

Inside this issue...

40-Year band leader pens last column for Oregon Sentinel, p. 5



Youth ChalleNGe lends a hand in the community, p. 8



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Oregon Sentinel



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Sentry Down Under: 173rd FW goes to Australia

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum,
173rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- The 173rd Fighter Wing from Kingsley Field participated in a joint flight exercise, "Sentry Down Under," with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) 2nd Operational Conversion Unit (OCU) located at RAAF Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia in late August and early September.

This exercise was designed to help students enrolled in the RAAF Fighter Combat Instructor course (FCI) train with the American F-15s.

Along with crewmembers and F-15s from the 173rd FW, a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington Air National Guard at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., participated in the exercise by providing air-to-air refueling operations.

"The FCI course is the RAAF's version of the United States' Fighter Weapons School, or Top Gun school as the U.S. Navy refers to it," said Lt. Col. Richard Wedan, Commander, 173rd Operations Group. "The best RAAF F/A-18 Hornet pilots are



Master Sgt. Steve Tilford, 141st Air Refueling Wing boom operator, Washington Air National Guard refuels a 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard, F-15 Eagle during "Sentry Down Under", Aug. 25, at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia. "Sentry Down Under" is a combined flight exercise with the 173rd FW assisting the RAAF 2nd Operational Conversion Unit advanced fighter weapons school conducted at RAAF Williamtown.

See Air on PAGE 4

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Old mining technology saves money for Oregon Guard

Story by Kim Lippert,
Oregon Military Department
Public Affairs Office

In a landmark project, the Oregon National Guard is relying on gold mining technology to restore the land at a century-old shooting range on Camp Withycombe in Clackamas, Oregon. The innovative process will remove lead bullets from the land and at the same time save the state millions of dollars.

"We are saving several million dollars by utilizing this technology," said Jim Arnold, Environmental Restoration Manager for the Oregon Military Department. "The majority of savings comes from the cleaning process that takes place on the land itself, and by avoiding the cost of having to transport all of the waste to landfills," he added.

The unique process utilizes gold mining technology to pull the bullets out of the ground and separate them from the soil.

Camp Withycombe is one of the oldest U.S. Department of Defense rifle ranges in the Western portion of the United States. Up until the late 1990's, the range had been used as a training site for hundreds of troops and police officers from around the area. Nearly 300 tons of bullets containing lead ended up in the land, creating a potential environmental concern that needed to be addressed.

"We want to be good stewards of the land," said Arnold. "The soil remediation

process allows us to clean up the area and restore it to its natural habitat," he added.

Arnold said the five-year project took a lot of planning. The Oregon Military Department contracted with AMEC Earth and Environmental and coordinated with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to do the soil remediation. During the soil washing process, contaminated soil is taken through a machine that screens the bullets out of the soil. The soil is then washed through another machine and the bullets are dropped into a bag, making a pile of bagged bullets and a pile of clean soil.

Just before the project began workers uncovered a few surprises.

"When we started, we only had information that small arms were used here," said Arnold. "But we have found ordnances from World War II, mortar rounds, grenades, and basically everything within the small arms category."

All ordnance was safely disposed of on site. Throughout the process nearly 14,000 tons of soil has been cleaned and approximately 300 tons of bullets were recovered. The bullets will be recycled and the soil will be reused.

"One of the great approaches of this project is the reuse of materials and sustainable approach," said Scott Kranz, AMEC Environmental Project Manager. "So often you end up excavating material and shipping off to a landfill, it's nice to be reusing material."

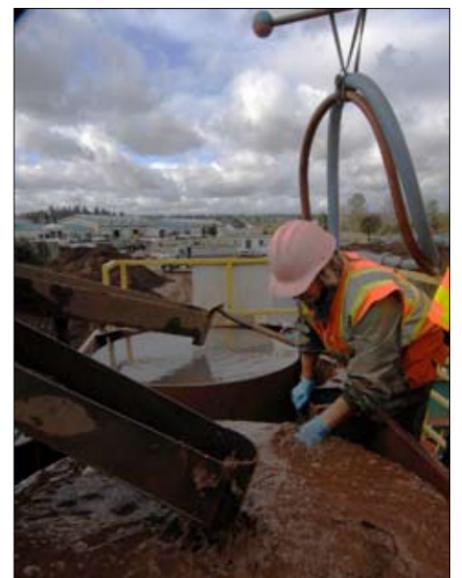


Photo courtesy of Mary Jane Moffitt-Jacobsen

A contractor works with equipment originally designed for mining gold to remove lead bullets from soil in a former firing range at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas.

Once the project is completed in October of 2008, the Oregon Military Department will begin a restoration project taking the land back to its natural state. Careful planning from the outset will allow the Oregon Military Department to ensure trees are replanted and wildlife native to the land is restored.

"We're restoring it to a better place than it was when we started," said Arnold.

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Oregon Sentinel Editorial Staff

State Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael S. Braibish
michael.s.braibish@mil.state.or.us

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

Chief, Community Relations
Kay F. Fristad
kay.f.fristad@mil.state.or.us

Editor in Chief
Staff Sgt. Jefferson Thompson
jeff.j.thompson@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Writer
Kimberly L. Lippert
kimberly.l.lippert@mil.state.or.us

Contributing Photographer/Writer
Master Sgt. Thomas L. Hovie
tom.hovie@or.ngb.army.mil

Contributors
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, Oregon 97309

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COMMAND

'Anonymous Hero' model for other Soldiers, Airmen



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees,
Adjutant General,
Oregon Military Department

After embedding in Iraq with the Oregon Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry in 2004, author John Bruning wrote of the Oregonians he met in the closing chapters of his book, *The Devil's Sandbox*:

"... meeting the volunteers changed my life. A job does not define a soul. Raised in the Silicon Valley, I was taught that the value of a man lay in his position in a corporate hierarchy.

"What nonsense. It lies in the content of his character... they all proved that to me.

Men like these are barely noticed back home. They are clerks and deliverymen, brick layers and landscapers - who live anonymously among us.

"They have one thing in common: underneath their nametags beats a hero's heart."

Anonymous Heroes. That's who we are as Guardsmen.

I recently attended a memorial ceremony for Captain Bruno G. de Solenni.

He learned to be a Soldier - one who selflessly serves the Constitution of the United States.

He learned to be an officer. Those he commanded knew he was one of the best. They respected him, not because of his rank, but because he also respected his Soldiers.

Captain de Solenni was acutely aware of his authority, but most of all his responsibility to his oath and to the Soldiers he led. He demonstrated these ideals every day, and in every way - through the content of his character and in his dealings with his fellow Soldiers and fellow Oregonians.

Captain de Solenni was born in Del Norte County, near Crescent City, Calif. He grew

up the son of a father who worked in the forest and on the sea - a timber faller - a fisherman - and an entrepreneur.

Captain de Solenni's character was shaped by his parents, family, and friends - and the community he so loved, and who loved him in return.

Not everyone answers the call to duty and service.

But for those who agree to wear our nation's military uniforms - and to uphold the great responsibilities and expectations of our countrymen to defend our collective freedoms and rights as Americans, should also carry the breadth of our collective gratitude.

Beneath that nametag - Bruno Giancarlo de Solenni - that man who lived, loved and worked among us - beneath that nametag truly beat a hero's heart.

Captain de Solenni - thank you for your service.

Thank you for your devotion to your Soldiers.

And thank you for willingness to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and for protecting our American way of life.

New State CSM addresses troops, lays out vision

I would like to first of all thank every member of this wonderful organization for your competence, confidence, courage, and commitment.

No matter where I go or who I visit, I continue to be impressed with our Airmen and Soldiers from the great state of Oregon. You have met every challenge and mission that you have been assigned. From state missions such as the floods of Vernonia to the fires of the summer, helping other states as they battle hurricanes and other natural disasters, and federal missions that take you away from family, friends, and employers to fight our wars, you set the standard for performance wherever you go. There is something special about you, and that quality leaves its mark on everyone you interact with.

It is a great time to be a Citizen-Soldier. You have the confidence and trust of the public. You have earned it with your sacrifice and service to community, state, and nation. Not only do you bring your military skills to every mission, you bring your civilian skills with you too! I have seen first hand how you are problem-solvers in any environment. You bring every bit of civilian and military experience available to you in order to accomplish your assigned mission.

There is something special about the members of this organization. You are never

satisfied with mediocrity; you always want to achieve excellence in everything you do. No one could be harder on you, than you are on yourself. Your commitment to excellence is a trait that sets you apart. You are never satisfied with the status-quo, but continue to evaluate personal and unit performance in order to do it better the next time.

I would also like to mention a couple of very important groups that also seek excellence; our employers and families.

None of us could do what we are asked to do without the support, commitment, and love of our families. Without that support, we could not function in the stressful environments we are placed. To all of the families, thank you from the bottom of my heart, you are the true heroes of this country. Make sure that you keep informed of all the programs and benefits available to you and your family and then pass the information on to them.

Most importantly, take the time to tell your families you love them at every opportunity.

We also count on our employers to support us in our missions and they have stepped up to the plate. It is extremely difficult to lose your best employees for extended periods.

Because you are excellent at your civilian jobs, your deployments leave huge holes which your employer cannot fill. They merely



State Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk W. Conley,
State Command Sergeant Major,
Oregon Military Department

hold things together until you can rejoin their teams as a more experienced employee.

Your employers are great patriots. They support you in your missions and welcome you home when those missions are completed. It is important that you keep them informed of all of your upcoming military missions.

Take the time to tell your employers that you appreciate their support.

It humbles me to have been afforded the opportunity to serve you at this level. I could not have been given a more inspiring responsibility.

I promise to do everything possible to live up to your expectations. All I ask of you is, as mentioned above- CONTINUE TO SEEK EXCELLENCE IN ALL YOU DO!!!!

Head of National Guard Bureau to receive fourth star

Story by
Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va.-- Air Force Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley has been confirmed as the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau by the U.S. Senate.

He will also become the first four-star general in the nearly 372-year history of the National Guard.

The current director of the Air National Guard, McKinley was nominated by the President in September based on the recommendation of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

He succeeds Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, who was also confirmed today by the Senate to become the first National Guard deputy commander for the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). Blum has served as chief of the Guard Bureau since 2003.

As chief of the National

Guard Bureau, McKinley will be the senior uniformed officer representing nearly 468,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

He will also serve as the principal advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on National Guard issues.

"I give all the credit for [this promotion] to the performance, friendships and relationships of [Blum]," said McKinley Sept. 22 at the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) conference in Baltimore. "Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum has been a fantastic chief of the National Guard Bureau."

Gates recommended McKinley for the upgraded four-star position in July following the recommendations of the Commission on the Guard and Reserves and the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The NDAA also established the Guard Bureau as a joint activity of the Department of Defense.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley in the left seat of a C-130J. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours, primarily in the T-38, F-106, F-16 and F-15. He was also pilot-in-command in the C-131 and C-130 Operational Support Airlift aircraft.

"General McKinley has earned this place in history," Gates said during the NGAUS conference. "I trust he will continue to lead the Guard to new heights."

A Florida National Guard member, McKinley has served as director of the 107,000-member Air National Guard since May 2006.

Prior to that, he served as assistant deputy chief of staff for

plans and programs at Air Force Headquarters. He is a command pilot with more than 34 years of military service.

McKinley was promoted to brigadier general in 1998, major general in 2001 and lieutenant general in 2006. The last Air Force general to serve as Guard Bureau chief was Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis, who held the position from 1998-2002.

COMMENTARY

Bruno Giancarlo de Solenni
CPT, Oregon National Guard

Photo courtesy de Solenni family

Capt. de Solenni died of wounds sustained when an IED detonated near his vehicle outside Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was serving in Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the Embedded Training Team, Task Force Phoenix.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Kudos' to ORNG
funeral honors team

Today, I attended the military burial for my neighbor, Brad Bass, a Vietnam Veteran. Brad was 58 and stricken with cancer, but was always proud of his military service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Era.

His burial was held at Willamette National Cemetery, with honors provided by Oregon's own burial team from Camp Withycombe, Ore., Sept. 12.

I spent three years during the same Vietnam Era, acting as a Survivor Assistance Officer, an additional duty for the Sixth U.S. Army in Montana, Oregon, and Washington. This included all facets of the graves registration process: Line of Duty Investigations, accident reports, body escort, and officiating over some 52 military funerals.

Today I saw Oregon's TEAM in action! I wish to praise the Staff Sergeant (NCOIC) and his fine detail. They were as good, or better, than ANY team I was able to muster out of Fort Lewis in years past. They looked good, knew their task was important in detail,

and made an excellent impression upon all those in attendance.

I only found out that they were Oregon National Guard troops from Camp Withycombe, because I asked the funeral director, who oversaw the ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery, what unit they came from for the ceremony.

The troops were unable to be thanked by the bereaved family, because they were off to another funeral. Somewhere at Willamette National Cemetery there should be a sign that these fine, combat tested troops are from our own Oregon National Guard.

Yes, "The Guard Belongs." This is a great "pay-back" you are doing for the community that supports you.

ALL Oregonians do need to know it is their own Oregon National Guard Force that is doing such an exemplary task of providing the very best of funeral honors for our deceased veterans.

Please thank these young men for their true concern, attention to detail, and outstanding performance of duty.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Allan E. Jeska
U.S. Army Special Forces

Oregon Guard members resurrect enlisted association

By Sgt. 1st Class John Neibert
Vice President,
Army Enlisted Association,
Oregon

Professional development is a key to growing the NCOs that we need to lead our force today and in the future. This is true regardless of the service name that rests above the left pocket of the uniforms that we proudly wear monthly, or for some, daily. There are many avenues to professional development, such as mentorship from excellent supervisors, mandatory Professional Military Education, advanced degrees or courses, and membership in professional organizations. It is this last avenue that I will address today.

The common thread that we all have is that we are enlisted Soldiers and Airmen in the Oregon National Guard. With this thread as its core, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and more specifically the Oregon chapter of the this association, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Oregon (EANGOR). This association should represent the voice of every

E-1 to E-9 in the great State of Oregon to our state legislature.

While we will fight for additional benefits and to keep the ones we currently enjoy for all 7,668 enlisted members of the Oregon National Guard, our membership numbers are a fraction of that. Why are membership numbers important?

It is through membership numbers that we can make our legislators more aware of issues that are important to us. In turn they can act for the benefit of their constituents, of which we are a part.

The EANGOR has recently elected a new executive council to take the reigns of the organization and I would like to take a moment to introduce them to you. The new President is Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Vice President – Army: Sgt. 1st Class John Neibert, Joint Force Headquarters, Vice President – Air: Master Sgt. Mark Skundrick, 125th STS, Treasurer: Master Sgt. Vanessa LaHuis, 125th STS.

We have dedicated ourselves to revitalizing a once powerful organization and need your help through membership and for those with a desire to get their hands dirty, committee membership, to accom-

plish this task for the betterment of every Soldier and Airman.

We recently returned from the EANGUS national conference and I would like to give you some idea of the kinds of issues the organization is addressing at the national level:

- Inequities of the military pay raises for active serving military members and the cost of living adjustments for retired military members.
- Relating to federal employees retirement system for military technicians.
- Increasing the level of defense spending as a percentage of gross domestic products.
- Department of Defense requirement for medical and dental readiness.
- Provision of mental health resources to support all National Guard and Reserve component members returning from deployment.
- Civil Support Team training for the National Guard.
- Equitable treatment of dual status military technicians.
- Issuing of IBA and SAPI plates to Non-BCT units training for deploy-

ment to OIF/OEF.

- Space-A travel privileges for surviving spouses.

I am writing this in the back of a C-17 from the State of Mississippi enroute to the State of Texas to participate in the search and recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Ike. I am proud to wear the uniform of my country, represent the great State of Oregon, and lend a helping hand to those in need.

I take great comfort in knowing that no matter what state or branch of service the folks that I will be working with on the other end hail from, they will be some of the best trained and professional people in the world working for a cause bigger than them selves.

I know this because we have great leaders that understand the importance of professional development and membership in the organizations that fight for the boots on the ground.

For more information, or to join please go to: www.memberconnections.com, click 'MEMBERSHIP' tab, click on 'JOIN OR RENEW,' then 'STATE ASSOCIATION,' then 'OREGON,' then 'BECOME A MEMBER'.

Oregon agency assists children through disasters

By Jennifer Bailey
Public Affairs Coordinator
Oregon Emergency Management

If you have ever been through a traumatic event such as a flood, fire, earthquake or even a car accident, you know how you felt when it was over. Most people's reactions vary from being completely calm to a bit shaky to totally falling apart. How long these reactions last differ from person to person and disaster to disaster.

Now, put yourself in the place of a younger person. Children can feel very frightened during a disaster and afterwards some children will show temporary changes in behavior.

Most changes will be mild, not last long and diminish with time. However, reminders of what happened could cause upsetting feelings to return and behavior changes to emerge again. Watching scenes of the disaster on television can be distressing for children, especially the younger ones.

Those children who actually live through the disaster, perhaps being evacuated and having to leave the safety of home, seeing people injured and crying and feeling that their lives are threatened are extremely vulnerable to emotional distress and may develop post-traumatic stress disorder or related symptoms as a result.

How parents and caregivers react to and cope with an emergency situation will affect the way their children react and recover. If family and friends are calm and con-

fidant that everything will be alright, children will also feel more confident. Involving children in preplanning, preparing a family disaster plan and putting together their 72 hour emergency kit will help.

Different age groups will react differently. Typical reactions for children from birth to six years old are irritability, crying and wanting to be held all the time.

From age seven to 10 children have a greater under-

ers often struggle to talk about intense emotions, they should be encouraged to do so.

Parents get very busy during and after a disaster trying to get their lives, businesses, homes, and finances back in shape. They may be so focused on the overall situation that they are not aware of what is happening with their children.

Parents and caregivers need to be aware that the disaster may be what is causing the abnormal behavior, anxieties and fears. Children are no different than adults in that they fear the event will happen again, someone close to them will be killed or injured, or they will be left alone or separated from their family.

Listen to what a child is say-

ing. Help the child to express his or her thoughts and feelings or draw a picture of what happened. Calmly provide factual information about the disaster and plans for insuring their ongoing safety. Involve your children in planning and practicing your plan. Give them specific tasks to let them know they can help restore family and community life. Limit their exposure to news coverage of the disaster that can cause fear. Spend extra time with your children and re-establish daily routines as quickly as possible. Disasters can and will happen, even in Oregon. Be ready, have a plan, get a kit and be informed. When people are prepared, they feel better and they cope better.

Other information may be found at www.oregon.gov/omd/oem or www.fema.gov.



“Children can feel very frightened during a disaster, some will show temporary changes in behavior.”

— Jennifer Bailey, OEM

standing of the permanence of loss. They may want to talk about it all the time. These preoccupations can interfere with their concentration at school. They may hear incorrect information from peers that need to be clarified by parents. They may have a strong fear that the disaster will happen again and may be sad or angry that such a thing could happen.

Teenagers from age 11 through 18 are more mature. Their responses are more similar to those of adults. However, following a disaster, the world can seem more dangerous and unsafe. The realization that bad things do happen and can happen to them may cause teenagers to become involved in dangerous risk-taking behavior. Others may be fearful of leaving home. Although teenagers

NEWS

Air National Guard lends training expertise to Australians



Photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum, 173rd FW Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. David Evinger, 173rd Fighter Wing Crew Chief, marshals in a 173rd FW F-15 Eagle on Aug. 22, 2008 at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jerry Bynum, 173rd FW Public Affairs

RAAF Corporal Glen White, 381st Expeditionary Support Squadron fuels an F-15 Eagle with the assistance of Senior Airman Vanessa Caldwell, 173rd Fighter Wing Fuels Flight, Oregon Air National Guard, during "Sentry Down Under" on Aug. 28, 2008 at RAAF Williamtown, New South Wales, Australia.

Continued from FRONT PAGE

selected to attend this course, and our pilots gave those students some tremendous training."

Air Force Fighter Weapons School Graduate, and 173rd FW Weapons Officer, Maj. Jeff Edwards was very impressed with the tactical level of expertise displayed by the Australians.

"We provided adversary presentations for their students during a very difficult phase of their training," he said. "Their tactics and in-flight execution were quite complex, and well

flown. Giving them an F-15 platform to train against significantly enhanced their training."

The RAAF's 2nd OCU trains fighter pilots as its primary role. They run the operational conversion courses for new pilots to the RAAF's F/A-18 Hornet, operational refresher courses for former F-18 pilots returning to the aircraft and fighter combat instructor courses to provide postgraduate qualifications for selected aircrew.

"This training gives us the opportunity to work with one of our closest allies," said Maj. Brian Bergeron, the 173rd FW deployment project officer. "Camraderie was evident from the very first day. We train fighter pilots, and we do the same things for the same reasons."

Camraderie was not only seen in the air, but on the ground as well. This has been an opportunity for open communication and work with other aspects of the RAAF. The 173rd FW deployed maintenance package had the opportunity to interact with the different maintenance functions of the RAAF.

"This has been a great opportunity to exchange maintenance practices and learn about different technologies that the RAAF

perform our jobs."

The RAAF F-18s from the Number 77 Squadron, which is the operational squadron located at RAAF Williamtown, which sits on the southeast coast of Australia also participated in the exercise.

"The 173rd FW brings a high level of experience," says RAAF Wing Commander Phil Gordon, 2nd OCU commander. "The Eagle pilots are really putting us through our paces with high quality fighting," continues Gordon. "I would love this training to happen as often as it can."

"The 2nd OCU performs the same mission for the RAAF as the 173rd FW does for the United States, train combat fighter pilots," says Gordon, "I couldn't be happier with you guys coming out flying with us."

During "Sentry Down Under," the 173rd FW performed tactical sorties as well as familiarization flights. About 88 sorties with multiple training missions were flown during the two weeks of flying.

"These missions are a great learning experience for everyone involved," said Maj. Johan Deutscher, a 173rd FW instructor pilot. "The RAAF gets an opportunity to look at the full capabilities of another

airframe as well as train with seasoned instructor pilots."

On average, each instructor pilot has over 2,000 flight hours in the F-15, which

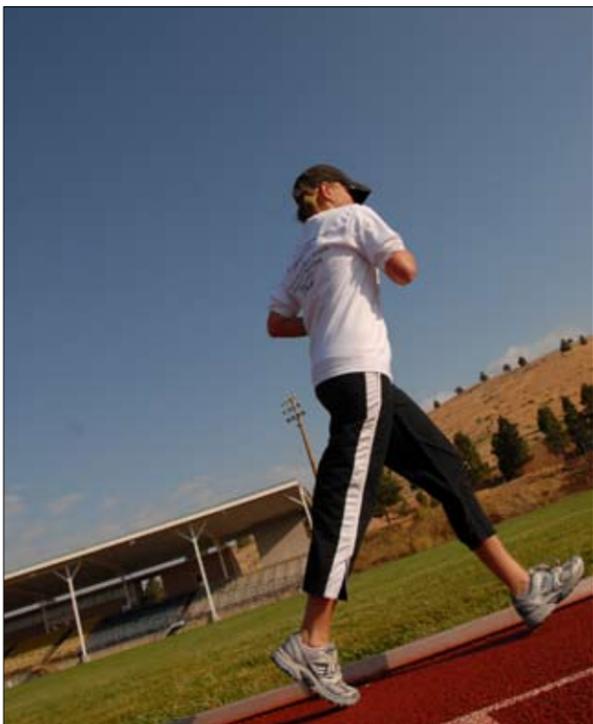
provides a high quality training environment for the RAAF. "The OCU has the same type of training mission as the 173rd FW, so they understand what we do," Gordon concluded.

"The Eagle pilots are really putting us through our paces."
— RAAF Wing Commander Phil Gordon

Klamath Falls foundation raises money to support families

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

The morning of Sept. 20 found community members from around Klamath Falls, Ore., pitching in to raise funds for the David R. Kingsley Foundation, a charitable organization created to help families of deployed Airman at Kingsley Field.



2nd Lt. Dreama Hutchison runs the last leg of the triathlon which took place at the Oregon Institute of Technology track at the north end of Klamath Falls, Ore.

The local YMCA planned the event, a triathlon, consisting of a 10-lap swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a 5,000-meter run.

"Sandy [Fugate], our aquatics instructor wanted to have a triathlon and I really wanted to be able to give back to the community," said Mindy Surber, the YMCA Fitness Director and triathlon coordinator. "I wanted to do something more for the people that keep me free!"

This is the first of what Surber hopes is an annual tradition, and in its first year the event netted \$1,000 to benefit



Left: Tech. Sgt. Kenny Shearer of the 173rd FW gets ready to swim 10 laps to begin his solo effort on the triathlon.

Below: Tech. Sgt. Sandra Fugate rides through the outskirts of Klamath Falls as she completes the 10-mile loop which ended at the Oregon Institute of Technology Campus.



the families of deployed servicemembers.

Several entrants from the 173rd Fighter Wing participated including a three-person team of self-proclaimed triathlon "newbies": Dreama Hutchison, Sandra Fugate and Malea Kuykendall, who is not a Guardsman.

"The YMCA decided to do a triathlon fundraiser to benefit the David R. Kingsley Foundation," said Hutchison, who ran the 5,000-meter leg for the team. "So we decided we'd get together as a team to raise some money for the foundation." Event entrants chose between competing as an individual or fielding a team to complete the three different legs of the race.

"I would encourage anybody to come out, this is only the third time I've been on my bike this year and I am doing great," said Fugate after completing the bike ride which ended after a long climb up to the Oregon Institute of Technology campus.

"I knew we had a fast swimmer, and I didn't want to let Dreama down so I rode as hard as I could and didn't let up on the hills!" Fugate added with a big grin on her face.

Kuykendall, formerly a competitive swimmer for Oregon State University, posted the fastest swim time by a fair margin by swimming 500 meters in six minutes.

"We want to win this thing!" Kuykendall said, but added that not everyone has to compete at that level saying, "Just do it for fun and you'll make it." Thirty people from around the community participated in the triathlon and helped make it a success, among them were Kenny Shearer from Life Support and Dave Millard of the Logistics Readiness Squadron.

RECRUITING & RETENTION

Oregon Soldiers, Airmen in Bell Blazers Classic

Members of the Oregon National Guard participated in the Bell Blazers Classic to benefit the Oregon Partnership, an organization aimed at preventing teen alcohol and drug abuse.

The golf tournament is held annually and is cosponsored by the Portland Trail Blazers.

From left to right: Staff Sgt. Grant Roper, 142nd Fighter Wing, Dean Demopoulos, lead assistant coach to Head Coach Nate McMillan, Staff Sgt. Luke Arant, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Tech. Sgt. Charles Jeffries, 116th Air Control Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Asuncion, 125th Special Tactics Squadron.

Now in his third season in the NBA, Dean Demopoulos was hired by the SuperSonics as an assistant coach in 2001. Demopoulos joined Seattle after 17 seasons as an assistant at Temple University and one season as head basketball coach at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Theresa Whallen, Oregon National Guard Counter Drug

Bend area commissary sale successful

Story by Kay Fristad,
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

The Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond, Ore., hosted the first On-Site Commissary Sale in Central Oregon's history.

Servicemembers, along with veterans and their families, were treated to great deals last month during the On-Site Commissary Sale.

The event was arranged in order to provide the opportunity for lower commissary prices, a benefit of military service.

The nearest major commissaries are located several hours north in Tacoma, Wash., at McChord Air Force Base and Fort Lewis.

Taking into account the need to provide services for Oregon's increasing number of veterans the Defense Commissary Agency and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service from Smokey Point in Bremerton, Wash., and McChord Air Force Base, Wash., joined together with the Bend Veterans' Affairs Medical Clinic to host the sale.

The sale featured discount prices typically found on active-duty posts on house-



Photo by Kay Fristad, Oregon Military Department

Previously Janie, Bill and Tyler Dwyer had become accustomed to traveling more than 400 miles to Sacramento, Calif. once a year to visit a commissary and stock up on groceries.

hold goods for Central Oregon vets, other military members and family members who are geographically separated from a commissary, PX or BX.

Sale items included staple, dry and frozen goods.

The Bend VA Clinic also provided free

flu shots, health assessments and registration for all eligible participants.

"Customer response was overwhelming with 96 positive compliments written expressing their gratitude towards our efforts and presence in bringing the benefit to them," said Janice Coleman, the Store Director of Smokey Point Commissary in Washington state.

More than 600 customers participated making the Central Oregon sale the highest dollar grossing commissary event in Oregon held to date.

"Words cannot express the feelings our staff experienced during this event, every customer was so appreciative of our organized efforts, selection, customer service and the fact that the agency would bring their benefit to them," said Coleman.

"I haven't had the opportunity to purchase at a Commissary since I lived in a lighthouse in Astoria, this is great opportunity for veterans!" said veteran George Gehring of Powell Butte.

Customers were asked to complete an evaluation form to let the store directors know what items the veterans, military members and family members from Central Oregon would most like to see added for the next sale already in the planning stage. This years customers requested that vitamins, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and batteries be added to inventories for the next sale.

Janie, Bill and Tyler Dwyer had become accustomed to traveling to Sacramento, Calif. once a year to visit a commissary to stock up.

"We are hoping that these events will continue in Central Oregon," stated Janie Dwyer.

40-year Soldier pens last column

CW5 James Powell,
Command Chief
Warrant Officer,
Oregon National
Guard



This month, we highlight the most critical warrant officer openings around the Oregon Army National Guard. I'll also discuss some "over strength" issues which are of interest.

Warrant Officers are considered "subject matter experts." In order to become a warrant officer, you must have the correct pre-requisite MOS, and know your stuff! Warrant Officer Basic Courses generally don't teach you all the aspects of your complicated and expert job. If you want to be a signal corps warrant, you must know computers, equipment, and networking. To be a military intelligence warrant, you must be MOS qualified in the 35 Career Management Field. To be prepared is to succeed. If you wish to pursue a warrant officer career, begin preparing now! Look ahead five years, and ask yourself "Have I prepared to be a technical Warrant Officer? Have I gone to the right schools? Have I learned the right subjects?" Answers to all these questions (and many more) can be had by contacting your command chief warrant officer. Start preparing now for your future!

Now, for those critical MOS's... We still need one more Field Targeting Technician (131A). You need to be an MOS trained 13J to apply. We're looking for a Command and Control Systems Technician (140A), who is trained as an enlisted 14E or 14J. We need several engineer warrant officers, specifically Utilities and Operations Maintenance Technicians (210A). If you apply for this job, you should have a fully trained background in construction. We really need another Allied Trades Technician (914A). This specialty is a fabricator who designs and builds metal equipment. We are looking for several Food Service Technicians (922A), from the enlisted corps of MOS qualified 92Gs. The Oregon Guard can also increase its technical Warrant force by as much as 200 percent right now, in an effort to provide redundancy in some of these highly specialized positions, dependent on the specific MOS. Our aviation force can increase up to 125 percent.

Other jobs come open regularly. The point of this list is to encourage you to begin prepping for the warrant officer corps NOW, as an E4 or young E5. Go to school. Get MOS qualified. Take college level classes, especially in writing and speech. Take leadership courses, beginning with the Warrior Leader Course and the Basic NCO Course for your specialty. Go to the US Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) and review the Warrant Officer pre-requisites to become familiar with the job. Talk with senior Warrant Officers and establish a mentor relationship right now. Work your way towards an excellent promotion opportunity!

And now, I need to say goodbye. Many of you have heard that I retired this October after 40 years of service to the Guard.

As I reflect on my career, I am so proud of those Soldiers who have chosen to join the warrant officer corps. They have "cemented" the future of the Oregon Army National Guard by providing the technical basis for a series of tough jobs which the Guard needs in this difficult time.

Even more, those Soldiers have chosen to carry on the pride of the warrant officer corps by working hard to learn and promote. My hat is off to them, and to all of you who form the greatest group of Citizen-Soldiers in the country!!

Come fly with us!

Ever thought of becoming a pilot?
We're looking for a few good candidates.

The minimum requirements for flight school:

- Enlisted Soldiers applying for Warrant Officer must be MOSQ
- Candidates should be age 32 or younger upon entering flight training
- Commissioned Officers must not exceed O-3, and must be branch assigned
- Passing APFT with 70 or greater in each category
- ASVAB GT score of 110 or greater
- Upon receiving your DA Form 2-1, we'll schedule you for...
- AFAST Flight Aptitude Exam, score of 90 or greater
- Upon passing we'll schedule you for...
- Class I Flight Physical
- Vision must be 20/200 correctable to 20/20, and successful LASIK is now waiverable (AR 40-8; AR 40-501)

To initiate your application contact:

CPT Adam McCarthy
Administrative Officer
2-641 Aviation Regiment
adam.c.mccarthy@us.army.mil
503-584-3450 Office

NEWS

Oregon Guard Personnel Services Co. inactivated

Story by Sgt. Patrick Lair,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SALEM, Ore.-- After fifty-two years as a unit whose mission was to serve fellow Soldiers, the 41st Personnel Services Company furl its colors at an inactivation ceremony recently, preserving a proud legacy that includes deployments to Germany and Kuwait.

"What a historical moment this is," said Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte, commander of the 82nd Brigade. "You may be small in numbers but you're large in heart."

A handful of former members from the 41st PSC gathered at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, on Sept. 13, 2008, to participate in the farewell ceremony.

Most of the members have already been reassigned to new units and are drilling in other areas. As part of a transformation called personnel services delivery redesign, the PSC Soldiers were moved into individual units to process Soldiers' paperwork using new military software. The move is meant to streamline administrative actions.

Capt. Ramona Treat, the former company commander, led the formation and received a Meritorious Service Medal for her leadership in the unit over the previous year.

"I can't think of a better place to be than commander of a unit that helps people do their jobs," Treat said, reflecting on her four and a half years in the company. "Our mission, although tedious and monotonous at times, is so important to those trigger-pullers. They can't be out there worrying about their paychecks."

Treat said her Soldiers should serve their new units well because the 41st PSC trained for perfection in administrative duties.

"They're going to shine for you, general," she said.

Yriarte recalled his return from Iraq through Kuwait in 2005 and said the services performed by the 41st PSC helped to expedite his Soldiers' redeployment from combat.

"What you've done is given of yourselves so that others could benefit," he said. "All of you went to war and all of you had to sacrifice."

Lt. Col. Kelly Smothers, commander of the 821st Troop Command Battalion, agreed with the sentiment and told the Soldiers to take pride in what they've accomplished.



Photo by Spc. Kirby Rider, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Brig. Gen. Charles L. Yriarte the 82nd Brigade Commander pins the Meritorious Service Medal on former commander Capt. Ramona Treat during a deactivation ceremony held at the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, Ore. Sept. 13, 2008.

"You're a group of heroes," he told them. "You wear the patch and you did a great job."

Smothers also wished the Soldiers luck in their new assignments and advised them to draw on the training, experiences and camaraderie of their time in the 41st PSC.

"Just remember your past," he said. "It's that past that makes you who you are today and who you'll be tomorrow."

The company was first organized into the Oregon Army National Guard, on April 1, 1956, as the 41st Replacement Company of the 41st Infantry Division in Portland.

Three years later, it was reorganized and designated as the 41st Administration Company. In March of 1968, the company was reorganized and reconsolidated with Company A, 141st Support Battalion, which then became Company A (Administration), 141st Support Battalion.

The company moved to Tigard in 1986 and then on to Salem in 1989.

In 1996, the company was mobilized for nine months in support of Operation Joint Endeavor/Forge, and deployed to 11 separate military posts throughout Germany.

Field Artillery explodes old record

Story and photos by
Pfc. Anita VanderMolen,
115th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

YAKIMA, Wash.-- "Twelve rounds. Load it. Stand by. Fire!" These commands rang out, followed by a booming report, in central Washington as the 2-218th Field Artillery, Oregon Army National Guard, trained at the Yakima Training Area.

The 2-218th Field Artillery Bravo Battery of McMinville had a rare opportunity to take part in the largest live fire-training mission in more than a decade.

They fired 1,300, 105mm rounds from eight M119 Howitzers during a 36-hour period Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area.

Fire training normally happens three to four times during the year with about 200 rounds fired per battery.

Firing nearly 700 rounds was a chance for the Soldiers to experience job training before their 2009 deployment where they will be conducting patrol and security missions.

"The Soldiers will be mothballing their fire experience for a couple of years," Sgt. James Elifritt, a cannon section chief from Forest Grove said. "This amount of ammunition has not been fired in a very long time. We wanted to have a good solid drill with firing extra rounds."

The battery was able to fire high explosive, white phosphorus and illumination rounds during the training mission.

Day and night firing provided



Soldiers from 2-218th Field Artillery Bravo Battery fire a 105mm high explosive round from a M119 Howitzer during annual training Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area in Washington. Soldiers took part in firing more than 1,300 rounds in a 36-hour time period including night training.

the Soldiers with an all-around ammunition-firing experience.

"It's a whole different animal at night," Spc. Thomas Hoy, an assistant gunner, of Forest Grove said. "The noise, watching where you're stepping and carrying 37-pound shells around makes it a little more interesting adventure."

Whether it's day or night, firing or providing security, field artillery Soldiers have to be flexible.

"These are professional Soldiers willing to do what's asked of them," Capt. Jason Marshall, the battery commander from Willamina said. "This is a thinking man's job. It's challenging and continues to be challenging even at this rank," he added.



Soldiers from the 2-218th Field Artillery Bravo Battery load an M119 Howitzer with a 105mm high-explosive round weighing nearly 40 pounds during their annual training Oct. 3 and 4 at the Yakima Training Area in Washington.

Deploying Soldiers may get healthcare early

courtesy,
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Oregon National Guard members deploying to Iraq in May could be eligible for the military's healthcare plan as early as February. A provision of the Department of Defense's health care program, TRICARE, entitles Guardsmen and their eligible family members to TRICARE healthcare benefits for up to 90 days prior to deployment.

Early Eligibility: The key is the early alert order. Deploying troops should be notified of their potential eligibility when the orders are issued. Also, Guardsmen must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), which is done by unit administrators.

Guard families can update DEERS with any changes in duty status, family status or address. Once DEERS shows approval for early eligibility, Guardsmen and their immediate family members may begin using TRICARE benefits and continue using them throughout the deployment. If deployment orders are cancelled prior to reporting for active duty, or if new release orders are issued before reporting for duty, TRICARE eligibility will end on the order cancellation date.

During the Deployment: Many in the Oregon National Guard live in a TRICARE "Prime Service Area" and access health care through the TRICARE civilian provider network. Families residing in remote locations, more than 50 miles from a military treatment facility, may access urgent, emergent or routine care from a civilian certified, authorized or network provider. If the family member resides with a TRICARE Prime Remote eligible service member they can enroll in or Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) and see local civilian primary care providers for regular appointments.

If specialty care is needed, the family provider will have to send a request to TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers the TRICARE program in Oregon and 20 other western states. Prescriptions are covered under TRICARE early eligibility with low co-pays at retail pharmacies and up to 90-day supply available through the mail.

Health Plan Choices: Family members will have TRICARE Standard and Extra as soon as they show 'eligible' in DEERS. With Standard and Extra the family members may see a civilian certified/authorized or network provider and pay a 20- or 15-percent cost-share and no deductible. A list of network providers can be found at www.triwest.com or by calling 1-888-874-9378.

Family members may be eligible to enroll in either TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members. There is no cost to enroll in these programs but an enrollment form will need to be completed. When a family member sees a provider under TRICARE Prime or Prime Remote there are no cost shares or copayments. Claims using the TRICARE Standard or Extra benefit can be filed as soon as DEERS shows eligibility. If a claim is declined because of incorrect eligibility, contact TriWest for reprocessing once eligibility is updated in DEERS.

Dental Coverage: During activation Oregon Guardsmen have the same dental benefits as an active duty service member. Those who had dental coverage before activation will be automatically re-enrolled upon deactivation. Visit www.tricare-dentalprogram.com for details. Family members are eligible to enroll in the dental program, regardless of the service member's enrollment. Active duty family members — including activated Guard — pay a reduced monthly premium for dental coverage. Initial enrollment requires a 12-month commitment.

After the Deployment: When the service member returns home from the deployment the service member and eligible family members will have 180 days of Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) benefits. This will be TRICARE Standard and Extra. The service member and family members can re-enroll in Prime during TAMP benefits if Prime is available where they live. TRICARE Prime Remote is not an option under TAMP benefits.

After the 180 days of TAMP benefits the service member may be able to purchase TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). For more information about TRICARE benefits, visit www.triwest.com/ngr.

NEWS BRIEFS

McCormick and Schmicks offers Vets' tribute, free meal

All veterans receive a free lunch or dinner entrée at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants nationwide on Sunday, Nov. 9 in honor of Veterans Day. This popular Sunday event enables veteran's families to dine together.

As in past years, McCormick & Schmick's will extend this offer to those defined as a veteran by the Veterans Administration, Title 38 US Code 101, which is a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

All veterans must show proper identification.

Traditionally, the McCormick & Schmick's Veterans Appreciation event is held on the Sunday prior to the formal Veterans Day holiday, however this year it will be held Sunday, Nov. 9 at participating locations.

New service for wounded warriors

The Military OneSource service established a Wounded Warrior Resource Center telephone number and e-mail address for servicemembers and their families if they have concerns or other difficulties during their recovery process.

Servicemembers and their family members and caregivers can now call (800) 342-9647 or e-mail wwrc@militaryonesource.com 24/7 to request support from specially trained consultants.

Assistance provided by the resource center will not replace the specialized wounded warrior programs established by each of the military services, but it will offer another avenue of assistance for military facilities, health care services, and/or benefits information.

To find career resources for the severely injured, visit the Military.com, Severely Injured Career Center.

Soldiers required to update emergency data, DD form 93

In accordance with Department of The Army Operations Order 08-01, "Execute New (Jan 08) DD Form 93", all Soldiers must complete a new DD Form 93, Record of Emergency Data. The biggest change to the form is that a Beneficiary can be named on the form for the Death Gratuity. The reason for the change is that commanders have reported in the past that the soldier's intentions often were not properly captured on the previous edition of the form.

It is directed that all soldiers complete a new DD Form 93 no later than Jan. 31, 2009 utilizing eMILPO. If a Jan. 8, DD Form 93 has been completed utilizing Forms Content Manager or one of the other approved methods; the form must also be completed in eMILPO as eMILPO is the required format at all Mobilization Stations.

Access to eMILPO can be granted by CW3 Rob Karnes, MSG Don Miller or SFC Dave Bailiff. All requests for access must be submitted via email or normal distribution utilizing the National Guard eMILPO Access Request Form located on the PSS Web Page on the Oregon National Guard Intranet.

Transition Assistance for Soldiers, Family

For the last three years the Oregon National Guard Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) has helped hundreds of Oregon Soldiers and Airmen find jobs. But it's not just service members using CTAP services, family members are also gaining career guidance.

"We've had 463 hires in the last 18

months and not all are servicemembers. We've been very successful for family members and spouses as well," said Sgt. 1st Class Phil Maas, Program Manager for the Career Transition Assistance Program.

The Career Transition Assistance Program offers career guidance to returning Soldiers through coaching, contacts with potential employers and help filling out job applications. Currently, 175 employers from across the state have created partnerships with CTAP allowing Maas to match job seekers with potential employers.

"If we can get a person involved in a career it relieves a lot of pressure not only for the Soldier but also the Soldiers' family," said Maas.

Maas said it is inevitable that the Soldier and his family will change over the course of a deployment. With that growth often means a shift in career goals for both the Soldier and sometimes his or her spouse.

"Fourteen months in Iraq or Afghanistan equals about four years of maturity...you are a different person when you come back here," said Maas.

The Oregon National Guard CTAP program is aimed at helping those Soldiers and their families chart a career path. The program is staffed with two full time people whose sole purpose is to meet with individuals and help them realize their career potential.

Another place Soldiers can speak with CTAP members and potential employers are Career and Benefit Fairs held throughout the state several times a year.

"We're one more iron in the fire, and we're here to help you," said Maas.

For more information on the Career Transition Assistance Program please call Sgt. 1st. Class Phil Maas at (503) 584-2389.

LBCC offers Gatlin Online classes to military members

Want to take classes but think you don't have the time? Gatlin Education Services and Linn-Benton Community College has teamed-up to give our military service members access to the world's largest provider of Web-based, instructor-supported training programs to colleges and universities nationwide.

Choose from courses in healthcare and fitness, business and professional, IT and software development, management and corporate, media and design, hospitality and gaming, and skilled trades and industrial.

These self-paced courses have no start date to enroll, so you can sign up anytime. The online access allows you to take classes on your time and at your convenience, day or night. Courses are approved by the ESO as eligible for military tuition assistance.

Gatlin programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field. The programs include textbooks and base material to provide the most effective online training experience.

Each program includes a set of lessons and evaluations. Students are graded using a combination of instructor/mentor evaluations of students' work and computer-graded tests.

For more information or to register, visit online at www.gatlineducation.com/linnbenton/military, or contact Art Mota at (541) 917-4738.

OR National Guard Association provides scholarships

The Oregon National Guard Association will present six \$1,500 scholarships for School Year 2009 at the ORNGA Conference on February 14, 2009. Scholarships are awarded for demonstrated qualities of leadership, civic action and academic achievement. Scholarships would cover attendance at an accredited college, university, trade, or business school.

These scholarships are administered by the Oregon National Guard Charitable

Education Fund and paid directly to the recipient's school of choice.

Available to: Active Members of the Oregon National Guard, the ORNGA, or their spouses or dependent children.

Current year recipients are not eligible, (winners for school year 2008-2009 may not apply until next year). Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate level college, business or trade school.

The application deadline is Jan. 5, 2009. Scholarship Applications are available on the web at <http://www.ornga.org> or call the ORNGA Office at (503) 584-3030.

Send completed Applications and support documents to:

Oregon National Guard Association
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 14350
Salem, Oregon 97309-5047

West Nile Virus detected in Wash.

According to FEMA a dead crow found in Kirkland, Wash. Sept. 15 tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the first bird to test positive for West Nile virus in King County this year.

Officials caution that this Medium Level Alert requires awareness and potential preparatory action. According to the Center's for Disease Control some general measures include using insect repellent on exposed skin when you go outdoors, use an EPA-registered insect repellent such as those with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Further precautions include, taking extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during peak mosquito activity hours, evening and early morning, or avoiding outdoor activities during these times.

The alert level is now at two, which means there is a low risk of human outbreak.

Strong Bonds Couples Retreat

There will be a Strong Bonds Couples Weekend Retreat (formerly known as Marriage Enrichment) offered Nov. 21-23. This seminar is open to Oregon National Guard Members (both Army and Air) and their spouses only.

Long separations and the stress of deployment can subject military marriages to extreme hardship.

Strong Bonds programs are offered by Chaplains with the full support of Command. You'll gain practical, useful information based on world-class curriculum developed from years of research.

In small groups, you'll participate in activities that renew bonds with your peers. And, as a couple, you'll practice communication and relationship building skills, as well as share intimate moments.

The Strong Bonds Couples weekend retreat is designed to strengthen relationships, inspire hope and rekindle marriages - even start the journey of healing for relationships under fire.

The retreat will be held at Sunriver Resort, 17600 Center Drive, Sunriver, OR 97707.

Lodging for the retreat is pre-paid. There is a continental breakfast and a lunch provided Nov. 22 only. The course and course materials are free to attendees.

Attending service members need to coordinate their participation through their command channels. It is at the discretion of command to allow a split training or attendance in lieu of drill.

For this event, we are registering attendees through the National Guard Family Program website (www.guardfamily.org).

To view specific details about this event, you will need to log-on to www.guardfamily.org.

If needed, create a User Log-On for this website. Once logged in, you will be able to see the event details. To do so, click on "My NGB-FP" tab on the left side of the page, then on events, then on "Marriage Enrichment (Strong Bonds)."

For more information contact Michelle Kochosky at (503) 584-2245 or michelle.kochosky@us.army.mil.

Savings bonds available via the web

Did you know that you can buy U.S. Savings Bonds in electronic form and hold them directly with the U.S. Treasury over the web?

Be sure to check out more information on the TreasuryDirect Program at www.dfas.mil/mil-news/mar2008/treasurydirectprogram.html.

Retirees information available via e-mail

Each Tuesday the Retiree Service Office (RSO) sends out information to retirees via e-mail. E-mails on change of command ceremonies, deployments, Tricare services, survivor's benefits, quarterly luncheons and COLA increases are just a few examples. If you are retired and would like to start, or stop receiving information via e-mail from the RSO, just send your name and e-mail information to orrsso@or.ngb.army.mil or phone at (503) 584-2891.

Retirees can update information via RSO

The RSO reminds retirees, "keep your information current." Mailing addresses and phone numbers are kept on every Soldier and Airman retiring from the Oregon National Guard. Official retirement orders are used to add information about retirees to a data base maintained by the Retirement Service Office (RSO).

A list of retirees along with their last known address is what public affairs uses to mail out copies of the Sentinel. Retirees should contact the RSO whenever there is an address or phone number change.

You can contact the RSO by e-mail at orrsso@or.ngb.army.mil or by phone at (503) 584-2891.

Expanded retiree program available

The Oregon National Guard Retiree' and Veterans Council has expanded its area of responsibility to include veterans, and retired state or federal civilian employees of the Oregon Military Department.

A veteran is anyone that has been discharged or relieved under honorable conditions from the Oregon National Guard.

The Council's challenge is to recognize the future changes in the makeup of our civilian employees and military members.

The challenging role that the Oregon Guard plays in our deployments and continuing efforts for peace throughout the world, brings our people closer together.

It is the council's mission to provide a communications link to veterans and retired military with their units and the Oregon National Guard.

Retiree Service Office has moved

The Retiree's Service Office has moved to Better Serve You. As of Oct. 14 the RSO has moved to new location in Room 240 of the Anderson Readiness Center. The RSO will share the office space with representatives of TriCare and Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

Retiree Service Office

Open Tuesdays,
10 am to 2 pm
(503) 584-2891
1-800-452-7500, ext. 2891
E-mail:
ORRSO@or.ngb.army.mil
US Mail:
Retiree Service Office
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309

Newport, Toledo businesses lauded by ESGR



Peggy Preisz, General Manager of Mo's Restaurants received the Seven Seals Award and the ESGR Coin from Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bill Doctor, ESGR State Chairman.

Story and photo by Kay Fristad
Oregon Military Department
with contributions from Mike Allegre
Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWPORT, Ore. -- The Oregon branch of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Committee honored two central Oregon coast businesses and two cities for their exceptional support of their employees--Oregon National Guard members--who were called to active duty in the past year.

Representatives of these businesses, cities, and the U.S. Coast Guard received awards on Aug. 12, at 7 p.m., at the Oregon ESGR's annual awards banquet in Newport.

Both Mo's Restaurants and Rogue Brewing Company earned the highest award presented by Oregon's ESGR Committee--the 7 Seals Award. The seals represent all seven major military branches: the United States Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and branches

of the National Guard and Reserve.

Oregon's State Chairman for the ESGR Committee, Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Bill Doctor, presented all awards.

"As American citizen citizens, the management and staff of all of Mo's Restaurants believe we should always do whatever we can to support our troops," said Peggy Preisz, general manager of Mo's Restaurants. "Our freedom does not come without a price tag and we must support our military and their families."

"Both Mo's and Rogue Brewing have provided Oregon military members and their respective units with outstanding support in the past year," said Bob Elliott, the executive director of Oregon's ESGR Committee. "They represent the best in hometown patriotism by going that extra mile for military members, their families and veterans in general."

The cities of Newport and Toledo were the recipients of the "Above and Beyond Award."

Toledo Police Chief Mark Fandrey ac-

cepted the award and was recognized for allowing patrol officer Dave Enyeart to remain on active military duty for three years so he could lead the training of Oregon Army Guard soldiers preparing to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Recently promoted to the rank of brigadier general, Enyeart is now the Oregon's National Guard's assistant to the adjutant general for Army.

Keizer resident Rex Newell was awarded a lifetime achievement award for his work as an ESGR Committee ombudsman and volunteer. He also worked the U.S. Department of Labor handling veteran related employment concerns.

"For years Rex worked as a Boss Lift coordinator and continued to work with employers to promote cooperation an understanding between Reserve Component members and their civilian employers in an employee's military commitment," Doctor said. "Rex has been invaluable to ESGR."

America's Reserve military components from all branches comprise approximately 48 percent of the total available military manpower. The current National Defense Strategy indicates the National Guard and Reserve will be full partners in the fully integrated Total Force. With that, members will spend more time away from the workplace defending the nation, supporting a demanding operations tempo and training to maintain their mission readiness.

The mission of ESGR is to educate, develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. The National organization works to maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and assist in educating National Guard and Reserve members regarding their obligations and responsibilities to employers.

For more information about the awards event, contact Elliott at (503) 508-3362.

Key leaders: Guard roles in for big changes



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates speaks during a conference of the National Guard Association of the United States Sept. 22 in Baltimore.

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy
Secretary of the Air Force
Public Affairs

BALTIMORE -- Air and Army Guardsmen from across 54 U.S. states and territories met here Sept. 20-22 to discuss current and future plans at the 130th conference of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Some 2,000 citizen-Soldiers and citizen-Airmen heard from key military leaders including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley and Gen. Victor E. Renuart, commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command.

"The National Guard has been a home and away team," General Renuart said, referring to the increased number of deployments guardsmen have seen. "But we're winners either way."

General Renuart called for members of Congress to modernize the U.S. military and challenged Guard members to form partnerships with other government agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the Defense Department's top priority is caring for veterans returning from battle.

"I make a solemn commitment to take care of our warriors," he said.

Secretary Gates also promised to fully modernize both the Army National Guard and Air National Guard by 2013, comments that drew loud cheers from the audience. But the comments which not only drew the most applause, but were echoed by many speakers throughout the convention were the results of the National Defense Authorization Act, passed by Congress in July 2008. The act elevated the position of the chief of the National Guard Bureau to a four-star billet, allowing General McKinley to become a principal adviser to the secretary of defense through the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

"(He) has earned his rightful place in history," Secretary Gates said of General McKinley.

"The time has come for the National Guard to be represented at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill," General McKinley said. "Now we can sit at the table with everyone else."

OYCP "pitches in" on Public Lands Day



Cadet Jacob Becker stands in the foreground during clean up efforts coinciding with National Public Lands Day, Sept. 29. Cadet Brendon Coleman picks up a piece of trash in the background on the right side of the photo.

Photo courtesy Oregon Youth Challenge Program

Story courtesy Oregon Youth Challenge Program, Oregon National Guard

The Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge program recently partnered with the Oregon National Guard and provided some much needed community service in observance of National Public Lands Day, Sept. 29, near Bend, Ore.

Cadets focused their efforts on three areas including Mayfield Pond, parts of Biak Training Area and an area off of Powell Butte Highway near Pronghorn Resort in an effort to keep the public land in good condition for others to use.

Nearly 120 cadets arrived at 8:45 on a Wednesday morning and worked until about three that afternoon.

They removed several dumpster loads of trash and debris including used ammunition casings and old, abandoned appliances.

The cadets are part of Oregon's Youth Challenge Program, which is an alternative high school where they live on-site for five months while attending the military model school.

The school is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools and is approved by the Oregon Department of Education.

The target population of students are generally students who are considered "at risk", have dropped out of high school, are not attending school or are failing in school. Many students go on to earn their high school diploma, go on to community college, enlist in the military, return to high school, join the job corps, start a job or similar vocational interest.

To learn more about the program contact Kim Coleman at (541) 317-9623 ext. 224 or e-mail her at Kim.D.Coleman@mil.state.or.us.

Portland Trail Blazers

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November 8th, 2008

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