



Oregon Sentinel

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Kingsley Field hosts Sentry Eagle Airshow, open house



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jefferson Thompson, 173rd FW Public Affairs

A visiting F-16 Falcon leaves a trail of exhaust behind a Kingsley Field F-15 aircraft during Sentry Eagle 2011, July 21. The exercise reconvened July 21-24, 2011, after a four-year hiatus to allow for runway reconstruction in 2009.

After hiatus, largest Air National Guard exercise in the country is back on track

Story by TSgt Jennifer Shirar, 173 Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Oregon Air National Guard

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Sentry Eagle returned to Klamath Falls, July 21-24.

The event included a wide array of participants including Naval aviators from NAWS China Lake, Calif., tankers from Altus AFB, Okla. and Fairchild AFB, Wash. and fighter aircraft from Montana, Arizona, Texas, North Carolina and many other states.

"Kingsley is an optimal training location with its extensive range space and good flying weather," said Col. James C. Miller, 173rd Fighter Wing Commander.

"Additionally we have an excellent history training fighter pilots and when you combine these factors it's a logical place to hold such a large exercise," he said.

Bringing off an exercise of this scope entails more than 400 personnel converging on a small base and running a dizzying number of sorties.

The amount of fuel alone the base pumped to waiting jets reached nearly a million gallons, essentially more than

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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

Army Guard offers big-dollar extension bonuses

Significant reduction in amounts set to occur on Oct. 1

Story by Col. Cary Miller, RRB Commander, Oregon Army National Guard

Extend your Army National Guard Enlistment contract now, before these great bonuses expire.

A new extension bonus policy went into affect, 19 July. Extension bonuses range from \$15,000 for specific critical skill bonuses to \$2,000 for 3-year, Non-mobilized or Deployed extensions. Contact your unit for the Critical Skill listing.

On October 1, 2011, these bonuses and benefits associated with extensions will be significantly reduced

Additionally, Soldiers will only be able to select one extension incentive, such as the extension bonus, Student Loan Repayment Program or the Monthly Educational Kicker payment.

Soldiers will not be able to receive a combination of those benefits, and are encouraged to extend before the period 271 to 365 days prior to their ETS date.

If the Soldier delays reenlistment they will not be eligible for the maximum benefits. Everyone is encouraged to help get the word out to all Soldiers that qualify for these bonuses within the maximum benefit window.

For more information on the current benefits available, Soldiers should contact their unit Readiness NCOs.

See the accompanying graphic for the list of bonuses and how they may apply to your situation. Keep in mind these figures are subject to change.

Extension Type	365-271 Days prior
6-Year NGB CS	\$15,000
6-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$10,000
3-Year NGB CS	\$ 5,000
3-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$ 4,000
270-181 Days prior	
6-Year NGB CS	\$11,250
6-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$ 7,500
3-Year NGB CS	\$ 3,750
3-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$ 3,000
180-91 Days prior	
6-Year NGB CS	\$ 7,500
6-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$ 5,000
3-Year NGB CS	\$ 2,500
3-Year Non-Mob Deployed	\$ 2,000


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

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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.

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COMMAND

The Oregon National Guard: A job well done

I recently returned from Ft. Hood visiting Oregon's unmanned aerial vehicle platoon as they prepare to depart for Iraq. I am always excited when I see our young Soldiers training on modern equipment that just a few years ago was still in a concept phase. Our Soldiers thrive on technology and can operate this equipment without skipping a beat.

As the UAV platoon is heading out the door we welcomed home B/1-168 AVN from Afghanistan. This Pendleton based unit did an incredible job accomplishing their mission in amazing fashion. Known as "Team Steelhead", they flew 2,292 missions, totaling 6,865 flight hours. They carried nearly 77,000 passengers and approximately 5,200 tons of supplies. Job well done and welcome home! Take advantage of our reintegration programs and your well deserved benefits. Most of all enjoy your time at home with your family, friends and loved ones.

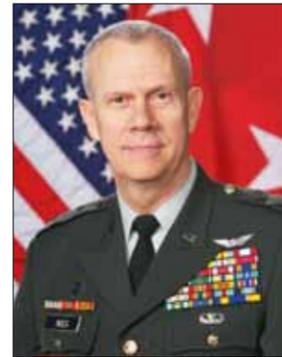
As we approach the tenth anniversary of 9/11, the President spoke on the drawdown from Afghanistan. For all those who have served and continue to serve, take a moment to remember your accomplishments for our

state and nation. Also, remember the sacrifices of our families, employers, communities, and all of those who were injured or killed in service to our nation.

Every month has new demands on our Oregon National Guard. This will continue as we conduct training throughout the summer. Now is the time to set the example. Now is the time to become the expert in your field. Now is the time to meet the goals you have set out to achieve. Get as much out of your training that you can. Work together as one team to accomplish what is assigned and continue to go beyond any standard that is set.

In saying this, if I had one thing I would like our entire organization to keep on saying with one voice, is how proud you are to be a part of the Oregon National Guard. We lead the way in Domestic Operations, State Partnership Programs, UN Peacekeeping Operations, Overseas deployments and even Congressional and White House assignments.

Congratulations to Brig. Gen. Enyeart and his amazing team for having successfully provided the command element for NATO, Sarajevo, Bosnia for the past year. Congratulations also to Col. Julie Bentz. I will have the honor of



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

observing her promotion to Brigadier General and assumption of the role of Director, Strategic Capabilities Policy, National Security Council, at a White House ceremony this summer in Washington, D.C. Col. Bentz is the first Oregon National Guard female general officer. Congratulations also to Maj. Gen. Gary Dean as he passes the flag of 1st Air Force and prepares to move to another prominent position at the national level.

To all our National Guard members, your integrity is above criticism and your loyalty to our state and our nation is a standard to be admired. Be proud to be a citizen Soldier or Airman. You are the best trained and you set the standards. Together, we are Oregon. I am proud to work alongside such an amazing team every day. Continue to lead the way.

Always Ready! Always There!

Implementing The Army Leadership Development Strategy

For the past two articles I have addressed the Army Leadership Development Strategy (ALDS) and the proposed Life Cycle Management change.

This project continues to grow and is set to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the Warrant Officer, more specifically the senior W3s, and W4-W5.

The writing sub group briefed the Army National Guard (ARNG) Leadership, the Council of Colonels and General Officer(s) Steering Committee.

The common feedback seemed to be how do we develop those senior warrant officers in a Brigade or Battalion to function at a Division, Corps or Theater Level?

Those traditional Guardsmen and women who have the civilian skills in large organizations have proven to be able to adjust to a higher headquarters.

The issue stems from the warrant officer who has not had the opportunity to progress due to the Force Structure constraints.

This is not the fault of the individual warrant. The ALDS also is asking the question

regarding the Aviator who never has progressed or attended additional training--should they be promoted to CW4?

These are all tough questions. One size does not fill all. The Command Chief Warrant Officer needs to become more involved with warrant officer positions to ensure that a warrant is not 'pigeon-hole' in one unit for their entire career or Aviators don't spend an twenty years as a co-pilot.

The ALDS writing team met June 26-30 at Fort Rucker to complete the third revision. The final product is schedule to be presented to the Army Leadership by October 2011. Once that is completed it will be posted on the CCWO website.

With these changes coming into effect it is important to remember that protocol establishes our junior warrant officers (W1-W2) as company grade officers. Chief Warrant Officers Three, Four and Five are equivalent to the Field Grade Officers. They need to both function as such and be accorded the same privileges.

The Warrant Officers in the Army have come a long way. This July 9th the Corps will celebrate



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Zagya,
Command Chief
Warrant Officer,
Oregon National
Guard

its 93rd birthday. The military grade of Warrant Officer is one of the oldest in western military systems dating back two centuries prior to Columbus, during the fledgling years of the British Navy.

Joining these selected ranks are Staff Sgt. Erik Bays, who was approved as our first Legal Administrator Warrant Officer. Soon to be WOC Bays, he will be heading to Fort Rucker to earn his bar.

Also, Staff Sgt. Tom Jones was recently approved by the Engineer Proponent to be an EN Warrant Officer.

Also accompanying these two Warrant Officer Candidates will be Master Sgt. Dale Breit, a transfer from the Oregon Air National Guard, who will become an AV Maintenance Warrant Officer. Welcome and the best of luck.

For the Corps!

NEWS

Former ORNG member promoted to Brigadier General, assigned to White House

Story by Kim Lippert
Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

SALEM, Ore. - The Chief of Staff of the Army announced that Oregon National Guard officer, Col. Julie A. Bentz, currently the Director, Nuclear Defense Policy, National Security Council in Washington, D.C., has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be promoted to Brigadier General.

Bentz is the first ever Oregon National Guard female officer to be promoted to the rank of General.

"It is quite an honor," Bentz said. "I'm so glad to be an example that doors are continuing to open for all men and women who serve."

Bentz said the career milestone sunk in on a trip to the military clothing store.

"It hit home on just how special this promotion is when I went to the military clothing sales store here in Washington D.C. to purchase new rank for my uniform, and I was told that they didn't carry women general officer rank and I would have to special order it," she said.

"I believe that is going to change," she added.

Bentz was born and raised on a family ranch outside of Scio, Ore. She is one of



DA Photo courtesy of Oregon Military Department

five children, and graduated valedictorian of her class at Regis High School.

She attended Oregon State University, where she graduated in 1986, and received her Regular Army Commission in the Army Medical Service Corps.

Bentz said it was the values she learned from her father growing up on that ranch that helped her get where she is today.

"My Dad convinced me that greatness was not inherited, but was the outcome of

persistent labor," she said.

"His definition of success was simply, 'when all the other farmers have gone home for the night, hoe one more row,'" she said.

That advice has served Bentz well in her 24-year military career that began when she graduated from college with a ROTC commission.

She was assigned to active duty as a Nuclear Medical Science Officer, at the 10th Medical Laboratory, in Landstuhl, Germany.

In 1999 Bentz transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard to assist in the standup of the 102 Civil Support Team.

"I found that being available for the urgent matter at hand was always the right place to be and the correct attitude to have," Bentz said.

After a tour at National Guard Bureau, Bentz was selected as the Executive Officer for 102 Civil Support Team from June 2003 to February 2004, before accepting the position of Director, Response Operations, Homeland Security Council at The White House.

Bentz has more than 24 years of service and has held multiple roles from field work to White House advisor, and has

been distinguished as a leader wherever she is assigned.

"We couldn't be more proud of her and her accomplishments," said Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, the Adjutant General, Oregon.

"Bentz's selection to Brigadier General highlights the significance of Oregon's education and leadership programs. We are proud to have been a part of her already amazing career," Rees added.

Bentz said Rees has always been a professional mentor for her.

"I consider the Oregon National Guard a part of my extended family," said Bentz.

"They've been some of my strongest and most vocal fans and advocates - I can't say enough good things about this incredible organization and their amazing leader, Major General Rees," she added.

Bentz offers this advice for young female Soldiers hoping to follow in her footsteps.

"First, recognize your star quality inside yourself before expecting others to and challenge yourself in all things," said Bentz.

"When you reach the inevitable plateaus in your career, ask yourself what is the next hard thing out there to do."

What does it take to be an effective Senior Non-Commissioned Officer?

Senior Non-Commissioned Officers make up about 12-percent of our enlisted force.

It is our responsibility to prepare and train ourselves so we can lead the Soldiers and Airmen serving with us.

We are more than just technicians and managers, we are leaders. There are many expectations placed on your shoulders as a leader.

You must;

Win Today's Fight.

Being a leader in the Air Force is not just a job, it's a way of life. Be the one to set the standard, lead by them and hold

others accountable to them. Understand the importance of your mission, both locally and nationally, and reinforce it to your Airmen.

Learn to speak up when problems come up. Don't let them get worse, fix them or find someone that can. Maintain your professional attitude and support directed policies. If you're not in shape, get in shape!

Take care of our people.

Get to know your Airmen, understand their needs and issues and those of their families. Don't just focus on your work center.

Take the time to get involved in unit, base and professional military associations. Take the time to invest in mentoring subordinates.

Prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Foster professional development in your junior enlisted. Be prepared to make the tough calls necessary to complete your missions.

Continue to pursue self-development opportunities for yourself and your Airmen. Lead the way and leave a legacy of premier NCO's.

Enable the future.

Get to know the history, heritage and

Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling,
Senior Enlisted Advisor,
JFHQ/Combat
Operations Group



mission of your unit. Never forget that each Airman working with you has enlisted or reenlisted after Sept. 11. They fully understand we are at war and the sacrifices that entails.



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Focuses on Service Members Gaining Meaningful Employment Opportunities

Since the events of September 11th, our service members have played a tremendous role in fighting terrorism and keeping our country secure. The readiness of the Guard and Reserve components is at an all-time high and we can take great pride in that achievement. At the same time, we are now seeing unprecedented levels unemployment and underemployment among members of the Guard and Reserve. The promise of a secure job provides service members and their families with peace of mind, which is increasingly important as up to 22% of Guard and Reserve members face unemployment.

In this time of economic uncertainty, ESGR is focusing on connecting employers with the talented pool of service members and spouses, with the intent of facilitating meaningful employment opportunities:

- The Employment Initiative Program (EIP) is a collaborative effort with federal agencies - including the Department of Labor (Veterans Affairs), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management - to create efficiencies, enhance the employment process and serve as an effective resource for service members and employers.
- ESGR is partnering with Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces (EPAF) through EIP with a high-tech and high-touch approach.
<http://esgr.org/site/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=gwY3HxshRRc%3d&tabid=539>
 - The high-tech approach is comprised of the website www.EmployerPartnership.org which provides employers with the ability to post available jobs and for service members to post resumes, search for jobs, and make a connection.

It is our goal to improve employment opportunities for transitioning service members. For more information you can contact:

Craig Snitker 503-584-2393 / Bob Elliott 503-508-3362 / Dawn Taylor 503-508-7719

GI Bill to see changes this year

By Master Sgt. Jeffery Lopez,
82 Spt. Detachment Readiness NCO

Veterans, service members, and eligible family members will see some significant changes in their benefits when the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Improvements Act goes into effect on Oct. 1, 2011.

The intent of the new law is to expand eligibility, simplify tuition rates, and ensure that the Post-9/11 G Bill offers the same types of benefits as older versions of the GI Bill.

For example, online students will receive a new housing allowance, payable to students enrolled solely in distance learning. The benefit is half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (the rate will be \$673.50 for 2011).

This is subject to pro-rating based on the number of credits being taken, and takes effect on October 1, 2011.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jeffery Lopez, or Education Services Officer, CW4 Diane Beach, at 503-584-3456, or visit <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits/>.

GUARD RECRUITING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Guard Recruiting Assistants (RA) can earn additional income assisting Army National Guard (ARNG) recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ARNG. GRAP is available to traditional Guard members, enlisted AGR soldiers, and retirees of the Army National Guard with 20 or more years of service. RAs may earn up to \$1,000 for each enlistment!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
LOG ON TO
www.guardrap.com**

SPECIAL PHOTO SECTION

The Oregon National Guard's Summer in Pictures



1 Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, 1-82 Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard



2 Photo by Sgt. Eric Rutherford, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard



3 Photo by Spc. Phillip Steiner, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard



5 Photos by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142 Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Oregon Air National Guard



4 Photo by Msg. Jeffery Lopez, 82nd Airborne Division, Oregon Army National Guard



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Photo Captions

- 1. Oregon Guard 1-82 Cavalry Squadron officers march down a hill with their guidon at Gowen Field, Idaho.
- 2. Airmen from the 125 Special Tactics Squadron participate in a joint exercise with U.S. Army Special Forces outside of Antelope, Ore.
- 3. Maj. James Miller, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment commander, performs medical aid on a training dummy at Umatilla Weapons Depot, Hermiston, Ore.
- 4. Former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski rides through the new gate, dedicated in his honor, at Camp Whithycombe.
- 5. Airmen of the 116 Air Combat Control Squadron are honored during a demobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.
- 6. An Airman with the 116 Air Combat Control Squadron holds his son after the demobilization ceremony at the Portland Air National Guard Base.
- 7. Maj. Gen. Nodomi, Japanese

- Defense Attache, visits with the Oregon National Guard's Civilian Support Team during a statewide facilities tour.
- 8. Soldiers with Detachment 1, Company B., Special Troops Battalion, 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team are honored during a mobilization ceremony in Pendleton, Ore.
- 9. Soldiers with the 2-218 Field Artillery perform a howitzer salute at the capitol for Armed Forces Day.
- 10. An Oregon National Guard Soldier watches an A-10 Warthog as it prepares to engage a target at Gowen Field, Idaho.
- 11. Oregon Emergency Management's safety mascot, the Be Safe Bee at a emergency response and safety convention.
- 12. Senior Vietnamese military officials pose with the University of Oregon mascot outside the state capitol during their visit to Oregon.
- 13. Brig. Gen. Charles Yriarte watches as a WWII B-17 bomber

- named "Angel", lands there.
- 14. Governor John Kitzhaber, Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, former Governor Ted Kulongoski, and his wife unveil the new sign outside of the Ted Kulongoski gate at Camp Whithycombe.
- 15. A Soldier with 2-162 Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard, trains at Camp Rilea, Ore.
- 16. Sgt. Jon Hanson, HQ 2-162 Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard, throws a hand grenade during the Expert Infantryman Badge course.
- 17. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees enjoys a day at Heritage Park playing croquet with his staff.
- 18. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees prepares to fire a MK-19 automatic grenade launcher at Orchard Training Area during annual training for the 1-82 Cavalry.
- 19. Governor John Kitzhaber, former Governor Ted Kulongoski and Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees inspect the new gate at Camp Whithycombe dedicated to Ted Kulongoski.



7 Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



17 Photo by Sgt. J. Military



8

Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



9

Photo by Spc. Julie Trotter, 2-218 Field Artillery, Oregon Army National Guard



10

Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



11

Photo by Jenni Chamberlain, Oregon Emergency Management Office Public Affairs



12

Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



13

Photo by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



14

Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



15

Photo by Spc. Phillip Steiner, 115 Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard



16

Photo by Sgt. Jose Borboa, C. Co. 2-162 Infantry, Oregon Army National Guard



Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs



18

Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, 1-82 Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard



19

Photo by Sgt. Jason van Mourik, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

NEWS

2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry Soldiers compete for Expert Infantryman Badge

Pushing the Limits

Story and photos by Spc. Phillip Steiner,
115 MPAD, Oregon Army National Guard

CAMP RILEA, Ore. – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, have been pushing their physical and mental limits at Camp Rilea, Ore., for the honor of earning the Expert Infantryman Badge.

The Soldiers of the 2-162 began competing for the EIB on July 24, 2011. The requirements for receiving the EIB include qualifying as expert with the M-4 rifle, land navigation courses, 30 tasks on three situational lanes. Finally they must complete a 12 mile road march in

under three hours. Ninety-one Soldiers attempted to qualify for this award but only nine succeeded.

“Having this kind of competition, for a honor, it forces you to train harder, and look at a lot of tasks that maybe you haven’t looked over recently,” said Sgt. Jon-Paul Hanson, with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-162. “This is good refresher training for me, it reinforces these tasks to make them a bit more natural and more in tune with muscle memory and I don’t have to reference notes or think about it as much.”



Spc. Stephen Owens, with Charlie Company, 2-162 Infantry, 41st Brigade Combat Team, crosses the finish line during the twelve mile road march in the final phase of the Expert Infantryman Badge competition Aug. 3rd, 2011 at Camp Rilea, Ore. Nine soldiers were awarded the EIB after the completion of the road march.

As of this year, the 2-162 is conducting the EIB in a new manner. They have combined the 30 tasks into three situational lanes.

As this is the first year the Battalion has conducted the EIB as a whole there was some changing the way the course operates.

“EIB has historically been you go to one station and do one task, and you are either go or no go, then you move on to the next station,” said Hanson. “You only had to complete 10 tasks a day, but not in any particular order or sequence, where as here you have to do multiple tasks at once and have to think about more than just one task at a time.”

Conducting the training this way prepares them for real world situations.

“In battle, nothing is picture perfect. It is situational based,” said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Miotke, with 249 Regional Training Element, but serving as a main coordinator for the EIB competition. “If they are out on patrol, they may have to call for fire, they may have to throw

grenades, they may have to sit on a TCP, and they have to perform that task.”

The training provides a difficult series of tasks for the Soldier to complete, but provides an opportunity to use their basic Soldiering skills and realize their limits.

“It is a huge morale booster, just this training makes a Soldier realize that they are more capable than what they thought possible and what they thought they were,” said Sgt. Tyler Brown, Bravo Company, 2-162. “It lets them push their limits, get better and build confidence in themselves.”

The EIB competition also helps Soldiers on their military career path.

The EIB is more a personal ‘proving to themselves’ situation, but it does provide thirty-five promotion points, said Miotke.

The EIB is a tough competition and those who earn the badge consider it an honor.

“It is the gold standard of the Infantry, and true testament to those who make it through that they are an expert in their field,” said Miotke.

Chance to hunt bighorn sheep luck of the draw for Oregon Soldier

Story and photo by Ssg. Patrick Caldwell
3-116 Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - When Capt. Jamie Roscoe, the commander of Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and a native of Silver Lake, Ore., discovered that he was able to draw a tag to hunt bighorn sheep in his home state of Oregon; his reaction was immediate.

“I literally fell out of my chair,” he said.

The euphoria lasted only seconds, however, when Roscoe glanced at the calendar and realized he wouldn’t be able to hunt this year because he was in Iraq.

During an ordinary hunting season, missing the chance to stalk game is usually overshadowed by the knowledge there is always next year; except, in Oregon and when it comes to pursuing bighorn sheep.

The hunt for bighorn sheep in Oregon often takes on mythic status. That’s because the hunt is a short one and because only a limited number of tags are issued per year. No matter how many hunters put in for a tag - and the numbers are usually in the high hundreds - only a very limited number are issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Roscoe said he was in for another surprise a few days later when Sgt. 1st Class Lance Albert, a platoon sergeant with Charlie Company, and a native of Vale, Ore., approached him and asked if he obtained a bighorn sheep tag.

When Roscoe told Albert he had drawn a tag, Albert told Roscoe he, too, had secured a bighorn sheep tag.

Both men said they were surprised, not only with the fact they managed to attain one of the most sought after and rare hunting tags in Oregon, but also because both are in the same battalion in separate companies assigned to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq.

“It is kind of neat two deployed Soldiers drew a tag,” Albert said. Except neither was, or is, sure they will make it back to participate in the hunt, set for September.

For a short time both men said they tried to get past the fact they were not going to be able to hunt bighorn sheep. That essentially meant that the duo would probably never get another shot at a tag.

“They are extremely hard to come by. For example, I have a neighbor who is now in his 50’s and he started to apply for a bighorn sheep tag years ago. He still hasn’t got one,” Roscoe said.

Albert said he has applied for a bighorn sheep tag every year for 17 years. Roscoe said he started to put in for a bighorn sheep tag 13 years ago. Neither even came close to a tag until this year.

“It is like winning the lottery. If you are an avid hunter, it is probably the biggest one as far as hunting goes,” Albert said.

Roscoe said he decided to at least make an attempt to explain his and Albert’s situation to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Roscoe said he contacted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and told the agency the dilemma he and Albert faced. He asked if there was any way the agency could extend the hunt for a few days or give him and Albert a few extra days if they do not make it back to Oregon before the hunt starts in the fall.

Rather than get the proverbial door shut in their faces, Roscoe said the agency was



Capt. Jamie Roscoe, the commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, stands before a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle at Contingency Operating Base Speicher. Roscoe, along with Sgt. 1st Class Lance Albert, secured rare bighorn sheep tags for Oregon this fall.

very helpful.

“They [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife] have been very gracious. There looks like there might be a good possibility they’ll work with us,” Roscoe said.

Time will be a clear factor determining whether the two men will get the chance to hunt. Whether the unit will make it back and then move through the demobilization process in time for hunt is an open question.

“I’m staying positive,” Albert said. “I hope they give us the latitude. I’ll take one day or as many as they are gracious enough to extend to us.”

Roscoe said a lot will depend on how

fast the battalion moves through its demobilization process. And both said their focus will remain firmly fixed on their outfit as it transitions back from deployment.

“Sgt. Albert and I both have obligations to our units,” Roscoe said.

Both men understand their chances of actually securing the extra days to participate in one of the most coveted hunts in Oregon may be slim. And they both understand their duty in Iraq comes first.

“If it comes down to it I’ll chalk it up to life,” Roscoe said. “It sure would be nice to get to hunt bighorn though.”

NEWS

Oregon National Guard Soldiers assist Burns with flood relief

Story and photo courtesy of Oregon Army National Guard

BURNS, Ore. - High waters resulting from above average precipitation exceeded the capabilities of the city's earthen levee system.

On Thursday, April 7, 1st Lt. Loren Emang of HHT/1-82 Cavalry Regiment and the Emergency Operations Liaison Officer for Harney County were contacted by County Judge Steven Grasty.

Judge Grasty briefed Emang on the developing situation and the JOC in Salem was contacted.

The JOC reacted by dispatching the Oregon Army National Guard's sandbag machine to the Harney County Fairgrounds.

Alpha Company 141 Brigade Support Battalion was tasked to haul the sandbag machine. Staff Sgt. Lucas Thomas and Pvt. 1st Class Shawn Brink hauled the sandbag machine from Camp Rilea to the HG Maison Armory in Tigard.

Brink was relieved to get some rest, and Spc. Christopher Moore took the wheel to finish the haul to Burns, Ore.

Early in the morning of the 8th, the machine arrived and was immediately put to use.

Over the course of the day, volunteers ranging in age from 8 to 80 filled over 14,000 sand bags. As the day progressed, the decision was made in Salem to mobilize 25 Oregon Army National Guard members to join the effort. Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1-82 Cavalry Regiment, responded by calling Soldiers from Bravo, Headquarters and Delta 141 (RSTA FSC) Brigade Support Battalion.

By 1:00 a.m. on the 9th, the mobilized Soldiers were on their way to the Burns Armory, with some travelling as far as 145 miles. By 4:00 a.m., a force of 26 traditional National Guardsmen, along with three full time AGR,s two M1083 LMTV's and one 500-gallon water trailer



An ocean of sandbags is readied for use in Burns, Ore., during recent flooding in early 2011. The city's earthen levee was breached when above average rainfall sent floodwaters into the area. Members of the Oregon Army National Guard assisted with relief efforts there over the course of several days.

were on the ground to provide assistance.

With the mobilized Soldiers joining police, fire, city and county workers, the effort to save the town of Burns from the rising waters was now in full swing.

The effort was split between filling sandbags at the fairgrounds, and placing sandbags on the over-burdened levee.

By 2:00 p.m., the levee was reinforced to the point that it was no longer in danger of breaching.

Sandbags were strategically stockpiled throughout the north end of town, pre-positioned in case the waters start rising again.

By 4:00 p.m. that day, Judge Grasty made the call that the situation had stabilized

enough that the Soldiers could be released from State Active Duty.

The JOC was notified, and shortly thereafter, the Soldiers were on their way home.

Community involvement has always been a core value of the National Guard, and the Citizen Soldiers were pleased to be have assisted.

"This is what the Guard is all about," said Emang.

"I remember my grandfather telling me stories about driving five tons out into the floods to evacuate people from their homes," he added.

Of the 28 Oregon Soldiers on the scene, 11 live in the affected area, including 18-

year old Pvt. 1st Class Eric Rowley.

"I think its pretty cool that I'm just out of high school, and I got the chance to help out the town I grew up in," he said.

Rowley, who has so recently returned from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT), but has yet to drill with his home unit.

The effort of the citizens of Harney County, combined with that of the Oregon Army National Guard made the difference, officials said.

Everyone involved agreed that quick response and an organized effort held the waters back.

Oregon Fire Support Team trains with Navy SEALs at Gowen Field



A west coast member of the Navy SEAL Joint Terminal Attack Controller team works to set up a communication radio for calling aviation fire support with 1st Lt. Matthew Lawson of the 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment's Fire Support Team, from the Oregon National Guard's 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, July 20, at Gowen Field Idaho.

Story and photos by Spc. Cory Grogan, 1-82 Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard

GOWEN FIELD, Idaho - A Cavalry Fire Support Team (FIST) lands in a remote area on a Blackhawk Helicopter and quickly moves for cover on a hill overlooking their target.

Communication is set up swiftly to get the exact location of the team's objective. The crew finds the coordinates of the target and calls an A-10 Warthog fighter jet which eventually swoops in precisely

striking its mark.

Forward Observers have the vital job of calling in targets for mortars, field artillery and provide eyes-on information for rotary and fixed aircrafts, Fire Support Officer Cpt. Chad Knowles, said.

The FIST team from 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment, of the Oregon National Guard's 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team put these combat skills to work in a training event at Gowen Field Idaho, July 21. A realistic scenario including Navy SEALs and Air Force personnel tested the skills

these National Guard Soldiers practice during drill throughout the year.

The training exercise was part of mandatory re-certification for the Navy SEAL Joint Terminal Attack Controller team members who the Oregon guardmembers trained with, a west coast Navy SEAL said during the field training exercise.

"We rely on them to give information about what we can't see—without them we can't drop," one SEAL said about the importance of Forward Observers. "These guys did a good job."

Knowles said it was great preparation because his team got realistic training working with other services—seeing what actually happens when they do their job the right way.

"This was an incredible moral builder," he said. "It was great to see the newer enlisted Soldiers absorbing knowledge and learning from the more experienced Soldiers and Navy SEAL experts."

Spc. Michael Hudson, a signal communication support and maintenance member on the team, was visibly excited after seeing planes hit their targets.

"It all came together," he said. "Air Force, SEALs and us working together to hit the target is really motivating."

For members of the FIST, the event was a perfect culmination to class work they have done all year.

"It's great getting out in the field to call in targets and see the result of our training," Forward Observer Brady Hammer, said.

The 1/82 Cavalry Forward Observers,

like the rest of the 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team, returned from an Iraq deployment in spring 2010 and are at the beginning of a new deployment cycle to ensure they are ready when called upon next.

"These guys are doing a great job for it being this early in our training set," said Knowles.



An Oregon National Guard Soldier watches an A-10 Warthog with a handheld rangefinder as it prepares to engage a target after being called for fire support during a joint service training exercise with Air Force, Navy SEALs, and a Fire Support Team from 1st Squadron, 82nd Cavalry Regiment out of Bend, Ore., July 20, at Gowen Field Idaho.

NEWS

Umatilla Army Depot perfect for training National Guard, Reserve forces

Story and photos by Spc. Cory Grogan
Oregon Military Dept. Public Affairs

UMATILLA, Ore. - On Apr. 26, Soldiers from Oregon and throughout the nation received Army training from top-notch instructors in a place that provides ample resources to carry out tasks and drills necessary for learning critical Soldiering skills at the highest level in Oregon.

The Umatilla Chemical Depot outside of Hermiston is the only Active Duty Army post in the state, and it has served as a storage facility for weapons and Army equipment since 1941.

Currently, the Oregon National Guard Regional Training Institute (RTI) is working on a vision to turn the Umatilla post into a premier training site for Active, Reserve and Oregon National Guard Soldiers.

The post stands as a symbol of change as the chemical weapons that were once stored there have nearly been removed. What comes next could play a significant role in the future of one of Oregon's greatest resources—it's National Guard.

With over 17,000 acres, the Umatilla Army post has the potential to be a flourishing training site for Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, and also a place within Oregon where the ORNG can train to carry out its mission for years to come, said RTI Commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Carlson.

"This can absolutely be the future premier training site in the state of

Oregon," said Sgt. 1st Class James Lindseth, the Assistant Operations Sgt. at (RTI) in Monmouth, Ore.

Negotiations have been in process over what will happen to the land while members of the RTI are maintaining and improving the site.

"The move to Umatilla will stimulate the local economy and Oregon economy in a place where Soldiers can get realistic training while being closer to home" Lindseth said.

"We are excited because we see the potential; RTI started this, and the non-commissioned officers out here are working hard to make it happen."

Another Soldier working on the project, Staff Sgt. Alexander Johnson, who served as an Infantryman in the Active Duty Army, and now serves as an S-3 Assistant at RTI. Johnson said he is passionate about the work the Active Guard and Reserve members from the Oregon National Guard are doing to turn the site into an Active Duty Army school and ORNG training site.

"We see the vision—everyone wants to come out here and train because it's new and we're losing some of our training sites—it's a lot of hard work but worth it to make this happen," said Johnson.

The Umatilla site is currently holding Army classes and going through an in-depth accreditation for schools that will continue to train Active Duty and National Guard Soldiers from around the country at the highest level in the future.



Photo by Spc. Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

ITC students practice urban operations techniques by using a smoke grenade for cover behind a building at the Umatilla Army Base outside of Hermiston, Ore., Apr. 27 in an exercise for an Infantry Transition Course organized by the Regional Training Institute for the Oregon National Guard. The post served as a chemical weapons depot in the past and is now being used for Army training.

The site currently includes courses for MOS Transition, Infantry Transition and Advanced Leader.

"This is an example of what a good place to train can do for Soldiers—just get

a panoramic of the land and you can see why it is nice for us to be here," said Staff Sgt. Josh Rumney of Salem, Ore., while training during an Infantry Transition course.

Oregon National Guard Soccer Team shines during first game

Story by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military
Department Public Affairs Office

It's been called the most popular sport in the world, and now the Oregon National Guard has its own soccer team.

Team Oregon National Guard recently won their first game at Tualatin Indoor Soccer Center on July 19.

"The game was hard fought from the first to the final whistle, we were relentless" said Team Captain and Coach, Staff Sgt. Dan Parkins, of the Oregon National Guard.

The team is made up 12 Soldiers, both officers and enlisted. Some have played soccer for many years, others are new to the sport, but all said they play hard.

"I have never played on a team that consistently plays with as much heart and determination as we do, every single game," said Parkins.

For players like Staff Sgt. Nicolas Marks, it's an opportunity to interact with Soldiers and a great time to come together with Soldiers from other battalions to reach a common goal.

"The Guard typically is a solo experience but when you play on a team with your peers it means a lot," said Staff Sgt. Nicolas Marks, one of the players for



Courtesy photo

Team Oregon National Guard, after a recent soccer game at the Tualatin Indoor Soccer Center, July 19, where they won the game. Below: Team members during the game.

the Oregon National Guard Team.

The Oregon National Guard soccer team plays in a men's league, but women are welcome to be on the team. According to Parkins, some of the strongest players are women.

"The four women we have on our team are some of our top players, they are strong and determined," said Parkins.

The Oregon National Guard Soccer team is the brain child of Lt. Col. Robert Frazier, who thought it would be a great way to reach out to the Hispanic community.

"It's evolved from what I initially started, Dan Parkins is a great coach and



we are fortunate to have the knowledge and skills he brings," said Frazier.

Parkins said, the whole team has a ton of no quit attitude and they play their hearts out.

"Any success this team has in the future has nothing do with me but everything to do with them," Parkins said.

The players said it more than just a game, it's a great time to bond with fellow Soldiers.

"It has a great social aspect...after the match the players get together and have fun," said Frazier.

The Indoor season is winding down, but the players will continue to practice at least once or twice a week to get ready for outdoor season which begins in the fall.

"Portland is known as the soccer city and we have tried to find central locations."

Practices are currently held at Tualatin Elementary School. Anyone interested in joining the Oregon National Guard Soccer Team, can contact Sgt. Dan Parkins at 360-624-3513.

Cowboy up

Story by Ssg. Patrick Caldwell
3-116 Cavalry, Oregon Army National
Guard

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq - There are times when 1st Lt. Jamie Roscoe talks, that one can almost see cowboys riding over the wide open southern Oregon plains.

Listen carefully and the images float across the mind's eye like a mist moving ahead of a late summer storm on the high desert mesas.

Roscoe, the commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), traces his life on the arc of the cowboy.

He's spent time on long cattle drives, tasted the dust and dirt of the rodeo grounds, and slept more than a time or two out on the wind-blown Oregon steppes under a shovel full of stars.

His ethics - the morals of the cowboy, the principles of an uncomplicated western American cattle industry - may seem outdated, even fashionably quaint. To Roscoe, though, the candid expression of those values is second nature; they hold no magic value or easy answers.

They are what they are: clear-cut, up-front. When Roscoe arrived in Iraq he said he wanted to deliver a simple message to his Soldiers regarding their mission: Be respectful and responsible.

Simple words that drive a philosophy most Americans probably only see in the occasional Western movie on television at night, words that push into the heart of what many people believe is best about America.

Easy, simple words: "Take pride in your work." Always finish a job. Treat people fairly. Ride for the brand.

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NEWS

Oregon Army National Guard Firehawk



Photo courtesy of Oregon Army National Guard

An Oregon Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter demonstrates the capabilities of its fire suppression systems during a training exercise this summer.

The belly tank and snorkel system allows the Firehawk to maintain its ability to perform pickup and rescue operations without dropping its tank during a fire fight.

To refill the tank, the snorkel needs only enough water to cover its end, and includes a 30-gallon compartment for foam which mixes in flight.

Irish officer trains with Oregon Infantry



Royal Irish Regiment Capt. Chris Tuner, of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast, Ireland, takes part in the Expert Infantryman's Badge training at Camp Rilea, Ore., July 24 - Aug. 5.

Story and photo by Spc. Phillip Steiner,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP RILEA, Ore. – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 162 Infantry Regiment, 41st Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard, hosted an officer of the Royal Irish Regiment at Camp Rilea, July 24-Aug. 5, 2011.

Capt. Chris Turner, with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, stationed in Belfast, Ireland, visited the 2-162 during their Expert Infantryman's Badge training.

Turner will be taking command of a unit that trains officers, known as The Queens University Officer Training Core, in Ireland.

The training at Camp Rilea provides a look into American Soldiers' training for Turner, which he plans to implement back home.

"I am seeing a different style of training, and I am seeing how training has been organized," said Turner.

"I am linking it and tying it into the individual tasks that I have to teach. It is a very good way of assessing the Soldiers and reinforcing that knowledge."

Observing and participating in the EIB gives Turner a chance to learn new tactics.

This opportunity provides a chance to create a better understanding of U.S. operations for future partnerships between the two nations.

"The next rule that I will take up operations with will probably have a liaison type style or I will be liaison position with the American forces because the American forces are the bigger units," said Turner.

"We rely on them for planes, but equally the Americans rely on the British for hospital facilities," he added.

"We will also be working with each other for EOD, medical support and even conducting joint operations in certain areas."

Turner also looks at the joint training as a chance for the Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers to learn and understand a bit more about Royal Irish Regiment.

"The Soldiers would have a better understanding of foreign armies, they would have an understanding of how we are allied together, and I think a sharing of experiences and a understanding of the British army," said Turner.

"It is important that we understand about the common ground, it just makes things easier."

Family bonds

Story and photo by Ssg. Pat Caldwell
3-116 Cavalry, Oregon Army National
Guard

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – They were always clearly identifiable, the older sibling and his kid brother, and though they traveled down separate roads to Iraq, they stand as a sound example of the eternal bond generated during childhood that survives and prospers.

The Stoddard brothers, 20-year-old Zac and 23-year-old Daniel, share not only the distinction of their ancestry, but they are also members of the same unit – Company Foxtrot, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment, 77th Sustainment Brigade, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, stationed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

They are also a study in contrasts.

Zac, a private first class and Daniel, a sergeant, traveled to Iraq with F Company down different paths. Daniel is quiet, laid back and exudes the attitude of a two-tour veteran. Zac, on his first tour in Iraq, is more outgoing.

They grew up together until Daniel left at the age of 12 to live with their father. Zac stayed behind with his mom.

While their father and, by extension, Daniel stayed rooted to Touchet, Wash., Zac said he and his mom moved around, eventually settling in Denver, Colo.

They are in different platoons within F Company and perform different jobs connected to their individual rank. Daniel is a truck commander within 2nd Platoon's 2nd Convoy Escort Team, while Zac is a driver in 1st Platoon.

Daniel, who now lives in Milton-Freewater, Ore., said he takes a low-key approach to the fact he and his kid brother are in the same company. Yet, he said he enjoys the fact his brother is nearby.

"I like it, it is a good way to keep track of him," Daniel said. He said that he does not worry about how his brother will do in his CET.

"They have good non-commissioned

officers in Zac's platoon," Daniel said. "I know they take good care of him. It makes my dad feel safer to have him with me."

He added that there are definitely advantages to the fact that he and his brother are in the same unit.

"It is not bad," Zac said. "When I get flustered, I go over to his



(containerized housing unit) and he helps me out."

Daniel said he listens to his brother and often dispenses advice, something he said he is happy to do. Zac agreed he benefits from his brother's guidance.

"I get wound up easier than he does," Zac said. "He is more calm and collected. It is comforting to know I can confide in my own brother."

"He was always a hot-head as a kid," Daniel said with a smile.

Daniel is light-years ahead of his little brother in terms of experience in a combat zone. Daniel said he first came to Iraq in 2007 when Oregon's 234th Engineer Battalion was mobilized for overseas duty.

When the 234th's tour ended, Daniel elected to extend with the 39th Brigade Combat Team from Arkansas.

His tour with the Razorbacks was cut short when he was involved in a humvee accident and broke his foot.

After spending a year on medical hold, Daniel recovered enough to sign on for another deployment, this time with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

He was stationed at JBB with the 234th Engineer Battalion in 2007, and said Iraq changed quite a bit during his three deployments.

142 FIGHTER WING

Helping kids make good choices



Oregon National Guard Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon, greets former Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh, at Camp Rosenbaum in Warrenton, Ore., on July 27.

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142 Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Oregon Air National Guard

WARRENTON, Ore. -- Each summer, Camp Rosenbaum has been a place where children get to break away from the real world for a week and just be kids.

Now in its 41st year, 157 of those kids ages 9 to 11 who are from underprivileged homes learn citizenship skills while enjoying activities such as horseback riding, fishing and arts and crafts.

"Making good choices and learning to be good citizens make this camp what it is today," said Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Donna Prigmore.

As the camp director Prigmore spends most of the week making sure the staff and kids have everything they need.

She also hosts Very Important Guest Day during the week, where corporate sponsors and special guests visit the camp.

"What camp does for these kids is awesome," said Glynda Brockhoff, of the Fred Meyer Philanthropic Trust, which donated \$10,000 to the camp this year.

"The first time I came to camp and felt this support and the love here for the children was really an experience beyond belief," she added.

The camp was founded by former Oregon Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Fred Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum died in 2010, but his legacy is carried on by other family members, and volunteer at the camp who help raise money each year to keep the camp going.

"My dad's message of making a positive change in kid's lives is still alive here at camp," said Mark Rosenbaum.

While speaking to the kids and donors on V.I.G. Day, Rosenbaum told the story of how his father, at about the same age of the kids at camp, had to leave Austria during the rise of the Nazis in the 1930's.

"There were some pretty bad things happening then and he had to leave his home and family and almost everything he owned to eventually come to the United States, the greatest country in world," Rosenbaum added.

The camp staff consists of Oregon Air National Guard members, Portland Police Officers, Portland and Salem Housing Authority, and other volunteers.

If you are interested in donating, or volunteering for next year's camp, visit their website at: www.camprosenbaum.org.



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Crossing the bridge between blue and green

Story by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Leisa Grant, National Guard Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. (8/10/11) – Every day National Guard members throughout the world join forces with other services and nations, living up to their motto, "Always ready, always there."

Whether it's fighting fires in Arizona or floods in North Dakota, or building schools and shelters in Honduras, Guard members train and perform with a global mentality.

As the Guard continues to stretch its reach, it should come as no surprise it encourages their senior enlisted leaders to blur the service lines and attend joint professional military education, or PME, courses like the Sergeants Major Course at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas.

The SMC educates Army master sergeants and sergeants major, as well as senior enlisted members of other services and components, in full spectrum operational and strategic operations to best prepare them to be successful leaders in any environment, according to the SMC mission statement.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Chris Roper, security forces manager with the Oregon National Guard's 142nd Fighter Wing, graduated from the intensive Sergeants Major Course June 18. Roper was one of 327 graduates; however, he is the first Air National Guard member to graduate the in-residence SMC, said USASMA officials.

Every year, hundreds of military members from all service components, branches and nations come together for this 10-month course, the longest of all service equivalent senior enlisted leadership courses.

Due to curriculum changes the previous year, Roper's class - Class 61 - was the first to extend to 10 months, the course had been nine months long since 1995.

"The Sergeants Major Course underwent a major transformation last year, with a tougher curriculum heavy on critical thinking and problem-solving, intense college-level reading and challenging writing assignments," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. David L. Yates, director of the SMC, last August just before the start of Class 61.

Even with about 20 years of military experience, Roper has another first - the SMC was the first PME course he has attended as a resident, but said he is fortunate for having done so.

"My biggest mistake was not attending other academies in-residence," Roper said.

While other Air Guard members have completed the Sergeants Major Course as non-residents, some senior enlisted leaders believe there are benefits to attending in-residence.

"In-residence attendance is an important element in the development of our future leaders," Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James Hotaling, command chief of the 142nd Fighter Wing. "Although I recognize our unique Citizen-Airman



Courtesy photo

culture does not allow everyone to participate, we must make every attempt to ensure we give our Airmen a chance to attend at least one resident course in their career."

While Roper had the much needed support of his wing, the process also involved the very top enlisted leaders of both the Air Force and the Air National Guard. His selection began with a nomination by Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, Air National Guard command chief.

Muncy said he was selected out of six other Air Force members, both active duty and Guard. The process for Airmen selections begins in the office of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy, who believes the SMC benefits all Airmen, regardless of their component.

"We are a nation at war," Roy said. "Our success depends on the Total Force engagement. Any education that enables our Airmen, be they active duty, Guard or Reserve, to better perform their mission is an example of a joint service solution. Simply put, the better educated and trained we are, the better we perform. It makes sense to develop all of our Airmen to the best of their abilities."

Muncy agreed.

"It's huge for force development for the Air Force and for us - and that "us" isn't just the Air National Guard," he said. "It's the big "US," the one on our uniforms that stands for the United States.

Before attending the USASMA Roper said he often asked himself why our military leaders were making certain decisions.

"Now I see the bigger picture at the operational and strategic level," Roper said.

The "bigger picture" changed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"Since 9/11 the necessity for the National Guard to operate in a joint environment with active duty forces has never been more important," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, senior enlisted advisor to the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"The more opportunities we have to train and learn together," Jelinski-Hall said, "the more efficient and effective we will be at home and abroad in accomplishing the mission."

For Roper, his SMC experience brought this to light.

"No matter what branch of the service, it's no longer your branch you should be concerned with... don't think about just

yours and to hell with the rest," Roper said.

For Airmen, understanding the Army culture and Soldier development better prepares them for future joint operations, Roy said.

"Attending the Sergeants Major Academy provides our senior NCO's with critical operational and strategic perspectives in terms of the profession of arms," he said.

However, learning goes both ways.

"It also presents an opportunity for the active component to better understand the National Guard and visa versa," Jelinski-Hall said.

Though Roper is more prepared to work in and understand joint environments overseas, his Air Guard unit back home expects to reap benefits from his newly gained insight as well.

Roper's attendance at the USASMA as an Air National Guard representative was an amazing opportunity for him to work alongside coalition forces and to highlight the missions and ideals of the Air National Guard, said Air Force Col. Michael Stencil, commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing.

"As an Air National Guard ambassador, Senior Master Sgt. Roper returned home with a wealth of knowledge that he will be able to share with the entire Oregon National Guard," Stencil said. "In a time of tight budgets and shrinking forces, it seems that now more than ever, these cross-cultural experiences will pay huge dividends well into the future.

"He embodies the best that the Air National Guard has to offer, and we are proud to say he is ours."

But even with the pride and many benefits of being a resident student at the USASMA, there also come challenges and the need for thoughtful planning.

Most of Roper's deployments have been shorter than his academy course experience, so it was a decision that was made carefully by him, his family and his leadership, both locally and nationally.

"The long-term gain far outweighs the short-term cost," Stencil said. "Any time we have an opportunity to broaden someone like Chris, whether it involves PME, supporting the National Guard Bureau, or going down range, we are all over it."

"The individual, the wing and the state all benefit beyond measure."

Roper admitted the experience was initially overwhelming, but he soon adjusted and said he would highly encourage any senior noncommissioned officer to attend if given the opportunity.

Prior to attending the USASMA, a great deal of preparation had to be accomplished. With the support of his leadership and his family and several checklists, Roper said he felt prepared going into the SMC.

"Always be ready," Jelinski-Hall said. "Be ready for that moment when leadership calls your name."

"Always ready, always there ... the Guard motto," Roper said. "I was ready and I went there."

173 FIGHTER WING

Klamath Falls pilot hits 3000 flying hours

Story and photo courtesy of 173 Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Lt. Col. Wes "Pappy" French joined a small cadre of pilots to reach 3,000 hours in an F-15 Eagle, June 18 at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore. French, an F-15 instructor pilot and 173rd Fighter Wing Chief of Safety crossed that threshold during a routine training mission.

"3000 hours, while somewhat rare, is just another hour number to me," said French. "What's really important is ensuring that I'm not resting on my laurels when instructing students. I have to work every flight to give the student the best instruction I'm capable of."

French spent 10 years in the active duty Air Force before joining the Oregon Air National Guard in 2001. He has held many roles at Kingsley Field, to include F-15 weapons tactics officer, assistant director of operations, aircraft maintenance squadron commander, director of operations and 114th Fighter Squadron Commander.

His diverse roles provided French an overall perspective of the 173rd Fighter



Oregon Air National Guard Lt. Col. Wes "Pappy" French, after completing 3,000 flying hours in an F-15 Eagle.

Wing and its mission.

"This milestone was made possible by the outstanding maintenance organization we have at the 173rd Fighter Wing. While other units may be struggling with flying all of their lines, we continue to fly a full schedule every day," he added.

French is the fifth pilot from Kingsley Field to achieve this uncommon milestone.

"We have produced a pretty fair percentage of the total 3,000 hour pilots in the world," said French.

Kingsley Airmen volunteer for Rose Queen crowning

Story courtesy of 173 Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Three Oregon Air National Guardsmen from Kingsley Field volunteered their time to assist in the annual crowning of the Rose Queen at Plum Ridge Marquis Care, a local retirement home, April 8, 2011.

Lieutenant Col. Robert Erickson, State Director of Air Operations, Tech. Sgt. Michael Shirar, 173rd Fighter Wing Maintenance Training Manager, and Airman 1st Class Jesse Phillips-Mead, 270th Air Traffic Control Squadron helped crown a new Rose Queen for 2011.

Erickson and Shirar acted as escorts for the nominees Mrs. Joanne Hollenbeak and Irene Dalton, while Phillips-Mead accompanied the reigning 2010 Rose Queen, Mrs. Jessie Spillane. They assisted the ladies to the stage and presented them with their crowns and a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers.

Airshow opportunity to show off ANG capabilities

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a month's worth of fuel at typical consumption rates in four days, organizers said.

"I think our visitors will be surprised at the sheer number of aircraft, and more to the point the precise ground operations that allow them to fly, fight and turn around and do it again," said Miller.

The exercise provides Kingsley Field an opportunity to thank the community of Klamath Falls.

It is also an opportunity for the 173rd Fighter Wing to open its gates to the public free of charge and show them ground operations of the largest Air National Guard exercise in the country.

On Saturday, July 23, the base hosted more than 10,000 visitors.

173 FW Contact Info:

Main Operator: 1-800-864-6264
or 541-885-6350

Military Personnel Flight
541-885-6133

Personnel & ID Card Issue
503-335-4046

Public Affairs Office
541-885-6677



173rd FW Public Affairs
211 Arnold Avenue
Kingsley Field
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603

Security Forces train at Fort Bliss, Texas



Photo courtesy of Oregon Air National Guard Public Affairs
Members of the 173rd Security Forces Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, pose for a group photo prior to leaving for training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Story by courtesy of 173 Fighter Wing Public Affairs

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- Nearly half of the assigned members of the 173rd Security Forces Squadron left Kingsley Field for pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas, July 6, 2011, in a process that kicks off their largest deployment in recent memory.

The Texas portion of the training is scheduled for 45 days and will prepare the members to conduct "outside the wire" missions in an overseas Area of Responsibility (AOR) such as Afghanistan. While at Fort Bliss, the members will practice combat vehicle operation—replete with a roll over simulator, improvised explosive device recognition, patrolling techniques, and self aid buddy care.

Chief Master Sgt. Joseph W. Stickel, Jr., 173rd Security Forces Manager says getting ready for deployment involves training not just the member but also the family.

"A key part of this training is ensuring security forces family members are prepared for the long deployment," he said. "An example is Yellow Ribbon Program which is in place to make sure everyone is aware of available benefits to members as well as families."

When the training in Texas is complete the security forces members will return home for a short time before departing for Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., for survival training. Once survival training is complete they will leave directly for their actual deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and are set to return home in April 2012.

"This deployment is unique in the sense that our members are deploying as part of the Area Security Operation which is an outside-the-wire mission," said Stickel. "Although we have had members in the past perform some security outside the wire, this is the first deployment where the mission is exclusively outside the base perimeter."

He notes that security operations at the 173rd Fighter Wing will continue normally with the help of numerous Kingsley Airmen who are stepping up to augment the deployed security forces members.

The augmentees are recognizable because they do not wear the traditional beret of Air Force Security Forces, and Stickel extends his "thank you" to each of them for stepping up in a high operations tempo to help ensure the security of the base.

Kingsley Field breaks ground for new JAFRC

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

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. -- After ten years of planning and development the Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center (JAFRC) is officially underway June 9.

Members of the Oregon Air and Army National Guard along with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) gathered together for a groundbreaking ceremony held at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Ore.

When completed the building will house the 173rd Security Forces Squadron and Charlie Troop, 1-82nd Cavalry, Oregon Army National Guard.

The new facility, located near the base's recently constructed main entrance, will provide office, storage and training space for both the Army and Air Guard units set to inhabit it. Currently both units are housed in outdated buildings that are slated for demolition.

"The (JAFRC) will greatly add to the training and storage capabilities of the 173rd SFS. It will replace an outdated building with a much more efficient one," said Lt. Col. Martin Balakas, 173rd Fighter Wing Executive Support Officer.

Oregon Airmen participate in joint training exercise



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eric A. Rutherford, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Oregon Army National Guard

Brig. Gen. Steven D. Gregg, Oregon Air National Guard Commander, Oregon National Guard, watches as Airmen from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, establish communications with air support assets during joint training near Antelope, Ore., May 17. The joint force exercise, called "Operation Silent Duck" also involved members of the U.S. Army Special Forces, 160th Special Operations Air Regiment, and the 190th Fighter Squadron of the Idaho Air National Guard.

NEWS

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OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

TRICARE demystified

There is some confusion over TRICARE, likely because beneficiaries tend to refer to it as a single benefit. In fact, the TRICARE program covers 16 different health and dental programs. Suggested legislative efforts for the Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Authorization may affect only two out of those 16.

TRICARE Standard is available to active duty families, regular and full time Reserve retirees and their families, Selected Reserve retirees between the age of 60 and 65 and their families. Beneficiaries can use any eligible provider and pay an annual deductible of \$300 for families and \$150 for individuals, but require copayments ranging from 15 to 25 percent. There are currently no enrollment fees, making this a pay as you go plan.

TRICARE Extra is like TRICARE Standard but is limited to a referred provider off the TRICARE Prime network list. You pay the same deductible as Standard but copayments are reduced by 5 percent.

TRICARE Prime is the managed health care program where beneficiaries must use military treatment facilities or medical professionals with the Prime Network. There is no enrollment fee for active duty members and their dependents. Enrollment is currently \$460 a year for retiree families, or \$230 for individual retirees, and copayments are much lower than Standard.

TRICARE Young Adult is the newest TRICARE program, having just been implemented; it allows military and retiree dependents age 23 through 25 to purchase TRICARE Standard/Extra on a month-to-month basis at a rate of \$2,232 for a year. TRICARE Prime will be available on Oct 1 at even higher cost.

TRICARE Reserve Select provides drilling Reservists in pay access to TRICARE Standard/Extra on a monthly premium, based on 28 percent of DoD's

health care cost. Reservists who are eligible for the Federal Employee Health Benefit plan are not eligible for TRS. Members in the Individual Ready Reserve are ineligible as well, but legislation is being considered to include the IRR under TRICARE.

TRICARE Reserve Retired provides optional coverage for "gray zone" Reserve retirees with a premium that is 100 percent of DoD's cost. The premiums determined by the Pentagon proved to be higher than expected, so fewer than 1,000 "gray area" retirees have enrolled.

TRICARE For Life is a Medicare supplemental, designed to pay patient liability after Medicare payments. Beneficiaries must purchase Medicare Part B coverage, but there are no additional costs. TFL pays for services performed outside the United States, which Medicare does not.

TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit is included under all of the TRICARE programs. Prescription drugs are available from MTFs, by mail order, or from a retail network. Beneficiaries aren't charged for drugs at MTFs, but pay copayments from other sources.

TRICARE Dental provides coverage for Active Duty, Reservists, and family members. Subsidies vary depending on the service obligation. TRICARE Retiree Dental is a self-insured program that is an option for those who qualify for retirement.

Additional Programs include TRICARE Prime Remote, TRICARE Prime, Standard and Remote Overseas and the Continued Health Care Benefit Plan for those who leave TRICARE.

With all these different TRICARE programs it can get confusing, so be cautious if some one says they are trying to change TRICARE. Such changes may only be proposals, and might not even affect your coverage.

5 THINGS

EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Campaign stars

The Defense Department has authorized additional campaign stars for Soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The campaign stars are worn on the Iraq Campaign medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and they are designed to recognize a service member's participation in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The additional campaign stars were announced June 30. Here's what you need to know:

1 A star per phase. Campaign stars recognize Soldiers for serving in specific phases of the wars, not multiple deployments. Soldiers qualify for multiple stars only if their tours took place during different campaign phases.

For example, if a soldier served in Iraq for 180 days from July 13, 2008 to Jan. 12, 2009 he is entitled to two bronze campaign stars – one for Surge Campaign and one for the Sovereignty Campaign.

2 Service in Iraq. DoD authorized a new campaign phase for what is now Operation New Dawn. The New Dawn campaign phase began Sept. 1, 2010 and will be in place through a date yet to be determined.

The six phases and their dates that were previously identified are:

Liberation of Iraq – March 19, 2003 to May 1, 2003

Transition of Iraq – May 2, 2003 to June 28, 2008

Iraqi Governance – June 29, 2004 to Dec. 15, 2005

National Resolution – Dec. 16, 2005 to Jan. 9, 2007

Iraqi Surge – Jan. 10, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008

Iraqi Sovereignty – Jan. 1, 2009 to Aug. 31, 2010

3 Service in Afghanistan. The new campaign phase authorized is called Consolidation III and it runs Dec. 1, 2009, through a date to be determined.

The three phases and their dates that were previously identified are:

Liberation of Afghanistan – Sept. 11, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2001

Consolidation I – Dec. 1, 2001 to Sept. 30, 2006

Consolidation II – Oct. 1, 2006 to Nov. 30, 2009

4 Getting a star. Soldiers from all three components who think they are eligible for the Iraq or Afghanistan campaign medals or additional service stars should contact their unit personnel office to have campaign entitlements updated in their records.

5 How to wear it. Soldiers who have earned the Iraq Campaign Medal or the Afghanistan Campaign Medal may display a bronze campaign star on their medal for each designated campaign phase in which they participated.

A campaign star is a bronze or silver five-point star, 3/16th of an inch in diameter. A silver campaign star is worn in lieu of five bronze campaign stars.



'Angel Flight' brings closure for son of WWII B-17 crewmember



Leonard Gionet sits in the radio room of a restored WWII B-17 which took part in an "Angel Flight," to honor his father, Leonard A. Gionet, who died during a 1943 mission over New Guinea. The flight was organized by the Collins Foundation to honor his father, Tech Sgt. Leonard A. Gionet, whose picture was placed on the bulkhead above the radioman's seat.

Story and photo by Kim Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

On a cloudy afternoon in June, a son watched as the restored WWII bomber touched down at the Aurora Airport, the final destination of a "Angel Flight" honoring Tech. Sgt. Leonard A. Gionet, the father he never met.

"It's very emotional to see this whole gathering in honor of my dad, but it gives me closure after all of these years," said Leonard Gionet.

Gionet father was killed during WWII when his B-17 crashed in New Guinea in 1943 when he was only six months old.

The elder Gionet's remains were discovered in 2008.

"I think he would be pleased we are honoring his sacrifice," said the younger Gionet.

A small crowd gathered at the Aurora Airport on June 15 to see the Angel Flight.

The flight was arranged by Sgt. 1st Class Steve Buck, of the Oregon Army National Guard, in conjunction with the

Collins Foundation. Brig. Gen. Charles Yiarte presented a letter of appreciation from Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, Adjutant General, Oregon.

"I think it is important to honor these Soldiers and Airmen of World War II," Yiarte said. "It's because of them that we have what we have today."

After receiving the letter of appreciation, Gionet toured the WWII B-17, and even sat in the radioman's seat, the same place his father would have sat on the aircraft.

A photograph of his father was hanging above the seat.

"It's a mixed bag – I'm sad in one way and happy in another," said Gionet.

An internment ceremony for Gionet's father is set to take place at Arlington National Cemetery in September.

The younger Gionet will attend the ceremony along with his mother and immediate family.

"My mother is 90 years old, and she is so thankful to have this closure," said Gionet.