or Veteran), a Department of Defense employee or a Department of Homeland Security employee.

- You're a first-time home buyer, or you have not owned a home for the last three years, or you have lost your home through divorce or disaster.

- The gross Household income, including allowances, that you use to qualify for your mortgage loan is a maximum of \$55,000 per year, or a maximum of 80% of your community's median income based on your family size.

If you are selected for the Dream Makers Grant, you will need to decide the amount of money you will contribute to your mortgage financing. The minimum amount for you to contribute is \$500. Dream Makers will match that three-to-one, up to our maximum of \$5000.

For more information on the PenFed Foundation Dream Makers Program got to http://www.pentagonfoundation.org/site/PageServer?pagename=dream_index.

JFHQ Safety meeting scheduled for Jan. 20

The next Safety & Health/Wellness Fair will be held on Friday, January 20, 2012 at the Salem Auditorium, located at 2310 17th St NE, in Salem Ore.

This event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is free of charge and open to the general public. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Attendees are encouraged to bring in a can of non-perishable food to support the Governor's Food Drive. Those who donate will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon Military Department and includes free health and medical screenings.

For more information, contact Robin Webb at 503-584-3581 or by email at robin.m.webb@mil.state.or.us.

Helicopter Pilots Wanted

The Oregon Army National Guard's 2-641 Aviation Regiment is seeking applicants for its upcoming Initial Entry Rotary Wing Board, Jan. 23-27.

Eligibility Criteria:

- All members of the Oregon National Guard are eligible
- Born after May 1, 1980. (Must be less than 33 to attend Flight School)
- Passing APFT with minimum of 70 points in each event
- Must be able to pass Class I Flight Physical (No disqualifying medical condition per AR 40-501)
- No Criminal conviction or DUI's
- GT score of 110 or higher
- Secret Security Clearance
- Support from applicant's Chain of Command
- Must pass AFAST (Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test)

Preferred applicants will have (but not required):

- Bachelors degree
- Private pilot's license
- E-5 or above (with WLC completed)
- ROTC Cadet

IERW positions will be in FY12 and FY13. The board will be conducted the week of Jan. 23-27, 2012, at the AASF#1, in the Charles L. Deibert Operations Facility in Salem, Oregon.

Flight School is a series of highly demanding courses, including; Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)(for Warrant applicants); Helicopter Overwater Survival Training (HOST); Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion level C (SERE-C); Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training (IERW); Advanced graduate flight training for the UH-60 or CH-47.

Only motivated, physically and mentally fit applicants who are serious about seeing the process thru to completion are encouraged to apply.

For more information, contact:

1LT Nathan Carter
503-584-3450

nathaniel.carter4@us.army.mil

CW2 Steven Rhoden
541-736-4655

andrew.steven.rhoden@ng.army.mil



Army & Air Force Exchange Service is now open at Camp Withycombe

15300 Industrial Way Clackamas, OR

Exchange Class-Six

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Store manager: Elan Kane

NEWS

Oregon Guard facilities focus of national 'Net-Zero' initiative

Story and photos by Kimberly Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army Installations, Energy and Environment, visited Oregon in October to discuss the Oregon National Guard's focus on Net Zero.

Oregon was recently selected as a pilot installation for water and energy.

"Oregon is unique because of our diversity in our geography, we have the availability of solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, we can do it all," said Roy Swafford, Director of Installations for the Oregon Military Department.

The ASA IE&E awarded recognition in



Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Department AGI Division

Newly-constructed 426,000 gallon water storage reservoir for Camp Rilea Water Supply System.

three categories – Energy, Water, and Solid Waste. Oregon submitted proposals in two categories – Energy and Water, and won in both categories.

The Oregon National Guard is embarking on several Net Zero projects throughout the state. Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., has been selected as a Net Zero Water Installation.

A Net Zero Water Installation limits the consumption of freshwater resources and returns water back to the same watershed so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water in quantity and quality over the course of a year.

There are also future plans for a wave energy project at Camp Rilea.

"A wave energy project on the coast is huge," said Swafford. "There is currently no energy production on the coast," he added.

Swafford said they could go out as far as six miles in the ocean with a wave energy field. The project would be a business boost to Oregon's shipping, labor, manufacturing, and technology sectors in the state, he added.

"It would be a boost to the local economy," said Swafford.

The Net Zero Energy initiative for Oregon means that all National Guard facilities within the state will strive to consume only as much energy as they

produce. By being environmentally conscious the Oregon National Guard is also helping provide stability and security in communities throughout the state, Swafford explained.

"We are producing our own power, offsetting our costs and through future projects would generate revenue," said Swafford.

In Southern Oregon, the Oregon Military Department has begun a \$1 million solar project on the former Back Scatter Radar site located east of the community of Christmas Valley, Ore.

Solar panels will be installed on three existing facilities located at the Oregon Emergency Response Center, previously known as the Back Scatter Radar site east of Christmas Valley.

The project will include three PV Powered inverters and approximately 500 solar panels, each capable of generating 235 watts, made by Solar World.

"These decisions are helping to position this region well in regard to Energy Security, and the ability to provide a ready force of Citizen-Soldiers to support State and Federal missions," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon Military Department will also be utilizing the existing warehouses as emergency supply storage facilities for



Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Department AGI Division

Joe Haag, Oregon Army National Guard Environmental Technician, conducts water monitoring at the Camp Rilea Wastewater Treatment Plant.

its Office of Emergency Management. In addition, the Department is working with private industry in an effort to attract industrial-sized projects on the site as well as consolidate other state solar efforts from around the state to this solar farm.

According to Swafford the energy goal for the Oregon Military Department is to be self sustaining by fiscal year 2020; which means the department would generate as much energy as it uses at all of its facilities throughout the state.

"The fiscal reality these days is that we are living on smaller budgets both state and federal, so this is smart business," said Swafford.

M60 tank moved to Prineville Readiness Center

Story by Oregon Sentinel Staff

PRINEVILLE, Ore.-Thanks to a lot of hard work by several individuals within the Oregon National Guard, one of the organization's former battle tanks now graces the entrance of the Prineville Readiness Center in Prineville, Ore.

The M60 tank was relocated to the front of the facility on Nov. 15, by a commercial carrier. According to Tracy Thoennes, Oregon Military Museum Curator, there are total of nine tanks in the Museum's collection, which are displayed throughout the state.

The tank's paint scheme is based on the Museum's research that showed that prior to 1978 or 1979, Oregon National Guard's M60 tanks were painted solid semi-gloss Olive Drab, Thoennes said.

Lt. Col. Cary Miller, Commander of the Oregon National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Command, said the effort to bring the tank to the Prineville Readiness Center was a result of a collaborative effort between several agencies, including Oregon Military Department leadership.

"Getting the tank to the Prineville Armory gives the average passerby a visual reference that this is an Oregon National Guard facility," Miller said.

According to a memorandum provided by the Oregon Military Museum, "The display of an M60 tank will create a better



An Oregon Army National Guard M60 tank now decorates the front of the Prineville Readiness Center in central Oregon.

visual appearance that our building is an Armory.... It will give a good visual to all civilians who drive by our Armory every day."

Several Oregon Army National Guard units during the 1970s and 1980s were equipped with the M60 tank, including the 3rd Squadron of the 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment in north eastern Oregon.

During the 1980s, one of its crews received a gunnery award during Annual Training at Gowen Field near Boise, Idaho.

The M60 was one of the world's most successful tanks and served as the U.S. main battle tank for two decades. The armed forces of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and 19 other countries also used this tank and some of these are still in use today.

Post-9/11 GI Bill offers revised benefits in upcoming school year

Master Sgt. Jeffery T. Lopez, 82 Brigade Senior Human Resource Manager

With the end of the 2011 academic quarter upon us, it is time to look forward to the new year by preparing ourselves for the challenge of a brighter future for ourselves and families.

Effective October 1, 2011, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has several revisions and new allowances.

Below is a list of revised and new benefits available to each service member who qualifies.

- Non-college degree (NCD) programs: Non-college degree programs offered at non-degree granting schools: Pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.



- On-the-job and apprenticeship training: Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- Flight programs: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less.
- Correspondence training: Per academ-

ic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.

Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance is equal to half of the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.

The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100-percent eligibility tier would be \$673.50 for 2011.

The bill also allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.

For further information visit the official GI Bill website at: www.gibill.gov, or send an e-mail to Master Sgt. Jeffery Lopez, 82 Brigade Senior Human Resource Manager, at: Jeffery.lopez@us.army.mil.

Want to be a Teacher?

Troops to Teachers program is looking for Guard members who want to be teachers.

- Counseling services available
- Must have six good years of military service
- Financial assistance available to members separated due to service determined disability
- Must meet academic or vocational requirements

Financial assistance also available to members who were teaching school prior to federal activation.

For more information, visit www.ProudToServeAgain.com, or call Edward Brands at: 1-800-438-6851 info@mptt.org



No service member stands alone

The Oregon Military Assistance Helpline is a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service that can help you and your family resolve personal problems

800.511.6944

www.ormah.com

NEWS

Salem homecoming brings large local support for 1249 Soldiers

Story by Master Sgt. Nick Choy,
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard's 1249 Engineer Battalion arrived at Salem Municipal Airport in Salem, Ore., Dec. 8 and Dec. 12, following a 400-day deployment to Afghanistan.

The two groups of Soldiers returned directly to the Salem Municipal Airport via civilian contracted transport. Their arrival marked the first time the 1249 Engineer Battalion has used the airport for returning from a deployment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs Office

Right: Oregon Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Peter Fritsch, of the 1249 Engineer Battalion, is welcomed home by his wife Dori, shortly after his unit's return to the Salem Municipal Airport, in Salem, Ore., Dec. 12. Photo by Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs.

"We were very excited to be able to accommodate the return of the local Engineering Battalion from their overseas deployment," said John Paskell, Salem Municipal Airport Administrator, about the Soldiers' arrival at the facility.

Paskell said it was a pleasure to work with the Oregon National Guard on the homecoming of their Soldiers at his facility.

"I am sure that the Soldiers and their families were equally thrilled that the aircraft was able to land in Salem and bring the troops directly home," Paskell said. "We thank them for their service and welcome them home."

The first group of 51 Soldiers returned to Salem on Dec. 8, to awaiting friends and family. A group of representatives from the Salem Patriot Guard Riders stood by with U.S. Flags to help welcome the returning Citizen-Soldiers.

A second group of 124 Soldiers returned to the Salem airport on Dec. 12. The scene was similar, but included a larger crowd, despite colder temperatures. As the blue and red Sun Country Airlines 737-800 appeared south of the airport, a cheer rose from the crowd. The plane taxied up to the ramp, framed by a large U.S. Flag strung between two ladder trucks from the Salem Fire Department.

Sgt. 1st Class Peter Fritsch, who is originally from Hawaii, was greeted by his family. Around his neck, he wore a maile lei—signifying luck and prosperity. With the afternoon sun shining on his face, Fritsch said while the deployment went by quickly, it seemed like a long time away from his wife and his son's family.

"It seemed like a lifetime away from my family," he said.

Fritsch, like others, were surprised by the direct flight to Salem.

"I didn't even realize Salem had a runway this big," Fritsch said with a chuckle, adding that the large turnout of friends, family and supporters was a great way to cap off his unit's deployment.



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

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Cory Larivee, of the 1249 Engineer Battalion, is welcomed home by his family shortly after his unit's return to the Salem Municipal Airport, in Salem, Ore., Dec. 12. Photo by Sgt. Zach Holden, 115th MPAD.

"Salem is a great city, and it's always been very supportive," he said. "This turnout is incredible."

Fritsch's wife Dori said she was thrilled to have her husband home safe, but added that she has plans for her husband in both the near and short term—following the family's scheduled trip to Hawaii.

"I'm going to let him relax for a few days before I hit him up with the 'honey-do' list," she said.

Approximately 175 Soldiers from throughout Oregon deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit's primary role was command and control, while providing support for Task Force Gridley.

"Overall this was an extremely successful mission," said Maj. Russell Gibson, 1249 Engineer Battalion Operations Officer.

The unit took part in construction

projects as well as command and control missions throughout eastern and northern Afghanistan, said Gibson.

"Our Soldiers were well trained and prepared for the mission, and understood the impact to both U.S. and Afghanistan forces, and more importantly to the people of Afghanistan," Gibson said.

The unit's mission was to support construction missions in an area roughly the size of Oregon. They first completed pre-deployment training at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin as part of the 400 day mobilization.

The battalion was mobilized in 2003 supporting Operation Noble Eagle to provide Homeland Security missions in both Washington and Oregon. This will be the first overseas mobilization for the 1249 Engineer Battalion Headquarters and Forward Support Companies.

142nd FW Maintenance Group raises funds to help Portland Police holiday food drive



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Kevin L. Stone, 142nd FW Maintenance Group

Over the Veterans Day weekend in November, Master Sgt. Kevin L. Stone, of the 142 Maintenance Group shows off about 880 pounds of food purchased for the upcoming Holiday Food Basket Drive sponsored by the Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division.

Money raised by Stone's unit through the sale of unit coins brought in a total of 1,350 pounds of food, which was delivered to the Sunshine Division's warehouse in Southeast Portland.

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Conner and Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Hibbs contributed greatly to the effort, said Stone.

Oregon Counterdrug personnel take part in national prescription drug sting operation

Continued from Front Page

massive amounts of information including phone and financial records, which were then analyzed by his team.

"The skills our folks bring to support law enforcement are phenomenal," Deptula said. "Our folks do an extremely good job of looking at every single piece (of information) so that our law enforcement partners can go out and pursue the investigation."

During the execution of the warrants, investigators arrested approximately 15 indicted individuals, seized a Range Rover, two Mercedes and four late-model Bentleys, five guns and about 1,000 Oxycontin and Oxycodone pills. Authorities also identified about \$200,000 in proceeds in various banks accounts.

The target of the investigation and the sources of supply for the organization were also identified and arrested in Las Vegas, Nev. During the investigation, National Guard analyst were key in helping to assist in identifying addresses, vehicles, associates and the sources of supply in Las Vegas.

"This case was unique from the start," Hendricks said. "This case reached across the country. We immediately saw it was going to have significance not only in Oregon but nationwide."

Hendricks, who served for six years in the Oregon Army National Guard, first in a Military Police unit, then as an Infantryman and Infantry officer, lauded the contributions of Oregon's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

"I personally know the sacrifices

Guardsmen make for their service," he said. "My hat's off to every guardsman in the Oregon Guard."

The investigation is continuing and it is believed that more assets and subjects will be federally indicted in the future. To this end, the names of the Oregon Counterdrug personnel are not being released to the public.

Agencies involved in the investigation included Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Portland Police Bureau Drugs and Vice, HIDTA Highway Interdiction Team, Oregon State Police, Westside Interagency Narcotics Team and the Oregon National Guard.

Deptula said his team works regularly with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Team members are allowed to work in a collaborative role in order to achieve common goals, he said.

"It's been such a great pleasure to work with professionals who are so focused on achieving a common objective," Deptula said. "We really feel we have a great relationship with some outstanding organizations that are really driving the most efficient and most effective methods of pursuing the drug problem in Oregon."

Deptula thanked Hendricks and the Portland Police Bureau for the working relationship.

"I want to express to all those agencies that we really appreciate all the work they are doing and it's a privilege and honor to support those agencies," he said.

Would you like to be a published author?

Submit your story or photo to:

Sentinel-Editor@mil.state.or.us

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Oregon Airmen partner with local radio station, help raise funds for charity

Story by Chief Master Sgt. Chris Roper,
142nd Fighter Wing

PORTLAND, Ore. (11-28-2011) – Phones ringing off the hook, on-line donations and pledges pouring in while Airmen from the 142 Fighter Wing “Redhawks” stood by to take pledges and donations from generous residents and business across Oregon and Southwest Washington. November 28, through December 2 marked KPAM radio and the Salvation Army’s “Operation Santa Claus” donation and pledge drive.

Over the course of eight years KPAM radio host Bob Miller and The Salvation Army have helped to raise over \$1,000,000 in support of military members and families in need.

In 2003, Miller came to The Salvation Army wanting to help service men and women in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Since then, *The Salvation Army Home Front War Relief Program*, with help from Miller and KPAM radio’s *Operation Santa Claus* helped provide support for practical needs of military families whose wage earner has deployed.

Military personnel and/or dependents of deployed military personnel (including very recently returned) are eligible for services including; one-time financial assistance (checks sent directly to vendors), referral to other community and military resources for on-going support and counseling when needed and appropriate.

The generosity of the local community started off early in the morning with a pledge of \$11,000 taken over the phone by Oregon Air National Guard Maj. Frank Page, commander of the 142 Security Forces Squadron. He rang the traditional “Salvation Army Bell” and announced to everyone in the room the great news, resulting in cheers and a round of applause.

“It’s a great event, a worthy cause, and really supports our military members and their families in need year around,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Rich, of the 142 SFS.

“This is my second year taking part in Operation Santa Claus and when asked to donate my time this year there was no way I would miss this opportunity,” Rich added.

Seven members of the 142 SFS, and one member of the 142 Operations Group took turns answering the ringing phones. The group took pledges, and conducted live radio and television interviews by Miller and KPTV Fox-12 “Good Day Oregon” weatherman Andy Carson.

During the radio show, another Oregon Airman, Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Lear, who is currently deployed with the 966th Air Expeditionary Squadron as their First Sergeant, spoke with Miller via telephone about his current experience in Afghanistan.

“Thanksgiving was great,” Lear said. “The squadron leadership and I grabbed chow to-go at the DFAC, went back to the squadron conference room for some squadron time with our deployed Airmen.



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Chris Roper, 142nd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard

Tech. Sgt. Grant Roper, of the 142nd Security Forces Squadron, Portland Air National Guard Base, takes a call from a donor, during the Salvation Army and KPAM Radio’s Operation Santa Claus. The 2011 drive helped raise over \$25,000 for military members and their families in need.

It was pretty cool.”

When not deployed Lear is assigned to the 142FW as the Headquarters First Sergeant, and also serves as a police officer for the City of Vancouver in Southwest Washington. During his phone interview, Lear also took time to record a radio promotion for *Operation Santa*

Claus, an annual show which the Oregon Air National Guard and KPAM radio have collaborated on for years.

At the completion of the Bob Miller Radio Show *Operation Santa Claus* donations and pledge drive had raised over \$25,000, beating the opening day goal set in 2010.

Former 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief vows to ‘keep running’ through life

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

PORTLAND AIR BASE, Portland, Ore.—(Oct. 16, 2011)—Max White first came to Eugene, Ore., in 1972 to chase an Olympic dream—having qualified for the Olympic Track and Field trials in the Eugene Marathon.

Though White did not make the USA team and compete in Munich, West Germany, he would eventually move to the west coast. White made his home in Oregon and enjoyed numerous other successes including serving his country and community as a member of the Oregon National Guard.

“I felt a deep sense of patriotism in my early thirties and joined the Oregon Army Guard, going to boot camp at age 34 with most recruits being 17 and 18 year olds,” White said.

After White retired from the Oregon Air National Guard as a Chief Master Sergeant, many of his coworkers found it difficult to summarize the breadth of his resume—athlete, Airman, educator, coach, mentor—the list goes on.

“What Chief White has done for his attitude toward fitness and staying motivated has been a real asset to the entire organization,” said Col. Mike Stencel, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander.

“Anyone who ever spent any time with Max could feel his passion for the entire force, and his perpetual optimism; he embodied it,” Stencel added.

White’s positive attitude toward any task motivated other Airmen as well. By working directly with others, he was able to mentor and encourage younger troops to be fit or learn and contribute to the entire Oregon Air Guard. Stencel said.

“There was no part of my career that was more of a high point than being a First Sergeant as it was rewarding to help people grow and learn,” White said.

With the operations tempo and Citizen Airmen being deployed to various parts of the world, Oregon guardsmen like Chief White have routinely stepped up, giving of their own personal time to lead by example.

“He has this unique ability to listen to people, give positive feedback and

understand their needs,” said retired 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Erin Applegate.

It was Applegate who handed over the job of Wing Command Chief to White in February, 2009, and worked with him on a variety of leadership issues for more than a dozen years.

The two volunteered at Camp Rosenbaum—the annual summer camp held each year in Warrenton, which helps instill good citizenship skills in young urban children from the Portland Metro area. White went out of his way to ensure the kids’ needs were addressed, even heading over to the nearby retail store to pick up the correct sized tennis shoes for campers, Applegate said.

“Max literally would give you the shirt off his back,” she added.

When he was not in uniform as a traditional member of the Oregon Air Guard, White could be found at South Albany High School, where he taught mathematics and served as an athletic coach.

White said he was able to take his mentorship skills from the Guard, and seamlessly combine them with his more than 30 years of teaching and coaching experience in order to help guide his students.

“My students were highly enthusiastic about my participation in the guard and often my experiences in one influenced the other,” he said.

White also served as the Human Resources Advisor for the 142nd Fighter Wing for six years—an experience which allowed him to help members understand their differences, while serving side by side in their military mission.

“It has always been important to me that people be given their proper respect,” said White. “So diversity continues to be a positive factor in aspect to my service to the Guard.

All the while, White said he never let his position or his rank supersede his goal of teaching and mentoring other Guard members.

“I’ve never seen myself as being elite, I honestly feel inside that I have respect for everyone I work with whether they wear stripes or they are officers,” said White.



Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard (left), and Col. Michael Stencel, 142nd Fighter Wing Commander (right), pose with retired Command Chief Master Sgt. Max White, 142nd Fighter Wing Command Chief, after White’s retirement ceremony held Oct. 16 at the Portland Air National Guard Base in Portland, Ore.

As White crossed the finish line on his Air National Guard career, those who gathered for his retirement ceremony in November reflected on his varied accomplishments and the passion he brought to every endeavor. Brig. Gen. Steven Gregg, Commander of the Oregon Air National Guard, said White’s traditional Guard status never got in the way of completing his assigned tasks.

“Command Chief White took on challenges as a traditional guardsman that in the past was performed by full-time Command Chiefs,” Gregg said.

As White addressed those attending his retirement ceremony he acknowledged his own personal conviction to friends and family.

“I find strength with the knowledge that Stephen Covey describe from Greek philosophy; ethos, pathos, logos; living one’s ethical nature and living with personal credibility,” White said to the Airmen and guests packed into the conference room for the event.

Stencel reflected the feeling of many in the room.

“Max has been a huge cheerleader, passionate about everything,” Stencel said.

“He gets out there to find out what everyone; from the newest Airmen to myself is thinking, feeling and doing.”

Retiree Service Office

Anderson Readiness Center
Room 243
3225 State Street
Salem, OR 97309

503-584-2891, or
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

NGOR.J1.RSO@ng.army.mil
Web: <http://orngetirees.info/>

Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

NEWS / FEATURES

Oregon Guard Reintegration partners with U.S. Navy, local employers

Story and photos by Spc. Cory Grogan,
Reintegration Team Public Affairs

All hands were on deck at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore., as the U.S. Navy Reserve showed its commitment to taking care of Sailors in Oregon by partnering with the Oregon National Guard for the largest joint service career and benefits fair of its kind on Nov. 19.

The Navy's Northwest Region Reserve Component and the Oregon National Guard's new Joint Transition Assistance Program (JTAP) joined other partners at the event which included Oregon's first "Hiring Heroes Job Fair" sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

According to the Oregon National Guard's Joint Transition Assistance Program Manager, Craig Snitker, the event was groundbreaking as it was the first of its kind involving multiple branches of the service and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In attendance were 80 hiring employers, and more than 75 service providers, prepared to link veterans with resources and service providers.

The Hiring our Heroes event was held in conjunction with a Post-Deployment Family Readiness Conference for the Naval Reserve. Members from all branches of the service attended the event.

The partnership between the Navy Reserve and the Oregon National Guard's JTAP was evident at the event where Sailors and Soldiers made up the majority of participants.



Service Members from Oregon interact with employers during the "Hiring Our Heroes" job fair at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Ore., Nov. 19.

U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps Rear Admiral Paula Brown, Command Master Chief Martin Aguiar, Navy Region Northwest Reserve Component Command (the highest ranking enlisted Sailor on the west coast,) joined Brig. Gen. Eric Bush, Assistant Adjutant General (Army), Oregon National Guard, and Oregon's State Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Conley, at the event.

"This is a big deal, we have an admiral and command master chief at this landmark event," said Conley.

Conley recognized employers and service providers at the event before recalling an education specialist that made him aware of a \$250 a month education benefit that helped his family 30 years ago.

"I had a wife, two kids, insurance, and I paid for my third kid with a visa card. Do you think that \$250 made a huge difference in my life," Conley asked?

"Somebody might have the opportunity to hire someone here today and that person may not remember you 30 years from now," Conley added. "But you will have a huge impact on one of those young lives, and their children."

His presentation to employers was followed by Tonja Pardo, assistant director for the Department of Labor Veteran's Employment and Training Service, who helped organize the event and brought the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on as a sponsor.

When Pardo asked employers who was ready to hire a veteran, the crowd of employers erupted with a standing ovation.

"Be a hero, offer a job," Pardo said.

Command Master Chief Aguiar said it was the first time there has been a joint operation with the Navy Reserve that

included a job fair, employer and spouse recognition, family reintegration, and many other resources all rolled into one.

"This is by far the best reintegration event I've been involved with and it's all due to the joint aspect that the Oregon National Guard and Navy Reserve bring to the fight," Aguiar said.

Dorian Hunt with Transportation Security Association said her company was at the event ready to hire because veterans make great employees who don't ask a lot of questions.

"They are tried and true, they stay the course and focus on the mission," said Hunt, a former Navy Cryptologic Technician. "After a recent initial assessment for our company—of the over 400 that passed—over 50 percent were vets," she said.

Many service members, veterans and families who attended the event were surprised by the scope of resources available in one place.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Leslie, who deployed in 2009-2010, said he and his wife Shannon wanted to see what was available at the job fair. They were both impressed with what they found at the event.

"It is pretty awesome to see how much support there is in the community. It has been tough to find employment," Leslie said. "I wish I would have done this before I left—this is a great resource for us."

Commanding Officer Bruce Bosworth of the Portland Navy Operational Support Center, said his unit has more than 430 Navy Reservists assigned in 17 units that often return as individuals. His association with the Oregon National Guard JTAP team opens access to more local and state services, he said.

According to Bosworth, the Oregon National Guard's reintegration team is a good partner because they expanded into a Joint Transition Assistance Program to reach out to other branches of the service in Oregon, which does not have an active military post for any branch of the service.

"This has a positive and direct benefit on Navy Reserve mission readiness," he said.

Bosworth's command met with members of the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon Reintegration Team last year to develop a plan for taking care of Sailors in the region.

"We discussed ways to better support and to provide information to Oregon's Navy Reservists," he said.

Bosworth added that it is important for returning and deploying families to be aware of resources and supporting agencies for reintegration.

"We are partnering with the Oregon National Guard because of their closeness to the community—Navy resources are primarily in the Seattle area," Bosworth added.

Admiral Brown explained that a partnership with the Oregon National Guard makes sense because it is all about helping Sailors, and the National Guard has the ability to access community resources.

"You see the National Guard everywhere here in Oregon, but you don't always see the Navy," she said.

The Oregon National Guard is maintaining its status as one the top reintegration teams in the nation thanks to Oregon's visionary concepts and close relationships with service providers across the state, said JTAP Plans and Operations Reintegration Manager, Master Sgt. Vince Jacques.

"We have merged our reintegration team and career transition assistance program in a joint transition assistance program and are taking things to a new level," Jacques said, explaining his relationship with the service providers at the event.

"I look forward to working with these people—it's like a family reunion," he added.

The Navy Reserve has now become a part of that team.

Retired Chief Petty Officer Pete Pringle,



Retired Oregon Army National Guard Col. Doug Kuhl, Veteran's Outreach Director for the Oregon Military Assistance Helpline, speaks with a member of the Navy Reserve about benefits available for veterans during the "Hiring Our Heroes" job fair at Clackamas Community College, Nov. 19.

who recently joined the JTAP team, left the Navy in June 2010 after 22 years of service.

Pringle was working at the Navy Reserve facility in Portland when he was asked to be a part of the JTAP team, in an effort to reach out to Sailors.

"I am talking with all the same people I worked with in Portland when I was on active duty. They all know me, I'm in the same spot and am able to reach out—they still think of me as a Chief in the Navy," he said.

Pringle said he was excited to see more than 200 Sailors and their families benefiting from the event.

"I would love to have two of these a year," he said. This is an awesome time to be involved with Oregon's Joint Transition Assistance Program."

Pringle said his main concern is linking service members with employment, education and health benefits because throughout his career he wasn't always happy with the resources available to Sailors.

"This job is all about taking care of



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeff Leslie, who deployed to Iraq in 2009-2010, and his wife Shannon, speak with employers during the "Hiring Our Heroes" job fair at Clackamas Community College, Nov. 19.

Sailors, and all service members, by pointing them in the right direction. I'm learning about new resources everyday—it's amazing how many people are out there who want to help," he said.

Bosworth said that having Pringle on the JTAP team is a great resource because it helps him accomplish his mission.

Oregon's CERFP showcases mission for Governor at 375th birthday event



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Michael Gremaud, (lower left), and Tech. Sgt. Mike Brown, (top left), Airmen with the Oregon National Guard's CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), discuss their unit's overall mission to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, during a 375th Anniversary of the National Guard celebration held at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore., Dec. 13.

The unit will respond at the call of the governor to augment local jurisdictions and other emergency responders during state, regional and national emergencies. The unit is comprised of approximately 170 Citizen-Airmen and Citizen-Soldiers who provide support to first responders upon request.

AZUWUR

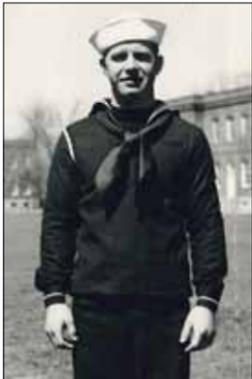


Keizer Veteran recalls attack on Pearl Harbor 70 years later

KEIZER, Ore. (Dec. 7, 2011)—Nearly 70 years have passed since that fateful day at Pearl Harbor that drew America into an engulfing world war that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and generations of healing.

And regardless of how much time has passed, for Virgil Taylor of Keizer—that day remains engrained in his mind—vivid as the day he lived it.

At dawn on Dec. 7, 1941, the pride of the U.S. Pacific Fleet was docked at Pearl Harbor. Seven battleships were moored in pairs along Battleship Row: *Maryland* with *Oklahoma* and *Tennessee* with *West Virginia*.



Virgil Taylor, a veteran of the U.S. Navy, who now resides in Keizer, Ore.

Behind the *Tennessee* lay *Arizona*. The repair ship *Vestal* was alongside.

Last in line was the *USS Nevada*. Taylor was aboard the Navy's Battle Force flagship *USS California*, which was moored alone.

Just before 8:00 a.m., newly promoted Machinist's Mate First Class, Taylor was writing a letter to his mother when the sound of general quarters jolted him.

The South Dakota native, who had joined the Navy to get money for college, thought it "was a lousy time for a drill."



The U.S.S. California, and the U.S.S. Oklahoma (burning in background) immediately following the attack.

As he left his quarters and arrived in the engine room, the whole ship vibrated. He thought a fuel tanker had accidentally bumped his ship.

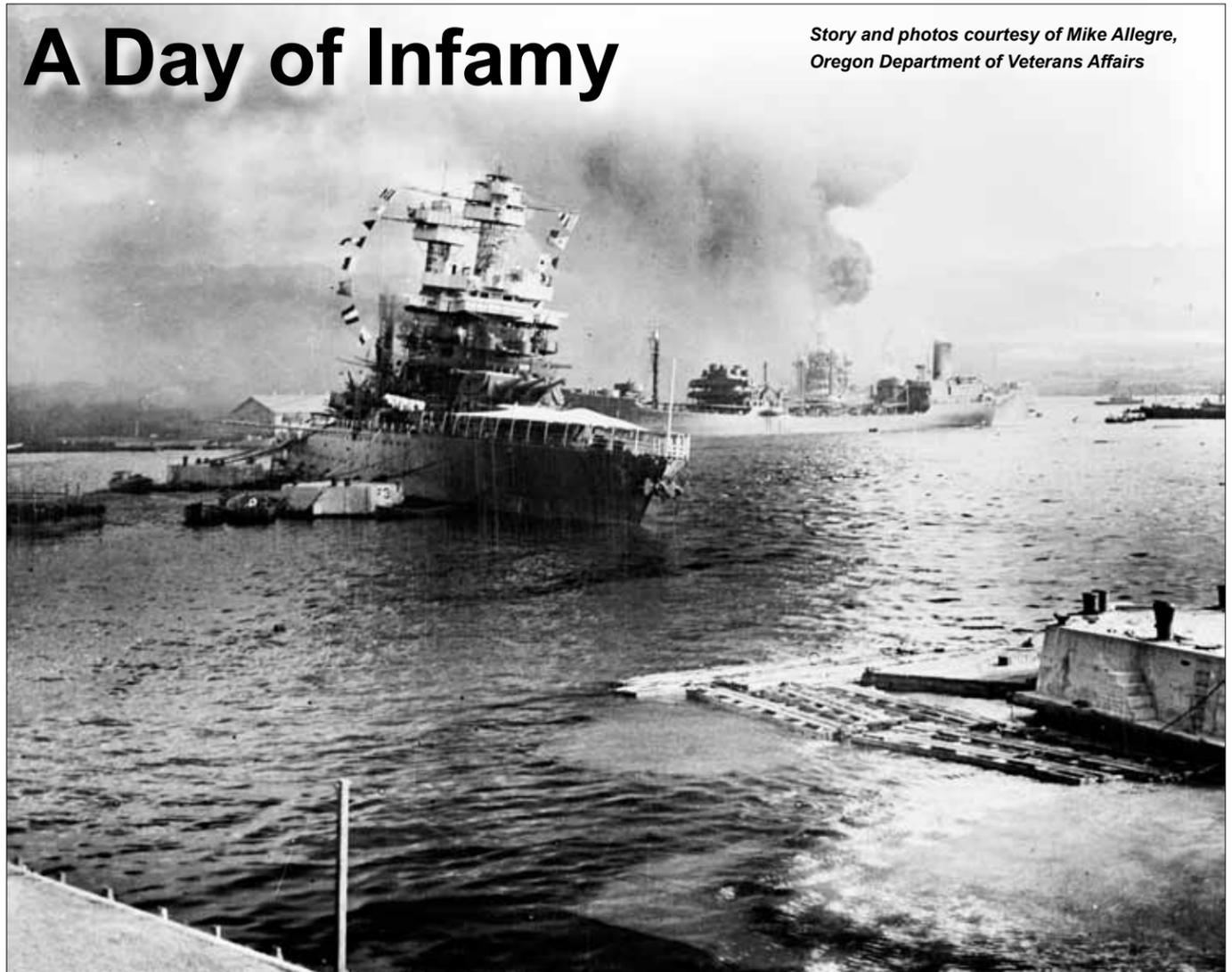
Little did Taylor know that in the air above, America was being thrust into history as 40 Japanese torpedo planes and 27 dive bombers descended and flew low along the harbor. Their ordinance began slamming into ships, tearing at the fabric of America and instantaneously, awakening the sleeping giant.

"We were hit by a torpedo in the bow (forward) part of the ship and then another slammed into us aft (rear)," Taylor recalled. "It took out our steering and fires had started. Guys were everywhere and we got word the Japanese were after us. We started to open steam valves to get the engines moving. We were so busy we didn't even know we were being attacked even though the ship had begun to list to the left."

As the crew was trying to get the engines moving, a 550 pound bomb tore through several decks and landed about 20 feet from Taylor's locker and ignited an antiaircraft ammunition magazine. A second bomb ruptured the ship's bow plates. The *California* could not get underway.

"Then the lights went out and the chief told all of us to get out of there."

Burning oil from the *Arizona* had begun



The U.S.S. California (center), lists slightly due to battle damage following the early morning surprise attack by Japanese forces on Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

floating toward the stern of the *California*.

As ordered, Taylor began climbing to the second deck to abandon ship but what he saw stopped him dead in his tracks.

"All we could see was blue sky. The deck above us was gone. A bomb had peeled that three-quarter inch steel deck back. The water was 30 feet below and we jumped in. When we came to the surface a Japanese Zero flew by and strafed us."

Like Taylor, most men began to swim hard towards Ford Island and were hoisted aboard a ferry boat. "From on deck I looked around for the first time. The *Oklahoma* was lying on her side and all I could see was thick black smoke coming from the *Arizona*."

Within 15-20 minutes of jumping from the ship, the wind shifted, forcing the oil slick away from the *California*. The captain called his men back onboard to fight the fires that had erupted.

Taylor was a survivor but because of an injury that hospitalized him, the War Department listed him as missing in action and then, killed in action. On December 16th, his mother was notified of his death.

As the government was consulting with her about funeral arrangements, she received a Christmas card from her son. It was mailed after the attack.

"It's a common name and things were kind of confused there for a while," Taylor recalled. "Right after Christmas they heard I was ok."

Today he still remembers the sounds and the smells of the attack like it was yesterday. "We recovered the remains of our dead shipmates. It was an awful job. So many guys had been badly burned and dismembered," Taylor remembered. "But I can't talk about that."

The damage in Pearl Harbor was horrendous. The *California* had lost 98 of its 1,800 officers and crew, with 61 more wounded. She came to rest on the bottom of the harbor along with the *West Virginia*.

The *Arizona* was not salvageable and 1,177 of her crew perished. The *Oklahoma* had capsized with sailors trapped inside. The *Nevada* had been beached.

In all 2,335 U.S. servicemen and 68 civilians were killed at Pearl Harbor. Another 1,178 were wounded.

Six of the eight battleships were eventually repaired and returned to service. Taylor was later assigned to the *USS Pensacola* until June 1942, but was then reassigned to the *California* just in time to take part in the Battle of Midway. He later saw action in the battles of Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf, Saipan and Okinawa.

And after 20 years of honorable military service, Taylor retired from the Navy in

1957. He eventually settled in Salem with his second wife Gloria, who passed away in 2010.

On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, Taylor celebrated his 95th birthday. While Taylor has trouble at times remembering all the names and places from his naval service, the vivid memories of Pearl Harbor from 70 years ago remain etched in his memory.

Story and photos courtesy of Mike Allegre, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (GRAP)

Changes!
Increased max amount
\$2,000!

To maintain today's readiness and strength requirements while preparing for tomorrow's challenges, the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program promotes **Strength From Within** by recognizing and rewarding those who help the Army National Guard achieve its goals.

Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ARNG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. RAs may earn up to \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists, ships to Basic Combat Training and becomes Duty MOS Qualified (DMOSQ) or for each prior service member.

Beginning on 15 Dec 2011, GRAP will only apply to certain critical MOSs within Oregon. The list of MOSs is reviewed quarterly and may change based on need. These MOSs include both combat and support MOSs and vacancies exist in units across Oregon.

To qualify for payment, you must be registered in GRAP and submit the lead through the GRAP web site. To register and learn more about GRAP, visit their web site at www.guardrap.com

Below is the current list of MOSs in Oregon offering GRAP payment. This list is valid through 31 Mar 2012.

- 11B - Infantryman
- 11C - Indirect Fire Infantryman
- 88M - Motor Transport Operator
- 92F - Petroleum Supply Specialist
- 92G - Food Service Specialist

* Information is current as of 15-DEC-11. The benefits under this program may change. Please contact your unit Recruiting and Retention NCO for the latest information regarding GRAP.

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

When We Are Needed, We Are There